

The Clapham Society

Newsletter

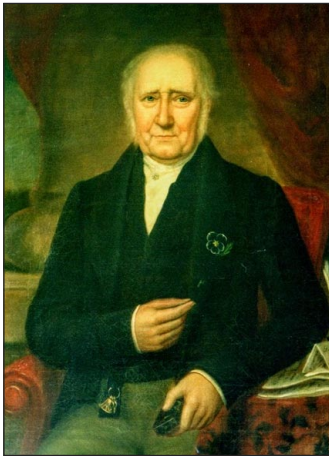
With thanks
to our sponsor



Issue 471 November 2024

Lost and found: Daniel Gould's 1815 Clapham plan

Simon James of the local history group reports on a talk which not only shed light on a lost map but brought its maker's descendants together; more than two centuries later, in the very part of London where it was created.



Gould Family

As part of the Society's contribution to the 2024 Lambeth Heritage Festival, two members of the Local History group, **Mike Tuffrey** and historian and author **Timothy Walker**, gave an enthralling presentation in September to a packed Omnibus Theatre. The subject was Daniel Gould's 1815 plan of Clapham, which locates approximately 200 houses, and institutional buildings such as Holy Trinity Church, St Paul's and the workhouse in Clapham North.

Gould, who was known contemporarily as a surveyor particularly noted for his finely detailed illustrations, arrived in Clapham as a tallow chandler, making candles at premises between the Two Brewers and Plough public houses on Clapham High Street. He only began surveying

after his arrival here. In revealing how little is known about this important figure in Clapham's history, Mike drew attention to the story unearthed over many years by Margaret Knighton, four times great-granddaughter of Daniel Gould, who was present at the talk along with six other family members. As physical records there exist only the map, recently rediscovered in Lambeth Archives, and a single letter Gould wrote to his brother in Bristol, around which Mike's research was based. More can be found at claphamsociety.com/articles/41-daniel-gould-surveyor.

Timothy Walker then drew fascinating comparisons between Clapham and Bath, illuminating Mike's description of the village of Gould's day from his current research. Timothy offered us an entertaining window into the bustling lives of the then residents, whose social activities centred largely around the Assembly Rooms, attached at that time to the Plough.

Below, from left: Timothy Walker and Mike Tuffrey, with the three generations of Daniel Gould's descendants who gathered to hear them. Keith Knighton, husband of Margaret Knighton, née Gould (**front**) – Daniel Gould's four times great-granddaughter; Claire Gould; Mike Gould; Simon Gould; George Gould; George Knighton.



Ruth Eastman

Our 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 questions and discussion. (We are currently reviewing the start time of our meetings, so please watch this space.) Meetings are free and open to non-members, who are invited to donate. The Café Bar is open from 6pm for drinks and snacks.

Monday 18 November

Mr Atkinson's Rum Contract: Confronting a family's slave-owning past – an 18th-century genealogical odyssey, starting with a tumbledown house and a cardboard box full of old letters, culminating in the present day with the ruins of a Jamaican sugar estate and the results of a DNA test. **Richard Atkinson** is a book publisher and a founder member of Heirs of Slavery, a group supporting campaigns to tackle the ongoing consequences of transatlantic slavery. He lives in Clapham Old Town.

There are no meetings in December.

Look out for details of The Clapham Society's 2025 talks in the next Newsletter.

Rodenhurst 'School Street' closures

Letters to residents of Rodenhurst and nearby roads went out in early October to inform them that Iqra Primary School (iqra.lambeth.sch.uk) will be receiving a 'School Street' on **4 November**. A School Street is a temporary road closure at school drop-off and pick-up times, 8.15-9.15am and 2.45-3.45pm, Monday to Friday during term time. Residents of the streets, Blue Badge holders and emergency vehicles are exempt from this closure.

The temporary closure will operate on Rodenhurst Road from the junction with Park Hill to the junction with Hambalt Road; Park Hill from the junction with Crescent Lane to the junction with Clarence Avenue; and Clarence Avenue from the junction with King's Avenue to the junction with Maple Close. Lambeth Council will be collecting feedback for six months from 4 November.

