



Press Release 21 October 2015

## **A new community hub at Burgess Park is one step closer**

### **Friends of Burgess Park wins Heritage Lottery Fund support**

The Friends of Burgess Park have received £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project to develop new uses for the old library, baths and washhouse on Wells Way in Burgess Park.

Led by volunteers from the local community, the project will work with consultants Plincke to identify new uses for the building that will support a range of local groups and organisations. Consultation will make sure the proposals to be presented to Southwark Council in early 2016 meet the needs of local people.

The old library, baths and washhouse are an early example of a community one-stop shop. Partly funded by Victorian philanthropist John Passmore Edwards, the building's purpose was to improve the health and leisure of local working people in a busy industrial and residential area. It was opened in 1903 on the corner of Wells Way and Neate Street at a time when many houses lacked bathrooms, clothes-washing facilities and books. While many of the local houses and factories are gone, this building is still at the heart of Burgess Park.

The old library and bathhouse is by far the biggest building in Burgess Park. It has large, open, airy, well-lit spaces, ideal for exhibitions, classes and other community-centered activity. This could be a lively hub, bringing new people to the park and increasing park use in the winter months. The new ideas for the buildings will sit within the recently revised Burgess Park masterplan. Southwark Council is already discussing a possible new space for Lynn Boxing as part of these plans.

A lot of consultation has already been carried out, but there's still an opportunity to have your say. If you have an idea for how the two buildings could be used, or represent a group, or organization, that is looking for a space, please let us know. Any idea and suggestions can be made to the Friends of Burgess Park.

Sam Tilling, local resident and committee member of Friends of Burgess Park said: "The Friends of Burgess Park want this building to have a long term future as an important building at the heart of Burgess Park. We are working closely with Southwark Council and the current building occupants, Wells Way Pop Up, Lynn Boxing and the RCCG Faith Foundation. Any plans for the building will involve the current building occupants as well as other community groups and residents. This is a local landmark which must be preserved." To stay in touch with this project sign up for the newsletter [friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofburgesspark@gmail.com)

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About Friends of Burgess Park**

The Friends is a local community group of volunteers who work to protect, promote and enhance Burgess Park for the benefit of local residents.

[www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk)

#### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.3bn across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).

Friends of Burgess Park have been awarded a £10,000 Start Up Grant which supports groups to identify new uses for old buildings

#### **About Plincke**

Plincke are the lead consultants working with Built Heritage conservation experts and MRDA conservation architects. This bespoke team will together provide the skills necessary to ensure that the heritage of the building and any new design proposals are fully costed into the business plan. The team, lead by Plincke, have extensive experience of working on listed buildings and rejuvenation for relevant community use.

<http://www.plincke.com/>

#### **Burgess Park masterplan**

In 2014 Southwark Council commenced work to review the Burgess Park masterplan.

[http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200480/burgess\\_park/3653/shape\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_burgess\\_park](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200480/burgess_park/3653/shape_the_future_of_burgess_park)

#### **For further information please contact:**

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