



Under-threat boxing pub hits out ● page 6

Back where it all began

Paul O'Grady returns to Lily Savage's old manor ● page p8



Taser and guns fired at suspect with 'blade'

MET BOSS JOINS EMERGENCY TALKS AFTER MAN SHOT BY COPS

MET boss Bernard Hogan-Howe joined emergency talks with community leaders after a man said to have threatened police with a "large bladed weapon" was shot in the street. The dramatic events unfolded after

officers responded to reports of a car break-in and firearms officers were drafted in as back-up for local officers. The injured man, 25, was in a critical condition yesterday as an Independent Police Complaints Commission probe got under way. The head of the commission was also due to meet the shot man's family. **FULL STORY: PAGE 2**

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**News
IN BRIEF**

**Suit of armour at
Van Dyck art show**



ON DISPLAY: Xavier Salomon, curator of Van Dyck in Sicily, with Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy's suit of armour

DULWICH: The exhibition Van Dyck in Sicily 1624-25: Painting and the Plague, at Dulwich Picture Gallery features a suit of armour featured in one of the historic portraits.

The suit of armour at the Gallery Road show is in Van Dyck's portrait Emanuele Filiberto Of Savoy, Prince Of Oneglia, 1624. The exhibition has been curated by Xavier Salomon from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and runs until May 27. Tickets cost £8, senior citizens £7, unemployed, disabled and students £4, and children free.

Donate soup and help the homeless

LEWISHAM: Tania Lambert from Sainsbury's at Lewisham Shopping Centre, in Lewisham High Street, has appealed for shoppers to donate unused cans of soup. She will be running a stall between 9am and 4pm on Saturday at the store's exit to collect donations.

The cans will be given to the Lewisham-based Street Souls charity which goes on soup runs to Victoria, central London, to feed the homeless.

Aspiring students can find out more

LEWISHAM: Lewisham College will be holding an open day at its Lewisham Way campus on Saturday to give out information about its courses. Staff from the sport, digital media and hospitality and catering departments will be on hand to speak to visitors. The open day event will run from 10am to 2pm.



Lost London in focus ● p31

PAUL O'GRADY OPENS REVAMPED PARK

Lily Savage star returns to roots



By LAWRENCE CONWAY

PAUL O'Grady – aka Lily Savage – returned to his performing roots to join a celebration marking the renovation of a park.

The comedian and TV presenter joined residents, business people and councillors at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern in Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, on Thursday.

The pub is where Mr O'Grady first performed as his famous drag queen alter ego Lily Savage in the 1980s.

He returned to celebrate the renovation of neighbouring Vauxhall Spring Gardens which has been renamed Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

Describing Vauxhall as his "old manor", Mr O'Grady spoke about how he spent eight years performing as Lily Savage at the pub before he became a household name.

The Birkenhead-born comedian said: "I've got so many memories of this place – this area to me is my roots. I may even move back."

"I'm really honoured to be asked to be here, and it's fantastic to see people round here really care about the area."

The park has had a new entrance created from Kennington Lane that is framed by two large columns.

Ribbon

Mr O'Grady joined Lambeth council leader, Councillor Steve Reed, Vauxhall MP Kate Hoey and Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens residents' group chairman Eamonn McMahon in cutting a ribbon marking the restoration.

The park has had a £200,000 renovation which was part-funded by the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and the council.

Safety has been improved with better lighting and extra trees have been planted and sports pitches added.

The park, which dates back to 1661, was hugely popular in the 1800s when it was visited by royalty, English romantic poet Shelley and hosted the premières of works by leading composers including Handel.

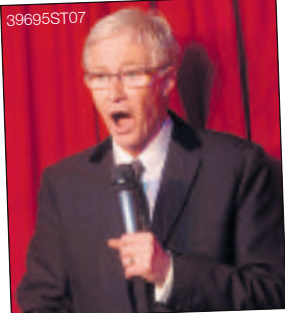
It was levelled to make way for housing in the 19th century, before being restored as a public space in the 1970s.

Mr McMahon said: "The park's renaming marks a new beginning for the entire local community who have all worked so hard to see the park revived and reinvigorated."

"Our future will include art, music and other cultural events to reflect the magnificent history of the gardens ... viva Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens."

● Visit www.friendsofvauxhallpleasuregardens.org.uk for more information.

lawrence.conway@slp.co.uk



CUTTING THE RIBBON: Paul O'Grady delights the crowd at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, left, before opening the gardens; top, O'Grady as Lily Savage



HOMING IN: The properties will be built near New Cross Gate

Bid to build homes next to railway station is approved

ALMOST 150 homes will be built next to a busy railway station after planners gave the project the go-ahead.

A total of 145 flats and three houses will be built in Goodwood Road in New Cross.

The properties will be next to New Cross Gate railway station on London Overground's revamped East London line.

They will also be close to Goldsmiths University in New Cross Road.

Developer Nathaniel Lichfield was given planning permission at Lewisham council's planning committee meeting at the town hall in Catford on Thursday evening. Committee chairman, Councillor Alan Till, said after the meeting: "This is a development that most people seem in favour of. "It's a run-down area down there and this developer wants to come in and build some good quality homes there."