

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 457 June 2023



Mark Leffler

### 45 Clapham Common South Side: Comments still needed

Revised proposals have gone in by the developer, London Realty, on the above development. A new planning consultation (previous objections still stand) will have closed, but comments will be taken by the lead officer until three working days before the application is put before the Planning Application Committee; we are currently expecting a July date. The application is at <https://planning.lambeth.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RJWIKGBO09400> or visit [bit.ly/42u2LNA](https://bit.ly/42u2LNA).

**Valid reasons for objection are:** Adverse Impact on the Conservation Area; Excessive Height of Buildings; Excessive Density of Buildings; Disturbance; Loss of Privacy; Loss of Light; Overdevelopment; Pressure on Local Amenities; Negative Effect on the Environment; Impeding Road and Highway Access.

It is the view of The Clapham Society and other residents that these new plans have taken few if any of the comments of resident and community groups on board. Design changes include the provision of stairs, optimisation of internal layouts, modifications to building façades and an increase in overall height of Blocks B1-B6 by 0.55m as well as alterations to parking spaces and provision of additional cycle parking spaces. **The number of residential units has risen from 525 to 555.**

The photograph shows the first development, Thornton Park, 44 Clapham Common South Side dwarfing its three-storey Edwardian neighbours on Abbeville Road, as seen from Caldervale Road. Another development alongside (45 CCSS) would be twice the density and dramatically higher. Unimaginable overcrowding.

As it is likely that this application will go to July Planning Committee, **all comments must be in as soon as possible.** We will keep members updated via the Newsletter or email. The Clapham Society and local councillors are not against housing and developments but they are against this development. Photographs (available) show the disregard London Realty have for the living conditions and health and safety of the affordable housing residents of the Clevedale Place blocks in Thornton Park. Concrete is being poured on to tree roots, screws are going into trees, trip hazards are everywhere, dangerous equipment is left in public access areas – yet the construction site is wholly accessible by adults and children alike. We can expect more of this if Lambeth's Planning Committee permit this new development in a few months' time. Any questions, please email [AInglisJones@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:AInglisJones@lambeth.gov.uk) or [BCurtis@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:BCurtis@lambeth.gov.uk). **Alison Inglis-Jones**

**Our Open Meetings** take place at Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW. The talk starts promptly at 8pm and our guest normally speaks for about 45 minutes, followed by 15 minutes for questions and discussion. Meetings are free and open to non-members, who are invited to make a donation. Please arrive in good time before the start. The Café Bar is open from 6pm for drinks and snacks – a great opportunity to socialise with other members before (and after) the meeting.

#### Monday 26 June

Performance is ephemeral while buildings endure. **Iain Mackintosh** has lived in Clapham for 52 years, earning his living in the theatre as a producer, then as a designer of theatre spaces all over the world, including in the UK the Cottesloe (now Dorfman) at the National and the new Glyndebourne of 1994. The story is told in his memoir, *Theatre Spaces 1920-2020: Finding the Fun in Functionalism*. The talk will start with his fresh analysis on the current and historical problems of the London Coliseum and continue in conversation with Mark Leffler.

**There are no meetings in July or August.**

**Summer Party booking details overleaf.**



#### Coronation Big Lunch street party

Residents of Mandalay Road, SW4 (organisers Leanne Davies-Grassnick, left, and Emma Davies-Grassnick, right) welcomed the Mayor of Lambeth Councillor Sarbaz Barznji and Deputy Lieutenant for Lambeth Christopher Wellbelove at the start of their street party on 7 May, the only day of the Coronation weekend the sun shone. Bertie Tarran (centre), Mandalayite of longest standing, hence the crown, is one of our intrepid Newsletter delivery volunteers. Long live King Charles and Queen Camilla.



## Friends of Clapham Common Summer Party

Booking is open for this exciting event set in an exquisite Clapham garden. There will be live music, a free welcome drink plus canapés and lucky-leaf raffle tickets with up to 50 prizes to be won, sold in aid of protecting the Common. **Thursday 22 June**, 6.30-9pm. Scan the QR code (*left*) or visit [bit.ly/SummerParty2023](http://bit.ly/SummerParty2023).



