

The Clapham Society

Newsletter



Issue 367

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We are now on **Facebook** (facebook.com/claphamsociety) and **Twitter** ([@claphamsociety](https://twitter.com/claphamsociety)). Please **Like, Follow and Share** the page and **Like, Share and Comment** on the posts, as well as inviting your friends to do so, in order to spread the word! The social pages are also available through our website.

May Day Common People

On **Saturday 3 May** Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC) will be holding its opening event of the summer in collaboration with community groups and stakeholders.

There will be live performances on the bandstand including spoken word, dance and music. Omnibus will present *Josephine and the Artizans*, the Clapham Society will lead a walk around the Common, Bandstand Beds will launch their Squash and Bean Swap and prize pumpkin competition, and the local police will be carrying out security bike marking. The Friends of Clapham Common and No To Hate Crime will also be in attendance.

The event runs from midday to 6 pm and is FREE. For performance updates follow [@commonpeople14](https://twitter.com/commonpeople14) on Twitter.



A Clapham Society Green Plaque will be unveiled on 35 Macaulay Road, the former Parochial School on **Friday 23 May** at 6 pm. Come along and join us!

Clapham Books has moved!

We are now at home in our new location at 26 The Pavement, and will soon be announcing a series of author readings, children's storytimes and other events. Keep an eye on our website, on Twitter ([@claphambooks](https://twitter.com/claphambooks)) and in the window of the shop for details.

Our regular Thursday morning storytime with the amazing Devon will also resume after the Easter break on 24 April – every Thursday at 11 am. All welcome; just turn up for singing and stories!

And we also want to thank everyone for their support both in our old shop, throughout the process of moving, and here in the new shop. We are very grateful, and excited to be here for a long time to come!

Nikki at Clapham Books

This year our meetings will be held at Omnibus, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW on **MONDAY evenings**. The bar at Omnibus will be open at 7 pm, and meetings will commence at 8 pm. Our guest will normally speak for about 45 minutes, followed by around 15 minutes for questions and discussion, and the bar will remain open after meetings. Meetings are **FREE** and open to non-members, so please bring your friends along.

Monday 19 May

Clapham and the Bicycle. Clapham has a little known but important place in the early history of the bicycle. There were several local manufacturers, the earliest (whose machine was appropriately called the Pioneer) in 1879. Perhaps the best known was Claud Butler, operating from Manor Street between the Wars. Clapham Society member **Roger Armstrong**, cyclist and historian, will tell the story.

Monday 16 June

Helen Fisher, Programme Director of Nine Elms on the South Bank, will give us an overview and update on the regeneration of this huge area between Lambeth Bridge and Chelsea Bridge – by far the largest regeneration zone in central London, which includes over 20 development sites.

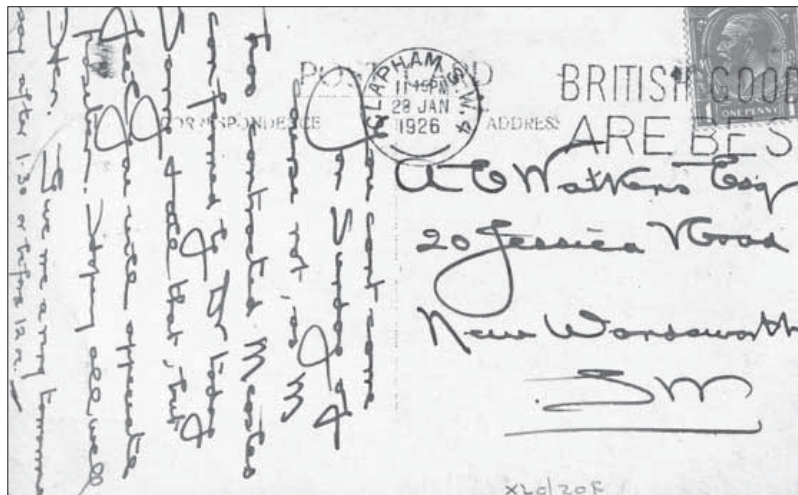
There is no meeting in July but our annual party is on **Thursday 10 July**. A ticket application form will be included in the June newsletter.

Our first guided walk of the summer is on **Wednesday 4 June**, when Timothy Walker will lead **Twixt the Commons**, leaving from Clapham South Underground Station at 6.30 pm.

Where is this?

This card was posted from Clapham in 1926, though the picture may be some years earlier. It is a good example of the way postcards were used for rapid messages; posted late one evening, it would have been delivered in one of several deliveries the next day. Now we would send a text, which would not still exist 88 years later.

