

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 408

June 2018

### Another Green Plaque

A Clapham Society Green Plaque, marking a building which has changed use, will be unveiled on **Friday 15 June** at 12 noon on the Clapham Common Deep Shelter at the corner of Clapham Park Road and Clapham High Street. The ceremony will be performed by Richard Ballard, Co-founder of Growing Underground, the underground farm, which now occupies the shelter. All are welcome! Full details about the Green Plaque scheme are at [claphamsociety.com/Articles/greenplaques](http://claphamsociety.com/Articles/greenplaques)

### Summer party

Buy your ticket now for the Summer Party at Eden Garden on **Wednesday 4 July**. Application form on the back page.

### Do you remember Tea Time?

Back in 1983, Jane Pettigrew's quirky but classy Tea Time opened at 21 The Pavement to become one of Clapham's best-loved establishments. Fast forward 35 years, and while Jane has gained global recognition and a British Empire Medal as a leading tea expert, her old address is gaining a reputation of its own as contemporary restaurant Minnow: the small fish in a big pond.

On **Wednesday 20 June**, Jane returns to share the wonders of specialty green and white teas at an intimate special event to raise funds for Trinity Hospice. Twelve lucky guests will taste specially selected teas, learn about their spiritual and health benefits, and understand how to get the best from a brew.

There'll also be a special food pairing with Minnow's new head chef and Roux Scholarship finalist, Ashley Randle.

The event starts at 3 pm at Minnow, 21 The Pavement, SW4 OHY. For tickets (£35) email [info@minnowclapham.co.uk](mailto:info@minnowclapham.co.uk) or call 020 7720 4105.



Marc Gosschalk

Our meetings are held at Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW. The talk will commence promptly at 8 pm and the bar will open prior to the talk at 7 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 the talk. Meetings are free and open to non-members, who are invited to make a donation.

### Monday 18 June

#### ADA - how Lord Byron's daughter became the patron saint of computing.

Local resident and Clapham Society member, **David Singmaster** is retired professor of mathematics and computer science at London South Bank University and also an Honorary Research Fellow at University College London. He has been interested in the history of computing since arriving in London in 1970. He instigated the erection of the Blue Plaque to Ada Lovelace in St. James's Square and the Southwark plaque to Charles Babbage in Walworth Road. His Chronology of Computing is on display at the Heinz Nixdorf Foundation Museum of Computing in Paderborn, Germany.

**There are no meetings in July and August, but we have the following walks this month. Future walks are on our website, and make sure you have a copy of Lambeth Local History Forum's Walks in South London leaflet, available at local venues, including Lambeth libraries and Omnibus.**

### Thursday 31 May

**Clapham in World War Two.** A walk along the south side of Clapham Common seeing how the war came to Clapham and the lasting effect it has had on our streets and the development of South London. Led by Derrick Johnson, leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at 6.30 pm.

*This walk is part of London History Day and of Wandsworth Heritage Festival.*

### Tuesday 5 June

**Development of a Victorian Suburb.** A walk Twixt the Commons to help understand how the area was developed by a series of speculative builders as the older houses were knocked down. Led by Timothy Walker, leaving from Clapham South Underground

Station at 6.30 pm.

*This walk is part of Wandsworth Heritage Festival.*

*Walks are continued on the next page*

Walks - continued from first page

### Sunday 17 June

**The Trees of Clapham Common** – their origins, uses and the future. A walk looking at the geographical origins of the trees on Clapham Common, how they came to be there and their past and present uses. What's the future for many of our commoner trees in the light of climate change. Led by Iain Boulton, leaving from Clapham Common Bandstand at 2 pm.

### Book launch

Local journalist and Society member James Hall will be reading from and talking about his debut novel, *The Industry of Human Happiness*, at Clapham Books, 26 The Pavement, SW4 0JA on **Thursday 7 June** at 7 pm. Set in the murky backstage world of late Victorian theatreland, the novel is about the obsessive characters who dreamed of bringing recorded music to the masses. It's a tale of gramophones, rivalry and romance that has been described in early reviews as 'thrilling' and 'meticulously researched'.