Please also email your local councillors: Ben Curtis (BCurtis@lambeth.gov.uk) and Alison Inglis-Jones (AInglisJones@lambeth.gov.uk).
Alison Inglis-Jones

Perceptions of London

It was a pleasure for me, as a current Livery Master, to be invited to report on two authoritative and informative talks on the history and institutions of the City of London at the Society's 16 September meeting.

Margaret Willes (below), author and historian, formerly the Publisher at the National Trust, gave us fascinating insights from her books *In the Shadow of St Paul's Cathedral: The Churchyard that Shaped London* and *Liberty over London Bridge: A History of the*



Dana Kubick (and right)

People of Southwark (both published by Yale University Press). She began her talk by recalling her memory of St Paul's on a visit with her father in 1953 (Coronation year). The Blitz had flattened the area containing buildings in the Churchyard and Paternoster Row, which had for centuries been the heart of the English book world. Following the Reformation, the Cathedral's nave had become a secular space, and the surrounding area operated as a sort of hinge between the financial and civic centre of the City and what we now call the West End, with the Royal Court at its heart.

Thomas Carlyle described St Paul's as *The Times* newspaper for the nation, referring to the cross and open pulpit in the northeast corner of the churchyard, established in the 13th century. Sermons were preached there, notices given and proclamations made. It was natural that the area became a centre of the book trade.

Following the Second World War it took years for the area around St Paul's to be rebuilt; the many publishers who had occupied premises in Paternoster Row found locations elsewhere, in particular by joining the (publishing) houses that had been established in Bloomsbury. One reminder of earlier times is Stationers' Hall in Ave Maria Lane.

Clapham Society member **Helen Esmonde (above right)** spoke about the book she and Margaret are working on about the Livery Companies of the City, *City Unlocked: From wool to digital*, due to be published by Profile Books in Spring 2025. Helen is a Past (and the first woman) Master of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, which formed as a Guild of Stationers in 1403 when itinerant manuscript writers and limners (illustrators of illuminated manuscripts) set up stalls or 'stations' around St Paul's. She

explained that the history of the Livery trades mirrors the growth of the English economy. The word 'Guild' is derived from the Saxon 'to pay', as members generally paid to be members of their Guild. The oldest company is the Worshipful Company of Weavers, first mentioned in a pipe roll (record of a payment to the Exchequer) of Henry I in 1130 and granted a Royal Charter by Henry II in 1155.

There are now 111 companies, the latest being the Worshipful Company of Nurses, which became a Livery Company in 2023 and closely followed modern-day companies such as the Information Technologists, the Security Professionals, the Management Consultants and the Tax Advisers. From wool to digital indeed!

The order of precedence, established by the Lord Mayor in 1515, puts the so-called 'Big Twelve' at the top, headed by the Mercers. This order was not determined by age, but by economic or political power. So, Helen's company is number 47; mine (the Glaziers) is number 53, based on a Royal Charter granted in 1638 by Charles I, even though a Glaziers' Guild operated in the City from the early 14th century. The order of precedence gave rise to the saying 'at sixes and sevens'. Its origin is a dispute between the Merchant Taylors and the Skinners, which was resolved by annually alternating their places: six and seven. Helen provided us with a number of fascinating facts – too many to record here. The Goldsmiths, for example, gave rise to the word 'hallmark' – the mark applied to gold and silver items assayed in their Hall. The Company of Grocers was originally known as the Guild of Pepperers. Its power and prestige are largely derived from its trade in, and control of, spices, with the right of weighing goods *en gros* ('in gross'), hence its name from the 1370s to this day.

Most Companies support the crafts, trades, professions or industries with which they are associated, often by promoting education, training, apprenticeships and internships. They devote their resources to charity and philanthropy, although few can match the charitable giving of the Mercers, which currently stands at about £10 million a year.

