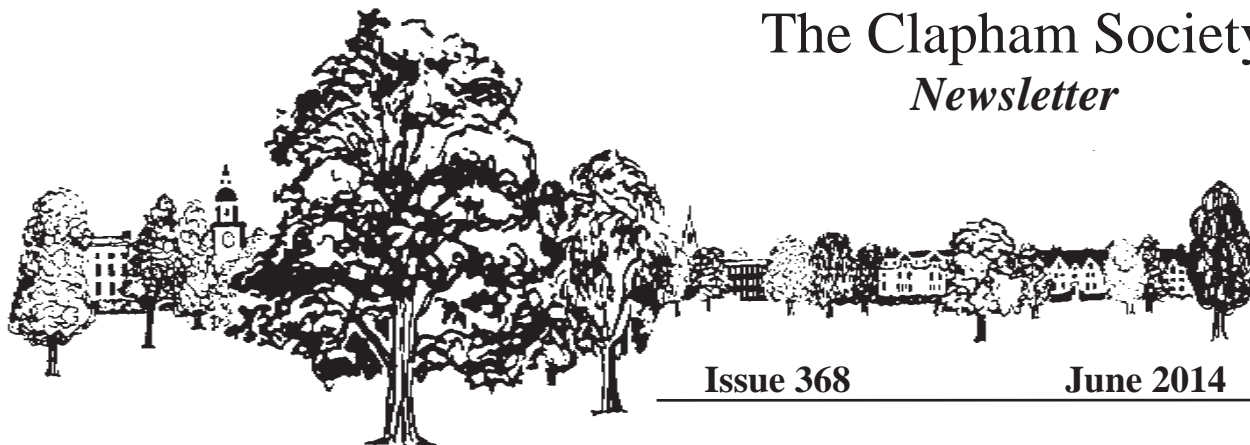


The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 368

June 2014

A Fair, a Fayre and a Fete

It is the season for outdoor summer events. The Clapham Society will have a stand at the following local festivals. Come along and support the events and us.

Saturday 14 June from 12 noon to 4 pm. **St Paul's Summer Fair** at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Stalls, events, plenty of bargains and fun for all.

Saturday 21 June from 11 am to 5 pm. **The Common Fayre** in the area around Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QZ. Now in its 37th year this is the nearest thing to a village fête in central London, with a barbecue, a jazz band, donkey rides, a dog show, sideshows, lots of stalls, a raffle, a silent auction and more.

Saturday 28 June from 12 noon to 4 pm. **Abbeville Fete** in Abbeville Road and Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9JU. Local businesses join in with activities for all ages, including dog show, fancy dress parade, waiters' and shopkeepers' race and organic barbecue, in support of local charities.

And a Country Fayre

Sunday 29 June from 12 noon to 4 pm **Country Fayre** in the gardens of Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0RN. Petting farm, bouncy castle, hog roast and lots more. Tickets £5, children £1. More information from csykes@trinityhospice.org.uk or 020 7787 1012.

Clapham Books Saturday

7 June at 11 am. at 26 The Pavement, SW4 0JA. Free **Saturday Storytime**. Alice Lickens with her wonderful book *Can You Dance the Boogaloo?* With activities, mask-making and colouring fun! Storytime stall will also be at Trinity Hospice Country Fayre on **Sunday 29 June** with authors Alice Lickens and Fran Peston-Gannon.

Wine And Roses

Once again the garden of 18 Sibella Rd, SW4 6HX will be open in aid of the Charles Michael Strong Fund of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. The date this year is **Sunday 22 June** from 5 pm to 8 pm. The suggested donation of £5 includes a glass of wine and some cheese nibbles. Free entry for children. Come along to smell the roses, sip the wine and socialise with friends and neighbours.

St Paul's Summertime Opera

This year's opera at St Paul's Church is Puccini's *Turandot* on **Friday 20 June** and **Saturday 21 June**. The gates open at 5.30 pm for picnics in the church grounds (some cover will be provided for wet weather or you may bring your own) and the opera commences at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £25, concessions £20 from Heidi Usher in the Parish Office on 020 7622 2128 or admin@stpaulssw4.org.

