

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter

Issue 419

July/August 2019

There are still a few tickets available for the Summer Party on Tuesday 10 July  
Contact Christine Armstrong  
(details on back page of this newsletter)  
as soon as possible

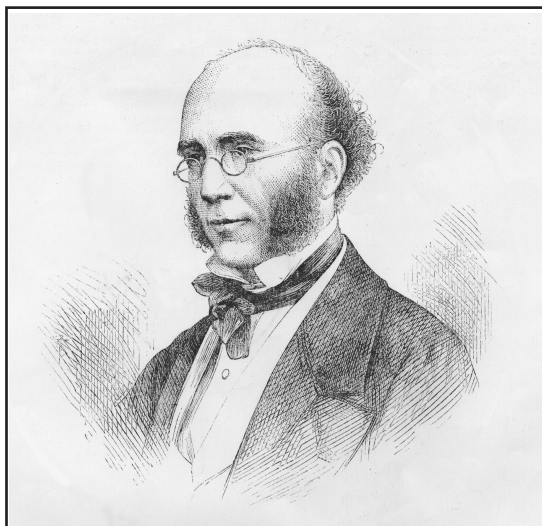
### The I'Anson family of architects

Readers of this newsletter will know that Peter Jefferson Smith, who died late last year, left an incomplete book, on which he had been working for many years, about the three generations of Clapham architects – all confusingly called Edward I'Anson.

The Society has decided to complete and publish this book as a tribute to Peter, a pre-eminent local historian and a generous contributor to Clapham life for more than 60 years. A team of members including Andrew Saint and Timothy Walker, Claire Fry, Dana Kubick, Roger Armstrong and Sinclair Johnston is working hard on this project and we hope to publish the book in the autumn.

We are still raising funds to cover the cost of publication and if you would like to make a donation in memory of Peter please contact the treasurer David Brown, whose details are on the back page of this newsletter. A short summary of Peter's achievements in Clapham was issued with the Clapham Society February 2019 newsletter and can be seen on line at [claphamsociety.com/clapsocNL\\_414\\_PJS\\_Supplement.pdf](http://claphamsociety.com/clapsocNL_414_PJS_Supplement.pdf).

*Alyson Wilson*



*Edward I'Anson  
(1811-1888)  
architect of The  
Alexandra, Clapham  
Common South Side*

There are no meetings in July and August. Our next meeting is part of our contribution to the Lambeth Heritage Festival which runs for the whole of September.

#### Monday 16 September

**The Heathwall: South London's least-known stream.** There has been a growing interest over the last ten years in the underground rivers of London. In this talk, writer and archivist, Jon Newman uncovers the history and course of what is arguably the least-understood of them, the Heathwall. For centuries it has defined the parish and borough boundaries between Battersea, Clapham, Lambeth and Wandsworth while its tributaries, the Holburne and the Heathwall Brook both flow through Clapham. Consigned underground by Bazalgette in 1865 as part of his London Main Drainage scheme, it has largely been forgotten. Jon has just published a book on the river's history and this will be on sale.

#### Summer Walks

##### Tuesday 9 July

**Around Central Clapham.** A short historical walk around the centre of Clapham, including Holy Trinity Church, part of North Side, The Polygon, Old Town and Grafton Square. Depart at 6.30 pm from Clapham Common Underground Station, led by Alyson Wilson.

##### Sunday 21 July

**The Great Plant Hunt.** Led by Dr Iain Boulton. Come and find out what interesting wild plants have turned up on Clapham Common this year, from new and mightier trees through to herbs and wildflowers, and why might this be happening? Is it the weather or something more interesting? A short circular walk to see how we identify plants and learn about some of their mysterious ways of survival. Meet at the Bandstand at 2 pm. Duration about 90 minutes, but come and leave as you please.

There are many other free guided walks in south London all year round offered by local history societies. For full details pick up the free leaflet *Local History Walks in South London* available at local libraries, Omnibus Theatre or online at [lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk](http://lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk).

## Old Town Fair

On **Saturday 31 August** The Polygon will be a hive of activity from 12 noon to 5 pm with over 50 stalls, rides and attractions, live music, a dog show, Vauxhall City Farm and far, far more to celebrate the annual Old Town Fair. Don't miss it!