We were treated to two stimulating talks by Margaret and Helen, and we await their book, *City Unlocked: From wool to digital*, with eagerness and interest. **Clive Osborne**



Wikimedia Commons by Leonard Griffin



The Arts Society Clapham Common

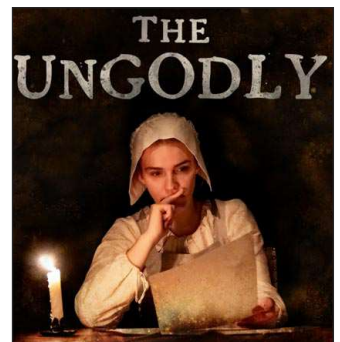
Vivienne Lawes, curator, author and journalist, presents a talk on **Clarice Cliff (1899–1972): The Doyenne of Art Deco**. She will explore an artist whose work, inventiveness and ability to catch the zeitgeist is still admired nearly a century after her 'Bizarre' masterpieces (Fantasque 'Melon' vase, shape 14 and Fantasque 'Circle Tree' Eton shape coffee pot, 1930, *above*) were launched in 1927. Clarice Cliff went on to produce designs that keyed into the cutting-edge trends of the period, setting the bar for ceramics as a commercial art form.

Wednesday, 20 November, 11am. Clapham Picturehouse, 76 Venn Street, SW4 0AT. Visitor (non-member) tickets, £10, or email claphamcommon@theartsociety.org to join. **Susan Holder**

Southwark Playhouse: Reader offer

We were pleased when Southwark Playhouse, only a short bus or Tube ride away from Clapham, contacted us to offer this discount to their latest production. They found us because of our local history links, albeit of a different ilk and location to the play! It's 1645. A dark shadow is spreading across England with suspicions of witchcraft on the rise. In the remote village of Mistley, Susan Edwards, step-sister of self-proclaimed Witchfinder General Matthew Hopkins, has a choice to make. Does she choose to believe that the powers of Satan have found their way into the villagers' homes – or, instead, search for the truth in a community torn apart by fear, intolerance and hysteria? Written and directed by Joanna Carrick, the play is based on true events. Expect a gripping, chilling story about history, womanhood and power.

Runs from late October until 16 November. Southwark Playhouse, 77-85 Newington Causeway, SE1 6BD. Society members and readers of this Newsletter get 20% off standard tickets. Quote code: UNGODLY20. For tickets, travel details and showtimes, visit southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/the-ungodly.



Omnibus Theatre goes back in time (a bit)



Omnibus presents the London premiere of *Club Life*, winner of the 2023 Fringe First at the Edinburgh Festival. Electronic music duo **Lemon Jelly's Fred Deakin** hosts an interactive joy ride through the lens of his crazy clubland adventures in the 1980s and '90s.

Tuesday 12 to Thursday 14 November. Omnibus Theatre,

1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW. For tickets and showtimes, visit omnibus-clapham.org/club-life.

Dulwich Picture Gallery

The first major exhibition devoted to visionary artist and designer, **Tirzah Garwood**, opens this month. Best known until now as the wife of Eric Ravilious, some of whose work will be on show, Garwood excelled as a fine artist and printmaker. The retrospective is the first to represent the full extent of her output.

19 November 2024 to 26 May 2025. Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, SE21 7AD. Find more details at dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk.



Clapham Chamber Concerts

CCC are thrilled to welcome the **Brompton String Quartet**, winners of the 2019 St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Music Competition and the 2022 Royal College of Music String Quartet Competition. This engaging and dynamic ensemble will present Haydn's String Quartet No 3 and Mozart's 'Dissonance' Quartet, paired with the

Baroque sound world in an arrangement by Alex Fortes of Barbara Strozzi's 'L'amante modesto' as well as contemporary works by Jessie Montgomery and Isidora Žebeljan. An original, thought-provoking programme performed by four outstanding musicians.