Our meetings are held at Omnibus, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW on **MONDAY** evenings. The bar at Omnibus will be open from 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 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.

In 2013 we heard about the new US Embassy, in 2014 Helen Fisher will speak about some of the other developments planned, including New Covent Garden Market and Battersea Power Station, which will become a new town centre for London. Helen will also provide an update on some of the projects that are being delivered within and alongside the developments, including new parks and open spaces, improved transport links and an exciting culture and arts programme that will make Nine Elms on the South Bank a place where people will want to live, work and visit.

Thursday 10 July

Summer Party. This year's summer party will be held in the garden of Wayne Amiel in Turret Grove, described by its owner as an exuberant fusion of 'Clapham meets Jamaica'. Tickets, to include drinks and canapés, are £12.00. The ticket application form is on the back of this newsletter. Order your ticket quickly, as numbers will be limited. *Continued on next page*

Your Town Square

There will be a celebration of the 'new' Clapham Old Town on **Friday 6 June** from 3.30 pm to 5 pm, with live entertainment by Omnibus, a display of historical pictures by the Clapham Society, treasure hunt, and refreshments kindly provided by Trinity Restaurant and The Prince of Wales. Don't miss it!

There is no meeting in July, but we have the following guided walks.

Wednesday 4 June

Twixt the Commons. Leaving from Clapham South Underground Station at 6.30 pm, Timothy Walker will lead a walk around some places of special interest off Nightingale Lane and Clapham Common West Side. He will describe the development of the area between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons from the 18th to the 21st century.

Wednesday 16 July

Central Clapham. Leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at 6.30 pm, Peter Jefferson Smith will lead a walk from the modern centre of Clapham to the heart of the old village, including Old Town, Grafton Square, Rectory Grove, and visiting St Paul's Church.

Sunday 17 August

Some Clapham plaques. Leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at 3.00 pm, Derrick Johnson will lead a walk looking at English Heritage blue plaques (Graham Greene, Charles Barry, JF Bentley), Clapham Society green plaques (Old Fire Station, Sycamore House) and several others.

Clapham Chamber Concerts

The final concert in the current season is on **Friday 27 June** at 7.30 pm. Keeping to its aim to put on a varied and intriguing musical programme for the local community, Clapham Chamber Concerts presents a recital by Baker Street Brass, 'taking the audience on a whistle-stop tour through the huge variety of music we find on our screens and on the operatic and theatre stage'.

Baker Street Brass is a brass quintet with a rich and eclectic repertoire, bringing together some of the top young brass players in London. The programme for the concert is correspondingly wide-ranging, including music by Bizet, Delibes, Bernstein, Berlin, Porter, Rossini, Rodrigo; and taking in opera (*The Barber of Seville*, *Carmen*, *Lakme*, *West Side Story*), shows (*Chicago*, *Les Misérables*), arrangements from the musical film *Brassed Off!* and songs written for film before 1939. Venue: St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets at the door £12, concessions and students £9, children £5.

Lunching Inside

It's catching! The gastronomic hullabaloo increasingly generated by the varied eateries of London SW9 has spread up the hill from Brixton Market to Her Majesty's eponymously named place of detention in Jebb Avenue, SW2.

As of February this year, breakfast and lunch are being served to paying customers in the former governor's quarters of this walled and portcullised men's jail, the third in a series of exceptionally secure restaurants opened since 2009 by a charity whose founder, Alberto Crisci MBE, was for some years the catering manager at Surrey's High Down prison. Increasingly distressed at the percentage of rapid backsliding among the totality of ex-convicts, Crisci realised that a likely solution was right there among his pots and pans: start a quality 'inside' restaurant staffed by selected inmates, train them as chefs and waiters to recognised vocational standards, help each find work in the demanding world of the hotel and restaurant trade, generally ease them back to productive life.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of Peter Dawson, High Down's governor, Crisci launched his restaurant as The Clink, and inaugurated The Clink Charity with a pair of dynamic trustees, gathering finance and powerfully diverse support. High Down's Clink was followed by The Clink Cymru at HMP Cardiff, and the success of ex-prisoner placement and low rate of re-offence have prompted the charity and the Prison Service to plan for a total of ten restaurants by 2017.