The owner of the card would like to identify the house. If it is yours or you recognise it please contact the newsletter editor (alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net).



On the Common

The saga around events on Clapham Common has taken on a new twist. It appears that Lambeth have designated South Field next to Clapham South Underground Station as an additional Event Site. Apart from the long established London to Brighton Cycle Ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation on 15 June, two commercial events have been booked. The first is a Sub Audio Festival on 24 May and 25 May where different types of music are heard on headphones. Worryingly anyone under 18 years old is to be excluded with IDs required. (There are contradictions in the management plan around this, and there are to be two bars and dancing with no evidence of a Premises Licence.)

The second is a Foodies Festival from 6 June to 8 June. That part of the Common will therefore be taken up with events for 18 out of 26 days taking into account setting up and de-rigging. There has been no consultation on this move with the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee.

The condition of the main Event Site remains very poor following damage caused by the Freeze Festival last November. Turf used to repair some of the worst grassed areas has not been watered in, so at the time of going to press it is shrinking and turning yellow. There is now talk of fencing off the damaged areas. All this when Moonwalk is due to start setting up on 1 May.

The Clapham Society has become so concerned about the stewardship of Clapham Common, particularly in relation to escalating commercialisation, that we have briefed an independent lawyer in order to get sound advice on the legal status of our much-valued common land. In particular the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Act 1967 appears to have been ignored in some instances.

Anna Jefferson Smith

Improving Clapham

At our March meeting Jeremy Keates, Clapham and Brixton Town Centre Manager, spoke to us about the recently formed Clapham Business Community (CBC), run by Clapham businesses and supported by Lambeth Council, designed to make Clapham a better place to do business.

He started with some facts about footfall in the High Street, and the change in shopping trends brought about by on-line shopping. With various graphs, and survey results he outlined what businesses like about Clapham as well as what they would wish to improve – including street cleaning, parking for businesses, public toilets, police patrols for Friday and Saturday nights, more independent shops, and so on. Many are things that local people know all too well and feel strongly about.

Jeremy explained that the CBC is a constituted organisation with a management committee of 12 members drawn from the local business community. It will set up a Business Improvement District (BID) to connect local businesses, run networking events, produce a newsletter and fund systems aimed at increasing safety and reducing crime. All eligible businesses will be balloted and the income will derive from a levy on them. CBC is designed to increase the spend locally and reduce costs for local businesses, whilst improving the management of the night time economy, reducing crime and promoting Clapham by highlighting its vibrant arts and cultural scene.

In conclusion Jeremy gave us some illustrations of nearby BIDs at Vauxhall and Streatham. There were several questions about exactly how the system would operate, and the anticipated benefits for the residents of Clapham as well as businesses and Jeremy kindly continued to discuss these with members for some time after the end of the meeting.

Clapham Chamber Concerts

The concert on **Friday 16 May** at 7.30 pm features Amanda Lake (violin), Sophie Rivlin (cello) and Julia Wallin (piano) performing works by Mozart, Janáček and Brahms. Mozart's *Piano Trio No 1 (Divertimento) in B flat major* has been described as an accompanied piano sonata, with the cello reflecting the piano's bass line and the violin commenting on the piano's melodic line. The cello sonata *Pohádka* ('tale' or 'fairytale') by Janáček is a melodic instrumental duet inspired by a traditional heroic tale. The third major piece in the concert is Brahms's *Piano Trio No 2*. Venue: St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets at the door: £12/£9 concessions and students, £5 children. For more information go to claphamchamberconcerts.org.uk.



Visit Eden

One of Clapham's best-kept secrets, the Eden Community Garden, is looking glorious at the moment and if you haven't visited it yet, now is certainly the time. Running alongside Matrimony Place, next to St Paul's churchyard, the garden is a wildlife haven and houses an apiary, a pond, community raised vegetable beds, a (small!) wild meadow and a hazelnut tunnel. Many people just come to sit and enjoy, but there are regular weekend Volunteer Days and an annual summer solstice party on **Saturday 21 June**. This year, Eden is taking part in the Chelsea Fringe Festival with an event on **Friday 23 May**. To become a Friend of Eden or find out more, call Philippa Gould on 07803 608375.

A busy May at Omnibus Saturdays 3, 10, 17 and 24 May.

Actors Alive. Omnibus' very own youth theatre Actors Alive runs every Saturday morning during term time. The sessions include theatre games, acting exercises and character development, as well as rehearsals for a showing of work at the end of term. 10-11 am for 8-12 year olds; 11 am-12 pm for 13-15 year olds. Sessions cost £5 per child, and the first two sessions are free taster sessions. Payment is required for the whole term (or part of term remaining when your child joins). Email education@omnibus-clapham.org to register.