## Summer on the Bandstand

The concerts on Clapham Common Bandstand organised by Clapham Common Management Committee (CCMAC) continue throughout July. The programme is as follows:

**Saturday 6 July** – Junction Jazz

12 noon to 2 pm

**Saturday 6 July** – Beatbox Academy

2 to 4 pm

**Sunday 7 July** – Fuzion Four – Latin, jazz and classical influences 2 to 4 pm

**Saturday 13 July** – Oxjam Clapham – urban, pop and rock 1 to 4 pm

**Sunday 14 July** – Crystal Palace Band – traditional brass band 2 to 4 pm

**Saturday 20 July** – Here to Havana – Afro-Cuban 2 to 4 pm

**Sunday 21st July** – The Crooks

Saxophone Quartet 2 to 4 pm

**Sunday 28 July** – London Consorts of Winds – Handel's *Fireworks* and *Water Music* 2 to 4 pm

## Speakers for 2020

In late summer the Clapham Society's Events Sub-committee will be meeting to make plans for the 2020 programme. Have you heard or do you know of any good speakers, preferably local or who speak about a fairly local subject? Please have a think about it and send your suggestions to Christine Armstrong [christinearms52@hotmail.com](mailto:christinearms52@hotmail.com).

## Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire has been supporting artists for over twenty years through their programme of exhibitions, performances, and events as well as providing affordable onsite studios.

They are now about to embark on an ambitious redevelopment project to create 42% more artists' studios, 233% more public space, and a dedicated learning and events space. To find out how you can get involved go to [studiovoltaire.org](http://studiovoltaire.org).

On **Friday 5 July** a new large-scale installation, *Rand/Goop*, by Mary Reid Kelley and Patrick Kelley opens in the gallery. Artists' talk **Saturday 6 July** at 1 pm. Studio Voltaire, 1A Nelsons Row, SW4 7JR.

## On the Common

**Winterville.** It is now confirmed that this event will not be held this year on the grassed Events Site where it has been for the last two years. The organisers have agreed, in principle, to the proposal to move to the hard surface (known as the Circus Site) on Clapham Common West Side. We are also pleased to announce that the council is proposing a complete rejuvenation of the grassed area that hosts events. Whilst we have been given assurances that this is not a precursor to heavier usage in the future, we must remain vigilant.

**Bowling Green site.** Members may have seen in person or via social media that the council has put the bowling green out to tender. This tender is for any usage; indeed, given the alleged lack of bowling action over recent years it is indeed likely to be converted to alternative recreational purpose. Whilst a pristine bowling green is visually attractive, in these straitened times it is probably unviable unless there really is an economic case to be made for bowling. We would urge anyone keen to keep it for this purpose to register their interest and plans with their local councillors.

**Investment.** The council has secured about £700,000 for investment in the Common. Whilst this is far shy of the c.£3m needed, it will be put to good use on the priorities we have helped establish through our membership of the CCMAC. Principally these will be improvements to the playground, but new initiatives include improving pathways and measures to encourage more birds and biodiversity. For example, the council is looking at ways to thin out the tree canopy to improve light and new plant growth in the wooded area along the A205 to the west of the Common by the football pitches.

**The Grassy Knoll.** Work is progressing on the landscaping of this area behind Clapham Common tube station, which is part of the Common. This will include new seating areas, flower beds and wildflowers. Work is expected to finish towards the end of June but the area will remain fenced off for a few months to allow the plants to take root. The initiative was conceived and is being funded by the Clapham BID, with a donation from Winterville.

*Andrew Summers*



*Grassy Knoll design proposal*

## Last chance

Tickets for St Paul's Opera's *Le Nozze di Figaro* on **Friday 5 July** and **Saturday 6 July** at the early bird price of £27.50 will be available until and including **Sunday 30 June**. After that the price will be £30.00. You can buy tickets from Tony Bell at the parish office or ring him on 07792 321584 or online (no booking fee to pay) – go to [stpaulsopera.org](http://stpaulsopera.org) and click on the 'Tickets' link.

## Trinity Hospice

Royal Trinity Hospice's Family Walk and Fun Day will take place on **Sunday 22 September**, between 10 am and 4 pm. More information and tickets can be found the website: [royaltrinityhospice.london/Event/family-walk](http://royaltrinityhospice.london/Event/family-walk).