Breakfast ('full English' and other possibilities) and lunch, Monday to Friday, at Brixton's Clink is no drop-in affair. Your e-mailed booking (compulsory) generates security stipulations, and on arrival, you surrender identity document, mobile/laptop/camera/cash in excess of £50, and might be searched and fingerprinted. Welcomed at noon by a cheerful prison officer, we were neither, and found the large, curved restaurant a

pared-down contrast in glass-topped tables and muted browns to the grimy-bricks exterior of yard and prisoners' wings.

The menu was the sort of 'modern British' narrative based on well-sourced ingredients now de rigueur in ambitious restaurants. My friend's vanilla-scented English goat's cheese with compressed plum and pistachio dust would have been improved by slightly less cheese and a crisp crouton, while my panko-crumbed smoked fish cake was subtly textured and flavoured, enhanced by the snap of a Thai vinaigrette. The marriage of complements in ham-wrapped pork fillet, spiced caramelised pork belly, Parisian potatoes, textures of apple and seasonal vegetables found favour with my friend, and I relished the competence of pan-seared fillet of stone bass with cherry tomatoes and a sweet potato fondant. No alcohol is served, so we picked apple juice from among the soft possibilities, could have finished with such as Berkshire's Waterloo and Wigmore cheeses, and drank good coffee before leaving.

Our waiter Wayne, well-intentioned and anxious to please, with a voice as hauntingly melodic as 'Saint Vincent and the Grenadines', the name of his native country, was nearing the end of a drugs-related sentence. Suddenly, he seemed to disappear, mid-meal, as did most other visible staff! Restaurant manager and 'hospitality trainer' Jonathan Kent, formerly 'back of house supervisor' at the re-opened Savoy, apologised that arrival of the prison dentist had radically disrupted service, eventually resumed in the atmosphere of agreeable friendliness which characterised the afternoon.

Drawbacks? A high level of noise in the half-filled restaurant, due to the absence of adequate sound absorption, and what sounded alarmingly like music for the shopping mall. But we were charmed and impressed by this worthwhile and imaginative venture for which we wish the greatest success. The Clink, Brixton Prison, Jebb Avenue, London SW2, c. £25-30 per head. thelinkrestaurant.com.

The Clapham Coder

Concerts on Clapham Common Bandstand

Saturday 14 June at 3 pm. Southwark Concert Band. A varied programme of rousing marches, Broadway and West End show tunes and modern interpretations of classics.

Sunday 15 June at 3 pm. Lewisham Concert Band. Light classical, waltzes and marches, with a selection from musicals and film

Saturday 21 June at 3 pm. South London Concert Band. A merry mixture of medleys, marches, show tunes and some classical pieces.

Saturday 5 July at 2 pm. DJ Chico. Live art and poets with modern dance and dj performances.

Sunday 6 July at 3 pm. New London Concert Band. A mixture of medleys, marches, show tunes and classical pieces.

Some June events at Omnibus

It's another busy month at Omnibus and just some of the many events are shown below, but keep up to date by checking the website regularly (omnibus-clapham.org) and ideally join the emailing list, which can be done on the website. Tickets may also be purchased on line, by calling the box office on 020 7498 4699 or dropping in to Omnibus at 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW.

Sunday 8 June at 7 pm. **Northside Jazz: Mosaic.** Featuring an array of young talent, and a huge diversity of influences ranging from Shostakovich, Copland and Piazzolla to Gil Evans, Vince Mendoza and Bill Frisell. Tickets £10.

Sunday 15 June at 4.30 pm. **Classic Sundays: Aurora Trio.** Outstanding flute, harp and viola playing with an eclectic programme including Bax, Handel, Ravel, Dubois and Mozart. Tickets £12, concessions £10, limited number at £5 for under 25s.

