

Westminster Attack: death toll includes Leslie Rhodes from Clapham

On Wednesday 22 March, when Khalid Masood drove a hired car at pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, two were killed on the bridge and 50 were injured.

Leslie Rhodes was mortally injured as he crossed the bridge after an appointment at St Thomas's Hospital. He died the following day at King's College Hospital. Seventy-five year old Les Rhodes, a retired window cleaner, lived in Macaulay Road. He moved to Clapham from Battersea with his family in the 1970s, but lived alone since his parents and brother died some years ago.

Rhodes worked for a window cleaning company in Croydon for many years before setting up his own business with a friend he met at The Sun in Old Town. In an *Evening Standard* interview, his friends reported that Les was proud that one of his clients had been Winston Churchill, whose windows he cleaned at Chartwell.

Les was fondly remembered and described by neighbours 'as nice a man as you could meet.' It was his neighbours who went to King's College Hospital to keep a bedside vigil for him until his death.

His next door neighbour Michael Carney, who had known Les for decades, told *The Guardian* 'You couldn't let someone like that die alone... My wife, Christine, and my two daughters [Emma and Rachel] went up there and stayed with him. The doctors got us to take his favourite music, which was Queen... He couldn't have got better care than the hospital. They were all amazing. The doctors kept on past their shift to stay with him.' Les Rhodes died on the 23 March.

Exactly a week after the attack, a ceremony on flower-strewn Westminster Bridge commemorated all of Masood's victims, the injured and those he killed: PC Keith Palmer, Aysha Frade, Kurt Cochran and Leslie Rhodes.

On 6 April another victim was added to the death toll. Andreea Cristea, the Romanian woman who fell into the Thames during the Westminster attack, died of her injuries.



Photo: Chris Matthews

Dana Kubick

Clapham Chamber Concerts

On **Friday 12 May** TROUPE returns to Clapham Chamber Concerts to perform a recital of music old and new for cello, piano and voice interspersed with poetry readings. Catherine Carter, Jessie Maryon Davies, Sophie Rivlin and Kate Wakeling will perform Shostakovich's *Cello Sonata*, songs by Dowland and Berio, and original compositions by Catherine Carter. The concert starts at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets on the door at £12, £10 concessions and Friends of CCC, £5 children. For further information email claphamchamberconcerts@gmail.com.

Clapham History Articles

As reported in the March newsletter members of the Local History Sub-committee have been contributing regular articles to the *South London Press* since January. We have now started adding these to our website. Go to claphamsociety.com/Articles/localhistory.html and scroll down the list to find one that interests you. So far you can read about Adam Worth: The Real Moriarty and the story of the painting Flaming June, and very soon you will also be able to see all about Dr Ward and the Wardian Case as well as Fu-Manchu, and many more articles will follow.

If walls could talk... On **Wednesday 31 May** at 7 pm, **Saturday 3 June** and **Saturday 10 June** at 11 am and 3 pm volunteer guides will be leading tours of Battersea Arts Centre uncovering the rich layers of the building's history and sharing some of their own personal connections. There are limited spaces so book in advance on 020 7223 2233.

Town Hall Talks On **Wednesday 31 May** the free talk at 6 pm is entitled *Boom time: The Social Impact of the Industrial Revolution in Wandsworth and Battersea*. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance at bac.org.uk/townhalltalksbooking. Complimentary drinks will be provided. BAC Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN.

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

Cut here

TICKET APPLICATION FORM

Summer Party in the garden of Annabel Allott on Clapham Common West Side on Tuesday 27 June 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.....