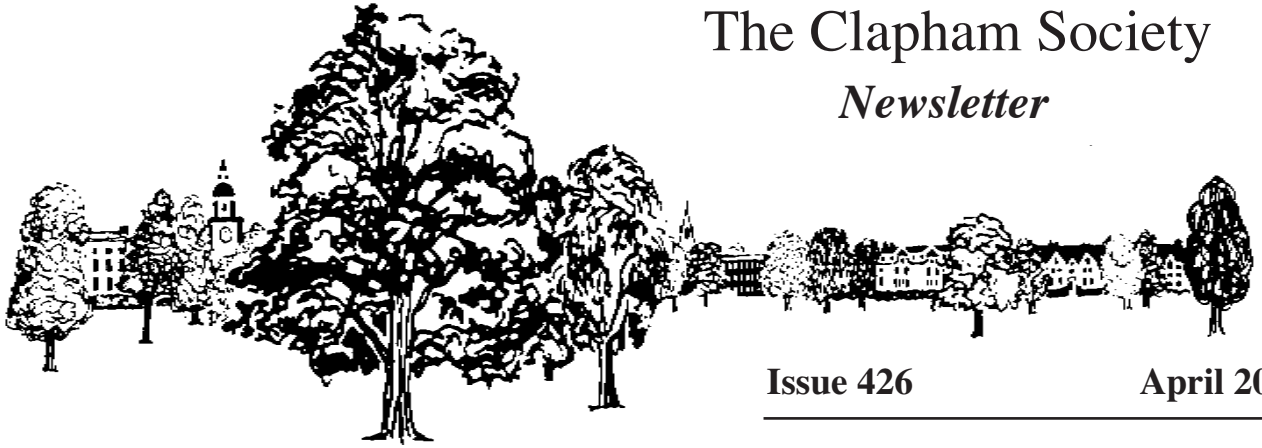


The Clapham Society

Newsletter



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Local health hero

On 17 February, Dr Jack Barker, chest physician at King's Hospital and Chief Clinical Information Officer for six boroughs in south-east London, spoke to the Society. His manor includes Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Greenwich, Bromley and Bexley, which together form a sustainability and transformation partnership (STP), one of five in London and 44 in NHS England. Researching the causes of asthma in 1999, he decided that huge gains could be made by the use of information technology for data sharing. This was reinforced while working at a clinic in Dulwich linked to King's for follow-up care of hospital patients, where he could find little information about their diagnoses and treatment, or access to X-rays.

In 2007, he helped bring in the first bedside electronic note keeping at King's, started on a pro forma and kept up to date by doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and other health professionals. This greatly improved their access to the information but, as Dr Barker pointed out, staff do not like – or often have time for – filling in endless data and sometimes only do so if mandatory.

Dr Barker has since extended his work to build up a local care record system involving most GP surgeries as well as social care workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, although the management at King's restricts the provision of most of its medical data to social carers. This local care record is now being expanded to link up the six south-east London boroughs. The main purpose is to enable all practitioners to be quickly well informed about the person they are helping. The system also provides doctors and nurses with alerts – for allergies, for example, and the need to test for risk of pulmonary embolism, the biggest cause of hospital death for reasons other than those for which patients are admitted.

A separate purpose of the system will be to help researchers working to improve patient services. Great care will be needed when data is used in this way, Dr Barker cautioned. Significant patient and citizen consultations are being undertaken to ensure the data is used in their best interests. *(Continued overleaf)*



Ruth Eastman

This newsletter was prepared for print as the Covid outbreak was unfolding and we were being notified of cancellations by the day. We are, however, giving an indication of what had been planned – our own events and those of others – to show that Clapham remains a vibrant place! Like our March meeting, our April and May meetings at Omnibus Theatre, now temporarily in darkness, have both been cancelled as well. It is also unlikely, sadly, that there will be a future newsletter until further notice. Please keep an eye on our website. Many thanks for being valued members. Stay healthy.

