

The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 388

June 2016

Flowers Galore

You may have noticed that the lovely flower stall which has long been on South Side just outside Clapham Common Underground Station, disappeared recently. But don't worry! It has moved round the corner to a bigger and better site on the corner of



Photo: Sascha Rothing

Clapham Park Road, just behind the deep shelter drum. With more space, and on the brink of summer, there is a great display. Go and check it out soon!

St Paul's Opera

On **Friday 1 July** and **Saturday 2 July** St Paul's Opera presents a fully-staged version of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*), a haunting comedy about the quest for love and enlightenment. It will be sung in German with English surtitles and dialogue, and accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble. Picnicking space in the church grounds and bar available before the show and during the interval. Gates open 5.30 pm. Opera starts at 7 pm. Venue: St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets: £25. Buy 10 get 1 free, from Nicola White on 020 7622 2128 or from wegottickets.com/StPaulsOpera

Saturdays in June

Don't forget our local Fair, Fayre and Fete this month: **Saturday 11 June** St Paul's Church Fair, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. 12 noon to 4 pm.

Saturday 18 June Holy Trinity Church Fayre, Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QZ. 11am to 5 pm.

Saturday 25 June Abbeville Fete, Church of the Holy Spirit Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9LQ and Abbeville Road. 12 noon to 4 pm.

The Clapham Society has a stand at each of these fairs, and we still need volunteers to help. If you have a free hour or two on any of these dates and are willing to help promote the Society, please contact the organiser of the event as shown in the May newsletter.

Our meetings are held at Omnibus, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW. The bar at Omnibus is open from 7 pm, and meetings commence at 8 pm. Our guest normally speaks for about 45 minutes, followed by around 15 minutes for questions and discussion, and the bar will remain open after the talk. Meetings are free and open to non-members, so please bring your friends along.

Monday 27 June

Lambeth Architecture 1965-1999. One of last year's most popular speakers, **Edmund Bird**, Heritage Advisor to the Mayor of London and former Lambeth Conservation Officer, returns to introduce the fourth book in his series on Lambeth's 20th-century architectural history. This book assesses the work of Ted Hollamby, the borough's chief planner and architect between 1964 and 1981, and his enormous output of council housing, as well as the major GLC estates of the 1960s and 1970s. It also covers leisure and community buildings, new schools and the completion of the post-war vision of the cultural hub of the South Bank.

There are no meetings in July and August. The next meeting will be on Monday 26 September.

However, we have the following events during the summer break:

Wednesday 6 July

Summer Party. Susannah and Richard Roxburgh have kindly invited us to hold our party in the garden of their house on Clapham Common West Side. The ticket application form is on the back page of this newsletter. Numbers are strictly limited so please apply early.

More events - see next page

More Summer events:

Wednesday 8 June

Twixt the Commons. A guided walk to explore the development of the area between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons. Led by Timothy Walker leaving at 6.30 pm from Clapham South Underground Station, going along Clapham Common West Side to Broomwood Road, and returning to Nightingale Lane via Wroughton Road. Free.

Wednesday 13 July

Some Clapham Plaques – from Greene to Grieg. A guided walk around Old Town and along the North Side of the Common concentrating on the commemorative plaques to people and buildings. Led by Derrick Johnson leaving at 6.30 pm from Clapham Common Underground Station. Free.

Throughout the summer there are also many guided walks organised by Lambeth Local History societies. See the leaflet, *Heritage Walks in South London*, available at our meetings, on our stands at events, and at Lambeth libraries.

Wine And Roses

Once again there's a chance to sip the wine and smell the roses in the garden of 18 Sibella Rd, SW4 6HX. This fundraiser for the Charles Michael Strong Fund in the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation has become an annual event and provides a good opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours while supporting a very worthwhile charity with suggested donations of £5 for wine and cheese nibbles.

Members may remember that Michael Strong was Treasurer of the Clapham Society for many years. This year the opening is on **Sunday 19 June** from 5 pm to 8 pm.

And More Gardens

Open Garden Squares Weekend is on **Saturday 18 June** and **Sunday 19 June** this year. Over 200 gardens all over London are open to the public, and with the one ticket (£12 in advance) you can visit as many as you like in the two days. Among gardens open locally are Royal Trinity Hospice, Bonnington Square and Durand Gardens. For the full list with descriptions of the gardens, details of opening times and to purchase tickets go to opensquares.org.

