

The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 361

October 2013

Omnibus



The theatre at Omnibus, where we shall be holding our meetings from January 2014
I have been appointed the new artistic director of Omnibus, succeeding Gene David Kirk who has stepped down due to an ongoing health problem.

I worked closely with Gene as his deputy artistic director and would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the trustees, to thank Gene for his contribution to this exciting transition from library to multi arts venue.

We are currently applying finishing touches to the building in preparation for our autumn season starting with the return of The Moonfleet Trio. Last seen at Omnibus as part of fundraising activity, The Moonfleet Trio present a family concert for children on **Sunday 13 October**. (See details on page 2.)

Further information about the Sunday afternoon classical and contemporary music programme in November and December can be found at omnibus-clapham.org, telephone 0207 498 4699 or in person at Omnibus Box Office, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW: Monday to Friday from 10.00 am to 6 pm.

Theatre, half term activities, comedy nights and acoustic evenings are also planned for later in the month. All details will be on our website and you can receive up-to-date information directly by completing our on-line form. Go to omnibus-clapham.org, click on 'Get Involved' and then on 'Sign Up to our Mailing List', email us enquiries@omnibus-clapham.org or telephone 020 7498 4699. We still need volunteers to help with box office, ushering and the café. Please email marie.mccarthy@omnibus-clapham.org.

Finally, after seven years in the making we are ready to open our doors to a creative space for all the community aiming to offer a mix of theatre, music, talks and exhibitions, as well as family events. Our doors are open from Monday to Friday from 10 am, please come and visit and we can show you the amazing transformation of this historic Clapham landmark.

Marie McCarthy, Artistic Director Omnibus

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 16 October

Annual General Meeting. After the business meeting the guest speaker will be Baron O'Donnell of Clapham (Gus O'Donnell) former Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service. The agenda was published in the September newsletter. Note that the date of the meeting is as shown above, and not as incorrectly shown on the agenda.

Wednesday 20 November

The Survey of London and Battersea. To mark publication this month of the *Survey of London* two-volume study of Battersea's history and architecture, Colin Thom, a Senior Historian with the Survey, will talk about the research involved in this huge project and will present some of the highlights from the books, including several new findings in the area around Clapham Common.

Yale University Press are offering us a special price on these two volumes. The retail price of each volume is £75, and the price to members £60. For both volumes bought together the retail price is £135, and £110 to members. Prices include free postage and packing (in the UK only). Orders may be placed on line at yalebooks.co.uk and on checkout you should enter the promo code SLB13. If you do not have internet access you may also order by telephone: call 020 7079 4900, ask for 'Sales' and quote the code above to receive your discount. All orders will be fulfilled on publication in November.

There is no meeting in December.

Cooperative Parks Consultation

Lambeth Council is currently conducting a consultation on its cooperative parks programme. It is seeking views on three options for future management of its open spaces, involving differing degrees of local input. It raises big issues, not least of which is how best our open spaces can serve local residents at a time when all public bodies face years of financial austerity. For further background information please see the Council's website at lambeth.gov.uk/cooperativeparks. Consultation on the Cooperative Parks Programme ends on **Friday 18 October**.

Look after our trees

Lambeth Council have recently planted several new trees in Clapham streets. These are watered on a regular basis by contractors, but in hot, dry weather they do need extra water, and notices have been attached to them asking local residents to water them, ideally in the early morning or at dusk and preferably with 'left over' water (i.e. bathwater, washing up water or rainwater). It may be rather late this year to worry about hot dry weather, but please keep an eye on the new trees near your house.

In Victoria Rise there are flowering cherries near Nos. 8, 32 and 112, Mountain Ash near 18, 66, 122 and an Acer opposite No. 120. There are also flowering cherries on the junction of Cresset Street and Prescott Place, on the junctions of Voltaire Road and Littlebury Road and Edgeley Road and Navy Street. There is a Snowy Mespil opposite 191 Stonhouse Street and a Swedish White Bean opposite 130 Clapham Manor Street. If you live near any of these just check occasionally that they are happy.

Teresa Israel

Get Sewing

Following up on our September talk by Lisa Comfort about her sewing café, Sew Over It, you may like to check out some of the classes available in October. On **Friday 11 October** you can learn how to make a quilted cushion cover, and on **Thursday 17 October** and **Thursday 24 October** the subject is pyjama bottoms. All these classes are from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Tea and cake is provided to help along the sewing process. Go to sewoverit.co.uk, or telephone 020 7326 0376 to check level of ability required, costs and booking.

