

# LASSCO

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# Vauxhall Tavern and Environs, stunning birds-eye-view by Robin Whitmore

Limited edition artists print. Dark wood frame

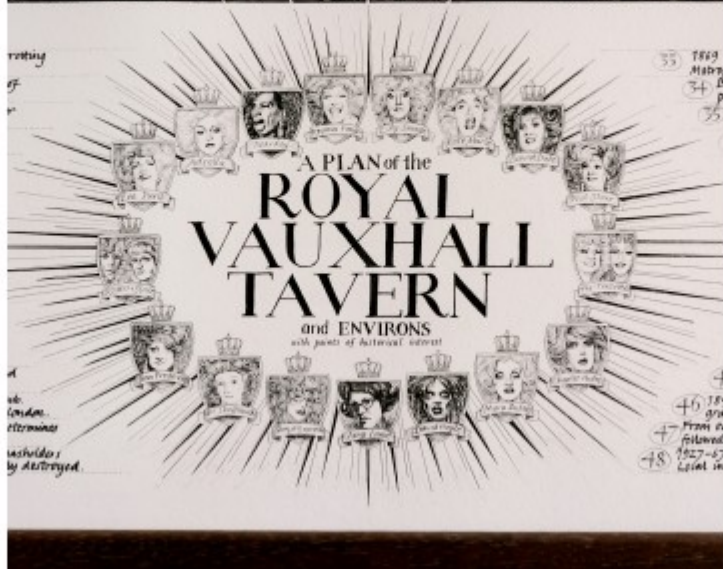
This map represents the area of Vauxhall in the summer of 2014, to illustrate the historical roots of the oldest gay pub in London, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern (RVT). It was created as part of the Save the Tavern Campaign when the RVT was sold to developers with plans to turn it into a luxury hotel and bar. To demonstrate how the RVT became the iconic site it is today and highlight its local importance, artist Robin Whitmore made this map to show the tavern's evolution as a result of its surroundings. The Royal Vauxhall Tavern was built in 1863 on the corner of what was previously the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. From the mid-17th to the mid-19th century, the Gardens were one of the leading venues for popular entertainment with fantastical performances set in a romantic wonderland attracting all kinds of people. Offering an imaginative alternative to the otherwise notoriously violent entertainment London was known for, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern was clearly built with an intentional link to the area's exotic past. Although we know little of what went on in the early days of the building, the way the bars are divided up suggests that it was always intended to be used as a music hall. Built on the site of the old artistes' entrance to the Pleasure Gardens, the pillars inside the Tavern are said to originate from one of the pavilions in the Gardens. Gaining a reputation as a gay-friendly venue long before the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967, servicemen and women were drawn by its infamous drag shows throughout the Second World War. Following this, the outbreak of AIDS in the 1980s meant that performances from drag acts such as Lily Savage, Regina Fong and Adrella kept morale high at the tavern. This map of Vauxhall uses colour images over the monochrome background to show points of historical interest, including buildings, events and figures. The scenes are colour co-ordinated to their century: green for the 17th and 18th; yellow for the 19th and pink for the 20th to 21st. Around the title, a garland of portraits shows the dynasty of drag artists who have ruled the RVT from the 1950s to the present day. The artist has included figures he has met in the area roaming the streets of the map, as well as himself striding through a park at the top of the scene. The Royal Vauxhall Tavern won its battle to stop the developers when it was granted Grade 2 heritage status in recognition of its important historical value, and continues to play a central role in the neighbourhood.

**Dimensions:** 91cm (35<sup>3/4</sup>" ) High, 108cm (42<sup>1/2</sup>" ) Wide

**Price:** £450.00

**Stock Code:** P00700/3

**Location:** [LASSCO Brunswick House](#)





Hand Drawn by Robin Whitmore 2015

Robin Whitmore 3/250

The British Interplanetary Society is founded to support and promote the use of space and aeronautics. It is the oldest space advocacy organisation in the world. In the West Country was pumped through a pipe from platform 1 Vauxhall Station and Dairies bottling plant over the road (now home to Met Police CID unit). About 2500 German bombs are dropped on Vauxhall. After the war new estates are built. The grass mounds behind the RVT conceal rubble from bombing. The railings around the Ashmole Estate are constructed from the metal used to carry the wounded during bombing raids. The documentary 'We Are the Lambeth Boys' is made showing the lives of







- HISTORICAL IMAGES COLOUR CODE:** GREEN 17th & 18th Century, YELLOW 19th C
- ① 1640's Faulke's Hall fort is built as London defends itself against the King in the English Civil War. It was one of 23 forts along a wall around London.
  - ② The River Effra flowed here running from Norwood, Herne Hill and Brixton. Now underground the river's redirected outlet lies just south of Vauxhall Bridge.
  - ③ Pre 19th Century Vaux Hall Surrey is a quiet rural village with flour mills, potteries and boatbuilding industries along the river bank.
  - ④ 1661 The New Spring Gardens opens with the Restoration of the Monarchy after the Civil War. London visitors arrive by ferryboat at Vauxhall Stairs.
  - ⑤ 1670 Internationally important glassworks is established specialising in plate and mirror glass up to one yard long.
  - ⑥ 1732 The new proprietor of the Pleasure Gardens, Jonathan Tyes, attracts an elite crowd to his flamboyant and fresco masquerades. Entrance price soon reduced to one shilling.
  - ⑦ Tyes totally redesigns the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens with spectacular attractions like Neptune's Fountain which spouted both fire and water.
  - ⑧ The top artists of the day are employed to work on the Pleasure gardens. Hogarth creates backdrops for the supper boxes and Handel performs music.
  - ⑨ Thousands of coloured oil lamps are lit in an instant by a team of servants. At the back of the gardens the unit "Dark Walkers" attract uninhibited erotic adventurers.
  - ⑩ 1730's The infamous Princess Seraphina, by day a butcher's boy, is regularly spotted frequenting the gardens - one of many cross-dressers in full drag to be seen there.
  - ⑪ 1754 Mr. Jackson, Master of the Glass House, is robbed in his post-chaise by a highwayman on a bald-headed horse at the Vauxhall Turnpike.
  - ⑫ 1758 Brunswick House is built with 3 acres of land. In 1854 becomes the HQ of the London & SW Railway Institute. The railway terminus at Nine Elms was adjacent.
  - ⑬ 1790 An oval road is laid around a cabbage garden, later a market garden. The land, like much of Kennington, belonged to the Duchy of Cornwall.
  - ⑭ 1791 A waiter from the Vauxhall Pleasure gardens is killed at the Cumberland Tea Rooms when the starting cannon for a boat race exploded.
  - ⑮ 1805 The South London Waterworks is formed and a reservoir is created from a tributary of the River Effra, which flowed along the south side of the Oval.
  - ⑯ 1812 Quaker John Beaufrey establishes a Vinegar & gin Distillery - later Sarson's Vinegar. It was said Beaufrey ceased producing gin on seeing Hogarth's "Gin Lane".



