



Jazz on the Bandstand

Sunday 1 September at 3.00 pm

Junction Jazz present an afternoon of jazz and Dixieland favourites on Clapham Common Bandstand, to celebrate the Clapham Society's 50th anniversary.

Junction Jazz is a group of musicians who live in or near Clapham. They have supported the new Clapham arts centre, Omnibus, playing at their fundraising events, and at a range of other venues in south London including the Battersea Arts Centre and at Wandsworth Festival events.

JUNCTION
Jazz



Our regular monthly meetings are held at Clapham Manor Primary School, Belmont Road, SW4 0BZ. The entrance to the school in Stonhouse Street, through the new building, is NOT open for our evening meetings. Use the Belmont Road entrance, cross the playground and enter the building on the right. The hall is open from 7.30 pm when coffee and tea are normally available. The talk begins promptly at 8 pm and most meetings finish by 9.30 pm. Meetings are free and non-members are very welcome.

Wednesday 18 September

Sew Over It. Lisa Comfort, a local entrepreneur with a passion for sewing and a concern that it is becoming a lost skill, will talk about setting up and running Sew Over It, her sewing café in Landor Road, SW9. It opened in 2011 offering classes in dressmaking, pattern cutting, soft furnishings, quilting, crochet and knitting as well as sewing parties and the opportunity to hire a sewing machine and a knowledgeable helper for an afternoon. Lisa studied at the London College of Fashion and later worked for British Designer Bruce Oldfield and bridal couture designer Philippa Lепley.

Wednesday 16 October

Annual General Meeting. See agenda on inside page. Guest speaker Baron O'Donnell of Clapham (Gus O'Donnell) former Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service.

Wednesday 20 November

The Survey of London. Colin Thom, Senior Historian on the two-volume *Survey of London* on Battersea which is due to be published in November, will talk about the research involved in this huge project.

There is no meeting in December.

Photographing Clapham Streets

In an earlier newsletter we mentioned that the Society's Local History Sub-committee was considering a project to photograph Clapham's streets. With the recent burst of redevelopment activity we believe it is even more important than ever to have a photographic record of buildings, particularly shop fronts and pubs, before they disappear or are changed irrevocably.

The advent of digital photography means that such a project has never been easier to undertake and we have arranged with Lambeth Archives for them to store digital photographs on our behalf and allow access to them on their Landmark website. However, the images must be of a defined quality and format, arranged in an orderly

manner and indexed when handed over.

If you are interested in taking part in this project by photographing your own or another street please contact Jennifer Everett (30 Trinity Close, SW4 0JD e-mail jeverett@waitrose.com). She will send you details of the format, size and quality needed together with the information required to catalogue the images. We hope to photograph at least the main streets every five years – more frequently if major redevelopments take place. The result would be a panorama of Clapham through the ages – fascinating in itself and a valuable resource to future local historians.

Derrick Johnson

Lambeth Cooperative Parks Programme

Consultation is now under way and the local consultation meeting is on **Wednesday 25 September** at Newton Hall, Lambeth Academy, Elms Road, SW4 0ET, from 7 pm to 9 pm. Background information is available at lambeth.gov.uk/cooperativeparks. All members are welcome to come and join the debate, the outcome of which will affect the future of Clapham Common.

Councillor Ruth Ling (1952-2013)



The morning of 15 June 2013 found many of us in Clapham, first reeling from a sense of shock, then with a growing feeling of great loss as news spread of the very sudden death of Ruth Ling from a pulmonary embolism early that day in King's College Hospital.

Ruth was known to many of us as an active local resident of Clapham, sharing an involvement with us in the evolution of many local concerns and initiatives, with Omnibus being a recent notable commitment. She shared with the Clapham Society a deep interest and concern for the built environment and therefore for the changes that are unfolding around us. She was directly interested in the work and achievements of the Clapham Society.

In 1994 Ruth was elected as Lambeth borough councillor for Clapham Park Ward (now Clapham Common). She was a major source of information, insights and experience for neighbouring councillors. One of the roles she undertook on Lambeth Council was particularly focused on the work of the Planning Committees. Ruth was a committee chair and so was working in a very complex area of local government, with an enormous workload.