### Windrush 70

Local events marking this anniversary include an exhibition of photographs by Harry Jacobs at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW. Harry Jacobs, who started out as a high-street portrait photographer in Brixton in the 1950s, became a messenger through whose photographs Brixton's Caribbean immigrants could show friends and family back home that they were doing OK. The exhibition runs until 25 July.

### Bandstand concerts

Concerts on Clapham Common Bandstand start this month. The full programme for the year is at [claphamcommon.london/2018-bandstand-concerts](http://claphamcommon.london/2018-bandstand-concerts).

This month's concerts are as follows:

**Saturday 9 June.** CCMAC's Common People - eclectic and diverse, a celebration of local talent 12 noon to 5 pm.

**Saturday 16 June.** Oxjam Clapham - up-and-coming contemporary and youthful acts from London 12 noon to 5pm.

**Saturday 23 June.** Fuzion Four - 2 pm to 4pm.

And make a special note of the Clapham Society concert on

**Sunday 23 September** - Clapham Community Choir – 2 pm to 4 pm.

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Paul Van Carter, Tobin Chew and Hannah Shimko, Keith and Moira Collyer, Stephen and Karen Hannah, Peter and Tanya Jonas, and Luke and Kate Wynn.

## Another Clapham Building Listed

John and Ann Kay's house at 36 Crescent Grove has been listed (Grade II) as a building of architectural and historic interest. It is significant as a pioneering design by John and Ann Kay in collaboration with Pat Tindale.

The design uses simple materials that together with the low massing and flat roofing pay respect to the historic setting. The external elevations, internal plan, and finishes are intact and virtually unaltered. The plan intimately reflects the needs of the family and John Kay's specialist knowledge of lighting. The strong relationship between interior and garden enriches the experience of friendly space.

The smaller adjoining single-storey studio-house (No. 34) was designed by Pat Tindale, the Kay's friend who joined them in the purchase and development of the site. It has not been listed but both buildings exhibit similarities which stem from the collaborative approach to construction design adopted by both architects at the outset.



Photo: John East

The radical use of a timber-famed structure is of particular interest. It reflects the shared interests and specialisations that mark the careers of both architects. John and Pat spent most of their working lives in governmental research and design development for post war construction and both explored prefabricated and alternative methods of construction. John specialised in school building and became Chief Architect to the Department of Education and Science and Pat went to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to work on the tremendous house-building programme of the 1960s. She became Chief Architect at the Department of the Environment. In 1964 Pat won a research scholarship to study timber-framed housing construction in the USA. She became expert on the development and deployment of these frames and promoted the use of pre-fabrication in post-war British social housing and this influenced the coherent approach to construction that unites both houses externally.

The use of a timber-frame in post-war London was rare due to legislative restrictions. The Kay house drew upon techniques and innovation developed by both architects in their respective careers, and combined the timber-frame with a brick skin. This was required in order to meet fire-protection regulations but it was also in keeping with the material character of the rest of Crescent Grove. This system was revolutionary to British housing construction. It met the needs of time and money for both parties because the building could be raised, roofed, enclosed and substantially advanced before the slow process of facing brickwork commenced.

John was one of the earliest members of the Clapham Society and an active and influential Secretary during the Save campaigns of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The listing of his house is a welcome tribute.

John Adams

## Summer Fairs

**St Paul's Summer Fair** is on **Saturday**

**9 June**, 12 noon to 4 pm at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX.

Entry adults £2, seniors £1 includes one free raffle ticket. Free entry for children under 12 not entering the kids zone.

Kids zone: bouncy castle, mega slide, soft play for under 3s, children's entertainer, face painting, balloons, lucky dip and lots more: £5 entry.

Other attractions include bbq, Caribbean cuisine, Hampton's Pimms

bar, Cake stall, Eden garden plant and honeysale, Clapham pottery. and more.

**Abbeville Fete** is on **Saturday 30 June**

12 noon to 5 pm in Abbeville Road, and the Church of the Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue. For the details, stalls and everything about the Fete go to [abbevillefete.com](http://abbevillefete.com).

The Clapham Society will have a stand at both events, so this is a chance to catch up with our publications, see our new display and ask any questions you may have about the Society.