## The Clapham Society Summer Party

Our first Summer Party since lockdown – hurrah – will take place on **Thursday 13 July**, 6.30-8.30pm, in the beautiful Clapham garden of two members. A brilliant chance to catch up with friends and meet new ones over drinks and canapés. In the event of rain, the party will be held inside but please no stilettos or heels. To book (**before 6 July, please**), scan the green QR code, visit [claphamsociety.com/summer-party-payment](http://claphamsociety.com/summer-party-payment), or email [events@claphamsociety.com](mailto:events@claphamsociety.com), giving your name and those of your guests, and how you would like to pay. Tickets will not be issued, but payment will be acknowledged by email and your names will be marked off a list at the door. Admission, £20 per person, payable online. You can also pay by bank transfer to Account Number: 22217045; Sort Code: 60-05-34; reference: SURNAME (of Purchaser) followed by E (for Events), or post a cheque, made out to The Clapham Society, to: David Brown, Treasurer, The Clapham Society, 15 Turret Grove, SW4 0ES. Alternatively, telephone David on 020 7720 7536. We look forward to seeing you there.



Dana Kubick

## The lady with the lamp

Our April talk was by Blue Badge Guide **Julie Chandler** (*left, with Mark Leffler*). In 2019 Julie was asked by the Florence Nightingale Museum to do a walking tour every week of 2020 to celebrate the FN bicentenary. Then came the pandemic. She identified 170 London locations of interest, since narrowed down to 100 and incorporated in her co-authored book, *Florence Nightingale's London*. Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) was born in Florence. Her father, whose original surname was Shore, took the name Nightingale to inherit the estate of an uncle. (The fortune would enable Florence to do all she did.)

Educated by a governess and her father, she was fluent in French, German, Italian and Latin, and self taught in Hebrew to aid her study of the Old Testament. A lover of music and fine perfumes (she was a customer at Floris in Jermyn Street, where a museum at the back displays her favourite scents, still sold today), she also had a talent for mathematics.

How did this woman who moved in polite circles – her family lived next door to Lord Palmerston in Broadlands and she was presented at Court to Queen Victoria – become involved in the Crimean War? At the age of 22, she attended a dinner party hosted by the Prussian Ambassador, Christian von Bunsen, founder of the German Hospital in East London. Six years before, she felt she had a calling but not until this event did she realise the calling was nursing. Her parents were shocked, but Florence even went on hunger strike to make her point. Finally her father relented and permitted his daughter to go to von Bunsen's hospital in Germany to train. After qualifying, she worked at the Hospital for Women of Distressed Circumstances in Harley Street until 1854, shortly after Britain's entry into the Crimean War. Newspaper reports stirred Florence's desire to help and the husband of a friend, Sidney Herbert, Secretary at War, wrote asking Florence to help. An advertisement went out, 200 women applied and Florence chose 38.

The Crimea was only the start of this incredible woman's contribution to healthcare, hospital design and statistics. Her innovations in the visual presentation of statistics enabled her to demonstrate to the British government that in her hospital there were more deaths from preventable infections than from battle wounds. When she arrived at the hospital, she described it as the closest thing she had ever seen to hell on earth. She improved its ventilation and sanitation, including the regular washing of hands, guiding principles that have informed good nursing and infection control ever since.

Of local interest, Florence Nightingale was the grand-daughter of the Abolitionist William Smith of Eagle House ([claphamsociety.com/green-plaques/eagle-house](http://claphamsociety.com/green-plaques/eagle-house)). As for her lamp, the one we typically see is from an illustration in *The Times* during the Crimean War. More likely, it would have been a concertina *fanoos* lamp rather than a Greek lamp popular at the time. The article from which it came, however, was spot on, the first line reading: 'She is a ministering angel.' We thank you, Julie, for this fascinating talk. Visit [florence-nightingale.co.uk](http://florence-nightingale.co.uk) to join one of Julie's walks and learn more. **Ruth Eastman**

## The Arts Society Clapham Common: 'A Bit of a Carry On'

Enjoy the remarkable untold story of *Carry On* actor **Peter Butterworth** and his wife, TV impressionist **Janet Brown**. Using film and television clips, personal mementos, and rare photographs and letters from his family's



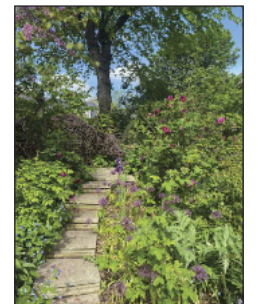
collection, their son, **Tyler Butterworth**, reveals the private story behind his parents' public lives.

