



The Clapham Society

Newsletter

Issue 389

July/August 2016

Northcote Road Fete

This year for the first time we are taking part in the Northcote Road Summer Fete on **Sunday 10 July** from 11 am to 6 pm. This community street festival has now been running for over 20 years. Northcote Road is closed to traffic, there are live stage performances throughout the day and the Wimbledon Men's Tennis Final is shown on the big screen.

In addition to activities for children and families, there are over 100 stalls selling crafts, clothing and jewellery, toys and antiques, and a great selection of food and drink. Local businesses join the event with enthusiasm and set up stalls outside their shops. The Clapham Society will have an historical display, and a stall with information and books for sale.

We urgently need more help on the stall during day. If you can have an hour or two free and are willing to lend a hand giving out literature and chatting to visitors, please telephone Derrick Johnson 020 7223 1172.

There are still a few tickets available for our Summer Party on **Wednesday 6 July** in the beautiful garden of Richard and Suzanna Roxburgh on Clapham Common West Side. Enjoy meeting members for drinks and canapés in these lovely surroundings! Check availability with Alyson Wilson (020 7622 6360). And don't worry about the weather – in the event of bad weather the spacious terrace can be covered by a canopy large enough to protect all guests.

During the summer we have the following free guided walks. We also sell a set of leaflets for self-guided walks (£5 for seven). For details see our website.

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.

We very much regret that the previously advertised walk on **Sunday 14 August** has been cancelled due to the indisposition of the walk leader.

Wednesday 14 September

Clapham Common South Side. Peter Jefferson Smith will lead a walk along South Side and its hinterland, introducing some of the people who have lived there. Meet a sportsman, a scientist a playwright and many others. About 1½ hours. Meet Clapham South Underground Station at 2.30 pm.

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.

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

Monday 26 September

Do No Harm. Neurosurgeon **Henry Marsh**, who was brought up in Clapham and whose family have been associated with the Clapham Society since its founding in 1963 – his father, Norman Marsh played many roles in the Society and was finally President for several years – will talk about his best-selling book, *Do No Harm*. Sub-titled *Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery*, this is a moving insight into the highs and lows of a life dedicated to operating on the human brain, telling how it feels to hold someone's life in your hands.

Monday 24 October

AGM. Guest speaker to be confirmed.

Monday 28 November

Slavery, Commerce and the Hibbert Family. **Dr Katie Donington**, Research Associate on the Antislavery Usable Past project at the University of Nottingham, will explore the Hibbert family and their links to slavery and Clapham. George Hibbert MP was a leading parliamentary proslavery advocate, a Chairman of the Society of West India Merchants, Agent for Jamaica and an extensive plantation and slave-owner. He lived in a large house with a renowned garden on Clapham Common North Side. This talk will argue that the profits from slavery were domesticated and remade as the signifiers of civilisation, taste and status.

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*).

Founded in 2013, St Paul's Opera brings an annual picnic-style summer opera festival to the beautiful venue of St Paul's Church in the heart of Clapham Old Town. This year they are performing Mozart's haunting comedy about the quest for love and enlightenment, with a talented cast including local soprano Patricia Ninian as the Queen of the Night. Sung in German with English surtitles and dialogue, and accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble. Picnicking space and bar available in the grounds before the show and during the interval. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Gates open for picnicking at 5.30 pm. Opera starts at 7 pm. Venue: St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets: £25. Buy ten get one free, from Nicola White on 020 7622 2128 or from wegottickets.com/StPaulsOpera.

Shakespeare in the Churchyard

Also at St Paul's Church there will be an outdoor performance of Shakespeare's *All's Well that Ends Well* in the Lower Churchyard on **Friday 12 August** at 7.30 pm. Tickets £20, £10 ages 10-18 years, under 10 free. More details on 01934 338338 or changeling-theatre.com/tickets. Seating not provided, bring your own chairs and blankets.



Magnolia Walk

Trinity Hospice celebrates its 125th anniversary this year with a special Magnolia Twilight Walk on **Saturday 24 September**. It starts in the late afternoon and finishes at the hospice in time to enjoy the gardens at sunset. The route around Clapham and Battersea includes Battersea Power Station, the Embankment and Clapham Common.

The walk is open to all ages and abilities, and walkers can choose between a two, five or ten-mile route. Registration £10, £5 under 16s and free for under 5s. Dogs are welcome and free! Sign up on line at royaltrinityhospice.london/Event/walk, call Marc on 020 7787 1046 or email mstowell@royaltrinityhospice.london.

On the Bandstand

For resource reasons, Lambeth Council will not in future be putting on a programme of summer concerts on the bandstand. They have however granted some funding to the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee to enable the CCMAC to put on some concerts. The Clapham Society will also be holding its annual concert.

The programme for August and September will be as follows.