Ruth brought many skills to the role of councillor. Her creativity and experience at Art College in Newcastle developed her interest in design and architecture. Her subsequent career in journalism added valuable communication skills, essential for bringing clarity to political debate. She became noted both for being independent-minded and for her ability to be analytical, tenacious and critical on key issues.

Ruth also had an unusually wide understanding of international perspectives, drawn from her knowledge of Burma, of Brazil, as well as of the north

Lambeth's first Heritage Festival

For the whole of the month of September Lambeth Archives and the Lambeth Local History Forum (the organisation which represents the shared local history interest of all the borough's local societies, including the Clapham Society) have joined forces to create Lambeth's first ever Heritage Festival.

There will be over 40 separate events taking place across Lambeth during September including talks, tours, exhibitions, workshops and guided walks. Most events are free but some do need to be booked. You can download the Lambeth Heritage Festival brochure with the full programme from lambeth.gov.uk/heritagefestival2013.

Some festival events will be an opportunity to visit Lambeth's more unusual venues with tours or talks taking place in Brixton Windmill, Norwood cemetery, Brunswick House and Brixton's covered market. Then there are guided walks that will take you into some of Lambeth's secret corners in search of the street murals of Brixton, the borough's overlooked Black history, the private gardens of Lambeth Palace or the mosaics that decorate the streets of Waterloo. Other walks try to re-imagine the borough through the eyes of two of the greatest artists who both lived here: Vincent Van Gogh and William Blake.

Events are taking place the length and breadth of the borough – from West Norwood to Waterloo and from Clapham across to Camberwell – and Lambeth's libraries will be hosting many talks, sessions on how to trace your house history, author events and local history reading groups.

Specifically Clapham events will include the following:

Tuesday 17 September. Neil McKenna, award-winning journalist talks about his new book, *Fanny and Stella: the young men who shocked Victorian England*. This impeccably researched book places the story of this trial that shook Victorian England within its historical context, without distracting from the stars of this show. It is a tale of cross-dressing, cross-examinations and the invention of camp. Clapham Library, 91 Clapham High St, SW4 7DB at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 18 September. Sew over it. See details on front page of the newsletter.

Tuesday 24 September. Tracing the history of your Clapham house

Peter Jefferson Smith of the Clapham Society and Jon Newman of Lambeth Archives join forces to tell the story of Clapham's development as a suburb and to explain the sources and help that Lambeth Archives can provide to trace the history of its houses and buildings. Clapham Library, 91 Clapham High St, SW4 7DB at 7 pm.

There will also be some great local history exhibitions during the Festival including *Lambeth Treasures* at the Festival Hall, the Garden Museum's *Green Fuse* exhibition and *Waterloo Sights and Sounds* at the Waterloo Action Centre, as well as the regular heritage events that take place in September including London Open House weekend and Ride and Stride weekend.

Lambeth Archives Open Day – 1913: Edwardian Swansong – is the Festival's closing event on **Saturday 28 September** with a day of talks, exhibitions, book stalls and local society stands all linked around the theme of life in South London just before the outbreak of the First World War. For more information go to lambeth.gov.uk/archivesopenday.

and south of the UK. She spoke fluent Portuguese. All this gave her a greater empathy with local concerns and problems of constituents in our diverse inner city borough. Many of us will remember the detailed care that went into issues affecting local people. Her reputation for the quality of her casework is legendary

As her neighbour and local councillor, I also benefitted from her wisdom and insights, generously shared, and I remember with affection her explanations and commentary on local issues. I had also shared some of her earlier experiences of being a student in Newcastle upon Tyne as it was growing into a major centre in the North-East for the arts, drama and music.

I know she would regret not being at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival

but also, and especially, would regret not being at the launch of Omnibus later this year. To celebrate her commitment to Omnibus the garden in front of the building will be designed by Tim Gosling, and dedicated to Ruth.