**Wednesday, 21 June, 11am, Clapham Picturehouse, 76 Venn Street, SW4 0AT**. Doors open at 10.30am. Tickets cost £10 (visitors and non-members); members free. To join The Arts Society for free entry to this and future events, email [claphamcommon@theartsociety.org](mailto:claphamcommon@theartsociety.org).

**Susan Holder**

## Smell the roses

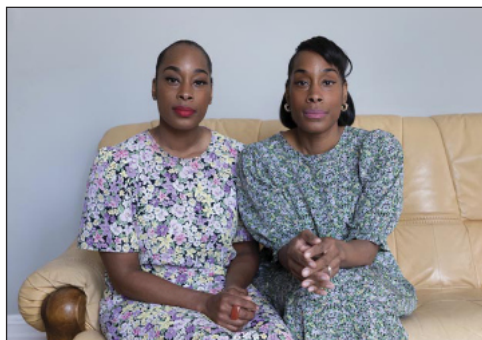
In April (NL 455), we opened our garden at 51 The Chase for the National Garden Scheme when lots of you came. Open again in May, we hosted 185 people one Sunday; along with a private tour



on the Tuesday, £1,650 was raised for the NGS in one week. June is the month for roses. Help raise more for this worthy charity on **Sunday 11 June, 12-5pm. 51 The Chase, SW4 0NP**. My partner, Rupert Tyler, Chairman of the NGS, has just been announced as Chairman of the Garden Museum. **Charles Rutherford**

## Jim Grover anniversary exhibition

Members who enjoyed hearing the award-winning photo-documentary photographer Jim Grover speak at our February talk (NL 455) will remember his promise of a new Windrush exhibition to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the *Empire Windrush* at Tilbury Docks in 1948. A follow-on to his acclaimed 2018 photo story, *Windrush: Portrait of a Generation*, *Windrush: A Voyage through the Generations*



is a powerful photo story which explores how the generations who followed are living their lives in the UK today.

Shining a light on individuals, groups and organisations in south London who are doing so much to preserve their Caribbean heritage and traditions for current and future generations, the photographs portray an extraordinary level of intimacy and the full range of human emotions.

Kerryn Ghann and Krystyna Antoine (*above*) are third-generation twin sisters. Both work for the NHS, like so many of the first-generation migrants, and have young families. Kerryn says, 'I don't want my Caribbean culture to fizz out and I don't want "my girlies" to question their Jamaican roots. But for that to happen I've got to send them in the right direction.' Also featured are The Diamonds, an all-female dominoes team who bring new relevance to a traditionally male pastime, and the Brixton Immortals Domino Club, where the game is

introduced to children in collaboration with Lambeth Libraries. Jeremiah (*right*) is nine. His mother told Jim, 'He loves to play dominoes... he loves to win... he is always asking for a round of dominoes.'



**1 June to 2 September** (the exhibition overlaps with Windrush Day on 22 June), **Clapham Library, Mary Seacole Centre, 91 Clapham High Street, SW4 7DB**. For opening times and to see some of the content if you cannot get to the library, visit [windrushvoyagethroughthegenerations.com](http://windrushvoyagethroughthegenerations.com).

## Membership news

We are delighted to welcome: Sarah Laubach Gur and Ilan Gur, Roddy Gye, Susan Lilly, Jacqueline Trembach, and Alison Wood and Malcolm Lewis Kerr. Thank you to members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2023/24. Some are still unpaid and I would be grateful if you could please ensure that renewals are made by the end of June by checking that your bank has paid the standing order, by making a bank transfer, or sending a cheque for the appropriate amount to me. If you have a query about your membership status don't hesitate to get in touch with me by emailing [membership@claphamsociety.com](mailto:membership@claphamsociety.com), or phoning 020 7627 4770. **Jennifer Everett, Membership Secretary**

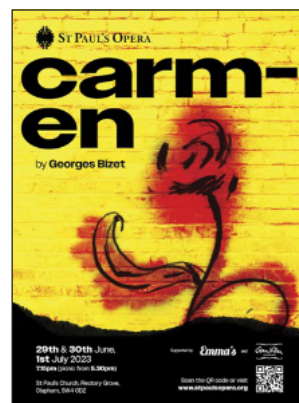
## Carmen – only a month until showtime

Rehearsals are full steam ahead for the St Paul's Opera production of *Carmen*. Full details of the cast and creative team can be found on our website (below). If you are a Super Supporter or a VIP Friend of SPO, you can enjoy exclusive access to a rehearsal to see how an opera is put together. You can find out how to join the schemes on the 'Support Us – Friends of SPO' page on our website.

