

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 358

June 2013

## Plaque for the Old Fire Station



The fourth of the Society's green plaques, recording the former use of historic buildings, will be erected on The Lodge, 33 The Pavement. (This is the building immediately opposite The Frog pub) The Lodge was built in 1868 as Clapham Fire Station, and it remained in use as such until 1902, when a new station was built on the present site in Old Town.

The plaque will be unveiled on **Wednesday 5 June** at 5 pm, by Professor Andrew Saint, General Editor of the *Survey of London*. Do come along and join the celebration!

## Lambeth Local Plan

Lambeth has recently published its draft local plan for consultation. It contains planning policies which will set the pattern for change in the borough for the next fifteen years.

We have urged that the section on Clapham places greater emphasis on the need to keep the night-time economy in Clapham High Street under control, and to improve public transport to relieve congestion on the Northern Line. We were encouraged to see policies which aim to retain what is left of the retail role of the High Street and local centres like Abbeville Road by limiting the number of premises that can change from shops to restaurants and bars.

Otherwise there are no new large scale development sites left in Clapham; all are either built, on site, or already have planning permission. So pressure for extra housing space will take the form of proposals to extend buildings and for small new developments where sites can be found. The draft plan contains policies to ensure that such changes maintain Clapham's character and are well designed, and we had made recommendations to beef them up where we think necessary.

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. Meetings are free and non-members are very welcome.

### Wednesday 19 June

**Emily Wilding Davison and the Suffragette Campaign in 1913.** In this centenary year of the death of Emily Davison, who made the ultimate sacrifice of her life in support of the suffragette campaign, **Beverley Cook**, Social and Working History Curator at the Museum of London will talk to us about this and other campaigning activities of the suffragettes, such as arson and attacks on art works and the response by the government of the day to these activities.

### Wednesday 3 July

**Summer Party.** To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clapham Society this year's party will be held in the garden of our President, Martin Drury, and his wife, in Victoria Rise. Tickets, which include drinks and canapés, are £12 each. The ticket application form is on the back page of this newsletter. Order your tickets as soon as possible, since numbers will be strictly limited.

**July and August** meetings are replaced by the following guided walks:

**Wednesday 17 July.** Clapham Common West Side led by Derrick Johnson. Meet at Clapham South Underground Station at 6.30 pm.

**Wednesday 14 August.** Clapham North led by Peter Jefferson Smith. Meet at Clapham North Underground Station at 6.30 pm.

We also have an additional walk, entitled '*The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful*' – *Revisited*, in conjunction with Wandsworth Heritage Festival on **Tuesday 11 June** starting at 6.30 pm at Clapham South Underground Station. Derrick Johnson will identify the former residences of some of the more interesting and 'exotic' people who have lived on the Wandsworth side of Clapham. This is a follow-up to Peter Jefferson Smith's talk with that title on **Tuesday 4 June** at Battersea Library at 6.30 pm. The talk and all walks are free. Come along with your friends.

## Battersea Power Station – the end of a tortuous history?

Members of the Society went to a meeting on 8 May organised by the Battersea Society to find out about the future of the Battersea Power Station site. Attempts to secure the future of this iconic but derelict building have been long and complicated – and until now questionable.

Speakers described the intentions of the latest developer consortium for the comprehensive development of

what has been called the ‘new city at Nine Elms’. The key sites are the existing Covent Garden Market, the Royal Mail Delivery Office and the Power Station. The whole site extends from Vauxhall Bridge to the railway parallel to Queenstown Road and from the Thames almost to Wandsworth Road. We were told a massive mixed development is proposed in order to secure the future of the Power Station.

Battersea Power Station was built in two stages, the western half in 1929-35 designed by engineers SL Pearce and HN Allot and architect JT Halliday. The eastern half was built in 1944-55. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was responsible for the exterior detail and it is one of the first designs for the new industrial age buildings. The Power Station partly closed in 1973 and completely in the early 1980s. Although a listed building, it has been derelict ever since.

The whole meeting was developer led with a high degree of speculation involved. The ‘master plan’ does not appear to have any Local Authority planning input, except for the presence of the leaders of Lambeth and Wandsworth Councils on the Board. Politics rather than sound planning could be the order of the day. The Power Station is hemmed in by new blocks of flats as high as or higher than the building itself and there is high density development elsewhere, including at Vauxhall.