Green unpleasant land?

It has recently come to our attention that green waste from across the borough is being brought for processing to the area on Windmill Drive called, with reason, 'the dump'.

The result has been a wholly predictable build up of compost which is soon to be transferred to a facility on that site to be leased and developed by Groundwork. While very supportive of green spaces managing the recycling of their own green waste we believe that a borough-wide facility would be an unfair and possibly illegal use of common land. Along with the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC) of which the Society is an integral part we will continue in our efforts to discover more and act accordingly.

Sing Clapham!

Clapham Community Choir, under the direction of Jessie Maryon Davies, is just entering its third year. The choir is open to all ages and singing experience, and there are no auditions. The group meets in term time every Wednesday evening from 7.30 pm until 9 pm. The cost is £5 per session. No music-reading required as learning is largely by ear. We welcome all-comers though – like all choirs – especially men.

The meeting venue varies between St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove and a local pub. If you're coming along, please check venue with us first! As well as performances in SW4, the choir took part this June in Tippet's *A Child Of Our Time*, a performance organised by Morley College at the Royal Festival Hall. Next year it is to participate in Radio 3's Adopt a Composer series.

This autumn term runs until **Wednesday 18 December** – the evening of Sing Christmas Concert. Contact claphamcommunitychoir@gmail.com.

October half term

Under The Greenwood Tree, the children's bookshop, toyshop and café in Clapham Old Town is hosting a week of events over half-term – **Saturday 26 October** to **Friday 1 November** – including face painting on Hallowe'en and a crafty Pirate day! Children's authors and illustrators galore are doing story time and craft events, including Katherine Lodge, Frann Preston-Gannon, Eva Katzler, Giles Paley-Philips, Michael Davidson and Ben Newman. Pop into the shop at 11 The Polygon, SW4 0JG for more details or see underthegreenwoodtree.co.uk.

Another big event?

As we go to press a large event, to be held on the already badly damaged event site, is scheduled for late November. The event lasts for five days but is on site for almost three weeks.

Tickets are already on sale in spite of the fact that the organisers have yet to apply to Lambeth Council for a licence for the five bars and live music included in the event. Are the organisers taking for granted the outcome of a legal process which gives the public rights to a voice? As yet the CCMAC have not been consulted as required by the events booking process.

First Step Restaurant

First Step Trust (FST) is a charity which runs social enterprises to provide work and training opportunities for people excluded from work because of mental health issues or other disadvantages, including drug and alcohol recovery problems and a history of offending. The enterprises cover garages, design and print, maintenance and gardening, and restaurants and catering.

One of the restaurants is Abbevilles Restaurant at 88 Clapham Park Road, SW4 7BX. Telephone 020 7498 2185. The restaurant is open Monday to Friday from 11.30 am with last orders at 3.30 pm, offering a modern European menu from a three course lunch to light bites and sandwiches, all at very modest prices. The food is excellent and cooked to order.

Abbevilles also run an outside catering service, providing freshly prepared food for meetings conferences and private parties for between 10 and 400 people. For more details go to firststeptrust.org.uk/fst-projects/abbevilles-restaurant.

Tricia Davies

Family concert

On **Sunday 13 October** Clapham Chamber Concerts celebrates the opening of Omnibus with a family concert by The Moonfleet Trio: Amanda Lake (violin), Clare Fox (viola), Hannah Morrow (cello). Take a tour of the world's dance tunes with these dynamic, young string players: vibrant rhythms of Argentina, Spain and Mexico, melodies of Vienna, Norway and America, and traditional reels from British Isles. From 3 pm to 4 pm, for children from 5 -12 years in the Music Room, at Omnibus, SW4 0QW. Tickets at £9/£5 children, in advance from CCC telephone 020 7652 4276 or on the door.

New – Opera in Clapham!

Clapham Opera Festival was founded earlier this year to support and promote up-and-coming singers, musicians and production designers and to bring an opera taster to our local community. Its patron is Lucy Crowe, the opera star currently appearing at the Royal Opera House in *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, and the organisers are Adam Swann, marketing consultant for Opera Rara and a trustee of Baroque ensemble Arcangelo, and Marie Soulier who runs Opera Pour Un Salon. Marie is French, has lived in Clapham for 25 years and wanted to bring an important local musical event here.