Thursday 1 May and Friday 2 May at 7.30 pm. *Reading With Bach*. Lizzi Kew Ross brings us dancers and musicians and takes us into the territory of books. Tickets £15/£12 concessions.

Sunday 4 May at 4.30 pm. *Chamberfayre* explores music written for unusual instrumental combinations. Alison Hayhurst (flute), Kaija Lukas (violin/viola) and Paul Sherman (double bass) will perform works by Handel, Dittersdorf, Boismortier, Gyrowetz, J.S. Bach, Debussy and Schulhoff. Tickets £12/£10 concessions. Limited number at £5 for under 25s (proof of age required)

Tuesday 6 May at 7.30 pm. *Watchers of The Sky* (USA, 2014) One of the first London screenings of a double award-winner at Sundance Film Festival 2014, this is set to be one of the must-see documentaries of the year. Suitable for 18+. Tickets £5/£4 concessions

Wednesday 7 May and Thursday 8 May at 7.30 pm. *The Case of The Frightened Lady*. Miracle Theatre revisits one of its most popular productions. It is 1932 and Edgar Wallace, the Fleet Street editor known for his hugely popular whodunits,

gets a desperate call from his publisher. With only a weekend to produce a new novel, the indefatigable Wallace leaps into action. Tickets £15/£12 concessions.

Friday 9 May and Saturday 10 May at 7.30 pm. *The Rite of Spring/Romeo and Juliet*. Concert Theatre pairs Stravinsky's ballet with Shakespeare's romantic tragedy. Tickets £15/£12 concessions.

Sunday 11 May at 7 pm. **Northside Jazz:** *Deco Ensemble* performs music from around the world, combining traditional and contemporary influences. Tickets £10.

Tuesday 13 May to Thursday 15 May at 7.30 pm. *The Ballad of Martha Brown*. Expect the unexpected in Angel Exit's latest original drama based on the life and times of Martha Brown, the last woman publicly hanged in Dorset. Tickets £15/12 concessions.

Friday 16 May at 8 pm. *The Fundamental Interconnectedness of Everyone With an Internet Connection*. Through his own blend of traditional stand-up, interactive projections and original music, James Veitch takes the audience on a journey investigating the nature of scamming and its role in our connected world. Tickets £10.

Saturday 17 May at 6 pm. *Muscovado*, Burnt Out Theatre present a FREE rehearsed reading of this play about the slave trade in Barbados in the 19th century.

Sunday 18 May at 4.30 pm. *Song Circle*. Made up from four singers and two pianists, Song Circle features some of the finest singers from the Royal Academy of Music. This concert will include a selection of glorious songs by Brahms, Dvořák, Granados, Ravel and Wolf. Tickets £12/£10 concessions. Limited number at £5 for under 25s (proof of age required).

Omnibus presents Read/Write/Perform – a festival of literary delights from

Thursday 22 May at 2.30 pm. *Gold* by Tim Digby-Bell (play reading). 7.30 pm. *Out of Print*. Installation/promenade performance.

9.00 pm. *Graphic Novels* with Isabel Greenberg and Karrie Fransman (visual reading).

Friday 23 May at 2.30 pm. *The Land* by Nina-Marie Gardner (play reading). 7.30 pm. *The Hard Way*. Spoken word performance.

Saturday 24 May at 11.30 am. Children's Creative Writing Workshop. 3.00 pm. Adult's Creative Writing Workshop.

4.00 pm. Afternoon Tea with Jaki McCarrick (visiting author talk). 7.30 pm. *The Naturalists* by Jaki McCarrick (play reading).

Monday 26 May at 8pm. *Super Spokes* are cousins Royce and Rosie whose sets are a regular highlight in South London venues. Their monthly acoustic night at Omnibus brings an eclectic and always high quality line-up of the best bands and solo artists from London and beyond. Suggested donation £5 on the door. Bar open from 7 pm.

Friday 30 May and Saturday 31 May at 7.30 pm. In *Beast* by Elena Bolster, UNTitled Theatre tells the emotionally engaging and profoundly moving story of aging artist Egon and his muse Valie, as they are caught unexpectedly in the potent rise and fall of love.

Visit omnibus-clapham.org and [facebook.com/OmnibusClaphamArts](https://www.facebook.com/OmnibusClaphamArts) for updates and further details. For bookings call the box office on 020 7498 4699, visit omnibus-clapham.org or call in at Omnibus, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW.