Sunday 7 August. Crystal Palace Band. Traditional brass band music, by one of London's oldest established bands.

Saturday 13 August. 7Suns Band. An energising blend of Afro, Latin, Caribbean, Funk, Jazz and Rock.

Saturday 20 August. Swing at the Bandstand. A dance event by Swing Patrol. Dance demonstrations with opportunities to join in, with professional instructors.

Sunday 4 September. Junction Jazz. Traditional jazz and Dixie by a popular local group (the Clapham Society concert)

Sunday 18 September. London Allstars. Steel drum band with an authentic Caribbean flavour.

All concerts are from 3 pm to 5 pm, and are free to the public.

Survey on Events on Clapham Common

Many members have raised issues about the commercial events that are held on Clapham Common under licence from Lambeth Council. We are planning to conduct a survey about these events in the coming months. The main objective will be to gather members' views in order to inform our representations to Lambeth Council and ensure that we speak with authority as an amenity society.

The need to persuade the Council to take account of your views will become ever more important as big reductions in Lambeth's budget increase the pressure to generate more and more revenue from commercial exploitation of the Common.

We would like to be able to contact you by phone or email.

To help us to conduct the survey, please send your phone number and email address straight away to eventsonclaphamcommonsurvey@gmail.com.

All data including email addresses and telephone numbers provided will remain confidential and will not be passed on to third parties. By providing these details you will be confirming that the Society may retain them solely for the purposes of facilitating communications between the Society and its members.

Annie Bayley

Commons and Open Spaces Sub-committee

What's So Special About Dinosaurs?

On **Saturday 23 July** at 11am there will be a children's workshop with author Nicky Dee at Clapham Books, 26 The Pavement, SW4 0JA.

Nicky Dee is the author of the *What's so Special about?* series of dinosaur books for children. She is a dinosaur fanatic and full of the sort of fascinating facts that children love. She can help children rate their favourite dinosaur as to whether it's the brainiest, fastest, scariest, has the biggest/best weapons, etc. (think top trumps for dinosaurs!). She'll bring props to help children work out the size of the dinosaur's teeth and bookmarks for the children to keep. Free event, all welcome!

Our Lady of Victories, St Mary's Church

At our May meeting Paul Sharrock of conservation architects Thomas Ford & Partners, the firm responsible for the recent repairs to the spire of St Mary's Catholic Church in Clapham Park Road, gave us a fascinating illustrated account of the problems encountered and their solutions.

He started by explaining the role of a conservation architect, which is first to identify the significance of the building and its context. Paul explained how this entailed 'unpicking' its history and evolution, and he showed some notable historic restorations such as St Alban's Abbey. We then heard about the origins of St Mary's community, founded by Redemptorist monks who came as missionaries from Italy before Catholic emancipation and then the building of this church in the 1840s. We learnt about some of the important people in the history of the church: among them the founder of the order, St Alphonsus, the benefactor

Fr Edward Douglas, who funded the construction, the original architect William Wardell, JF Bentley architect of the later addition and the monastery, and the 'never knowingly underdressed' Cardinal Wiseman.

Moving on to the restoration Paul acknowledged the unusually generous Heritage Lottery Fund grant, which far exceeded the norm for such a project. He explained the difficulty of undertaking such work – whereas the church was originally built from the bottom upwards, restoration has to take place from the top downwards. The spire is built in Kentish ragstone with bands of York stone at regular intervals although the top section had been rebuilt in Portland stone due, it is believed, to the cable of an escaped barrage balloon wrapping round it during WWII.

With the aid of detailed diagrams Paul showed how courses of degraded ragstone had to be removed and replaced with new or salvaged Kentish ragstone, and some York stone bands also needed replacing

with new York stone. Iron cramps inserted in a previous restoration had expanded and caused further damage. These have been replaced with stainless steel. Photographs taken at every stage of the restoration showed graphically the extent of the damage and the painstaking work required to correct it.

Photographs taken from the scaffolding high up the spire showed striking views of Clapham. Some members of the Society were fortunate (brave?) enough to climb the scaffolding last year, and enjoy the views as well as seeing the work in progress. The architects had also introduced local school children to the work while it was taking place.

