

News

Around Thatu's Jabulas

13th January 2006 *FEATURE*

These photographs are of three very different kinds of Jabula held in the summer of 2005 by some of our friends and supporters. 'Jabula' means to celebrate in Bantu, so we use this word to refer to our fundraising garden parties.

In July a 'Grand Jabula' took place in church grounds on Clapham Common, London. As well as delicious home made cakes, and a barbecue with boerewors (African sausages), yoga and massage sessions were on offer from volunteers. The Thatu merchandise stall was only one of many selling everything from South African community made jewellery, original prints, books, honey, Fairtrade goods and plants. For children there were games, and for everyone there were talks on gardening in unusual circumstances, such as in an urban environment with limited space and resources.



A raffle and bric a brac stall were, as always, popular and local shops were generous in their prize contributions in support of these. One of our most active volunteers was young Grace, seen in the picture, helping to sell folk art scarecrows, and pictured with two of the 'Blue Watch' firemen from the local Fire Brigade headquarters, who brought along their red fire engine to the delight of the children and adults alike!



In Kent and Hampshire supporters took a different approach; they opened up their gardens to local people and friends. The sun shone, and people sat in the shade enjoying tea, cold drinks and home made cakes. Once again raffles and sales of Thatu and other goods were popular. As the picture shows a very young volunteer Victoria came up with a brilliant fundraising idea – she set up a nail painting stall and charged a small amount to give visitors an impromptu manicure.



In Hampshire a Boules or Petanque themed Jabula was held. Entry was by invitation as the event was so popular that numbers had to be limited, in order to finish the contest by sundown. All ages joined in, many of whom had never played boules before. Prizes for the tournament winners included crafts from South Africa. Boerewors was 'braaied' (barbecued) and local honey was sold to raise extra funds. Everyone had a wonderful time, and participants sat chatting late into the afternoon in the sunshine.

We hope you can see from some of those held thus far that Jabulas can be as small or as sophisticated as you and your group of family or friends can manage. Even the little ideas that the children came up with and committed to, raised worthwhile funds. Please consider hosting a Jabula yourself in 2006 and helping us to build on our success so far. We have lots of information and advice to help you make *your* Jabula a success.