



Park Life

CLAPHAM PARK PROJECT NDC NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 32

November 2009

Welcome to Park Life. For a translation phone

Seja bem-vindo a Park Life. Para tradução, queira ligar para o número

È káàbò sí Park Life. Fún ògbufò àti fún èdà ohun tí a kò silẹ̀ ní èdè miiran, pe èrọ̀ ibánisòrò yí:

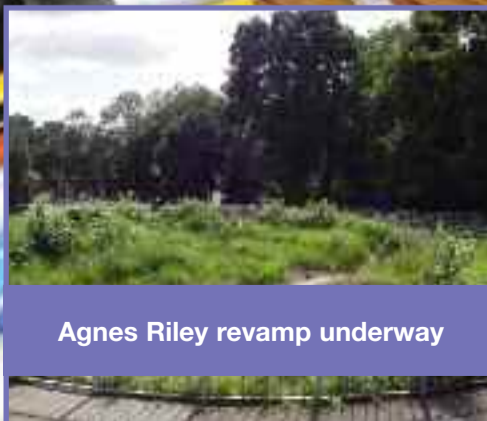
Bienvenido a Park Life. Para obtener una traducción llamar al

Park Life ma wo Akwaaba. Wo pe nkyereasee a fre ahomatorofo

Bienvenue à Park Life. Pour une traduction en français, téléphoner au

পার্ক লাইফে স্বাগতম। অনুবাদের জন্য ফোন করুন।

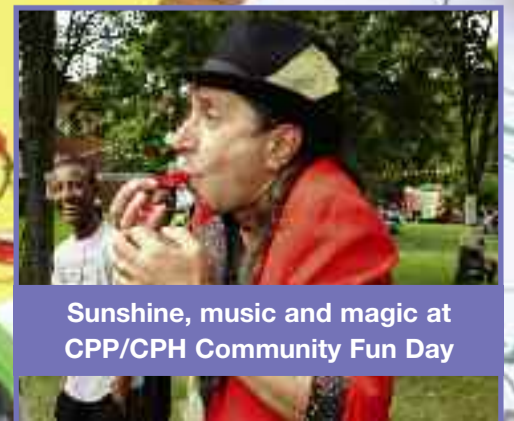
Ku soo dhawow Park Life. Haddii aad u baahan tahay turjimaan wac 020 8678 5900 or if you need an audio version of this magazine, please call the above number



Agnes Riley revamp underway



Richard Atkins' 'outstanding' Ofsted report



Sunshine, music and magic at CPP/CPH Community Fun Day



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Dancing to the live music of Palenke, London's leading Latin American dance band.

Cover picture: Arts and crafts at the Community Fun Day



Welcome to Park Life

Donna C. Henry,
Chair,
Clapham Park Project

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of Park Life. residents: read all about it on page 2.

We have had a very busy time at the Clapham Park Project and this includes the launch of our new-look website, at the same address: www.claphampark.org.uk.

Please visit and let us know what you think – the site is designed to be more interactive, including a new monthly newsletter, E-Life: visit the website to sign up and stay updated between issues of Park Life.

We've celebrated Clapham Park at the CPP/CPH Community Fun Day, where there was something for everyone, from the youngest to the oldest

In the last issue we announced our award as an Exemplar Site: 'a model of good practice for neighbourhood management and problem-solving policing' and since then the CPP has shared its good practice with visitors eager to gather information on our approach to neighbourhood policing and our experience of engaging successfully with a diverse community.

Your support and involvement makes the CPP what it is, so thank you to everyone – with your help we'll continue with our work to keep Clapham Park improving all the time.

Donna C. Henry

Glenbrook Gold

Year 5 pupils took part in the Change4Life 'Walk to School' challenge. Glenbrook children came first out of 10 schools that took part nationally, with Glenbrook children walking over half a million steps. Children were given pedometers to record all 'steps' taken over a week and to monitor distances walked during the 'Walk to School' week.

The first prize is £500 to buy sports equipment and the children have been working with their class teacher to agree exactly what they would like to purchase.

Miss Olive Ward, Year 5 teacher, said: "I am very proud of my class. They worked really hard and now they are so excited about improving the sports resources. We have gained our Advanced Healthy Schools Status and this is just one of our many accomplishments."

Miss Ward was also the driv-

ing force behind the Key Stage 2 Sports Day, ensuring that this year's was the best yet. She organised a programme of events held at Poynders Park and Mrs Fay Barrett, Assistant Headteacher, remarked:

"Thank goodness it was a dry and sunny day as we had organised for the children to spend a day out doing sports – we supplied packed lunches for all of the children."

The children, staff and parents all had a fantastic time – the Teaching Assistants were the team leaders and each team was named after a different country, to represent the heritage of the children participating.

The teachers organised 'sports stations' for each team to visit, with each station featuring a fun, exciting event. At the end of the day, the winning team was 'Portugal', and June Duncan was the team leader.



by Chidi Ogundu

CPP/CPH Community Fun Day: A time for celebrating Clapham Park with family, friends, and neighbours

On Saturday 15th August, the residents of Clapham Park enjoyed activities at the Community Fun Day on Headlam Road SW4. It was an event filled with fun and entertainment, with a real sense of the community coming together, and a chance for people to spend time with their families, friends and neighbours.