On display at the meeting was a model of the original Power Station and evocative photos of the interior as well as models and drawings of the present proposals. We were told that a large proportion of advertised flats had been sold ‘off plan’, because of their proximity to the centre of London. The model showed a new pedestrian and cycle bridge linking Pimlico with the south bank and Wandsworth Road, a beautified Nine Elms Lane with wider pavements, planting within a central reservation, new bus and cycle lanes along the line of the existing dual carriage way – all welcome improvements.

However, no one talked about the future of the Power Station itself and this

could easily be ignored as too intractable and pricey a problem. The easier and more profitable developments are happening first, rather than securing the restoration of the Power Station which should have been a priority. What happens if developers go bust, change their mind or sell the site on? The worst scenario is that the most



*Model of proposed development of the Power Station site*

iconic building in Nine Elms City ends up as a conserved ruin with its four chimneys but with no use other than a monument to failed intentions. We await developments.

For information about the Nine Elms development go to: [nineelmslondon.com](http://nineelmslondon.com).

*Peter Cobley*

**Magnolia Walk** On **Sunday 30 June** you can choose the 2k, 5k or 10k walk around our local Commons in this annual fundraiser for Trinity Hospice. All routes end at a BBQ in the hospice garden. For more details call Aisha on 020 7787 1022.

## Local issues

Our meeting on 17 April brought local councillors and officers face to face with a good many Clapham Society members who took full advantage of the chance to make their views known on some contentious local issues.

The first topic was the Common: matters discussed included the problems of noise at, and reinstatement following, large events; the annoyance caused by the activities of groups such as British Military Fitness; and the poor state of many paths. It seemed that some of the problems were likely to diminish, but this was largely because fewer organisations were in a position to put on big events in the current economic climate.

The latest proposals for the regeneration of Old Town, Clapham Cross and the High Street – in particular the changes to parking arrangements and introduction of a contra-flow cycle lane – gave rise to animated exchanges: it was clear that many of those attending believed that further consultation on some aspects was needed. There was general agreement that Clapham’s so-called ‘vibrant night-time economy’ had got out of hand, and that steps to reduce both the number and the opening hours of licensed premises were overdue.

Members were critical of Lambeth’s current policy of selling off – at very high prices – listed buildings in Lillieshall Road and North Street which had been occupied by Lambeth tenants and licensed squatters since the 1970s. Not only did this reduce the amount of affordable housing in the area; it also created the risk that the buildings would be inappropriately altered.

Discussion only ended because time ran out, and all those present agreed that it would be good to make such meetings an annual fixture. We are most grateful to Councillors Barrett, Cosgrave, Haselden and O’Malley and Town Centre manager Jeremy Keats for their frank and thoughtful responses to the issues raised, and look forward to another chance to air our concerns next year.

*Jill Cramphorn*

## Bandstand events

The following events are planned on Clapham Common bandstand in June:

<b>Sunday 2 June</b>	Incredible Sax Band
<b>Saturday 15 June</b>	Becontree Brass Band
<b>Sunday 30 June</b>	In-Spiral Saxes

All events start at 3 pm.

**Planning applications** Since last November the Planning Sub-committee has been notified of some 160 applications, reviewed 25 of them and made representations on those listed below.

**8 Lillieshall Road.** Comments on an application to refurbish this listed building recently sold off by Lambeth. The application fails to recognise the important historic features of the building and jeopardises their conservation.

**The Alexandra, Clapham Common South Side.** Objection to an application involving extensive changes and loss of original fabric to the first floor dining room and bar of this listed pub. The timber partitions and layout are all that is left of the original interior after the ground floor was irrevocably changed some years ago without consent.

**51 Rectory Grove.** Objection to an application to refurbish this listed building. The approach to the restoration works strikes the wrong balance; too much weight is given to thermal insulation at the expense of heritage elements. Instead more emphasis should be placed on repair and restoration of traditional features.

**13 Clapham Common North Side.** Objection to an application to construct a bay window extension on the rear of this highly valued Grade II\* listed building. The preservation of such a significant building should take precedence over plans to extend it.

**Lambeth College, Clapham Common South Side.** Comments on the design of a new roof over the present open courtyard to create extra internal space. The sixth form centre is an excellent new building and these alterations need to take care not to obscure its qualities.

**49 Clapham High Street.** Objection to an application to convert this listed building into seven flats. Built in the early C19 as a house (formerly known as Brooklands), then extended around 1860, it is one of the most interesting in Clapham. Its subsequent uses as a school, then orphanage and most recently workshop and offices are still perceptible in the fabric, internal arrangement and detail today. As such they are an important social and physical document of the building's history which will be obliterated by residential conversion. The new mansard roof also destroys the evidence of incremental growth.