Wednesday 11 June – Friday 13 June from 10 am to 6 pm. **Alice In Wonderland/ Alice In The Artworld.** An exhibition of new paintings by self-taught artist Joe Machine, taking a fresh look at Lewis Carroll's two magical children's books, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice through the Looking Glass*. Exhibition sponsored and organised by Lushington Arts and curated by the poet, critic and historian of contemporary art Edward Lucie-Smith. FREE Entry. In conjunction with the exhibition:

Wednesday 11 June at 6.30 pm. **An Evening with the London Magazine**
A new digital book of Edward Lucie-Smith's poems will be launched, with an accompanying portfolio of woodcuts by Joe Machine. Poems will be read by Joe, who is a poet in addition to being a painter; by Steven O'Brien, editor of the *London Magazine*; by Lord Gowrie, special adviser to the magazine and former Chairman of the Arts Council of England, and by Edward Lucie-Smith. FREE but places must be reserved.

Thursday 12 June at 7.30 pm. **Meet the Artist.** A personal account, with a chance to ask questions, given by Joe Machine of his youthful years, when he was often in trouble with the law – he regards himself as having been rescued from crime and violence through his participation in the arts. FREE but places are limited and must be reserved.

Saturday 14 June at 1 pm. **Scraperboard Class for Children.** Joe Machine will work with participants to produce original scraperboard designs to take home at the end of the session. Children MUST bring at least one scraperboard tool with a type 2 blade. Both scraperboards and tools can be obtained from Jackson's art supplies in London. and will NOT be supplied by the venue. Places are £5 per child and must be booked in advance.

Wednesday 18 June at 7.30 pm. **Sightlines: The Miners' Hymns** (UK/US 2010)
To mark the 30th anniversary of the miners' strike and the 30th anniversary to the day of the Battle of Orgreave, this unforgettable film focuses on the mines of the Durham area, showing the intense labour, endurance, vibrant community and rich culture of the industry, and the legacy of mining in the region.

Sightlines is a new series of film screenings at Omnibus showing some of the best documentaries and non-fiction features from around the world, as well as short films from exciting new filmmakers. Tickets £5, concessions £4.

Friday 20 June at 8 pm. **Comedy Theatre: Anatomy Of The Piano.** Composer and all-round entertainer Will Pickvance delivers a virtuoso performance that will lift the spirits of comedy and music lovers alike. *Anatomy of the Piano* returns to London following a sell-out run at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Tickets £10, concessions £7.50. Live music in the bar from 7 pm.

Saturday 21 June at 7.30 pm. **Open City Docs Fest: Open Access** (Ukraine, 2013). This film digs deep into the paradoxes of modern Ukraine, amongst the world's most corrupt states. Five different directors, five takes on individual civil rights activists across the country who helped bring the regime of Viktor Yanukovich to an end. A place to start understanding what is at stake for Ukrainians today. Tickets £5, concessions £4.

Sunday 22 June at 7 pm. **Northside Jazz: Phil Meadows Group.** Winner of the 2014 Parliamentary Jazz Awards Best Newcomer award, this group has players from the important new wave of rising British talent. Tickets £10.

Monday 23 June at 8 pm. **Acoustic Night.** *Super Spokes* 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. Tickets £5 on the door. Bar open from 7 pm.

Sunday 29 June at 4.30 pm. **Classic Sundays: Jubilee String Quartet** will play a programme including Haydn, Bartok and Beethoven. Tickets £12, concessions £10, limited number at £5 for under 25s.

What are we doing to our climate?

A talk by Dr James Willis at St Mary's Church, Clapham Park Road, on **Wednesday 18 June** at 7.30 pm. The talk will be followed by an opportunity for discussion and refreshments.

A regular columnist in the medical press, in 2005 James Willis wrote a piece called 'Haven't they got grandchildren too?' on the need to face up to global warming and to face down its organised denial. As a result, the following summer he found himself giving the opening keynote address on the same subject at an international conference.

Dr Willis believes that since then the situation has got worse. Are we taking global warming seriously enough? Nearly half of America regards the whole subject as a laughable 'hoax', while in Britain things are not much better. Denial, against the overwhelming weight of evidence, is commonplace in sections of our media.

Thames Steam Boats

Among several fascinating articles in the Spring edition of the *Wandsworth Historian* is one about the steam-powered boats which offered mass cheap transport on the Thames during the 19th century. One leading operator was the City Steam Packet Company based near Battersea Bridge, which ran commuter services between Putney and London Bridge, as well as a service upstream to Kew. For a copy of *The Wandsworth Historian*, price £3, contact nrobson@tiscali.co.uk or consider joining the Wandsworth Historical Society (£10 per annum) to get your free copy regularly in addition to the newsletter.