## Heritage Trails at Battersea Arts Centre

Discover the hidden history and artworks with a self-guided trail created by theatre-makers and artists. Hear the stories of political activists like Charlotte Despard and John Archer, entrepreneur and trailblazer Hilda Hewlett, through to contemporary heroes of Battersea Arts Centre's story in the 21st century. For more details go to [bac.org.uk](http://bac.org.uk) or call 020 7223 2223. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN.

## The Panorama of the Thames

At the talk on 20 May Jill Saunders and John Inglis introduced this project. The aim is to create a contemporary visual record of the Thames Riverside through London between Hampton and Tower Bridge.

The project also includes historical panoramas. The 1829 Leigh publication (a 60 foot hand coloured concertina style tourist book) and panoramic views of the south bank from the Adelphi Buildings.

Funded mainly by individuals and community groups the project shows the built and natural environment along the river. The intention is to publish a number of books the first of which, *A Riverside View of Georgian London*, is already available. This is a beautiful restoration of the Leigh and Adelphi works in book form with additional and more accurate historical data provided.

All the work so far is available on the website [panoramaofthethames.com](http://panoramaofthethames.com). This is a fascinating site ... you can

cruise the river pausing at will to look in more detail at your chosen area and compare old and new.

To demonstrate the project John and Jill showed a film (with excellent score) of some of the more dramatic riverside changes between 1829 and 2014 for instance at Battersea and Nine Elms. There was also a lovely section on wildlife – Jill was a journalist and John a cinematographer (he developed the method for filming from the bank based on his expertise as special effects man on *Superman*). Their skill as well as their love of the Thames was very obvious.

This will be a wonderful tool for current and future Thames enthusiasts and historians. The modern panorama was done in 2014. The changes since then are immense. Perhaps the Panorama should be reviewed every few years.

John and Jill answered many questions as the audience was not only interested in the content but also the techniques needed to produce a seamless panorama.

Janet Johnson

## Clapham South Tesco Car Park

You may be aware of a significant residential development proposed behind Clapham South Tesco. The site is the far end of the store's car park bounded by the rear gardens of properties on Englewood Road and the Minnie Kidd care home. The existing car park is to be reduced in size.

The developer sought public opinion back in April based on a pre-application scheme developed in consultation with Lambeth Planners. Clapham Society Planning Sub-committee members met recently with developers' representatives on site for a very thorough and worthwhile discussion. We were updated on alterations being carried out to the scheme in the light of public comment and received confirmation that they are working up the scheme to a full planning application to be submitted later in the summer. Before then they will be sending us their final scheme for comment.

Martin Pratt



## Clapham Common Film Club

On **Sunday 14 July** the fifth and final screening for this introductory season will be of Eric Rohmer's 1988 film *An Autumn Tale*. It tells of a French vineyard owner, Magali, who is a widow and has not had a serious relationship since her husband died and whose closest friend, Isabelle, tries to remedy the situation. It is a film about love, life, chance and coincidence set in the warmth of the Rhone Valley. It is in French with English sub-titles. Awarded five stars by many critics it won best screenplay at the Venice Film Festival in 1989.

As usual the screening is at Omnibus Theatre at 7.30 pm, bar and ice creams from 7 pm. If you have not yet experienced the great projection and sound on offer, not to mention congenial company, do come! Entry £7, members free. There will be discussion afterwards for those who want to stay. We will also be presenting the plans for a future season starting in the autumn. Further information and enquiries at [ccfilmrb@gmail.com](mailto:ccfilmrb@gmail.com).

Roger Booker

## Venn Street Market

On **Saturday 13 July** from 10 am to 4 pm Clapham Leaf Club celebrates its 8th Grand Finale with produce and recipes for sale from Clapham's local primary school harvests. This project is designed to enable pupils to learn all aspects of growing their own food from preparing the soil using organic matter, to sowing seeds and cultivating their crops which will be harvested and sold as fruit and veg or used in a cuisine and cooked and sold at the market. The pupils from Clapham are market traders for one day working alongside our professional traders. Support your local primary schools and buy some pots and plants!

Every Saturday in July and August the market holds several mini craft markets with handmade fine jewellery, homeware, paper goods and Kimono crafts. This is the ideal location for discovering early career and established makers of fine crafts.