**26 Voltaire Road.** Objection to an application for a new building providing office and workshop space. While the provision of additional employment floorspace is to be welcomed the design in relation to its context is poor. It fails to successfully relate to its domestic neighbours and damages residents' amenity

**42 Clapham Manor Street.** Objection to an application to legitimise the presently unauthorised use of some parts of this listed building and its ancillary buildings as a dance studio. As such it represents over-use and damages residential neighbours' amenity.

**1 Rectory Gardens.** Objection to an application to enlarge the present building into a four-bedroom house. It provides poor garden space for a family house and the roof extension damages the appearance of this part of the conservation area. A more modest extension would work.

**84 Clapham Common West Side.** Objection to the way this important late C18 listed building is being refurbished and extended. The proposals do not always properly reflect the characteristics of the building's different stages of development, in particular the way the north wing is proposed to be enlarged.

**83 Park Hill.** Objection to an application to build four new houses in the rear garden. The proposals damage the character of the conservation area, their neighbours' amenity and provide poor quality living accommodation.

**White House, 65 Clapham Park Road.** Objection to an application to demolish the existing building and redevelop it with a new building with restaurant at ground level and four floors of flats above. The proposed uses are sensible, and an improvement over the present anti-social late night bar. But the building is over-large and the design, which involves retaining parts of the pub façade on an otherwise new building, is neither one thing nor the other.

## Festival Chorus

On **Saturday 6 July** at 7.30 pm the Festival Chorus, Musical Director David Fawcett will give a concert including Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, Bononcini's *Stabat Mater* and Scarlatti's *Dixit Dominus* at St Luke's Church, Ramsden Road, SW12 8RQ. Tickets £12 (concessions £8) on the door or from Northcote Music, 155 Northcote Road, SW11 or [festivalchorus.co.uk](http://festivalchorus.co.uk).

## Roads and Transport Sub-committee

We are seeking members interested in supporting the work of a revived Roads and Transport Sub-committee to concern itself with issues relating to our local streets, public transport, and traffic. In recent years the Planning Sub-committee has maintained a watching brief in this area, getting more heavily involved in discussions relating to the Gateway proposals for Old Town. It is recognised that a separate Sub-committee is needed both to spread the load and to focus on a range of matters relating to the movement of people and traffic within and through our area. The intention is to meet bi-monthly and to establish a relationship with the relevant agencies in formulating improvements to serve local needs. Mark Leffler has agreed to convene the new sub-committee, and he invites members to contact him in the first instance if they wish to highlight an issue, or if they would be interested in serving on the sub-committee. He can be contacted at: 65 Crescent Lane, SW4 9PT, or by email: [mark.leffler88@gmail.com](mailto:mark.leffler88@gmail.com).

## St Paul's Summertime Opera

On **Saturday 15 June** two one-act operas – Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor* will be performed at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Gates open at 5.30 pm for picnics in the grounds, the opera starts in the church at 7 pm and finishes at 9.45 pm. Bring your own picnic or order a hamper by email: [ed@anodimension.com](mailto:ed@anodimension.com). More details and tickets (£35, concessions £25) from Aysha Griffith on 07737 606721, [aysha.griffith@gmail.com](mailto:aysha.griffith@gmail.com).

## Dulwich Picture Gallery

Two new exhibitions start at Dulwich Picture Gallery this month. *A crisis of brilliance*, was the expression used by their drawing teacher, Henry Tonks, about the group of his students between 1908 and 1912 – CRW Nevinson, Stanley Spencer, Mark Gertler, Dora Carrington, David Bomberg and Paul Nash – who became some of the most well-known British artists of the twentieth century. An exhibition of their works, with that title, opens on **Wednesday 12 June**.

*The woman behind the gallery*, Margaret Desenfans is the title of an exhibition opening the previous day. More details on [dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk](http://dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk)

## Studio Voltaire Open House

Studio Voltaire, at 1a Nelson's Row SW4 7JR, just off Clapham High Street, is a hidden gem on the local arts scene presenting a regular programme of exhibitions, performances and events. Previous exhibitors have included Elizabeth Price, winner of last year's Turner Prize who presented her first video work at the gallery in 2006, as well as Phyllida Barlow, Hayley Tompkins and Cathy Wilkes who will be participating in the Venice Biennale this summer.