Last month's meeting

We did our best to alert members to the fact that our talk by Laura Harford of Studio Voltaire had to be cancelled. Where the Membership Secretary had an email address, she sent a message but quite a few were returned as undeliverable. If you did not receive one, could you please let Jennifer Everett have your correct email address so that you can be kept up to date with any future late changes? That said, please check our website for future meeting updates; e-alerts will not be sent out.

Monday 20 April

Bill Linskey, Chairman of the Brixton Society, will tell us about the markets area of Brixton where there are so many 'firsts'; not least one of the first shopping streets in Britain to be lit by electricity. But the story of the markets is more relevant than that. Shops reflect the changing needs and tastes of their customers, and the history of shopping in Brixton mirrors the history of the area.

Monday 18 May

Patricia Ninian, founder of St Paul's Opera, will explain how it has taken off since its modest beginnings. In the short, dark days of January 2013, a plot was hatched to put on an opera at St Paul's Church. The mad minds involved were herself, the then vicar, Deborah Matthews, and Patricia's singing teacher, soprano Jennifer McGregor. As a toe-in-the-water exercise, Puccini's one-act opera *Gianni Schicchi* was chosen. The performance, just one night, was a sell-out. The company now stages an ambitious opera over three nights every summer along with gala concerts and an annual masterclass by British tenor David Butt Philip.

Society walks

All the walks below have been subject to cancellation. Here is what you've missed and hopefully will happen again at a later stage. Some details have been removed as no longer relevant. All Clapham Society walks for the year are shown on a new Walks page of our website. In addition, the 'Local History Walks in South London 2020-2021' leaflet, produced by Lambeth Local History Forum, is now available. The free leaflet with many new and interesting walks will be available (when life returns to normal) at our meetings, on our walks, at local libraries, Omnibus Theatre and some other public pick-up points. A digital copy can be downloaded at lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/walks-leaflet-2020-2021/.

Clapham in World War II,

Thursday 7 May. Our first walk of the season had been planned to coincide



with the day before the special May bank holiday celebrating VE Day. Tom Jansz was booked to lead a walk showing how Clapham, in particular the Common, was affected by and adapted to the war. From bomb damage, to shelters, barrage balloons, allotments and 'prefab' housing, we had it all here. *Alyson Wilson*

Battersea Society walk, Sunday

19 April. Walking the Heathwall: Battersea's buried river was to have been a fascinating two-and-a-half mile walk along the course of the river that made Battersea an island, led by Lambeth Archivist and author Jon Newman. events@batterseasociety.org.uk.

Jon's walk along the Holburne, Heathwall and Heathwall Brook with The Clapham Society on 14 May had still been planned to go ahead and was fully booked but it too has been cancelled. Had space become available anyone on the waiting list would have been notified by Christine Armstrong. Hopefully we shall bring you news of its revival – and that of every other walk above – in due course.

(Continued from previous page)

Plans for the future include investing in a ten-year £240m programme for developing the electronic patient record of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, using the US Epic system. It is yet to be decided whether King's will get this system. Increasingly, care records will be joined up so that patients can be properly supported wherever they are in London or England. Many Clapham residents use St George's Hospital in south-west London so, alas, are not yet linked to the south-east London system.

Writing in mid-March, it seems extraordinary that only a month ago Covid-19 did not seem sufficiently topical for anyone to ask Dr Barker during questions and answers what role the virus outbreak would play in his local care record system. Perhaps it was the elephant in the room? What is certain is that, as and when patients are admitted to hospital with severe symptoms from the virus, quick knowledge of pre-existing conditions will be vital. Dr Barker's work has paved the way for that. We salute his pioneering achievement. *Charles Jenkins*

Forgotten member of the Clapham Sect

John Shore, Lord Teignmouth (1751-1834) is a footnote in the history of William Wilberforce's Clapham Sect. In Sir James Stephen's rather uncomplimentary portrait of 1844 in a paper written by him on the Clapham Sect, Shore was a 'quiet every day looking gentleman'. He was 'fatiguing' and had a 'narcotic influence' on those around him.

