

The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 330

September 2010

A history map of Clapham and the Common

The Society has recently published a history map of Clapham and the Common. Each side has six pictures showing aspects of Clapham in the past. The map is intended for free distribution, to promote interest in Clapham – and not least to publicise the Society. It will be available at our meetings and copies will go to members with the November newsletter. (We are sorry that it is impractical to get it to you with earlier newsletters).

We launched the new map at Ben & Jerry's Sundae on the Common, on 24 and 25 July. Once again, this was a well-run family event. As well as the music acts on the stage, there were the popular helter-skelter and an old fashioned roundabout. Much free ice cream was eaten! The Society had a small display of maps and pictures.



Anna Jefferson Smith, Alison Macnair and Jill Cramphorn on the Clapham Society's stand at Ben & Jerry's Sundae on the Common

There are still some places available for the visit to Sambrook's Brewery on **Wednesday 22 September**. Contact Bill Emmett (telephone 020 7622 9234 or email bill@perlem.demon.co.uk) for details and to book your place.

Wandsworth Museum opening

The new museum in the former library at 38 West Hill, SW18 1RZ will be officially opened by the Mayor of London on **Wednesday 1 September** and will be open to the public from 10 am on **Friday 3 September**. The first temporary exhibition is entitled *Wandsworth in a Hundred Objects*. We shall have more about the [museum next month](#).

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www.claphamsociety.com

Our regular monthly meetings are held at Clapham Manor Primary School, Belmont Road, SW4 0BZ. The entrance to the school in Stonhouse Street, through the new building, is **NOT open for our evening meetings**. Use the Belmont Road entrance, cross the playground and enter the building on the right. The hall is open from 7.30 pm when coffee and tea are normally available. The talk begins promptly at 8 pm and most meetings finish by 9.30 pm.

Wednesday 15 September

The Eric Smith Lecture. Professor Andrew Saint will talk about the *Survey of London's* work in Battersea. The 49th and 50th volumes of the *Survey of London*, to be published in 2013, cover the parish of Battersea. Along with a concurrent project on Woolwich, these will be the first parish volumes the Survey has devoted to South London since it completed its work on Lambeth over fifty years ago. The task is a big one, as Battersea stretches north and west of Clapham from Nine Elms almost as far as Balham. It includes many areas often associated with Clapham, notably the 'Between the Commons' district and the streets between the North Side of Clapham Common and Lavender Hill. After

presenting a short history of the *Survey of London* and an explanation of its work, the talk will concentrate on the methods the Survey team is adopting to cover this large area and the discoveries it has made so far, with special reference to Clapham.

Andrew Saint is the General Editor of the *Survey of London*. Besides his interests in London's history, he has also written widely about architecture, and his biography of the Victorian architect Richard Norman Shaw has recently been reissued in a new edition. He lives in Kennington.

Wednesday 20 October

Annual General Meeting. The guest speaker is **Councillor Steve Reed, Leader of Lambeth Council**. (See Agenda overleaf)

Wednesday 17 November

An Unpredictable Life. In 1948 at the age of 16 **Maurice Stewart** bought a house in Clapham with his earnings as a child performer in grand opera, films and theatre. If you remember Clapham Society evenings with Noel Coward, Samuel Pepys and Victorian Musical Hall put together by this man of many parts, you will expect the unexpected. We have invited Maurice to tell us more about his sixty-year international career working in many different branches of the entertainment industry from a base in the Old Town. No songs and other actors this time, just a few unlikely stories set in Clapham between 1945 and 2009.

There is no meeting in December

Published by **The Clapham Society**, a registered charity No 279595
Member Society of the London Forum
Printed by Cantate 020 7622 3401

On the Common

First, the good news. Following the long dry spell some of the young trees on the Common were looking to be in very poor condition. Thanks to the efforts of Trees for Cities and local people many are producing green leaves again. Our particular thanks to the two members who took on additional watering of the two commemorative trees planted by the Society last October; both are now doing well.

Secondly, the much less good news. Members may be aware that Transport for London has listed 145 traffic signals for potential removal in order to smooth traffic flow. We have now learned that all three pedestrian crossings on The Avenue (South Circular) at Broomwood Road, Windmill Drive and Nightingale Walk are included in that list. We are preparing comments, but if members want to contact the relevant officer at TfL directly his name is Andrew Miles, email andrew.miles@tfl.gov.uk.

Clapham Community Choir

Following a fantastic first term, Clapham Community Choir is holding a 'Come and Sing' session on **Wednesday 15 September** at 7.30 pm in St. Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. This is a non-audition choir open to everyone – no previous choral experience/note-reading skills are required. If you are interested in singing for fun in a friendly environment, then come along and give it a go – no need to book, just turn up and sing. A wide range of repertoire is covered from Gershwin to Abba, world, folk, pop music and much more.