Don't forget to gather family and friends for a picnic before the performance. There are a limited number of tables for hire (£12 for six people, £6 for four), so book early. Why not give your picnic a Spanish theme? Tapas such as tortilla, a meat platter (jamón ibérico, lomo ibérico, chorizo), Manchego and olives couldn't be more appropriate for a summer's evening. For dessert? We are excited to welcome, with much gratitude, Emma's Estate Agents, who are returning to sponsor the event for the second year. They will be in the thick of the atmosphere offering ice creams for sale for picnics and interval treats.

Emma's Estate Agents will also be supporting the publicity for *Carmen* by supplying advertising boards. If you can offer a front gate or fence to display one of these boards, email us at [info@stpaulsopera.org](mailto:info@stpaulsopera.org).

**Thursday 29 June, Friday 30 June, Saturday 1 July, 7.15pm (picnic from 5.30pm), St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DZ.** Tickets, £33 each through our website, [stpaulsopera.org](http://stpaulsopera.org).  
**Tricia Ninian, St Paul's Opera Founder**



## Summer fairs

- Music, stalls, children's activities, plant cuttings, food and drink are all on offer at the Church of the Holy Spirit's **Summer Fair, 17 June, 12-4pm, Church of the Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9JU.**
- St Paul's Church is hosting its **Eco Summer Fair on Saturday 17 June.** The churchyard will be full of fair staples such as homemade food and preloved stalls as well as independent businesses selling sustainable gifts, and a local history display by The Clapham Society. In the lower churchyard there will be old-fashioned games to enjoy. **12 noon to 4pm, St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DZ.** Admission: £2 (adults), £1 (concessions), under-16s free.
- **The Clapham Fair** is back and bigger than ever. Indulge in great food and drink, enjoy the work of local artists and battle it out in the hotly anticipated return of the Clapham Mutts Dog Show. With more than 25 stalls, live music, farmyard animals, rides, sports and more, there is something for the whole family. Be sure to visit The Clapham Society stand where there will be a local history display, CS publications, and members on hand to give information and answer questions about both Clapham and the Society. The fair is in the heart of Clapham's buzzing Old Town and on the Common by Holy Trinity. **Saturday 24 June, 12-6pm, The Polygon, SW4 0JG.**

## Omnibus Theatre

**96 Festival** is back by popular demand. An extravaganza of theatre, comedy, cabaret, music, art and activism will set up camp at Omnibus for a celebration of queerness and theatre, in partnership with *Diva* magazine. This year's headliner, *Shutters: A Lesbian Rock Opera*, is a world premiere tracing the lives of four lesbians over 20 years from their humble beginnings to their naïve longing for the perfect relationship. Visit [omnibus-clapham.org/96-festival-2023](http://omnibus-clapham.org/96-festival-2023) for the full line-up and showtimes. **Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW.**



## Unsung hero: Margaret Buchanan, Pharmacist

In the first of our new local history series *Alyson Wilson* sings the praises of a female pioneer who left an important legacy for women who followed the same career.

Those who knew Clapham before 1975 will remember Deane's pharmacy at number 17 The Pavement (now Common Cafe), which still bears the name Deane & Co Chemists on the ghost sign high up on the side wall. In 1837 Henry Deane started his pharmacy here. On his death in 1874, his son James ran the business, then William Robinson until in 1913 Margaret Buchanan and Agnes Borrowman took over the flagging chemists.

Margaret Buchanan qualified as a pharmacist in 1887 and after some years working as a hospital dispenser,

recognising the barriers to women entering the profession, she founded the Gordon Hall School of Pharmacy for Women. The acquisition of the Clapham pharmacy enabled her students to gain practical training: three students would work in the pharmacy in the morning and three in the afternoon.

Finding that most qualified women pharmacists were dispensers at hospitals and institutions who had little scope for advancement and were paid less than their male colleagues, Margaret Buchanan founded the Association of Women Pharmacists (AWP) to give them a support network and a voice. She eventually left the all-female Clapham pharmacy in the care of her colleague, Agnes Borrowman, to concentrate on her mission to advance the cause of women in pharmacy through the AWP, of which she became President. Her legacy to the profession is still widely acknowledged.