Despite Stephen's dismissal of him, Shore was magnetic enough to bring a touch of sexual scandal to the history of the Clapham Sect. Lord Teignmouth had served in Bengal for the East India Company between 1769 and 1790. From 1793 to 1798 he was Governor-General of India. By the 19th century Shore was a self-effacing evangelical in Wilberforce's circle. He was the first President of the British and Foreign Bible Society and a long-serving Vice-President of the Society for the Suppression of Vice. Wilberforce's cousin Henry Thornton listed Teignmouth among his closest friends.

What Stephen omitted to say was that, while in India, Shore had fathered four illegitimate Anglo-Bengali children with at least two women. Their Bengali names are unknown, but in Britain they were known as John (1772-1842), Francis (1781-1834), Martha (1784-1834) and George (1785-1858). In the 18th century, many men who served the East India Company in South Asia adopted Indian customs. Some set up homes with South Asian women and fathered mixed race families. As the century progressed racial mixing in India became scandalous to British sensibilities. As a result, mixed-race relatives developed into shameful secrets that imperial families tried to hide. It became common practice to remove references to these Anglo-Indian children from family records.

The three youngest of Shore's Anglo-Indian children were in their late teens and early 20s when the family bought Samuel Thornton's house on the south side of the Common in 1802 (where St Mary's Catholic church now stands). Their eldest brother, John, was in Bengal building a fortune as a speculator and merchant. He would return to England in 1808, the year the Teignmouth family left Clapham. In London, John Shore Esq would become a founding Director at the Guardian Assurance Company in 1821. He served as Chairman from 1838 to 1839. Among other members of the Board were Henry Thornton's brother John and his son Henry Sykes.

It is possible that Francis, Martha and George visited their father in Clapham as he set up the Bible Society, campaigned for the suppression of vice and worked to abolish the slave trade. They may have walked on the Common with their father and his younger children. They may have helped entertain their parents' Clapham Sect friends. They may have worshipped from the family pew in Holy Trinity church.

I wonder if one reason Lord Teignmouth has become a minor figure in the Clapham Sect story is that his multicultural family was too scandalous for Victorian sensibilities. After his death Teignmouth's family sent Wilberforce's son all the letters between their parents. Robert Wilberforce never returned them. Marianne Thornton carefully copied out her parents' letters for her nephew E. M. Forster and then destroyed the originals. At Shore's request his family destroyed all his personal papers after the official biography was published in 1843.

Did the descendants of the Clapham Sect craft their story to omit Shore's multicultural family? Perhaps the reason for all the destruction was that anecdotes of John, Francis, Martha and George were laced throughout the letters. As racism and empire-building gathered pace in Victorian England, a multicultural angle on the saintly Clapham Sect would have been problematic. Certainly, an intriguing possibility. Unfortunately, we will never know for sure. *Sarah Pearson, PhD student in Imperial History at the University of Bristol, sarah.pearson@bristol.ac.uk.*

AUTHOR'S NOTE Sir James Stephen was the son of James Stephen (Sarah Wilberforce was Sir James's stepmother). He would have known Shore as a child growing up in Clapham. His father was a friend of Wilberforce and an abolitionist. Sir James married Jane Venn, daughter of the Reverend John Venn, the evangelical rector at Clapham in Wilberforce's time. He is the grandfather of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell, and was the first to use the term Clapham Sect in his paper referred to above, published in the *Edinburgh Review* and entitled 'The Clapham Sect'. It was ostensibly a review of a couple of biographies, one of which was the posthumous biography of Shore written by his son in 1843. In reality the paper described the men in the friendship circle surrounding Wilberforce – some in more flattering terms than others!



Lord Teignmouth in a portrait for the British and Foreign Bible Society.

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EVENT CANCELLATIONS

In the ideal world, the following arts events would have been happening this month in Clapham. **All have been cancelled until the autumn or until further notice. Here's what you have missed and hopefully will have a chance to see or hear again.** Please check websites or email addresses for updates.