The choir meets each Wednesday from 7.30 pm to 9 pm in St. Paul's Church, Rectory Grove. Conductor: Jessie Maryon Davies (Royal Academy graduate). Cost: £5 per session. For more information go to claphamchamberconcerts@gmail.com.

Prescott Place Market

On **Saturday 18 September** St Peter's Church are holding an Outdoor Market in Prescott Place in conjunction with their neighbours, The Papered Parlour. There will be many stalls with plenty of breads, cakes and jams for sale, as well as an early choice of Christmas presents.

Trinity River Walk On **Sunday 26 September** Trinity Hospice will be holding its first ever River Walk. Support the Hospice by taking part in a 5k or 10k stroll along the Thames towpath. Entry: £10 Adults / £5 Children. For registration or more information call 020 7787 1085 or email lbull@trinityhospice.org.uk.

THE 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 47th Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on Wednesday 20 October 2010 at Clapham Manor Primary School, Belmont Road, London SW4, starting at 8 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (21 October 2009) published in the Newsletter No 323, December 2009/January 2010, and available at the meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2010
4. Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010
5. Election of the Officers and Committee Members for the year 2010-2011

Chairman	Treasurer
Vice-Chairman	Solicitor
Secretary	Membership Secretary
A maximum of ten further Committee Members	
6. Re-appointment of the Independent Examiner
7. Any other business and announcements

After the formal business there will be a break for refreshments.

Following the break the guest speaker will be Councillor Steve Reed, Leader of Lambeth Council.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the election of Officers and Committee Members must be made to the Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Every nomination must be in writing, supported by a seconder. The consent of the person nominated must be obtained.

Jill Cramphorn, Hon Secretary, 552 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JX

Snow White and the Seven Designers

Local designer and enthusiastic Clapham Society member, Tim Gosling, who spoke to the Society last February about his Clapham base, Sycamore House, and hosted a visit to the house this summer, is one of the organisers as well as a star of this pantomime for the benefit of the charity, Dementia UK. The show will feature other well-known interior designers including Nina Campbell, Tessa Kennedy and Joanna Wood, while the costumes are by leading fashion designers including Vivienne Westwood (another Clapham resident), Zandra Rhodes, Paul Smith, Bruce Oldfield and Valentino.

This is the fourth year the group has organised a pantomime in aid of charity and their productions have gone from strength to strength. More details of the shows can be found at www.interiordesignerspantomime.com.

Snow White and the Seven Designers will run at the Garrick Theatre in Charing Cross Road from **12 to 16 October**. Tickets from £21 are available from the box office on 0844 412 4662 or on line at www.nimaxtheatres.com. All proceeds will go to Dementia UK, a national charity supporting families with dementia.

Clapham Cycle Superhighway

The mention of the Cycle Superhighway in our last newsletter prompted our GLA member, Valerie Shawcross, who represents Labour on transport issues, to table a question to the Mayor of London on the subject.

Quoting the piece in our newsletter, she asked the Mayor: 'How do you advise me to provide comfort to Clapham residents who are thus un-awed by the Cycle Superhighway's blue-ness in their midst?' He replied: 'The blue colour of Barclays Cycle Superhighways was adopted after extensive customer research, and mirrors a successful approach adopted in other European cities. The blue colour has a safety function and will raise the profile of cycling infrastructure with other road users, making it clear that this is a place motorists can expect to find a large number of cyclists.'

Lambeth City Learning Centre

is re-opening this month in the former Clapham Parochial School building in Rectory Grove. We will be reporting next month on the skilful and imaginative transformation of this historic building.

Animals and Battersea

For the last meeting before our summer break Dr Hilda Kean, Dean of Ruskin College, Oxford, and director of the MA in Public History and author of books and articles on animal rights and the cultural position of animals, gave an interesting talk on the development of the animal welfare movement in Battersea. In the late 19th century this was a fast-growing, progressive area, with a large working class population, a radical Member of Parliament (John Burns), and was a site of campaigning for the suffragette Charlotte Despard and other radical women.

The Dogs' Home was founded in 1860 in Holloway, by Mary Tealby, as a temporary refuge for lost dogs, until they could be reunited with their owners. It was a philanthropic 'home' rather than a place of detention, and animals could not be sold for vivisection. The endorsement of Charles Dickens, a best-selling 'autobiography' of a lost dog (written by his mistress, Frances Power Cobbe) and Queen Victoria's interest in dogs all helped foster the idea of animal welfare as represented by the Dogs' Home. In 1871 the Home moved south to Battersea.