Friday, 8 November, 7pm. St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets are available on the door, or book in advance at claphamchamberconcerts.org.uk. **Barbara Lake**



St Luke's discussion

Here are more details, as promised, about the opening event of the 150th anniversary celebrations at St Luke's. The theme is **Building communities: Connecting and inspiring change**. The panel will be chaired by Sean Curran, presenter, BBC Radio 4, and will include local historian **Timothy Walker** who will speak about the history of St Luke's; **Martin Gainsborough**, Bishop of Kingston; **Giles Fraser** of Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* and Vicar of St Anne's Church, Kew; **Mohamed Ali**, founder of the Elays Network, a Wandsworth community charity; and Sarah Rackham, previous leader, Katherine Low Settlement Battersea. Free, but please book to help plan numbers at stlukeschurch.org.uk/calendar.

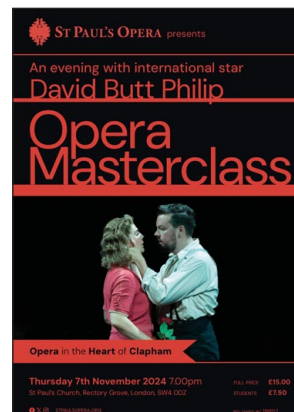
Thursday 14 November, 7.15-9.15pm; doors open at 6.30pm. St Luke's, corner of Ramsden and Thurleigh Roads, SW12 8RQ.

St Paul's Opera: David Butt Philip Masterclass

One of the objects of the St Paul's Opera charity is to provide vocal opportunities for singers early in their careers with performance and masterclass guidance. Our patron, **David Butt Philip**, is one of the world's leading tenors; he is also a master in the art of coaching singers in their craft. The talented young stars of the July production of *Die Fledermaus* return to reap the benefits of his vast experience and wisdom.

If you have never been to a masterclass before, we asked SPO Friend Chris North for his reactions as a first-timer. 'David Butt Philip's encouragement – always kind, positive and helpful – produced improvements within 10 minutes. Not only did it help the singers, it gave us, the audience, a glimpse into the world of opera by deconstructing arias and showing just how much goes into a performance. A masterclass is not a private music lesson!'

Thursday 7 November. St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DZ. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £15 (£16 at the door) from stpaulsopera.org, where you can also find details on how to become a Supporter Friend of St Paul's Opera. **Tricia Ninian**



St Luke's Music Society: Top brass

Following their stunning appearance in 2022 the **A4 Brass Quartet** return to St Luke's Music Society by popular demand, supported by Gregson's Solicitors. These leading players in the Northern brass band movement will present a programme ranging from Thomas Tallis to John Rutter by way of Bach, Vaughan Williams and Percy Grainger.

Saturday 9 November, 7.30pm. St Luke's Church, Ramsden Road, SW12 8RQ. Tickets are available from slms.org.uk.

Christmas fairs and carols on the Common

• The Wandsworth Friends of Royal Trinity Hospice

bring their popular Christmas Fair back to St Luke's Church this month. The fair offers Christmas shoppers high-quality stalls selling a mix of stylish gifts. Clothing, decorations, jewellery, gadgets, toys and books

are among the many things on offer, with money raised in aid of Royal Trinity Hospice. The Christmas Fair opens for the **Preview evening on Tuesday 12 November at 6pm** (ticketed, £15 per person), and continues on **Wednesday 13 November, 8.30am-3.30pm** (£5 per person). For tickets, more details and to donate to Royal Trinity Hospice, visit royaltrinityhospicechristmasfair.org.

Royal Trinity Hospice is proudly supported by the Wandsworth Friends of Royal Trinity Hospice Christmas Fair Committee whose fundraising has played a huge part in contributing to the delivery of free palliative and end-of-life care over the last three decades to people living in central and southwest London. **Anna Reid**

• **The Church of the Holy Spirit** will hold its Christmas fair on **Saturday 30 November, 12-4pm**. Preparations are underway to make seasonally flavoured vodka, plant bulbs for Christmas flowering, create decorative covered coathangers and more. Enjoy music, mince pies and mulled wine. All are welcome. Entrance, £1 for adults. **The Church of the Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9JU.**

• **Save the date for carols on the Bandstand** when **Friends of Clapham Common** will be holding their annual festive sing on **Sunday 8 December at 3pm**. This year's conductor, they are pleased to announce, is the brilliant **Derek Carden** of St Luke's. Jollity ensured!