The Arts Society Clapham

Common Montenegro's photographer Princess Ksenia Petrović Njegoš (1881-1960), presented by Elizabeth Gowing. King Nikola was nicknamed 'The Father-in-Law of Europe', having successfully married off his daughters to the royal houses of Italy, Bulgaria, Germany, Serbia and Russia. His eighth daughter, Ksenia, chose a different route, carving out a place for herself as secretary and valued advisor to her father, and also developing a real talent for photography – and driving a car! 15 April, Clapham Picturehouse. theartsociety.org/claphamcommon.



With permission from the Director of the National Museum of Montenegro

Missing your concerts? Wigmore Hall has closed until at least 14 April according to its website, but it will be offering streaming of past concerts and masterclasses. Why not listen from your armchair? Keep an eye on the website: wigmore-hall.org.uk.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

The events below are also now casualties of social isolation, the last to declare (like the walks), because of being outside! Hopefully there will be future opportunities to enjoy them.

Garden opening Charles Rutherford's beautiful Clapham garden at 51 The Chase, SW4 0NP, contains eye-popping colour and had been due to open under the National Garden Scheme on various dates throughout the season, starting in April and May. The garden Charles has created is described by the Yellow Book as a 'remarkably well-established plantsman's garden front and back surrounded by mature trees. Year-round colour – most notably from spectacular display of 2,500 tulips in the spring – followed by tree peonies, delphiniums, iris, peonies, dahlias and echiums. Significant number of unusual trees, shrubs and bushes. Rupert's geodesic dome brings on seedlings, succulents and subtropicals.' Charles's garden had been due to open on Tuesday 28 April and Sunday 3 May. Check NGS website for dates later in the year: ngs.org.uk.



Omnibus Theatre *Small Change*, Peter Gill's powerful memory play, set on the east side of Cardiff in the 1950s and the 1970s, about boyhood, the complex relationships between mothers and sons, and the search for truth, revived by George Richmond-Scott. 21 April to 9 May. Re-scheduled for performance in September. omnibus-clapham.org.

Clapham Chamber Concerts The world of fairy tales realised through the music of the classical accordion with duo Accosphere – Alena Budziňáková (Slovakia) and Grzegorz Palus (Poland). 24 April, St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove. claphamchamberconcerts.org.uk.



Zofia Gorai

Clapham Common Film Club *Toni Erdmann* was judged by *Sight and Sound* magazine as the best film of 2016. On one level, it can be read as a scathing satire on Europe and a warning about the depersonalising consequences of globalisation; on another view, it shows the intimate interplay between infuriating father and insular daughter where real fireworks occur. Directed by Maren Ade, it is set in 'corporatised' Bucharest. 26 April, Omnibus Theatre. ccfilmrb@gmail.com.



Bandstand Beds Lots had been planned in the Bandstand Beds garden, starting with our regular Saturday morning gardening and the Grown-up 55 plus sessions, Mondays 11 am to 2 pm, an opportunity to get outdoors and meet people. But even with careful social distancing this will be a casualty. Ditto, we have had to cancel a plant-drawing workshop on Monday 6 April.

As well as gardening, we're passionate about the environment, ecology and ever-decreasing habitats for wildlife. In the last century 70 per cent of UK ponds have disappeared. But what can we do about it? Emily Millhouse from Froglife, a national charity for the conservation of amphibians, had been booked to run a workshop in the garden to raise awareness of the plight of these magical creatures and discuss how we might be able to help their survival on Saturday 25 April, 12-2 pm. To keep up with future donate-what-you-can-afford workshops – everyone welcome – please visit bandstandbeds.org.uk. David Dandridge



And now for something completely delicious

I'd never really heard a podcast until my old friend and long-time Clapham resident, Lennie (Helena) Ware, told me three years ago that she and her younger daughter, Jessie Ware, a prize-winning singer-songwriter, were planning to do one. Called *Table Manners*, it now has 11 million listeners and, if you've never tuned in, can I suggest you download one now? The whole collection featuring some 60 big names is out there. Guests have included Sandi Toksvig, Richard Curtis, Kieffer Sutherland, Nigella Lawson, Yotam Ottolenghi and, recently, David Schwimmer of *Friends* and comedian Jo Brand, who it turns out was born in Clapham Old Town!