There were loads of treats on offer, from home-made cakes from the Clapham Park Over 50's Social Club to free bike repairs carried out by the Clapham Park Bike Club. The local Fire Brigade even made an appearance and

their fire engine was quickly taken over by 'wannabe fire fighters'. The Fire Brigade gave out free advice and offered to fit smoke alarms in peoples' homes.

Many residents took advantage of free health checks and healthy living advice and Indian head, neck and shoulder massages was a popular treatment for adults. Resident Ricky Aboagye of Clarence Crescent was very impressed, saying: "I've just had a lovely relaxing head massage."

The presenters of Generation Radio did a fantastic job of mixing and playing popular music throughout the event and made

announcements that kept the programme on schedule.

There were plenty of activities for children including arts and crafts, a multi sports programme which included tennis, badminton and cricket, and the ever-popular face painters were kept busy all day.

It was an ideal opportunity for the Clapham Park Project, Clapham Park Homes, partner organisations, voluntary and community groups to consult with residents and give out useful information on topics ranging from taking part in activities in and around Clapham Park to updates on the re-generation plans for the area.

As the day's events came to a close, Headlam Road took on a carnival atmosphere with live music from Latin American band Palenke, who got people of all ages tapping their toes and dancing to the music.

Resident Margrit James, said: "I had fun dancing to the music and it was nice to see the kids having a good time too. The event was well organised and I'm really glad that the weather was good because it made it more special."



Magician, Oz Moses, wandered amongst the crowds entertaining everyone with his unique brand of magic, illusion and tricks.



Face and body art painters were kept busy all day with all sorts of requests from spiderman faces to tigers, Halloween and butterflies, flags and flowers.



Raffle winners. From left: Shanaz Begum (second prize, a DVD player), Joane Omoiabi (first prize, a Hi Fi), Bimba Dunning (third prize, £30 Bonus Bond vouchers).

Making Faces

The women's group was running since October 2008 and during that time it ran a range of 'informal learning' sessions, where many women learned new skills, improved their confidence, made new friends and learned more about what is going on in the area.

The group met every week at the Community Resource Centre and has attracted between 10-18 women each meeting.

The group provided a crèche, some basic activities and informal training on topics of interest to the group.

One of the most popular activities was the face painting course, where 14 women learned the basics of face painting. Since the course, some of the women have assisted at community and family events and Erica Ruiz, one of the course attendees, is pictured above right at the Community Fun Day. Erica said: "I loved the face painting course, and now I am looking to study more of this, including body art painting."

The women's group is currently finished due to funding, but in 2010 there will be provision for more 'informal learning' sessions.

For further information contact Roz Thompson on 020 8678 5923.

CPP hosts CrimeMapper launch

In 2009, the Clapham Park Project (CPP) was selected by a national committee to be one of 11 Exemplar Sites (excellent examples of neighbourhood team working) across the UK. The CPP was described as: 'a model of good practice for neighbourhood management and problem-solving policing.'

The CPP was therefore delighted to provide its offices for the launch of the Home Office and National Police Improvement Agency's (NPIA) new CrimeMapper initiative, an interactive map of crime statistics across England and Wales.

Minister of State for Crime and Policing, David Hanson, and NPIA Deputy Chief Executive (DCE), Steve Mortimore, presented CrimeMapper at the launch at the CPP offices.



Left to right: Angus Johnson, Steve Mortimore, David Hanson, Melinda Francis

David Hanson said: "...the crime map is another example of how we are building greater links between the police and the people they serve."

Steve Mortimore agreed, stating: "The national crime map is a vital step forward in giving the public more information about crime in their areas to increase confidence in the service they receive from the police."

Following a question-and-answer session, the CPP's Chief Neighbourhood Warden, Melinda Francis, took the Minister and DCE on a tour of the Clapham Park area, accompanied by the CPP's Chief Executive, Angus Johnson.



Richard Atkins' 'outstanding' Ofsted report

Staff and governors at Richard Atkins Primary School are celebrating their positive Ofsted report following the inspection of the school on 9th and 10th July. According to Ofsted, Richard Atkins is:

"... a good school. It has some outstanding features and meets the needs of its learners well. It provides a haven of stability and security for all its pupils and is a centre for the community."

Most of the categories in the report were rated as good or outstanding. Areas in the report given a Grade 1 (outstanding) by the inspectors included: how well the school works in partnership with others, promoting learners' well-

being; how well learners are cared for, guided and supported; and how well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination eliminated. The teachers and assistants were commended for creating a good atmosphere for learning for the children, due to their enthusiasm and excellent subject knowledge.

Headteacher Julie Roberts said, "We are delighted with the improvements made since our last inspection. At Richard Atkins, we are committed to raising standards and improving the life chances of every pupil in our school. We are obviously pleased about the recognition of our work with partners including parents, the community and the Clapham

Park Project. This is a reflection of the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of the staff, governors, parents and partners who have worked so hard to ensure that the school is a lovely, vibrant place where children can learn and achieve.