This is the programme:

Friday 4 October at 8 pm. Bel Canto Recital. A programme of arias by Bellini, Donizetti, Rossini and Verdi, including duets and quartets from operas such as *The Barber of Seville* and *Rigoletto*, and lesser known works – *Rita* by Donizetti and *I Lombardi* by Verdi. Christina Petrou (Soprano), Chloe Hinton (Mezzo soprano), Alberto Sousa (Tenor) and Ricardo Panela (Baritone) accompanied by Richard Keohane (Pianist).

Friday 11 October at 8 pm. Baroque Recital. Michael Taylor (Counter-tenor) and Christina Petrou, accompanied by period instruments such as the theorbo, lute, medieval guitar (Toby Carr) and baroque harp (Aileen Henry), singing a selection of arias by Purcell, Monteverdi and less well-known composers such as Pallavicino and Caccini.

Sunday 10 November at 3 pm.

An afternoon of humorous arias from mainly late 19th and early 20th century comic operas and operettas, with two sopranos - Georgina

Rosanna Murray and Clapham-based Natasha Day. Tea and home-made cakes in the interval.

Sunday 17 November at 3 pm. Comic Opera in three acts. A shortened, semi-staged version of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, featuring Thomas Faulkner and Bruno Loxton (Basses), Ricardo Panela, Christina Petrou and Alberto Sousa.

All performances are at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9LQ and there is a chance to stay on and meet the singers and musicians after each performance over nibbles or afternoon tea.

Tickets are available, when booked in advance, for individual recitals at £15, opera £20, or a pass for all events at £45, with reductions for children, concessions and family passes. Full details and booking at claphamoperafestival.com or Clapham Opera Festival, c/o The Church of the Holy Spirit Contact Centre, 60 Hambalt Road, London SW4 9EH.



Toby Carr with his theorbo



Natasha Day, Soprano

Open Studios

The Papered Parlour Artists' Studios will be open on **Saturday 5 October** from 11 am to 5 pm. Free admission for one day only to meet up-and-coming artists from milliners and textile designers to photographers, animators and illustrators, and to try taster workshops.

There will be delicious home made cakes, live music and performances throughout the day at The Papered Parlour, 7 Prescott Place, SW4 6BS.

Wimbledon bookfest

Wimbledon's annual bookfest is under way until 13 October with a host of fantastic speakers: Dan Snow, Sir Max Hastings, Howard Goodall, Andrew Motion, Joanna Trollope, Deborah Moggach, Roy Hattersley, Michael Palin, Darcey Bussell, Margaret Drabble and plenty more. There are also children's events, a pub quiz and comedy.

Download the full programme and book at wimbledonbookfest.org or telephone 020 8545 8342.

Clapham Pottery

Further to the piece in our April newsletter about Clapham Pottery we are delighted to learn that they are in the process of buying their premises from Lambeth Council. So far half the total required has been raised and an interest free bridging loan has been arranged, so fundraising has been stepped up to pay back the loan as soon as possible.

Among the fundraising events organised is an evening at the Mayfair Court Jeweller, Wartski, on **Wednesday 9 October** (5.15 pm - 6.30 pm), arranged by Geoffrey Munn, the jewellery specialist on the BBC Antiques Road Show. The visit includes a tour of the collection of more than 100 works of art by Carl Fabergé, as well as a number of historic jewels. Tickets at £35 include a glass of champagne on arrival. All profits go to Save Clapham Pottery. To book telephone the pottery on 020 7622 0681, or donate to the campaign at saveclaphampottery.co.uk. If you have been thinking about donating but have not yet done so, Clapham Pottery would be really pleased to hear from you

Local history

Our Local History Sub-committee receives a regular flow of emails from people all over the world researching their family history. Some are easily answered, some entail quite a bit of research and, unfortunately, sometimes we draw a blank. But all enquiries add to our fund of knowledge about Clapham and provide valuable material for our archive.

I recently had a long email exchange with a man in Colorado who was a descendant of Francis Child, the original developer of Crescent Grove which was a family investment. He was researching a book about the family and provided me with a complicated family tree going back over 200 years and photographs of various members of the family.

In exchange I was able to give him details of the history of the houses and when he finally came over for a visit, he was very excited to see the deeds of my house to identify which members of the family had lived there, and to take lots of photographs. He followed up by finding the grave of some family members at West Norwood Cemetery. When he finally located the grave it turned out to be totally covered and obscured by brambles and moss, so an afternoon had to be spent clearing this off before he could photograph it!