And on Saturdays in July Clapham's own local craft brewery, Mondo Brewing Co. join the market with their super refreshing craft beers on tap or to take away! Whilst doing your weekly shop of fresh British fish, fruits and veg, breads or award-winning cheeses, treat yourself to a local brew and indulge in a hog roast or a vegan Kimchini Ball (kimchi risotto balls).

## Battersea's First Lady

Susan Demont's book about Caroline Ganley, MP is now available. The book tells the story of an extraordinary woman whose lifetime of political activism and public service began under Queen Victoria, spanned two World Wars and lasted into the Swinging 60s. Caroline Ganley (1879-1966) was a hard-up mother of three who left school aged 14 yet went on to become one of the earliest female magistrates in Britain, the first female President of the 800,000-strong London Co-operative Society, and Battersea's first woman MP. *Battersea's First Lady: The Life and Times of Caroline Ganley, MP* by Susan Demont £5.99 + £1.50 postage from Heritage First, 11 Dents Road, SW11 6JA.

## Omnibus Theatre

Continuing until **Sunday 14 July** is *Othello: Remixed*, Shakespeare's tragedy remixed by Intermission Theatre Company, set in a modern day London boxing ring, with Othello as a championship boxer, Cassio his corner man and the rejected Iago riven with jealousy.

From **Tuesday 16 July to Sunday 28 July** the Edinburgh Fringe Festival comes to Clapham with top flight previews of some of the best Edinburgh has to offer. There will be a dynamic mix of emerging and established theatre-makers who will preview their work, giving Londoners the first chance to revel in imaginative productions before anyone else. Highlights include Marcus Brigstocke making his directorial debut, *The Red*, a semi-autobiographical play. Tickets at £9 or less.

**Tuesday 30 July to Saturday 3 August** *Out of The Wings* is a glorious opportunity to explore untapped translated theatre from the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking world. For full details and bookings go to [omnibus-clapham.org](http://omnibus-clapham.org), box office on 020 7498 4699 or call in at Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW. Or why not sign up to the mailing list to get regular updates on all performances?



*Out of the The Wings*

## Northcote Road Fest

On **Sunday 14 July** the Northcote Road annual local community fair takes place from 11 am to 4 pm. Northcote Road will be closed to vehicular traffic. There will be a live performance stage hosting music, dance and entertainment acts throughout the day; and an open air big screen showing all the action from the Wimbledon Men's Tennis Final.

## Lambeth Heritage Festival

This annual festival takes place each year during the whole month of September, when a wide variety of activities – talks, walks, exhibitions, workshops and more – is arranged by Lambeth Archives and Lambeth Local History Forum, whose members comprise history societies and museums in the borough.

The first Saturday of the month, **Saturday 7 September**, is the date of Lambeth Local History Fair, which this year is at Brixton Town Hall from 10 am to 5 pm. Keep the date and more details will be shown in the September newsletter.

The full brochure for the month will be available in local libraries from mid-July and on line at [lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk](http://lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk).

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

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Annabel Allott</b> Email: <a href="mailto:annabel@allott.plus.com">annabel@allott.plus.com</a>	<b>Meetings and Events</b> Tel: 020 7720 7449	<b>Christine Armstrong</b> Email: <a href="mailto:christinearms52@hotmail.com">christinearms52@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b> Tel: 020 7720 7496	<b>Gillian White</b> Email: <a href="mailto:gillian.white@icloud.com">gillian.white@icloud.com</a>	<b>Planning Matters</b> Tel: 020 8675 5679	<b>Martin Pratt</b> Email: <a href="mailto:prattpartnership@hotmail.com">prattpartnership@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Tel: 020 7720 7536	<b>David Brown</b> Email: <a href="mailto:david.sbrown@btopenworld.com">david.sbrown@btopenworld.com</a>	<b>Roads and Transport</b> Tel: 020 7720 9370	<b>Mark Leffler</b> Email: <a href="mailto:mark.leffler88@gmail.com">mark.leffler88@gmail.com</a>
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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)



## TICKET APPLICATION FORM

**Summer Party in the grounds of St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX on Wednesday 10 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 to Christine Armstrong, 4 Leppoc Road, SW4 9LT