"We are also very pleased that our pupils' contribution to the community and our community cohesion were judged to be good."

Julie went on to say that although she was pleased with the report, she knew that there is still a lot to do and that they have already begun to work on the report's recommendations.

Well done to everyone at Richard Atkins.

The report is now available to



Staff, children and parents work – and play! – together at Richard Atkins.

view on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

For a hard copy of the report contact Mrs Trisha N'Jie, Office Manager, on: 020 8674 5601.

Interview: Cllr Lib Peck



What is your connection with the NDC area?

I have been a local councillor for Thornton Ward since 2001. Following boundary changes in 2002, the vast majority of the Clapham Park Estate became part of Thornton Ward.

Since then, I have attended a wide variety of meetings and events on and about Clapham Park. And I have picked up a lot of casework from individuals living in the Clapham Park area.

How long have you lived in the area?

I have lived in Thornton Ward since 1996.

How do you like to spend your spare time (hobbies, interests, etc)?

I don't get that much free time. As well as being a local councillor, I am also the Lambeth councillor with political responsibility for housing and regeneration and the mother of two girls. But over the last few years, I have really enjoyed getting back on my bike and cycling to and from meetings – it keeps me fitter and also cuts down on time wasted travelling.

What issues most concern you about Thornton Ward?

Housing. First of all, there isn't

enough. Secondly, the properties that are available, either through the private market, the council or housing associations, aren't of a good enough quality or aren't the right size to suit people's needs.

Education is also a problem for this part of the borough because there is a limited number of secondary school places available. The Labour Council has improved this by opening two new schools since 2006 but there is still a way to go.

But I think there are plenty of positives to our ward – a relatively low crime rate, good primary schools, a lovely park at Agnes Riley, some great community groups and initiatives, as well as very good links to the rest of Lambeth and London.

What are your views on the CPH housing Master Plan for Clapham Park?

I think the Master Plan, in large, captures the hopes of many of the residents who voted for a transfer of stock to CPH. It should improve the quality of homes, many of which are in desperate need of investment; it will bring a mix of residents into the area; and it provides for new community facilities including a park, library and school. However, as it has inevitably changed to adapt to the new economic conditions, I would want the plan to remain mindful of the density of development and the height of some of the buildings.

What do you think of the Clapham Park Project's (CPP's) ambition to become a charity and continue supporting Clapham Park in the future?

I think that the CPP has achieved a lot over the last nine years. Looking back, I think of the Community Flat, the Flora Fit campaign, Shop for Jobs, the

repair surgery, the Threshold centre, the women's group – to name only a few initiatives – that have made a real difference to the community and to the way people in Clapham Park have got to know each other. So I am pleased the CPP is looking beyond 2010 towards becoming a charity.

Discovery events: helping unemployed parents find work

A three-day training programme offered to unemployed single parents took place in autumn 2009.

The training programme was carried out in partnership with Groundwork, a London-wide charity. Groundwork supports communities in need, working with partners to help improve the quality of people's lives, their prospects and potential and the places where they live, work and play. Participants worked through a series of motivation techniques, which dealt with setting achievable

goals whilst looking for work or training. Topics included: 'What is Success?', 'Self worth/Confidence' and 'Barriers to Success'.

The course was extremely successful: two participants have become involved with the CPP as volunteers to gain more experience, one is returning to college and another has already found employment.

For further information contact **Roz Thompson** on **020 8678 5923**.

The group take a break from learning techniques that will help them in their search for a job.





Community Chest Awards: June 2009

Community groups receive funding to run events and activities for local people

Voluntary Association Support has received £2,000 to work with local small community and voluntary groups to develop community and social enterprises.

Ten projects have been identified as needing support after NDC funding ends. The groups will receive business planning advice, development support, fundraising guidance and training.

For further details contact 020 8678 5900.

2Mannish has received £1,989.35 to run a support group. The group will tackle the issues of ongoing concern to the modern male, i.e. divorce,

child contact, social security provision, healthcare, sports and fitness. It will also assist the social development of young male adults through meetings, fun activities and events.

If you would like to join the group, or for further details, call **Roz Thompson on 0208 678 5923.**

Sulina Road, Morrish Road and Wallis's Cottages Residents & Tenants Association (SMWRTA). The group has received £736.00 to fund their 8th Annual Street Party in September 2009. Activities at the event included good food, dance sessions led by residents and stalls.



Learning Spanish through arts, music and play is fun with the Inspiring Families through Arts and Language group.

Inspiring Families through Arts and Language has been awarded £1,993.20 to provide families with children under five the opportunity to learn Spanish in a creative, musical and playful way.

The group aims to provide a learning experience to support the language and cultural needs for Spanish speakers and enable non-Spanish speakers to learn something new. They also wish to attract people with English as a second language and lone parents, bringing cultures together and motivating people to improve their educational attainment and social development.

Margarita Montes Granada (Sonnia), Group Leader, said: "We have lots of fun and learn Spanish at the same time."

"The money will go towards the cost of hiring a venue, purchasing materials and refreshments for the weekly activities which include arts and crafts, puppets, music and nursery rhymes in Spanish."