The Race to Save the Sea

At our April meeting, Charles Clover, Chairman of the Blue Marine Foundation gave a fascinating, moving and convincing presentation on the race to save the sea and its over-exploited stocks of fish. The oceans of the world cover approximately 71% of the planet's surface and produce half the oxygen we breathe whilst simultaneously absorbing 50% of the world's carbon dioxide.

Charles vividly illustrated his alarming statistics about the rapid depletion of the oceans' fish reserves by interspersing his talk with film clips. One extract was taken from the 2009 film (based on his 2006 book) that set him on the course of doing something 'big' to save the sea: *The end of the Line*. The book and the film brought the world's attention to the crisis of over-fishing. We were horrified to hear that the long-line fishing industry sets at least 1.4 billion hooks a year; if laid end to end these lines would encircle the globe about 550 times. The mouth of the largest trawling net could accommodate thirteen 747 jet airplanes. If nothing is done, and done urgently, the world's fish reserves will be completely depleted and the oceans will be taken over by algae, plankton and worms.

The Blue Marine Foundation, a small organization, operating out of a tiny attic in Somerset House, London, was founded in 2010. In less than six years it has made enormous strides in persuading the UK and other governments, like-minded groups such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, other NGOs, rich donors and many others to 'do something big about' reversing the over-fishing trend. One of BLUE's first achievements was persuading the UK Government in 2009/10 to create the largest marine reserve in the world in the Chagos Archipelago, a British Overseas Territory in the Indian Ocean (UKOT). This and other marine reserves and BLUE projects are shown on an interactive map on

bluemarinefoundation.com/projects.

Following the success in the Chagos, BLUE has increased its efforts in lobbying the British government as well as persuading the inhabitants of 14 UKOTs to protect areas surrounding the UKOTs by designating their territorial waters 'Marine Protected Areas'. Success was achieved when the UK's Conservative party included in its 2015 manifesto a commitment to set up a 'blue belt' around the 14 UKOTs.

Charles described in vivid details the recent efforts made by BLUE in raising significant funds, lobbying the Government and working with the inhabitants of one particular UKOT to secure 50% of the territorial waters of the Atlantic's Ascension Islands as a protected marine reserve. This was a significant achievement.

But BLUE is acutely aware that something 'big' needs to be done in the UK's own territorial waters. Apart from BLUE's efforts, the will to do this is not strong. For instance, BLUE has been trying to restore the native oyster in the Blackwater estuary in Essex for many years but has been thwarted in its efforts and will not succeed until further studies of oyster dredging have been completed. There is a critical need to create a big idea about marine conservation around the British coast. To do this, BLUE is forging alliances and pooling ideas with other like-minded organisations so it can successfully accomplish other projects on which it is working.

At the end of his presentation, Charles appealed to members of the audience to support BLUE's efforts. The audience responded favourably to Charles' excellent and moving presentation, which stimulated a number of questions and a great deal of interest. If you missed the presentation, do visit bluemarinefoundation.com to see what you can do to help 'Save the Sea'.

Maev Sullivan

The Wonderful World of Scouts Scouts have been misconceived in the UK for years – boys only who wear hats and have knobby knees. Well, modern Scouting is changing. Over the few last years Scouting has changed dramatically, with more girls than ever joining, all faiths and backgrounds included and even a non-religious promise.

So why Scouts? Scouting is one of the world's best kept secrets. I say 'world' because there are over 40 million, half a million in the UK. Scouting is one of the most rewarding volunteer opportunities. With your guidance, young people learn new skills and experience to become young adults. Scouting in Lambeth and Wandsworth is growing fast, with hundreds of young people on waiting lists raring to start, there just are not enough volunteers.

Volunteering with Scouts is not as daunting as some might think. There are many roles and you can have fun! Find out more on our website southlondonscouts.org.uk or contact marcus.burch@southlondonscouts.org.uk or 07449 318 940.

Marcus Burch

The First Clapham Saints

By the end of the first quarter of the 17th century, many London merchants were wealthy enough to want a 'retiring house' away from the smells, noise, and disease of the City, but close enough to be in daily touch with their business. Most of these were in villages north of London with Hackney the best known. My research demonstrates that Clapham was also a centre for merchants' retiring houses and the only one south of the Thames.