## Omnibus June Highlights

**Friday 1 June and Saturday 2 June** at 7.30 pm. *La Manche: The Sleeve* by Sarah Corbett. 'A mere ditch that shall be leaped' (Napoleon). Twenty-one miles (as the gull flies) to France. So near yet so far. Flash-back to a golden age of bathing. Channel fever grips the nation. Our foolhardy romantic emerges from her 'modesty' hut to join the Channel swimmers. Dollops of goose fat and a glint of foolhardy eccentricity. This is a gloriously absurd tribute to The Channel.

**Sunday 3 June, 7.30pm Event Navigation.** Following the sell-out success of Debut's *Shakespearean Summers* programme at the Shoreditch Treehouse their popular concert transfers for one night only to Omnibus Theatre.

From film scores to opera, musicals to song, Debut will be sharing enchanting pieces all based on Shakespeare's works including Broadway favourites from Bernstein's *West Side Story* and Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*, to operatic greats including Verdi's *Falstaff* and Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* as well as instrumental classics including Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet* and Prokofiev's *Montagues & Capulets*.

Debut was founded by Royal College of Music graduate Lizzie Holmes to bring the UK's brightest musicians out of the concert halls and opera houses and into more intimate environments. Audiences are invited to share a night of music as well as discovering more about these award-winning musicians.

**Tuesday 5 June to Sunday 24 June** at 7.30 pm, 4 pm on Sundays. (No performances 19, 20 & 21 June) *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Based on the cult short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, adapted by Ruby Lawrence Another Soup returns to Omnibus Theatre, after huge critical success with *The Soul of Wittgenstein*, with a haunting cautionary tale for the modern age.

Alice has not formed the correct bond with her baby. That's what her doctor and husband say. Isolated from her child and banished to the country for 'rest', Alice falls further down the rabbit hole of her own mind. The wallpaper haunts her. But is she really sick, or are there more sinister forces at play? For ages 12+.

Tickets for all performances from [omnibus-clapham.org](http://omnibus-clapham.org), telephone 020 7498 4699 or call in at Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW.

## Old Age and Dementia

*Pippa Kelly, the speaker at our April meeting, summarises her talk below.*

Until they affect us directly, either personally or through a loved one, we rarely talk about (or even want to think about) old age and dementia.

Over a decade ago now I was forced to do so when my elderly parents became ill and my siblings and I took over their care. Mum developed vascular dementia and we moved her into a nursing home; dad suffered a series of strokes that left him bedridden, immobile, unable to speak or eat, being fed by a tube in his stomach and being looked after in his own flat by two live-in carers.

I charted my parents' final, difficult years in the national press and when they died I set up a blog. It soon became apparent that readers wanted me to focus on dementia, which is still – even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – much misunderstood and veiled in lingering stigma.

So let me set a few things straight: dementia is the umbrella term for over 100 different types of the condition, of which the most common is Alzheimer's disease. It affects 850,000 people in the UK and though it isn't a natural part of ageing, it is more commonly associated with older age.

Many of my blogs and articles showcase the very best of dementia care – such as Lambeth's Healthy Living Club, which hosts weekly lunches and gatherings for those with the condition, and their families and carers. Or the Suffolk village of Debenham, where a community project helps the elderly and frail to stay in their own homes, among friends, family and neighbours they know, for longer than would otherwise be the case.

As more of us live so much longer (in the last decade the number of centenarians in the UK rose by 65%) we need to start talking about old age and conditions such as dementia, about how we look after our ever-increasing elderly population and how we pay for that care.

You can find on my blog <http://pippakelly.co.uk/>

*Pippa Kelly*



## Portrait of a Generation

*Photo: Jim Grover*

Jim Grover, Clapham's award-winning photographer is exhibiting his latest photo-story at the South Bank's gallery@oxo, at Oxo Tower Wharf, SE1 9PH until 10 June. He spent 10 months capturing the lives of the first generation of Caribbeans who settled here and are part of our vibrant South London Community.

## Wandsworth Heritage Festival

The festival continues until 10 June, with a walk along the River Wandle, and one on Putney Common, a talk Growing up in Wartime Battersea, another about Capability Brown's Richmond Park, and lots more. The full programme is available at Wandsworth libraries.