Helen O'Malley

Lambeth Councillor, Clapham Town Ward

New members

We have welcomed the following new members this summer: Alix Bateman, Barbara Davenport, André Deshmukh, Lila Morris, Martin and Caroline Richards, Giles, Serena and Max Rowe, Michele Seymour, Virginia Stevens, Michael and Sarah Summerhayes, David Thomson and Rosalind Grender, and Julian Whiting.

THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 50th Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on **Wednesday 18 October** at Clapham Manor Primary School, Belmont Road, London SW4 0BZ starting at 8 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (17 October 2012) published in the Newsletter No 353, December 2012/January 2013, and available at the meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2013
4. Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013
5. Election of the Officers and Committee Members for the year 2013-2014

Chairman	Treasurer
Vice-Chairman	Solicitor
Secretary	Membership Secretary
A maximum of ten further Committee Members	
6. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
7. Any other business and announcements

After the formal business there will be a break for refreshments.

Following the break the guest speaker will be **Baron O'Donnell of Clapham** (Gus O'Donnell) former Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the election of Officers and Committee Members must be made to the Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Every nomination must be in writing, supported by a seconder. The consent of the person nominated must be obtained.

Jill Cramphorn, Hon Secretary, 552 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JX

Omnibus

I am delighted to announce that after many years of campaigning by local residents and the signing of the lease in December 2012, Omnibus will open in September as the first arts centre in Clapham with a full team of associates and general manager.

Regular updates will appear in this newsletter as well as special events and offers particular to your membership. It is hoped that Omnibus and the Clapham Society will forge strong links to create a social and artistic hub for the local area, families and friends.

More information may be found on our website omnibus-clapham.org and in the leaflets, which will be in the foyer of the building from mid-September. If you have email and would like to receive up-to-date information direct, please complete the on-line form on our website.

Further, as a community-run project, we are also looking for volunteers for



Work in progress on the transformation of the former Clapham Library into Omnibus, Clapham's first arts centre.

front of house, general housekeeping and box office duties. Please contact Juliette Stark, our wonderful General Manager, for further information on volunteering at Omnibus.

I sincerely look forward to meeting you all very soon. If not before, I will pop in to one of your monthly meetings and introduce myself. Here's to our future working together!

Gene David Kirk

Executive and Artistic Director Omnibus

Green waste recycling

We were surprised to learn that for some time green waste from other parks and open spaces in Lambeth has been transported to Clapham Common. We understand that consideration is now being given to composting and treating the green waste on the site of the depot on Rookery Road, usually referred to as 'the dump'. In the past this has been rejected on a number of grounds including the need to bring more large vehicles on to the Common, pollution, noise, proximity to the main children's play area and contravention of metropolitan commons legislation. This change of use would require planning permission.

London Open House

Saturday 21 September and **Sunday 22 September** are this year's London Open House days, when over 800 buildings throughout London open their doors to the public free of charge. Local buildings which will open include the Cinema Museum in Kennington, the Royal College of Art building in Hester Road, near Battersea Bridge and Battersea Power Station. The guide to all the buildings and opening times is free from public libraries, or on line at londonopenhouse.org.

Martin Drury

We congratulate Clapham Society President, Martin Drury, on a prestigious award from Europa Nostra (The Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe) for his 'unique and lasting contribution to the preservation of heritage in Britain as well as internationally.' The Jury stated that he had been a major force for good in the field of conservation for more than 40 years, nurturing and encouraging the skills, knowledge, idealism and self-confidence of others, during his time as Director General of the National Trust and as Chairman of the Landmark Trust. Many members enjoyed the hospitality of Martin and his wife, Liz, at our summer party this year, which was held in their garden on a beautiful early July evening.

Dulwich Artmobile

Formula One racing legend, Sir Stirling Moss, will launch Dulwich Picture Gallery's Artmobile on **Tuesday 10 September** at 9.30 am. The Artmobile will be unwrapped from its brown paper packaging by members of the gallery's Community Engagement team, to reveal the design by Humphrey Ocean RA who will sign his work before Sir Stirling Moss drives it off on its maiden voyage.