From 1630, merchants active in international trade, and with their City house near London Bridge, began to lease property in Clapham, coming because they had business, political or family links with other residents. They had wide interests, investing and trading in North America and Barbados, but also with the Baltic, the Low Countries, the Levant and India.

They financed *The Mayflower* and helped to start the slave trade as both supplier and consumer. The merchants were puritan radicals active in both City and national politics, and played an important role in Cromwell's administration, including as Commissioners for the Navy, on the Council of State, and on the Compounding Commission which sold lands confiscated from Royalists. They helped their neighbour, Edward Winslow recently returned from being Governor of New Plymouth, start the first protestant missionary society to North America.

The portrait below shows one such merchant, Richard Salwey. He traded in tobacco, fought at the battle of Worcester, was Commissioner for the Navy, a friend of Cromwell and a passionate supporter of power being vested solely in the House of Commons. He was arrested and sent to the Tower more than once and his grandson's memorial in Ludlow church says of him that 'he sacrificed all and everything in his power in support of public liberty and in opposition to arbitrary power'.

After the Restoration, more radicals came to live in Clapham but their political activities were curtailed by the discrimination against nonconformists.

Nevertheless, Clapham was well known as a centre

for nonconformism for the rest of the century; Roger L'Estrange, the Stuart Licensor of the Press, later described it as 'a Whig-warren'. Fourteen nonconformist ministers ejected from their parishes lived, preached, taught, or practised medicine in Clapham with the support of an active laity and acquiescence of the Anglican rectors.

Clapham had an unusually high proportion of large houses and continued to attract rich merchants, including a group of affluent Huguenot and Fleming businessmen. The beginning of the 18th century saw lawyers and bankers join them, again with nonconformist beliefs and prior ties to existing residents. Pepys visited Clapham for 35 years before retiring there; Evelyn described it as 'paradisian'. Inventories of the houses confirm their wealth, showing them as early adopters of many fashionable goods, but conservative in their dress and eschewing expensive funerals.

The website claphamhistorian.com gives more details of what could be described as *The First Clapham Saints*, a community of successful religious international businessmen, sometimes involved in politics but sometimes discriminated against.

Timothy Walker



Photo: Timothy Walker collection

Wandsworth Design Awards

The Society's Planning Sub-committee was again invited to provide a member to sit on the judging panel for the 2015 Wandsworth Design Awards. The aim is to give public recognition to recent projects which make a positive contribution to the local environment and set a good example. Thirty-four projects were nominated across the eight categories, which were: New Buildings, Access to buildings, Residential extensions, Restorations/conversions, Offices and Shop fronts, Landscape projects, Public spaces and Sustainable buildings or spaces. Two projects won awards – a new building for Graveney School, Welham Road, SW16 and the Balham High Road/Hildreth Street project involving public art and other enhancements to the town centre.

The latter includes the impressive mural over the old 'Ugly Wall' overlooking the Waitrose car park, the landscape improvements to the street market and a cheerful facelift to the space beneath the railway bridge. The other project close to Clapham worth noting is the roof extension to Abbott House in Nightingale Lane, which was one of eight 'Commendations'.

Maybe Lambeth Council will one day follow this initiative, which raises critical awareness and interest in the built environment.

John Adams

The Glebe House Events

Friday 3 June 10 am till 12 noon.
Instagram Training session run by award winning social media and marketing company, Gertrude and Ivy. All levels welcome. Tickets £50.

Monday 6 June 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.
Brush Lettering. Teri Muncey, designer, stylist, illustrator, crafter and creator of award-winning blog, *The Lovely Drawer*, will teach the basics of contemporary brush lettering. Tickets £45.

All events are at The Glebe House, 6 Rectory Grove, SW4 0DZ. Tickets from theglebehouselondon.com/events.

Coming soon: Talks from artists/designers, Natural History Day for Children, and supper club nights. Sign up to our mailing list to be kept updated. The Glebe House is also available for private hire. Check details on our website of our crowd funding campaign to ensure the future of The Glebe House with rewards such as tickets to events and members only evenings.