Wandsworth Heritage Festival

This year the festival runs from **Saturday 24 May** to **Sunday 8 June**.

2014 is the centenary of the Battersea mayoral year of John Archer, advocate of social justice and black rights. As part of the festival his biographer, Sean Creighton, is giving two talks and leading four walks about his life and views, and the parts of Battersea particularly associated with him. For details contact sean.creighton1947@btinternet.com or 020 8764 4301.

Full details of all festival events are available at Wandsworth Libraries.

Help at Summer Fairs

The Clapham Society will have stands at the following summer events, and is looking for volunteers to help. If you can offer an hour or two on any of these dates please contact the organiser shown below.

Saturday 3 May CCMAC May Day Fair (alyswilson.sw4@virgin.net)

Saturday 24 May Wandsworth Heritage Festival Launch (derrick45johnson@hotmail.co.uk)

Saturday 14 June St Paul's Summer Fair (maevsullivan@gmail.com)

Saturday 21 June Holy Trinity Common Fayre (jeverett@waitrose.com)

Saturday 28 June Abbeville Fete (bill-sue@perlem.demon.co.uk)

New members

We welcomed the following new members this month: Sidney and Odile Emery, Michael Halcrow, Anne and Daniel Instone, Maureen Mackintosh, James Sheward and Vanessa Celosse, and Fred Vonck.

Lambeth Readers' and Writers' Festival

This festival runs throughout May with events in various Lambeth libraries. For the full programme pick up a brochure in your local library or in Omnibus. See also literary events at Omnibus from 22 to 24 May.

On **Friday 30 May** and **Saturday 31 May** at 7 pm. Five short plays, winners of First Draft, Lambeth's new playwriting competition will be developed with a professional cast and directors and presented as rehearsed readings at Clapham Library, 91 Clapham High Street, SW4 7DB. For tickets £8/£5 concessions call 07958 448690 or go to sixteenfeet.co.uk.

Volunteer needed

The Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC) is looking for someone to help with the administrative side of running the Committee. CCMAC is made up from members of the community with an interest in the management of Clapham Common, and acts as a link between local residents and Lambeth Council. We are all volunteers and the post would be unpaid, but would suit someone who enjoys keeping others organised and who has a couple of hours a week to spare. Responsibilities would include overseeing the preparation of papers for our monthly meetings, taking minutes of those meetings, and in the longer term possibly keeping our website up to date. If you think you could help please get in touch with Councillor Helen O'Malley, Chair of CCMAC, on 020 7498 1371 or ccmac.1226@yahoo.com.

Trinity Hospice

There is still time to sign up for the Magnolia Walk on **Sunday 18 May**. Choose a two, five or ten mile route finishing up with a barbecue in the hospice garden. Entry £10 adults, £5 under 16s. To register go to trinityhospice.org.uk/magnoliawalk or call Laura on 020 7787 1018.

Studio Voltaire

This year Studio Voltaire celebrates 20 years of supporting emerging artists, including Turner Prize winner, Elizabeth Price, and Phyllida Barlow, whose huge sculpture currently fills Tate Britain's Duveen galleries.

The current exhibition of amusing cartoon-like figures by Latvian artist, Ella Kruglyanskaya runs until 8 June. For details and opening times go to studiovoltaire.org or call in at 1a Nelson's Row, SW4 7RJ.

A Diary Date

What Are We Doing to Our Climate? Thoughts on Climate Change. A talk by Dr James Willis at St Mary's Church, Clapham Park Road, SW4 7AP on **Wednesday 18 June**, 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm.

Brixton Windmill

National Mills Weekend is on **Saturday 10 May** and **Sunday 11 May**, when Brixton Windmill will be open from 1 pm to 5 pm each day. The millwright will be on hand to answer questions and, weather permitting, you may be able to see the sails in action.

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

Chairman **Annabel Allott**

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Email: annabel@allott.plus.com

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Tel: 020 7720 3343

Treasurer **David Brown**

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Tel: 020 7720 7536

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Newsletter and Publications

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

Wandsworth Arts Festival and Fringe

This year's event, from **Friday 2 May** to **Sunday 18 May**, encompasses dance, art, music, theatre, performance and talks. At St Luke's Church, Ramsden Road, SW12 8RQ, from **Friday 2 May** to **Tuesday 6 May**, Common Touch Theatre Company presents *Garland of Poppies*, in commemoration of the First World War. For further information and booking for all events go to wandsworthartsfestival.com.