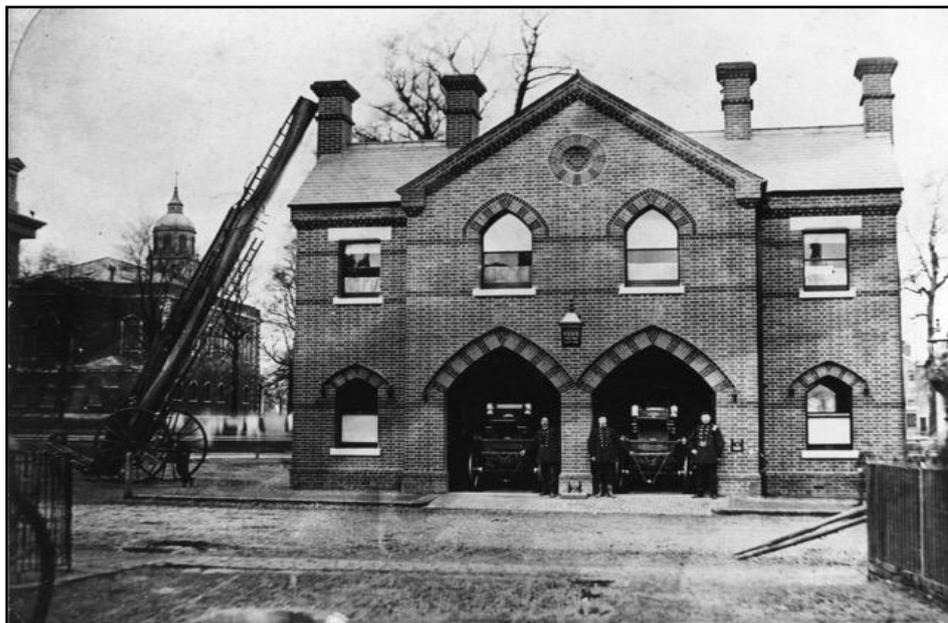
The attentive audience was obviously impressed by the clear explanation of extensive work involved, and had some pertinent questions. And we are all, of course, grateful that this important local landmark has been preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Festival Chorus

On **Saturday 2 July** The Festival Chorus celebrates summer with cantatas, pairing Jonathan Dove's elegiac *The Passing of the Year* first performed in 2000 and inspired by 19th and 20th century poems that take us through moods and seasons, with Carl Orff's rollicking 1930s *Carmina Burana*, based on a curious collection of medieval texts.

With young singers from Broomwood School alongside the choir, and with outstanding soloists, pianos and percussion, this promises to be an exciting evening. St Luke's Church, Ramsden Road/Thurleigh Road, SW12 8RQ at 7.30 pm. Tickets £18, concessions £14, on the door or in advance from the Northcote Music Shop 155 Northcote Road, SW11 6QB.

Lambeth Heritage Festival



Lambeth Country Show

This annual event is in Brockwell Park on **Saturday 16 July** and **Sunday 17 July** this year. Attractions include sheep dog and owl displays, homegrown vegetables and flowers competitions, craft and food stalls, on site farm and music showcasing local talent. Admission is free.

This annual festival of events, walks and talks organised by Lambeth Archives and various local societies, runs for the whole month of September with events almost every day. Amongst the Clapham events are the South Side walk, Henry Marsh's talk (see front page) our Bandstand Concert (page 2) and Clapham village fete on **Saturday 3 September**.

This event marking the London Fire Brigade's 150-year anniversary, will feature activities and entertainment for the whole family, including a Clapham Society stall with a display of historic pictures of Clapham fire stations, vintage and modern equipment from the local fire brigade, traditional Morris Dancing and a brass band, face painting, the chance to win prizes at the coconut shy, sack and egg and spoon races, some furry faces from Vauxhall City Farm and much, much more. Visit omnibus-clapham.org for more information.

The full programme for Lambeth Heritage Festival will be available from mid July in Lambeth Libraries, at Omnibus and at the Bandstand concerts.

July at Omnibus

This month Omnibus offers two successive weekends of jazz and jive, as well as three Edinburgh Fringe previews.

Saturday 2 July at 7.30 pm. The Rock 'n' Roll Dance Party. Get your petticoats and blue suede shoes ready for an evening of rock 'n' roll, in celebration of the King, Elvis Presley, with live music from band Peachy Beat. Come dressed in your best and ready to rock. Tickets £10 include a simple jive class.

Sunday 3 July at 7.30 pm. Hot Club of Jupiter bring their unique mix of Gypsy swing, hot jazz and raunchy rhythms to Omnibus. Dance the night away with hedonistic sounds of a swing band on fire. Tickets £12, £10 concession, £5 under 25s.

Thursday 7 July at 7.30 pm. Impromptunes. Australia's premier professional musical theatre improvisation troupe brings its riotous musical comedy to London. The show is a one-hour improvised musical, based on a single audience suggestion: all the music, dialogue, songs and dance routines are completely made up on the spot. It makes for an hilarious experience that keeps the audience – and the players – on their toes the whole time. It's unrehearsed, unpredictable and a lot of fun. Tickets £10, £8 concessions.

Friday 8 July at 7.30 pm. Character Talks and Squirrel preview their shows for the Edinburgh Fringe. Two of Norway's finest comedic talents bring their unique sense of humour to Clapham. Tickets £12, £10 concessions.