Alyson Wilson

Whistler and the Thames

The new autumn exhibition opens at Dulwich Picture Gallery on **Wednesday 16 October**. Many prints and rarely seen drawings of the Thames by American born artist, James Abbott McNeill Whistler, will be shown alongside his well-known nocturnes, including *Blue and Gold – Old Battersea Bridge*. The lecture, by the curators of the exhibition is on **Thursday 17 October** at 12.30 pm.

In conjunction with the exhibition there will also be a series of lectures about London's River. On **Wednesday 2 October** Peter Matthews will be talking about *Thames Bridges*, on **Wednesday 9 October** Dr Alan Powers will talk about *Thames Buildings: Battersea to Bankside* and on **Wednesday 23 October** Amy Concannon's subject will be *Artists and the Thames*. All lectures are at 10.30 am in the Linbury Room and cost £25 for the series of three or £10 for a single lecture, with discounts for Friends of the gallery. Book at dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk or telephone 020 7299 8750.

Fireworks

The Lambeth Council free fireworks display returns to Clapham Common this year. The event will run from 5 pm until 10 pm on **Tuesday 5 November** with the main display at 7.30 pm, to a musical accompaniment. We warmly welcome this return.

Trinity Hospice

Trinity Hospice patron, Huw Edwards, is hosting the Magnolia Dinner and Quiz in aid of the hospice, at the Mall Galleries on **Thursday 21 November**. For more information and tickets telephone 020 7787 1022 or email anahmmacher@trinityhospice.org.uk

The Music of Spain

On **Friday 11 October** Clapham Chamber Concerts continues its sixth year and its commitment to bring diverse music of a high professional standard to SW4 with an evening of music from all over Spain with Elena Jáuregui (violin), Francisco Javier Jáuregui (guitar), and Gúdrun Ólafsdóttir (mezzo soprano). From the heritage of the Sephardic communities, passed down from generation to generation since medieval times, to songs by Lorca, Granados and the folk Basque tradition, this colourful evening will draw the audience into the haunting depths of the Spanish soul.

Tickets on the door at £12/£9
Concessions and Friends of CCC/£5 children.

Cash-bar (wine & soft drinks). St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX at 7.30 pm. Note the CCC new website: claphamchamberconcerts.org.uk

Black history month

October is black history month, and there is a full programme of events in Lambeth including a talk about Black British and Asian Shakespearean actors at Clapham Library on **Tuesday 8 October** at 7 pm. More details from the Clapham Library, 91 Clapham High Street, SW4 7DB or on Lambeth website.

Walks

The local guided walking season is almost over but the Friends of Brockwell Park have an Autumn Walk on **Sunday 20 October**. Meet at the Clock Tower at 2 pm. However, the Clapham Society has leaflets for self-guided walks for seven different routes in Clapham. £1 each or all seven for £5. See ordering details on our website, or in the Annual Report.

The Sixteen

On **Saturday 20 October** The Sixteen with Harry Christophers will return to St Luke's Music Society with a choral concert to celebrate the Society's tenth anniversary. The programme includes Allegri's *Miserere* and music by Palestrina and James Macmillan. There will be a pre-concert interview with Harry Christophers. St Luke's Church, Thurleigh Road, SW12 8RQ at 7.30 pm. For tickets at £24/£20 concessions telephone the box office on 07951 791619 or email boxoffice@slms.org.uk.

Keep it clean

The present exhibition at Wandsworth Museum examines the history of cleanliness and hygiene in London, from Roman times to the Great Stink of 1858 which led to the development of Bazalgette's sewers, and on to the generation and disposal of rubbish today. For more details and opening times go to wandsworthmuseum.co.uk or telephone 020 8870 6060.

The Museum is holding a Lithography Workshop for adults and young people (over 14) on **Saturday 5 October** from 2 pm to 5 pm, tickets £6. Lithographer Simon Burder will help you discover how lithography works and you will have the opportunity to draw on stone and print the result on an antique press. Call Zoe or Kathryn on 0208 870 6060 or email bookings@wandsworthmuseum.co.uk.

Christmas cards

As for the last few years the Clapham Society does not have its own Christmas card this year, but we would recommend that members look at the Trinity Hospice cards, which are available now. They can be bought at the hospice or on line at trinityhospice.org.uk/christmascards.

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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21 Clapham Common West Side SW4 9AN
Tel: 020 7228 5551 Email: annabel@allott.plus.com

Treasurer David Brown
15 Turret Grove, London SW4 0ES
Tel: 020 7720 7536

Membership Secretary Jennifer Everett
30 Trinity Close, London SW4 0JD
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Details of meetings, activities and a full list of our publications are on **The Clapham Society** website at claphamsociety.com.