Our next exhibition, *Notes on Neo-Camp*, explores the cultural legacy of Victorian Dandyism, bringing together a group of thirteen artists from New York and London. All are welcome at the opening preview on **Thursday 6 June** at 6.30 pm.

Studio Voltaire's annual Open House on **Friday 28 June** from 6 pm to 10 pm and **Saturday 29 June** from 12 noon to 6 pm is a great opportunity to see some of the work that takes place in the 30 workspaces inside the building. There will be tasty refreshments on sale in the yard from La Grotta Ices, a BBQ run by Moen & Sons and a book sale from Clapham Books.

All events are free. See: [studiovoltaire.org](http://studiovoltaire.org) for further information

*Tamsin Clark, Studio Voltaire*

## Memories of Brixton Windmill

The Friends of Windmill Gardens have launched 'Mill Memories' asking people to come forward to share their memories of Brixton Windmill, the last surviving windmill in Lambeth, and now a popular visitor attraction following an extensive renovation. They also want feedback from people who have memories of grinding flour or producing bread elsewhere. The information gathered will be shared in a book, exhibition and theatre performance.

To find out more about 'Mill Memories' to contribute a memory, or volunteer as an interviewer to collect memories, go to [brixtonwindmill.org/memories](http://brixtonwindmill.org/memories) or email [memories@brixtonwindmill.org.uk](mailto:memories@brixtonwindmill.org.uk).

**Home, my place in the World** An exhibition which looks at the issue of migration and home through the lenses of award-winning contemporary photographers continues at Wandsworth Museum until September. Open weekdays from 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. Wandsworth Museum, 38 West Hill, SW18 1RX.

**Summer Party at 3 Victoria Rise, SW4 on Wednesday 3 July** from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Drinks and canapés.

Please send me ..... tickets @ £12 each. Cheque, payable to the Clapham Society, for £..... with a stamped self addressed envelope to Nina Murdoch, 40 Clapham Manor Street, London SW4 6DZ.

Name.....Telephone number.....

## Omnibus

George Owen was recently awarded a Lambeth Civic Award 'in recognition of his passion, drive and vision to preserve the Old Clapham Library for public use through the establishment of Omnibus, a community-based project'.

Meanwhile building work on the Old Library progresses and despite some setbacks requiring extra work, the centre plans to open in September. The alcohol license has now been granted, and Gene David Kirk, until recently Director of the Jermyn Street Theatre, has been appointed Artistic Director. If you would like to donate to this charity email [george.owen@omnibus-clapham.org](mailto:george.owen@omnibus-clapham.org).

## Trinity Hospice concert

On **Thursday 27 June** at 7.30 pm the University of London Symphony Orchestra (ULSO) conducted by Daniel Capps is giving a concert at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common, in aid of Trinity Hospice. The ULSO is widely recognised as one of the leading student orchestras in the UK, bringing together students from the main London conservatoires and music colleges, as well as other London universities. Despite busy performance schedules, both Daniel and the orchestra have kindly offered their time completely free of charge to support Trinity Hospice.

The programme starts with Dvorak's Cello *Concerto in B Minor*, with soloist Eve-Marie Caravassilis, a member of the London Symphony Orchestra. This will be followed by *Brahms' Symphony No. 1*. There will be a cash bar selling wine and champagne and a raffle with great prizes to be won. For tickets (£25, £10 under 16s) and further information contact Catherine on 020 7787 1012 or email [csykes@trinityhospice.org.uk](mailto:csykes@trinityhospice.org.uk).

**Trinity Toddle** At 9.15 am on **Friday 21 June** you are invited to bring your toddlers along to toddle (and raise money) for Trinity Hospice. For more information or to register your place please contact Catherine on 020 7787 1012, or email [csykes@trinityhospice.org.uk](mailto:csykes@trinityhospice.org.uk)

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 **our** website at [claphamsociety.com](http://claphamsociety.com).

## Clapham Chamber Concerts

The final concert this season will be a recital by Amanda Lake (violin) and Jessica Maryon Davies (piano) on **Friday 21 June** at 7.30 pm.

The programme includes Brahms' *Sonata*, Bach's *E major partita*, Ravel's *Sonata*. St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets on the door: £10, adults; £8 Friends, and concessions; £3 children. Cash bar for soft drinks and wine beforehand and during the interval. Afterwards, join the performers for drinks and eats. Free to Friends; £5 each for guests.