The Suffragette Campaign in 1913

At our June meeting Beverley Cook, social history curator with responsibility for the suffragette collection at the Museum of London, spoke to us about Emily Wilding Davison, the centenary of whose death falls this year, and the suffragette movement in general at that time. Davison has become immortalised as a suffragette martyr since her death by throwing herself in front of the King's horse at the Derby in 1913. Beverley sought to put this event in the broader context of the events of that year.

The leading militant suffragette campaigning organisation, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst in Manchester in 1903. Realising that it would have more impact by being based in London, the headquarters and most of their activities soon moved south. By 1913 suffragette militancy was threatening to overwhelm the authorities and cause mass disruption.

The suffragettes despised the Liberal Government and in 1913 attempted to bomb the house of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd George. In that year too they drew crowds by their take-over of The Monument (to the Fire of London) in the City and they already had a record of attacking works of art in public galleries leading up to the slashing of the *Rokeby Venus* in the National Gallery in 1914. They committed many acts of arson and destruction of public buildings, (including at Kew Gardens) they set fire to postboxes and destroyed mail, and attempted to bomb Holloway prison and burn the house of a particular opponent of their cause, MP Lewis Harcourt. Some acts were under the auspices of the WSPU and others on personal initiative.

Suffragettes were regularly arrested and imprisoned in Holloway, where at one time there were 300 to 400 on hunger strike and being forcibly fed. Under the terms of the so-called 'Cat and Mouse Act' – Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill Health) Act 1913 – when prisoners became very weak they were released to recover, then re-arrested when they re-offended as they often did. By this time many members of the general public were becoming impatient with the suffragettes and intolerant of their disruptive behaviour. Satirical cartoons conveyed the public disgust.

Emily Wilding Davison was already well known to the police by 1913 and had been imprisoned several times. It is generally thought that she did not intend to kill herself at the Derby, but merely to disrupt the race. The incident was caught on film – the first death to be so recorded. The WSPU decided to use the event to their advantage by giving her a martyr's funeral procession, and treating her as a latter day Joan of Arc.

But the WSPU's attempt to bypass the uncompromising government and appeal directly to the public, was not succeeding and the campaign was in trouble. With the advent of the First World War in 1914 the WSPU declared that militant activities should be halted as the government needed the support of all citizens.

Beverley illustrated her concise and illuminating talk with some excellent pictures, and we are most grateful to her for an entertaining and informative evening.

Studio Voltaire

Two new exhibitions, new works by Judith Hopf and Benjamin Senior, open at Studio Voltaire on **Saturday 28 September**, with previews on **Friday 27 September** from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. For more details and opening times go to studiovoltaire.org or call 020 7622 1294.

Wandsworth Museum

The Museum's events for children continue in September with very small children catered for during the week and Saturday events for families, which include Tudor Life on **Saturday 21 September** and Pottery through the Ages on **Saturday 28 September**.

On the Bandstand

All concerts start at 3 pm and are free.

Sunday 1 September. Junction Jazz (see front page)

Sunday 8 September. New London Concert Band. Medleys, marches, show tunes and some classical pieces.

Sunday 15 September. London Gay Symphonic Winds. Varied performance of classical, show tunes, pop arrangements and film music scores.

Sunday 22 September. South London Concert Band. A merry mixture of medleys, marches, show tunes and some classical pieces.

Saturday 28 September. Merton Concert Band. Mixed concert band repertoire, specialising in big band and show music.

Checking that the face painting is up to standard at Holy Trinity Fayre



Photo: Dana Kubick

The exhibition, *Home, my Place in the World* continues until 14 September, and don't forget the excellent café is open every day except Sunday. Full details on wandsworthmuseum.co.uk or telephone 020 8870 6060.

If you have any queries about **The Clapham Society** or have news of local events, please contact the appropriate person below:

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Treasurer David Brown
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Membership Secretary Jennifer Everett
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Details of meetings, activities and a full list of our publications are on **The Clapham Society** website at claphamsociety.com.