The sessions take place at All Saints Church, Lyham Road, SW2, on Thursdays from 10.00am-12.00pm.

If you would like more information, contact **Sonnia on 07946 529 717.**

Clapham Park Project and the future

Local people were given the opportunity to express their views on a range of activities they would like to see continued in the area after Clapham Park Project becomes a charity in 2011.

The top activities most residents wanted to see continued included: supporting children's education and development outside school; skills and development training; social activities for young people; retention of the Neighbourhood Wardens, and employment advice were amongst the top activities residents most wanted to see continued. The findings will help us to produce a document that maps out the work that the charity will do once the NDC comes to an end.

534 residents completed the questionnaire. Everyone who participated was automatically entered into

a free prize draw with an opportunity to win an iPod touch (first prize), a digital camera (second prize), or a £50 Bonus Bond voucher (third prize). Victoria Robinson of Muller Road won first prize. She said: "This is so cool, I'm really excited. I got an iPod for my birthday but this one is much better. I can't believe it, it's such a cool prize."

Second prize went to Suzannah de la Cruz of Morrish Road who said: "I was very happy to complete the questionnaire and it's great to win a prize. The CPP is doing some really good work and I hope it continues." Third prize went to Jane Newell of Cotton House.

The CPP would like to thank everyone who took part.



Victoria Robinson with her new iPod touch.

Mayor of Lambeth visits Over 50's Social Club

The Mayor of Lambeth, Christopher Wellbelove, the Leader of Lambeth Council Steve Reed, local ward councillor Diana Morris, and the Chair of the CPP Board, Donna C. Henry, paid a special visit to Clapham Park's Over 50's Social Club.

The Mayor and Lambeth councillors had expressed an interest in attending the Luncheon Club so that they could connect with residents on service provision for the elderly in Lambeth.

Trish Davis, Chair of the Social Club said: "The visit gave us an opportunity to ask for some extra money and they offered to help in any way they could."

The Over 50's Social Club will be moving from their venue at Homan House, Bourke Close, SW4, to the Community Resource Centre, Headlam Road, SW4, in the near future. Both the weekly Coffee Mornings and monthly Luncheon Clubs will be held there.



Mayor of Lambeth, Christopher Wellbelove, meeting members of the Clapham Park Over 50's Social Club.

Clapham Park Neighbourhood Wardens: Your eyes and ears

Joint patrols help residents feel safer in the community

Due to a positive response from residents a six-month pilot scheme is set to continue for the foreseeable future.

Since February 2009, the Neighbourhood Wardens and the Thornton Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) have been working together to carry out joint patrols within the Clapham Park area.

Residents have already noticed a difference with many people saying they feel much safer.

Giuseppe Callabrese, of Parsons House, said: "I often see the Wardens in the area and have no problem with the Wardens patrolling with the Police as it makes me feel safer."

Joint patrols have proved to be great for sharing



Joint patrols sharing vital information, resources and expertise

vital information, resources and expertise between agencies and helping to build trust between the Police and the local community.

The Clapham Park Project Neighbourhood Wardens have reported a total of 307 incidents, of various kinds between April and July 2009. A total of 99 incidents were recorded under the category 'Other'. Most of these were in relation to specifically targeted Warden patrols/surveillance to 'hot spot' and problem areas for anti-social behaviour/loitering. The category also includes joint Warden/Police patrol reports and incident types such as criminal damage and car accidents.



Please note new service hours:
Tuesday–Saturday: 2.00 pm–10.00pm

Clapham Park Project, 1–4 Brixton Hill Place
London SW2 1HJ
FREEPHONE 0800 32 88 979
Email: wardenoffice@claphampark.org.uk

THORNTON



PARTNERSHIP WORK

Angus House, New Park Rd.

Over the past 12 months there have been numerous complaints regarding anti-social behaviour in and around Angus House. Groups of youths were hanging around stairwells using threatening and abusive language towards residents, smoking drugs, urinating outside people's front doors and also causing damage to motor vehicles.

Officers from the Thornton Ward SNT targeted the area on a daily basis, providing increased police presence. They executed search warrants, initiated more stop and searches and arrested a number of youths for possession of drugs and knives. We worked closely with our partners the Clapham Park Project and Clapham Park Homes (CPH) to deal with the behaviour which resulted in a number of youths signing Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Back row from left: PCSO Carl McLean, PC Rob Wood. Front row from left: PCSO Karen Rose, Sergeant Ashok Patel and PCSO Lucy Feeney.

CRIME PREVENTION

Burglary advice

After a recent spate of burglaries all over the borough, police have been able to ascertain that houses and flats with UPVC doors are being targeted. Officers investigating burglaries have noticed that many victims do not realise that their UPVC doors can be opened from the outside because they have not been locked correctly.

If you have a UPVC front door you should lift the handle, turn the key fully and then check the door is securely locked.

To ensure that all bolts stay in place, doors have to be locked from the inside so that they cannot be opened from the outside.



If you would like further information on crime prevention, contact the **Thornton Safer Neighbourhood Team** on **020 8721 2622** or email **thornton.snt@met.police.uk** and they will make an appointment for a member of the team to visit.