Next issue: **Jane Marcet, Polymath**



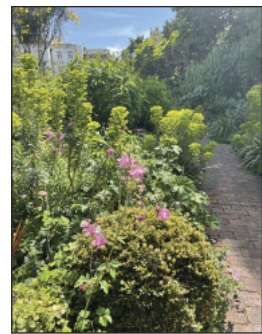
Royal Pharmaceutical Society

## Royal Trinity Hospice

Now is a good time to book into the next National Garden Scheme's **Open Garden Day** at Royal Trinity Hospice. Two acres of peaceful gardens will be open for the public to explore on **Sunday 25 June**. For a free ticket, visit [royaltrinityhospiceopengarden](http://royaltrinityhospiceopengarden).

Known for its outstanding palliative and end-of-life care, the Hospice also aims to share knowledge and expertise with local people, supporting them to become more

confident when talking about death and loss. They will be holding **free workshops** on topics including: an introduction to Royal Trinity Hospice; the power of planning ahead; let's talk about death; introduction to bereavement, grief and loss; and the newly launched Compassionate Neighbours project. To find out more, email [connect@royaltrinityhospice.london](mailto:connect@royaltrinityhospice.london), or call the Hospice on 020 7787 1000 and ask for the Community Engagement Team. **Anna Reid**



## Clapham Common update

*Andrew Summers*, the Society's representative on Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC), reports. Work continues with the **new water play area** by Holy Trinity, which CCMAC hopes will be completed by early July. The refurbishment of the **changing rooms** by Battersea Woods along The Avenue should be finished in time for the start of the football season. This will include a new public lavatory.

We were alarmed to learn that the council doesn't have the funds to provide **portaloos** on the Common this summer. Whilst introduced during Covid, judging by the Glastonbury-style queues for them in both locations last summer, there is a need.

The redevelopment of the **bowling green site** and the associated pavilion and kiosk remains a key focus, with Lambeth putting the latter's lease back on the market after the previous preferred bidder didn't proceed. Regarding the greens, CCMAC hopes that one will be a community sensory garden, but Lambeth will seek a revenue-generating sports facility on the second. The current plan is for a paddle tennis facility, which may raise some noise concerns next to a garden designed to be a peaceful place.

We had the opportunity to speak with Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, the new Council cabinet member responsible for **events**. He is keen to draw up a new strategy for events



Ruth Eastman

focussed on cultural and community benefits rather than revenue enhancement. He also recognises the importance of ensuring that an appropriate amount of revenue raised is ring-fenced for the benefit of the local community hosting the events. Overall it was a very productive meeting and we detected a greater willingness to listen to local residents than has been the case in the past.

Finally, we were surprised to learn that **The Terrace by Megan's** on Rookery Road has been required to take its roof down. Whilst we don't know all the details yet, we want this facility to be useable as often as possible and, without a roof, that is a concern in our climate. A boarded-up establishment half the year would not be in the best interests of Clapham Common users. CCMAC approved the design that included a roof.

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

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Mark Leffler</b> <a href="mailto:mark.leffler88@gmail.com">mark.leffler88@gmail.com</a>	<b>Common and Open Spaces</b>	<b>Andrew Summers</b> <a href="mailto:openspaces@claphamsociety.com">openspaces@claphamsociety.com</a>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Alison Macnair</b> <a href="mailto:vicechair@claphamsociety.com">vicechair@claphamsociety.com</a>	<b>Meetings and Events</b>	<b>Christine Armstrong</b> <a href="mailto:events@claphamsociety.com">events@claphamsociety.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gillian White</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@claphamsociety.com">secretary@claphamsociety.com</a>	<b>Local History and Publications</b>	<b>Alyson Wilson</b> <a href="mailto:history@claphamsociety.com">history@claphamsociety.com</a>
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<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Jennifer Everett</b> <a href="mailto:membership@claphamsociety.com">membership@claphamsociety.com</a>	<b>Newsletter Editor and Instagram</b>	<b>Ruth Eastman</b> <a href="mailto:news@claphamsociety.com">news@claphamsociety.com</a>

Previous Newsletters and details of our meetings, activities and publications can be all found at [claphamsociety.com](http://claphamsociety.com)