In the same year the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution was started, with funds from a trust set up in the will of Thomas Brown, on a site in Wandsworth Road, almost opposite the present Sainsbury's at Nine Elms. This was a veterinary medical centre for the treatment (generally as 'outpatients') of all animals, but mainly horses in the early years. The centre survived until 1944. Under its pioneering first superintendent, Sir John Burdon-Sanderson, research was carried out into immunisation and rabies. The question of muzzling dogs, lest they spread rabies, was controversial and led to petitions and protests locally.

In 1905 the Anti-Vivisection Hospital was set up in Albert Bridge Road, Battersea, just opposite the south-east entrance to the park, where poor patients were cared for, free of charge, by doctors opposed to vivisection. No medication derived from, or tested on, animals was used. At this time there was strong support for anti-vivisection campaigns, which came to a head in 1903 with what became known as the Brown Dog Affair. Two Swedish women activists, Louise Lind-af-Hageby and Leisa Schartau, enrolled on a medical course at University College London to expose the nature of experimentation on animals. They made a detailed record of experiments, particularly one on a brown terrier, listing the several offences, and alleging that the students joked and laughed during the procedure. The women published a book, *The Shambles of Science* and Stephen Coleridge of the National Anti-Vivisection Society read from the book in public to provoke the college scientists. In turn they sued Coleridge for libel, and won. However, this ensured positive publicity for the anti-vivisection cause.

Funds were raised for a memorial to the Brown Dog, which was to be located in Battersea because of its radical anti-vivisection links. In 1906 the bronze statue on a granite plinth with a drinking fountain and a trough for animals, and a descriptive inscription was erected in the newly built municipal Latchmere Estate. However, this was not the end of the story. Riots, petitions, campaigns, demonstrations and clashes between the two sides ensued, and finally the statue was removed and destroyed in 1910. In the 1980s a new statue to the Brown Dog was commissioned from sculptor, Nicola Hicks, and erected in Battersea Park. (It is located on the path next to the Old English garden). There is a subtle difference between the two statues. While the original depicted an assertive dog, sitting upright, and apparently chastising the scientists' lack of compassion, the replacement is of the sculptor's dog with cocked ear engaging with his mistress and is not an image of a modern dog, such as a beagle, subjected to vivisection.

We are grateful to Dr Kean for an interesting talk, and especially so since she very kindly agreed to speak without her prepared visual aids, which the computer system refused to transmit.

Hilda is currently working on a book on cats and dogs in London during the Second World War. She would be delighted to hear of any family stories about the part played by pets at this time. Please email her: hkean@ruskin.ac.uk.

Summer Walks

In place of our monthly meetings we had two very successful walks this summer. In July Mary Coales took us along the North Side of Clapham Common, explaining the history of the various buildings, finishing at St Barnabas' Church, at the north-western tip of the Common. The church was open for us to see the imaginative adaptation of the interior.

In August David Perkin and Peter Jefferson Smith led a walk through Old Town to the heart of old Clapham, St Paul's Church in Rectory Grove. Here Peter showed us the memorials to William Hewer, and the Atkins family, which have survived from the earlier church on the site. And Tim Gosling kindly took us in to Sycamore House on our return route.

Open House London

This wonderful free opportunity to see inside buildings all over London takes place this year on **Saturday 18 September** and **Sunday 19 September**. Among the local buildings opening their doors are Clapham Manor Primary School, which won an RIBA award last year and has now been nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize for Architecture; Bateman Mews, an RIBA award winning housing scheme at Clapham North; the Beefeater Distillery in Kennington and Beaconsfield, a space for contemporary art converted from part of the former Lambeth Ragged School in Vauxhall. The booklet showing full details of all the buildings and opening times is available now at public libraries, or via www.openhouselondon.org.uk.

Trinity Hospice concert

The London European Orchestra and the Rotary Club of Chelsea are presenting a musical evening in aid of Trinity Hospice on **Thursday 30 September** at 7.30 pm at the Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1. The programme includes Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*, and *Triple Concerto* closing with Brahms's *Symphony No 3*. The performance will be followed by a drinks reception and an opportunity to meet the soloists, conductor and the team from Trinity. Tickets at £20 and £25 are available from the Cadogan Hall on 7730 4500 or online at www.cadoganhall.com or from Julia Phillips on 020 7787 1054 or jphillips@trinityhospice.org.uk.

Clapham Chamber Concerts

The autumn season begins on **Friday 24 September** with a recital for cello and piano with dancers. This unusual concert includes the music of Debussy, Arnold and Britten performed by Royal Academy graduates Sophie Rivlin ('cello) and Jessie Maryon Davies (piano) with choreography from Lorraine Smith, founder of Silversmith Dance Theatre; Dena Lague, dancer with Matthew Bourne's New Adventures dance company, and Kate Wakeling, whose interpretations of Balinese dance have included performances at LSO St Luke's, Shunt, Groucho Club and the Dartington College of Arts. St. Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets £9 available on the door, include refreshments in the interval.