Forgive me if you're a *Table Manners* addict already. If not, the formula goes something like this: Lennie and Jessie cook for their invited guest at home, always careful to check for dietary requirements, and dialogue is wholly unscripted. The beauty is how there never seems to be a let-up, but language can get fruity (turn a blind ear if you think it might offend – it's never in anger). 'We might do a little research beforehand into our guest,' Lennie says. 'Otherwise, you just talk as you would at any meal.' The listener feels like a fly on the wall, always fascinated to hear how the conversation plays out and keen to know what bad table manner tops the chart for the given guest. 'For many people it's being rude to restaurant staff. Sandi Toksvig's pet hate was using a napkin as a handkerchief!'



Ola O Smit

Lennie is many things – funny, engaging, caring, high-energy and, above all, a Jewish mother. Jessie is her middle child; Hannah (eldest) is a television actress based in the US; and Alex (Lennie's 'son the doctor') a registrar anaesthetist in London. Although she credits Jessie with being the more interesting cook, Lennie is a consummate cook and hostess herself – for friends, family and friends of family. 'Ever since she was a teenager,' she told me, spilling the beans at my own table last month, 'Jessie would invite a group of friends to the house on Friday night. Often we'd finish the evening singing and dancing. [Pictures in the book support.] Whitney Houston songs, that sort of thing.'

As Jessie's singing career progressed and she moved in more 'celebrated' circles, Jessie would invite not just her old friends but people she'd worked with or met at events – Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, the list goes on. The evenings at home with her mum doing most of the cooking became such an institution that Jessie came up with the idea of a podcast. 'We wanted to call it *Friday Night Dinner* but that name had already been taken for a sitcom. So we hit on *Table Manners*.' I wondered about the theme tune,

which is so on the nail in terms of chiming with the wacky feel. 'Three tunes were sent in by Jessie's composer friends, Pete Fraser and Peter Duffy, and she chose that one.' Good choice, Jess!

The book of the podcast seemed a no-brainer. *Table Manners: The Cookbook* (Ebury Press, £22 from all good bookshops and Amazon) came out just in time for Mother's Day appropriately, but a publicity embargo because of major press coverage in a certain Sunday magazine meant we had to sit on our hands until April to tell you about it. Number three in the *Saturday Times* non-fiction hardback list as I write, it's in its second printing already. Recipes are down to earth but delicious looking and even the way they're organised is fun: Effortless, A Bit More Effort, Summertime, Desserts and Baking (à la Jessie's brother Alex – tune into David Schwimmer for the hilarious banana bread moment), Chrismukkah (Christmas, Hanukkah and celebrations) and, of course, Jewish-ish Food. 'One of my favourite recipes is Bella's Cod,' says Lennie. 'It's healthy, simple to make and looks so impressive on the table.' Give it a try!

And do tuck into the podcasts; it's as easy as googling tablemannerspodcast.com. You'll find them strangely soothing – a word Jo Brand herself used when describing dropping in on Lennie and Jess. We could all do with dollops of 'soothing'. *Ruth Eastman*

Subscription payment by standing order

Did you remember to check with your bank that your standing order payment, due on 1 April, is for the correct amount? The current membership rates are: Individual, £10; Household, £15; Business, £25, and if a printed copy of the newsletter comes by post please add £10 to cover the cost of postage. If you have a query, please contact the Membership Secretary (details on this page, below). Full bank details are on the Society's website: claphamsociety.com. Thank you to all those members who have renewed or told me that their standing order has been amended. As ever, we always welcome new members; joining details are on the website too. *Jennifer Everett*

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 can be found on our website at claphamsociety.com