Saturday 9 July at 7.30 pm. The Gould/McCormack/Schimplesberger Trio bring their stunning blend of sound – world percussion meets jazz and classical music. Omnibus welcomes these musicians, accomplished in their own right, who have come together for this special one-off evening. Tickets £12, £10 concessions, £5 under 25s.

Sunday 10 July at 7.30 pm. Big Bad Wolf, is a London based four piece band with a distinctive sound. Their unique technique bridges the gap between improvised music and contemporary pop/rock styles. Tickets £12, £10 concessions, £5 under 25s.

Saturday 23 July at 7.30 pm. *In conversation with Greta Scacchi*. Star of stage and screen Greta Scacchi makes her debut at Omnibus in the seventh *In Conversation With*. These evenings are spent with some of the country's most intriguing and respected actors. Novelist and critic Peter Guttridge will interview Scacchi, delving into her career and looking back at some of the highlights. Scacchi first found fame in Merchant Ivory's *Heat and Dust* and went on to critical acclaim in *White Mischief* and Robert Altman's Oscar-nominated *The Player*. More recently, she played Countess Rostova in the BBC's sumptuous adaptation of *War and Peace*. Tickets £18, £16 concessions.

Thursday 28 July and **Friday 29 July** at 7.30 pm. Preview of *Mule*, part of Omnibus Elsewhere, before the show goes to the Edinburgh Fringe from 3 to 29 August. It is an interesting tale about the feminisation of the drug trafficking industry. The writer and director Kat Woods is an associate at Omnibus and her two previous shows have been critically acclaimed and won awards at Edinburgh. Tickets £10, £8 concessions.

For the full programme and to book tickets go to omnibus-clapham.org, telephone 020 7498 4699 or call in at 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW

Arts and Crafts Hammersmith

We are seeking volunteers to join a growing team undertaking a vital role in the cataloguing and digitising of archive materials from Arts and Crafts pioneers, William Morris and Emery Walker.

Arts and Crafts Hammersmith is a partnership between the Emery Walker Trust and the William Morris Society, who have come together to deliver a major £1m project that aims to celebrate and share the legacies and stories of these and other Arts and Crafts pioneers. The project, which is supported by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and other charitable contributions, combines significant refurbishment to the partners' historic house museums in West London, the cataloguing and digitising of substantial collections and archives, and a range of participatory and digital access activities.

Under professional supervision volunteers will be working with archive materials from Emery Walker's house at 7 Hammersmith Terrace and the Morris collections from Kelmscott House, whilst in temporary storage as capital works are undertaken. We aim to produce a comprehensive publicly accessible online record in 2017.

Volunteers will be based in our modern temporary facility near Clapham and will be fully supported by professional archive and collections staff. If you would like more information please contact me nancylyons@artsandcraftshammersmith.org.uk or telephone 07866 727825.

Nancy Lyons
Archivist, Arts and Crafts Hammersmith

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

Chairman **Annabel Allott**

Tel: 020 7228 5551

Email: annabel@allott.plus.com

Acting Secretary **Maev Sullivan**

Email: maevsullivan@gmail.com

Treasurer **David Brown**

Tel: 020 7720 7536

Email: david.brown@centrum-uk.com

Meetings and Events **Heather Binney**

Tel: 020 7223 4480

Email: h.a.binney@soton.ac.uk

Membership Secretary

Jennifer Everett

Tel: 020 7627 4770

Email: jeverett@waitrose.com

Planning Matters **Philip Ashford**

Tel: 020 8674 1727

Email: pjashford@yahoo.co.uk

Roads and Transport **Mark Leffler**

Tel: 020 7720 9370

Email: mark.leffler88@gmail.com

Newsletter and Publications

Alyson Wilson

Tel: 020 7622 6360

Email: alysonwilson.sw4@gmail.com

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

Outdoor Cinema

On **Thursday 21 July** at 6.30 pm this summer's Nomad Cinema screening in Trinity Hospice's award-winning gardens is the family favourite *The Wizard of Oz*. Come along on the night to enjoy a range of hot and cold food and drinks from local businesses and the chance to win raffle prizes. Tickets £15, £7.50 under 16s. Thanks to Chesterton's for sponsoring the event. At Royal Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0RN.

Clapham Leaf Club

Clapham Leaf Club enables pupils of the Clapham and Larkhall Collaborative schools, (Allen Edwards, Clapham Manor, Heathbrook, Lark Hall Primary and Macaulay CE) to learn all aspects of growing their own food from preparing the soil using organic matter, to sowing seeds and growing their crops which will then be harvested and either sold as fruit and vegetables or used in a cuisine and sold at the market.

At Venn Street Market on **Saturday 2 July** from 10 am to 4 pm the club celebrates the end of its fifth year. Expect to see hanging baskets filled with flowers, fruit and vegetables fresh from the harvest, eggs and tzatziki, fresh pasta and pea pesto!