Changing Lives

For nine months, Knights Youth Centre was funded by the Clapham Park Project to deliver the Reach In and Out Project (RIO). Between 5 to 7 young men aged between 15 to 22 participated. RIO was set up in response to complaints made by resident to the CPP wardens and the Thornton Ward SNT. The range of diverse needs of the young people became obvious through the outreach and group sessions. These included one young person who was scared to go on a bus on their own and another who was so reliant on cannabis that his whole day-to-day life was affected. KYC provided training to this group including basic reading and writing; social skills; the way to behave appropriately in a restaurant; communication skills; presentation skills; family relationships; and support in looking for and securing employment. Four participants obtained accredited qualifications in First Aid.

Stu Thomson, Senior Youth Worker at Knights Youth Centre, talks positively about the RIO Project and says that the project had been positive for the following reasons:

- Inter-agency work around resolving and working with young people who are involved or likely to be involved in negative or criminal behaviour.
- Reduction of anti-social behaviour in and around Cotton and Angus House.
- Individual young people taking responsibility for their actions. For example, one young person signed

an Acceptable Behaviour Contract.

- Cross-generation work. The RIO programme brought together the target group and elderly residents on a number of occasions.
 - Providing the target group with positive alternatives and a realistic and tangible path into training, education and employment.
 - Young people being provided with the opportunity of the Canoe Challenge and going to Romania to help and serve others.
 - The young people developing a greater awareness of self and others.
 - RIO being used as a positive and successful pilot which enabled KYC to secure Home Office funding to sustain similar programmes with young people aged 11–16 for the next three years.
 - Effective partnerships being developed between KYC and Thornton Ward SNT.
 - KYC, Thornton Ward SNT and the Clapham Park Project demonstrating a unified approach to tackling issues which are affecting the quality of life for the residents of Clapham Park Estate.
- Ash Patel, Sergeant for the Thornton Ward SNT, remarks that the anti-social behaviour at Angus and Cotton House has reduced significantly and that the RIO project has been the catalyst in 'brokering relationships' between the Police and the Youth Workers and there is increased respect between the two organisations. After all, RIO was about the changing the lives of these young people.



by Ricky Aboagye

Clapham Park Youth Forum: Going from strength to strength

For those of you who don't know, we are the Clapham Park Youth Forum and I am the Chair of the Forum.

We have been making progress as a group and have been joined by seven young ladies, who have brought fresh ideas, passion, drive and energy to our group.

The group is growing in confidence following a Weekend Development Residential, in which we explored our ambitions and influences, both as individuals and as a group. We worked well together, drawing on each other's strengths to complete various tasks. We've also had an input into the creation of the CPP youth website and we've given a presentation from a young person's perspective to Clapham Park Homes and

their European visitors.

The summer holiday has been filled with fun, humour, food, film and internet, all that youth could ask for (lol!).

This programme gives a voice for the youth of Clapham Park, and we try to engage with young people as much as possible to enhance community cohesion within the NDC and Lambeth. If any young people face issues within the area we encourage you to talk to us!

We are open on Friday evenings. If you are aged between 14-21, come see us Fridays 6.30-9.30pm at The Weir Link. www.claphampark.org.uk/youth



Young people with a voice. Having a say on their future and helping shape the future for young people of Clapham Park.

A USL Summer in the NDC

Hi there! Urban Sport Life (USL) would like to update you about the activities we delivered throughout the summer holidays. The USL holiday programme ran three days a week for four weeks, providing a number of sport and specific physical activities for the 8-16-year-olds in the NDC and surrounding Lambeth areas. The FSS Academy provided its expertise in football development, including practising passing, striking, movement, team play and decision making. Others were involved in The Urban Art Project, where they

could design their own T-shirts. Each person wrote their name in a 'graffiti' style, cutting around the lettering to create a stencil to apply colours to.

Ur Life Advice's involvement added to the activities by offering advice for training and employment in the sports industry to the young people and staff, focusing on their continuous professional development needs to achieve their ambitions.

USL also worked in partnership with the Strategy to Reach Empower & Educate Teenagers (STREET) to identify the 'hard to

reach' Muslim youth in Clapham Park, then referring them onto the STREET programme. This worked really well as it happened during Ramadan - the youths were able to learn more about their faith and also broke fast together.

The summer programme went well and set a precedent for

2010's activities. Thanks to everyone who participated: your combined enthusiasm and respect across the courses ensured we held very successful and memorable events.

Bye for now!

Find out more - email: urbansportlife@hotmail.co.uk

Building skills for Ur Life

Ur Life Advice delivers an advice service that supports education, training, voluntary activity and employment for 15-25-year-olds in the community. Developing and building on these qualities is vital and empowering for young people, and any person experiencing improvement in these skills will better contribute to mainstream society and enhance their own social mobility along the way.

The Ur Life Advice team initially engages with young people via our outreach work. Ur Life Advice specialises in detached youth work (a method of working where the team connects with the person directly at their chosen location rather than in a youth centre; the detached method builds on where the person is 'at', both geographically and developmentally).