4 August 1944, for example, a German flying bomb brought devastation. Fortunately the residents, sheltering in the Clapham South Deep Shelter, all survived. More recently a bungalow (*below*), built on the site of a garage, won the RIBA London Award 2017 (bit.ly/4etN9jJ), and was longlisted for House of The Year. In the pandemic a WhatsApp group brought isolated residents in the street together to form the thriving community Bracken Avenue is today.

Story and photographs by Simon James

Next month: Thomas Cubitt's Clapham New Park estate

To find out more about your street, email history@claphamsociety.com.

Clapham streets: Bracken Avenue

Until the mid-1800s Bracken Avenue, off Nightingale Lane, was part of a farmer's field. On the 1838 tithe map, the farm falls within the Parish of Clapham Detached – a detached, literally, part of Clapham that formed a notch into what was then Streatham Parish. The farm's freeholder, Miss Mercy Mary Bellamy, lived in Clapham House, on whose site now stands Clapham Mansions (the red-brick mansion block on Nightingale Lane facing the West Side of the Common and the tennis courts). Miss Bellamy died in 1840, and over the next few years a row of large houses with long gardens was built along the (same) south side of Nightingale Lane. In 1913 Edwin Evans, a developer, bought two of these properties, The Oaks and The Brackens, and demolished them to build Bracken Avenue. The little estate of Arts and Crafts-style houses still stands today.

The quiet street has had its ups and downs. At midnight on



Wandsworth Historical Society



The latest issue of *The Wandsworth Historian* recalls the many achievements of the Battersea-based sculptors Horace and Paul Raphael Montford, discusses how to explore the records of the Wandsworth & Clapham Union Workhouse, and uncovers more details about Queen Mary's fateful car crash in Wimbledon Park Road in 1939. There is also a touching story about a framed long service certificate (*left*), dated 1938, which has been

traced back and reunited with the family whose forebear was its recipient, a full five years after being 'rescued from its date with destiny at the local tip'. All this and more is in the Autumn issue.

The Wandsworth Historian is published by the Wandsworth Historical Society, wandsworthhistory.org.uk. It costs £3 plus £3 p&p from WHS, 119 Heythorp Street, SW18 5BT, or email 020neil119@gmail.com. Cheques are payable to Wandsworth Historical Society, although online payment (details from the email address above) is preferred. *Neil Robson*

Membership news

A very warm welcome this month goes to Neil, Vanessa and India Gray; and to Brian Parsons and Richard Syred. This is the perfect time of year to give a friend or family member a **gift subscription** to *The Clapham Society*. Email me at the address below and I will be pleased to send you details. *Jennifer Everett*

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

Chairman **Mark Leffler**
mark.leffler88@gmail.com

Vice Chair **Alison Macnair**
vicechair@claphamsociety.com

Secretary **Gillian White**
secretary@claphamsociety.com

Treasurer **David Brown**
treasurer@claphamsociety.com

Membership Secretary **Jennifer Everett**
membership@claphamsociety.com

Meetings and Events **Christine Armstrong**
events@claphamsociety.com

Common and Open Spaces **Michael Barry**
mbarryuk@claphamsociety.com

Local History and Publications **Alyson Wilson**
history@claphamsociety.com

Social Media **Alison Inglis-Jones**
socialmedia@claphamsociety.com

Newsletter Editor and Instagram **Ruth Eastman**
news@claphamsociety.com

Previous Newsletters and details of our meetings, activities and publications can be all found at claphamsociety.com.



For more information about our sponsor, **Audley Villages**, please telephone 020 3510 5059 or visit audleyvillages.co.uk.