Roger Armstrong, speaker at our May meeting, Clapham and the Bicycle, with his 1888 Premier cross frame safety bicycle on which he cycled back to Clapham Junction after the meeting, which will be reviewed in the next newsletter.

Michael Crick

The Studio Theatre at Omnibus was packed for our April meeting, when the political correspondent of Channel 4 News, Michael Crick, gave us an entertaining insight into television journalism.

We had a quick run down of his career from education at Manchester Grammar School and New College, Oxford, trainee journalist at ITN, founding member of the Channel 4 News Team, (Washington Correspondent 1988-90), to the BBC (Panorama, then political editor of Newsnight) and finally back again to Channel 4 News in 2011. He regaled us with many amusing anecdotes about politicians he had encountered during this time, ranging from Jeremy Thorpe in 1979 to Nigel Evans last week.

In fact, up until a few days before our meeting he had been covering the trial of Evans in Preston, and this provided one of the snippets of information that surprised many of us. Crick has met Evans before the trial, and had been promised an exclusive interview when it finished. However, when the trial concluded and Crick asked for the interview he was told that he had to bid for it. He pointed out that Channel 4 does not enter bidding wars, so he did not get the interview.

Michael Crick welcomed the fact that the government is held to account more at present than in the days of the 'lobby journalists' who were more deferential to politicians – current political journalists are more aggressive, and

issues of character and probity have become more relevant. He referred to Andrew Mitchell and the 'plebgate' issue, and to several other recent events with which we thought we were familiar, but realised we had not heard all! In general, he felt that present 'checks and balances' ensured rather better journalism than 35 years ago.

He answered the many questions from the audience, though at one point laughing at himself as he referred back to something he had said earlier about a young parliamentary candidate who allowed several seconds of silence while he thought of the answer to a question – something which must never be done. As all experienced speakers know, it is absolutely essential to say something even if it does not answer the question!

To a question about voter apathy, he replied that this could mean voters were quite happy not that they are disinterested. He did not share the dismay of many about press regulation, he welcomed the freedom of the press in this country compared with many others and greatly admired the bravery of journalists who put their lives in danger in many countries of the world.

It was a fascinating evening, to which it is impossible to do justice in a brief report. To witness the wit and wisdom of Michael Crick watch Channel 4 News!



A tree on the South Side of the Common opposite Moxon's fishmongers, snapped in half by earlier strong winds, has been painted by unknown hands and transformed into a work of art, topped with a bird!

Open Gardens Square Weekend

Don't miss the opportunity to see up to 200 garden squares, many normally closed to the public, on **Saturday 14 June** and **Sunday 15 June**. More details with full list of gardens and ticket purchase at opensquares.org.

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

Chairman	Annabel Allott
21 Clapham Common West Side SW4 9AN	
Tel: 020 7228 5551	Email: annabel@allott.plus.com
Treasurer	David Brown
15 Turret Grove, London SW4 0ES	
Tel: 020 7720 7536	
Membership Secretary	Jennifer Everett
30 Trinity Close, London SW4 0JD	
Tel: 020 7627 4770	
Roads and Transport	Mark Leffler
65 Crescent Lane SW4 9PT	Email: mark.leffler88@gmail.com
Events	Peter Jefferson Smith
22 Ivey Road, SW4 0EW	
Tel. 020 7622 8285	Email: peterjs1@mac.com

Secretary	Jill Cramphorn
552 Wandsworth Road SW8 3JX	
Tel: 020 7720 3343	
Planning Matters	Philip Ashford
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Common and Open Spaces	Anna Jefferson Smith
22 Ivey Road SW4 0EW	
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Newsletter and Publications	Alyson Wilson
22 Crescent Grove SW4 7AH	
Tel: 020 7622 6360	
Email: alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net	

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

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Summer party ticket application form

Summer Party in the garden of Wayne Amiel, Turret Grove, SW4 0ES

on **Thursday 10 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.....