The Ur Life Advice team uses

the detached work method to build relationships and the young people it works with benefit from the more specialised, targeted, one-to-one work. Ur Life Advice tackles the issues affecting the most vulnerable and disaffected members of our society, including those experiencing exclusion or deprivation.

In 2009, the Clapham Park Project awarded funding to Ur Life Advice to provide a range of support to young people in Lambeth that would be delivered at a 'grassroots' level to young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Ur life Advice used this funding to employ four young, experienced Youth Advisers from within the local community to support young people and offer one-to-one advice and guidance.

Support available from Ur Life

Security training for young people in Lambeth

On the 20th June 2009 a group of young men from Lambeth, including residents from Clapham Park, attended and successfully completed an SIA (Security Industry Authority) training course in Door Security.

The course was developed in partnership with Norwood Community Group, the STREET Programme and Clapham Park Project. The partnership between the three organisations will continue to run further programmes that have a

job market demand to create employment opportunities for the community of Lambeth.

For more information, con-



tact **Shaun** on **07903 824 068** or email: sdanquah@claphampark.org.uk or **Jamal** on **07931 919 585**.

Advice includes:

- CV writing
- Reference service
- Advice / support / interview techniques
- Job search / Application forms
- Applying for training courses / apprenticeship schemes
- Employment
- Referrals
- Volunteering

If you need support in any of the above, why not come into our office @ 71 New Park Road, Clapham Park, SW2 4UN.

Our office is open every Monday and Friday afternoon from 3.00-6.00pm and Wednesday evenings from 6.00-10.00pm.

Call us on **0208 678 5900** or email: urlife@claphampark.org.uk

A change of direction for **Shop for Jobs**

The service at 71 New Park Road is no longer able to provide drop-in information, advice and guidance for job seekers. However, the service will continue to provide free Employability and IT courses for anyone living in Lambeth. The late night drop-in employment and training advice sessions for young people will also continue.

Angus Johnson, Chief Executive of the Clapham Park Project said: "I understand that this may come as a shock to those of you who have benefited from the use of our facilities over the years. However, with the current economic climate, and the funding coming to an end, we cannot continue to provide the service as it currently stands."

Free Employability training courses aimed at helping par-

ticipants into work are available for anyone living in Lambeth and eligible to work in the UK. Topics covered include: CV writing; filling in application forms; understanding the meanings of 'Job Description' and 'Person Specification'; communication skills and interview techniques.

The courses are all accredited via the NOCN (National Open College Network) and linked to NOCN Progression Qualifications, a recognised national framework for developing skills and knowledge to progress to further/higher education or employment.

Mariam Wadim attended an Assertive Communication one-day course. She said: "It's kind of encouraged me to go for a job I wouldn't before because I was not quite confident enough."

If you would like to sign up for a course, or for more information, contact Sheryl Buabin on 020 8678 5945

Clapham Park Project Shop for Jobs,
71-73 New Park Road, SW2 4EN. Tel: 020 8683 9910

Residents Doing It For Themselves!

Focus on Matthew Robert

Matthew Robert, a Clapham Park Estate resident since he was six years old, spoke to Park Life about how he transformed his life when he joined the CPP's TimeBank which inspired him to set up 2Mannish and Comunifix. **How did you get involved in TimeBank?**

I was on a downhill slope. After my Mum died, I wasn't doing anything and I was getting disconnected from daily life – I had also recently separated from my partner and I was losing touch with my two children. Another resident told me about TimeBank. When I spoke to the Timebank staff, Funmi and Roz, I realised that there were other people like me going through similar situations; also, that if I didn't talk to others about it all, they could never know that I shared the same problems.

What made you set up 2Mannish and what does it mean?

I just wanted to get some men

together to play board games. I set up the first meeting with the help of another TimeBank member, Erica. She helped me to draft the questionnaire for the first meeting to find out what the men wanted. I was surprised when more than ten men turned up for the first meeting. I was even more shocked when I saw that the answers to the questions showed that the men were concerned about serious issues, they did not just want to get together to play board games. These men had similar concerns to me: many had lost contact with their families and were drifting in their own world with little contact with other people.

'2Mannish' comes from my Mum. It is a West Indian term, "too mannish" and refers to someone who has outgrown their family nest. '2Mannish' is what my Mum used to call me. Setting up the group is a tribute to my Mum. I believe that Mum

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Are you Listening?

We are all getting very excited at the moment!

Generation Radio will be back on the FM waveband for a month from 17th January 2010; put this date in your diary as this could be the last time! The reason is we have submitted our application for a full-time radio licence to broadcast across the Clapham Park area for a minimum of five years. If successful it will mean you can get involved in your local station by tuning in, at work, in your car or even in the bath!

We expect to hear if we have been successful in March 2010.

There is plenty of competition for the licence from across London but our team, along with your support, can make it happen. Keep listening for more news and listen out for an almighty cheer which will be heard from Brixton Hill to Clarence Avenue if we are successful.

On the road with Generation Radio, we have been out and about again over the last few months with the Generation Radio Roadshow appearing at the Strictly Thornton Event and to the Clapham Park Community Fun Day.