More about the Clapham Cricket Club

In the April newsletter (No. 386) we had a picture of members of the Clapham Cricket Club, sent to us by Jenny Stroud. She has sent us more photographs which she thought might interest readers of this newsletter. She writes:

‘My great uncle, William Arthur Winterbottom (Wine Merchant) 1853 -1937 was a member of Clapham Cricket Club (CCC) in the 1880s and 90s. He was team manager for a tour to India in November 1889, which included the team, plus their wives, mothers and possibly children.

The first picture was taken at Malta on the way out to India, on the boat recorded as *SS Ian McPherson*. Arthur Winterbottom is in the back row, farthest left with the dark cap on. Some interesting looking folk here, with varied ‘head gear’.

The second photo actually taken in India is even more amazing as it shows the ‘gender roles’ of late Victorian Society. Obviously a ‘Fancy Dress’ party where half the men are dressed in Pierrot style costumes, which was popular at the time, some of which are verging on ‘Pantomime Dame’ or drag in their eccentricity. The women are stereo-typically not so relaxed, mostly dressed very formally but with some decorations on their hats!



Photos: Jenny Stroud collection



If any readers of this newsletter could throw a light on the Cricket Tour itself..... or could analyse these pictures more knowledgably than me, please contact me jmstroud_brighton@yahoo.co.uk.

Jenny Stroud

Wandsworth Heritage Festival The Festival continues until **Sunday 12 June** with a varied programme of walks, talks and workshops. Included are an exhibition and tour of the redevelopment of Battersea Arts Centre following last year’s fire, WW1 history walk in Tooting, tours and history of Emanuel School, a sculpture trail in Putney and lots more. The full programme is available at Wandsworth Libraries

June Highlights at Omnibus

Sunday 5 June at 7.30 pm. Eusebio and Friends. Mexican marimba artist Eusebio Sanchez plays evocative percussion music inspired by the colour and rhythms of his home nation. The concert will premiere new original works which will feature on his album to be released later this month. Tickets £12, £10 concessions.

Tuesday 14 June at 7.30 pm. *Underwater Love* by Flair May explores how young people assert themselves within relationships in a world saturated with sexual imagery and content. Each performance will be followed by a Forum workshop in which the audience will become involved as actors to change the outcome for the characters, exploring how they can make positive change. Tickets £10, £8 concessions.

Sunday 26 June at 11 am and 2.30 pm. Oren Marshall. Crossing between classical, jazz, improvised and world music, Oren’s style is as diverse as his collaborations. As a solo artist, he has played all over the world and Omnibus welcomes him again – with his custom built one of a kind tuba – for what promises to be a unique performance. Tickets £9 adults, £7 children.

Tickets and further information Omnibus-clapham.org. Box office: 020 7498 4699 or call in at 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0DN.

A South London artist

The Winifred Knights (1899-1947) exhibition opening at Dulwich Art Gallery on **Wednesday 8 June** is part of the Gallery’s Modern British series, a programme of exhibitions devoted to neglected British artists. Winifred Knights was born in Streatham and educated in Dulwich. For details, go to dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk.

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

Chairman Tel: 020 7228 5551	Annabel Allott Email: annabel@allott.plus.com	Planning Matters Tel: 020 8674 1727	Philip Ashford Email: pjashford@yahoo.co.uk
Acting Secretary Tel: 020 7498 9205	Maev Sullivan Email: maevsullivan@gmail.com	Newsletter and Publications Tel: 020 7622 6360	Alyson Wilson Email: alysonwilson.sw4@gmail.com
Treasurer Tel: 020 7720 7536	David Brown Email david.brown@centrum-uk.com	Meetings and Events Tel: 020 7223 4480.	Heather Binney Email: h.a.binney@soton.ac.uk
Membership Secretary Tel: 020 7627 4770	Jennifer Everett Email jeverett@waitrose.com	Roads and Transport Tel: 020 7720 9370	Mark Leffler Email: mark.leffler88@gmail.com

Details of meetings, activities and a full list of our publications are on **The Clapham Society** website at claphamsociety.com.

Cut here

Summer Party in the garden of Susannah and Richard Roxburgh on Clapham Common West Side on **Wednesday 6 July** from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Drinks and canapés.

Please send me tickets @ £12 each. Cheque, payable to the Clapham Society, for £..... with a stamped self addressed envelope to: Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, SW4 7AH.

Name..... Telephone number.....