## Music for a Summer Evening

On **Sunday 24 June** St Luke's Music Society is promoting a performance by the Vasari Singers to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. The concert starts at 7 pm at St Luke's Church, Thurleigh Road, SW12 8RQ. Tickets are available from [slms.org.uk](http://slms.org.uk) for the special price of £15.

## St Paul's Opera

'Opera is the quintessential community event' – Sir Antonio Pappano, 2017

And that must mean that St Paul's Opera, based at St Paul's Church in Rectory Grove, is the quintessential Clapham community event.

Celebrating its fifth anniversary this year with two performances of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* (29 and 30 June), St Paul's Opera (SPO) has built a loyal following from local residents and those from neighbouring boroughs.

Driving force behind SPO – and one of its foremost voices – producer Tricia Ninian said: 'This year has a special buzz about it – it feels as if we're shifting into a new gear. Our singers are a really talented group bringing their experience and skills to our summer stage and we have a truly local community feel about the event with involvement in all disciplines from our local community. We also have a new headline sponsor, Clapham-based ComparethePlatform from Wingate Square, while Old Town estate agents Sheraton Law provide the vital publicity boards to advertise around the local streets.'

Director Ashley Pearson added: 'St. Paul's is truly unique in the landscape of British opera because of its commitment, not just to the art form, but to creating work grounded in and inspired by its community. Its foundation in community

spirit and emphasis on artistic excellence make it a joy to be part of the St. Paul's family!'

Among the young cast are recent graduates and singers from renowned music colleges such as the Guildhall.



Rehearsals for St Paul's Opera's *Così fan Tutte*

Baritone Jonny de Garis is making his second appearance at St Paul's. 'It's exciting to be involved again. I love the way hard work becomes fun the minute we all get together to explore our characters then bring them to life in the music and the acting,' he said.

Kayleigh McEvoy, who plays *one* of Jonny's love interests in the opera, added: 'I'm currently studying on the Masters vocal course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. This is my first show with St. Paul's Opera and I'm very excited about getting to explore the character Fiordiligi. I grew up performing

in my church community drama group, and I love how St. Paul's Opera has a similar community atmosphere. I'm very much looking forward to performing with this wonderfully friendly and supportive group of young professionals.'

The effort that goes into each SPO production and the sheer talent on the stage is certainly appreciated by its audience. Clapham resident and SPO regular Mary Lucille Hindmarch said: 'We're only three miles from one, arguably two, of the world's finest opera opportunities. But with SPO we have fine singing and creative productions just around the corner – and, at £25 a ticket, relative affordability too.'

For tickets go to [spo-cosi.eventbrite.co.uk](http://spo-cosi.eventbrite.co.uk) or at the Parish Office (020 7622 2128) and for more information visit [stpaulsopera.org](http://stpaulsopera.org)

*Così Fan Tutte* is on **Friday 29 June** and **Saturday 30 June** at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Grounds open for picnics 5.30 pm. Performance commences 7.00 pm.

Matthew Carter

The Committee are pleased to announce Gill White as the new Hon Secretary of the Clapham Society. Gill has been a keen supporter of the Clapham Society for many years and is well known and respected in the wider Clapham community. We will be able to announce a further new Committee Member in the next newsletter. If any other members have time to spare, we are always pleased to hear from you. Contact [annabel@allott.plus.com](mailto:annabel@allott.plus.com).

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](http://claphamsociety.com)

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## TICKET APPLICATION FORM

**Summer Party in the Eden Garden, Matrimony Place, SW4 6AF on Wednesday 4 July** from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Drinks and canapés. (In the event of rain the party will be in St Paul's Church Hall)

I would like .....tickets @ £15 each and enclose a cheque, payable to the Clapham Society, for £....

Name/s.....Telephone number.....

Email address.....

**Your cheque will be acknowledged by email or telephone. Tickets will NOT be sent out, but your name will be on a list at the entry gate.**

Please return this form with your cheque before **Wednesday 20 June** to Christine Armstrong, 4 Leppoc Road, SW4 9LT.