Resident Dan Johns started volunteering at Generation Radio at the end of last year. He said: "I have often been told that I have a good voice for broadcasting, and I have a distinct taste in music. I now find myself presenting the café show every morning and two specialist music shows, one on Wednesdays and the other on Sundays. It was a great honour and immense fun to DJ at the Clapham Park Community Fun Day."

If you are holding an event and need a PA or music provider

don't forget to give us a bell and find out what we can offer to bring that extra dimension to your event.

Don't forget Generation Radio is always looking for new members and we will be running more of our quarterly training courses soon.

If you would like to be part of YOUR community radio station then get in touch and we can give you all the information you need. If you would like to get involved in your local station, call **Andy** on **020 8623 9421** or email **studio@generationradio.co.uk**

Agnes Riley Gardens pond set to receive a revamp

In the coming few months, the pond at Agnes Riley Gardens is set to receive a complete make-over. This will transform it into a valuable resource for the local community, with a particular focus on children and young people.

Funding has been secured from a number of sources including the Lambeth Play Pathfinder programme and local ward councillors, who decided to allocate some of their local ward purse towards bringing the pond back into use. Lambeth Council are working closely with the Friends of Agnes Riley Gardens and local ward councillors to improve the pond to develop these plans. Councillor Diana

Morris, who sits on the Friends of Agnes Riley Gardens Committee, said: "The pond has long been the neglected part of an otherwise great local green space.

"I am really pleased that through the ward purse and the Council's Play Pathfinder programme, the Friends' efforts to improve the park will receive a big boost."

Consultation with the Friends and local residents took place over summer 2009 and included a competition amongst local schools. In line with the aims of



Above: Artist's impression of what the pond could look like.



Left: The pond as it is now – in need of a facelift.

the Play Pathfinder programme, the project will focus on natural play using natural materials such as boulder and tree trunks, and aim to engage young people aged 8–13 in outdoor activities. The project will also revive the pond as a

facility for local residents. More information on the Play Pathfinder can be found at: www.lambeth.gov.uk/playpathfinder. Alternatively, you can telephone the Play and Sports Unit on **020 7926 9953** or email play@lambeth.gov.uk

Digging deep with Friends

Once derelict part of Agnes Riley Gardens has been transformed by members of the Friends of Agnes Riley Gardens Committee and volunteers into a beautiful community garden, providing an opportunity for local residents to grow vegetables and flowers.



Simon Gharthey, of Progress Gardening, began the mammoth task of digging and planting and, most recently, local resident, Vernon De Maynard, managed to raise funds to put in the finishing touches. Vernon and other volunteers can often be found digging away in the garden.

For more information about the Friends of Agnes Riley Gardens, email us at foargs@googlemail.com

Youth activities for young people in Lambeth

Youth services in Lambeth join forces for Neighbourhood Forum discussion

Residents from Clapham Park and Thornton Ward attended a Neighbourhood Forum meeting seeking information and advice on activities for young people across Lambeth and to have their say on Lambeth's Youth Strategy.

The meeting took place at Knights Youth Centre on Thursday 29th July 2009, and was co-chaired by Thornton Ward Councillor, Diana Morris and the Clapham Park Project (CPP) Board Member and local resident, Lemel Frank.

Sheila Clark, Assistant Director for Children & Young People's Services and Graham Jimpson, from Lambeth Council, gave a presentation and demonstration on the new Young Lambeth website. They also spoke about Lambeth's Youth Strategy and gave out information on activities for young people during the holidays.

Rob English, Senior Youth Worker at Knights Youth Centre spoke about the support staff give to young people who attend the club. Lemel Frank, who is in the final year of Knights' Trainee Youth Leader Apprenticeship Programme, talked about the support he received, which has helped him to focus on his objectives for the future.

Lemel said: "Co-chairing the meeting was nerve-racking, but it was a valuable experience for me. The information from the meeting was very useful, but it's a shame there weren't more young people there."

There was also a discussion with the CPP's Youth team about future youth provision in the area and concerns were raised about how the CPP plan to tackle issues around 'postcode'. Questions were also asked about activities available for young people after the summer 2009 programme ends.



Residents attend a Neighbourhood Forum discussion about opportunities and activities for young people living in Lambeth.

For more information about the meeting and to view the minutes of previous Neighbourhood Forum meetings visit www.claphampark.org.uk. Find out about activities for young people across Lambeth by visiting www.lambeth.gov.uk

Clapham Park Neighbourhood Forum provides an opportunity for you to talk directly to decision makers, service providers and residents. You can also present your own ideas for community improvement. For information about the Steering Group or how to join contact **Patricia Poorman 020 8678 5933**.



Going Skin Deep

An article with the CPP Vice Chair
Sue Bowman, MBE.

We've shared an excerpt here of a chat we had with Sue about her experience with skin cancer – read the full article at www.claphampark.org.uk

In recent years, we've all become more aware of using sun protection and checking for changes in moles to spot the onset of skin cancer.

However, melanoma (a skin cancer that most often develops from a mole) is not the only form – something Clapham Park resident and the CPP Vice Chair, Sue Bowman, MBE, knows only too well.