Dulwich Picture Gallery will be closed from **1 to 14 September** while the shop and entrance are refurbished, prior to the gallery's 200-year celebrations in 2011. The café and education centre will remain open as usual.

Lambeth Archives

The Open Day at Lambeth Archives is on **Saturday 25 September** at the Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9 QY. This year's title is 'Film Lambeth' and throughout the day there will be screenings, talks and an exhibition on this theme. Talks include a local history of the cinema by Robert Holden and the history of home movies by David Cleveland. There will be a workshop about tracing your Lambeth house history given by Len Reilly of Lambeth Archives and a one-woman drama about Edwardian life in South London.

Local history and amenity societies, including the Clapham Society, have stands which are manned throughout the day by local historians. This is an ideal opportunity to find out more about the history of South London and meet others with similar interests. The day is free and runs from 10 am to 4 pm. The full programme will be available at our September meeting.

The Papered Parlour

We were delighted to learn that The Papered Parlour was the winner of the Barclay's Take One Step competition in the South London region. The prize of £50,000 will enable them to expand the business, to continue supporting local artists, to invest in new equipment for their contemporary craft and design workshops, to open a café on site and to create a shop-front where the work of designer-makers can be shown.

To check out the autumn schedule, see their website www.thepaperedparlour.co.uk, telephone 020 7627 8703 or drop in at 7 Prescott Place, SW4 6BS.

The Papered Parlour will also be taking part in the Lambeth Open Studios weekend on **Saturday 2 October** and **Sunday 3 October**.

Lambeth – the Co-operative Council

At this year's Clapham Society AGM the speaker will be Steve Reed, Leader of Lambeth Council. He will use the occasion to talk about his ideas for the authority's future – and that of the people who count on it for public services, and pay for them.

Earlier this year the Council announced that it was going to change the way it worked, adopting a co-operative approach in place of the usual structure of local government. A headline in *The Guardian* read 'Labour to rebrand Lambeth as a "John Lewis" Council'. As examples of what might be involved, we were told about active citizens' dividends (perhaps in the form of a discount on your council tax bill); opportunities to vote on running primary schools and youth clubs as mutual bodies, and housing estates as tenants' co-operatives; and ways in which we could run care services by pooling our own personalised budgets.

To those with strong party political allegiances these ideas are very different from the 'Big Society' promoted by the Conservative Party in its 2010 election campaign and by the coalition subsequently. To the rest of us, the main point seems to be that both involve substituting the efforts of volunteers for the work currently performed by public servants, and paid for out of public money, whether by Whitehall or the Town Hall.

Now, Lambeth are carrying out a consultation exercise on 'the type of relationship we need to create between the citizen and public services' and 'how we can deliver services that meet local need in a period of tighter funding'. We have a Co-operative Council Commission, the members of which include some of the Left's policy thinkers, and individuals with experience of running public services and of the third, not-for-profit, or voluntary sector. Encouragingly, most of them live in the borough.

To participate in the consultation, you do not necessarily have to spend evenings sitting on a hard chair in a community centre: you can use the online Wiki (although almost no-one does) or follow developments on Facebook or Twitter. The Council has published a paper setting out its ideas, and presenting the issues on which it wants views. If you haven't made your response known yet, you will have to be quick: the Commission is supposed to produce its report by October. There have been a number of events for members of the public in Clapham and other parts of the borough. There is to be a Clapham Park Expo between 16 and 23 October, but we don't yet know exactly where it will be held.

These ideas are full of possibility for us all to contribute our ideas, energy and skills for our own benefit and that of the community in which we live. They're also vulnerable to all sorts of objections and risks – as the consultation paper acknowledges. For the Clapham Society, the question must be: is there anything in the new approaches being taken by both central and local government that we can use to bring about our aim, improving the quality of life of people who live and work in Clapham?

To comment on the proposals write to: Co-operative Council, Freepost RLSK-SSJL-KXKK, Room 113A, Lambeth Town Hall, London SW2 1RW.

Telephone 020 7926 3778 or email cooperativecouncil@lambeth.gov.uk.

Alison Macnair

New members We are pleased to welcome the following new members in recent months: Paul Gadsby, Paul Gilluley and Tim Hardy, Joy Hackett, Emmanuella Kwenortey, Julie Newton, Nick Prior, Catherine Russell-Clarke, Chris Stent and Sara Williams, Sally and Dominic Sullivan, Anne Wagner and Tim Clark, Emily Wallace and Alex Nickson, Liam and Samantha Walker, Alan White, Anne Wilson, and Adrian Winch.

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 **The Clapham Society** website at www.claphamsociety.com.