It has only been five months since Sue's diagnosis and treatment and Sue hopes that by sharing her experience with Park Life readers, she may inspire somebody else to seek help if they are in similar circumstances.

In April 2009, Sue had a chest infection and was prescribed antibi-

otics – she thought the antibiotics had got her a bit run-down and caused a cold sore between her lip and nostril and didn't think much more about it.

When the 'sore' kept growing, Sue returned to the doctor and within nine days, she was in Guy's Hospital for a biopsy.

The biopsy revealed a non melanoma (skin cancers that don't develop from a mole), and three weeks later Sue went to St Thomas's Hospital as an outpatient for an operation under local anaesthetic.

Sue was really shocked to see such a range of people passing through the department while she visited as an outpatient, as she had assumed it would mainly affect one section of society; the elderly, or sun worshippers, for example.

Sue described seeing elderly people, young people, the middle-



Sue Bowman receiving her MBE (centre) with the CPP Chair, Donna C Henry (left) and Sue's daughter, Kizzie-Anne Bowman

aged, people with bald spots having the balding area treated; even children passing through for treatment.

It really hit home with Sue just how many people are dealing with cancer and she wanted to remind people of all ages to check out anything they are unsure of.

In the first instance, always seek

the advice of a healthcare professional, but if you cannot get there immediately, NHS Direct have a helpline: 0845 46 47 (open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year) and the Cancer Research website has useful information on signs and actions you can take: www.cancerhelp.org.uk

Read the rest of this article @ www.claphampark.org.uk

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would be proud of me and my achievements and the way I have turned my life around.

What's the future of 2Mannish?

I have just received some Community Chest Funding from the Clapham Park Project and we have been able to arrange for professional speakers to visit and talk to us about issues we are concerned about. Some of the members of 2Mannish have expressed their gratitude to me for leading the group.

Where are the 2Mannish meetings held?

2Mannish meetings take place once a month at the Sultan Pub on New Park Road. I ring or email members once we have agreed a date for the meeting.

What is Comunifix?

Comunifix is the abbreviation for Community, University and Fixing. I wanted to set up a social enterprise of local people working together in our own area. Comunifix provides a range of DIY jobs at a low cost for the local community. I had the idea to set up Comunifix when I offered to do some work for Clapham Park Homes. Before I knew it, there was enough work for a number of other men. We were all given individual contracts, and I thought about what would happen when Clapham Park



Matthew Robert: "TimeBank gave me back my courage and spirit"

TimeBank finished. I thought about setting up a company, as I have a lot of unemployed friends with decorating skills. For me, it's about looking after the area. I wanted to restore respect for the place we live in.

If we, as residents and parents in the community, paint the blocks of flats, the young people are less likely to graffiti them because that would be seen as disrespectful.

How do you think you have changed?

I now see my children every two weeks and I enjoy spending time with them, seeing them grow up.

TimeBank has helped open doors for me and I have forged good friendships, including with Erica. Timebank gave me back my courage and my spirit: I got involved in the community and got out and met people, and without Timebank I wouldn't have been inspired to set up two more community groups.

Local female footballers join Arsenal's Ladies Centre of Excellence

Three talented female residents have been chosen to participate in Arsenal Ladies Centre of Excellence football programme.

The girls, Freda Ayisi, Martha Ewers and Kyra Morrison-McLoud all play for a local female football team under the watchful eye of team Manager, Richard Sobers.

Richard, who has been coaching young residents of Clapham Park with regular training sessions in Agnes Riley Gardens said: "I'm delighted for the girls. Their hard work and dedication, along with five years' hard work by the coaching staff and myself has paid off. Thanks

also to the CPP for their support."

The purpose of the Arsenal Ladies Centre of Excellence is to identify female players of outstanding ability and place them in a technical and educational programme that is designed to produce excellent players and well-balanced young people.

The Centre offers superb training and playing facilities and, as well as playing football, the girls benefit from fitness assessments and attend workshops covering topics such as health awareness, nutrition and lifestyle. Every season, each player also receives two personal appraisals.



The girls, Freda Ayisi, Martha Ewers, and Kyra Morrison-McLoud.



Day/Date	Meeting/Event	Time	Venue
November 2009			
Tue 24	CPP Board Meeting & AGM	6.00 for 6.30pm	1-4 Brixton Hill Place, London SW2 1HJ
January 2010			
Tue 26	CPP Board Meeting	6.00 for 6.30pm	1-4 Brixton Hill Place, London SW2 1HJ

For more diary dates visit www.claphampark.org.uk/events.
If you would like to publicise your event in the Clapham Park Diary, call Melanie on 020 8678 5934

Parent and Toddler Group in Spanish

FREE Thursdays, 10.00am–12.00pm
All Saints Church, Lyham Road, SW2

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Clapham Park Project, 1-4 Brixton Hill Place, London SW2 1HJ
Contact **CPP** on 020 8678 5900 for more information

BENEFITS | ADVICE & DEBT | REFERRAL

CLAPHAM PARK ADVISORY SERVICE
Tuesday–Thursday
10.00am–4.00pm
(closed for lunch 12–2pm)
71-73 New Park Road, London SW2 4EN

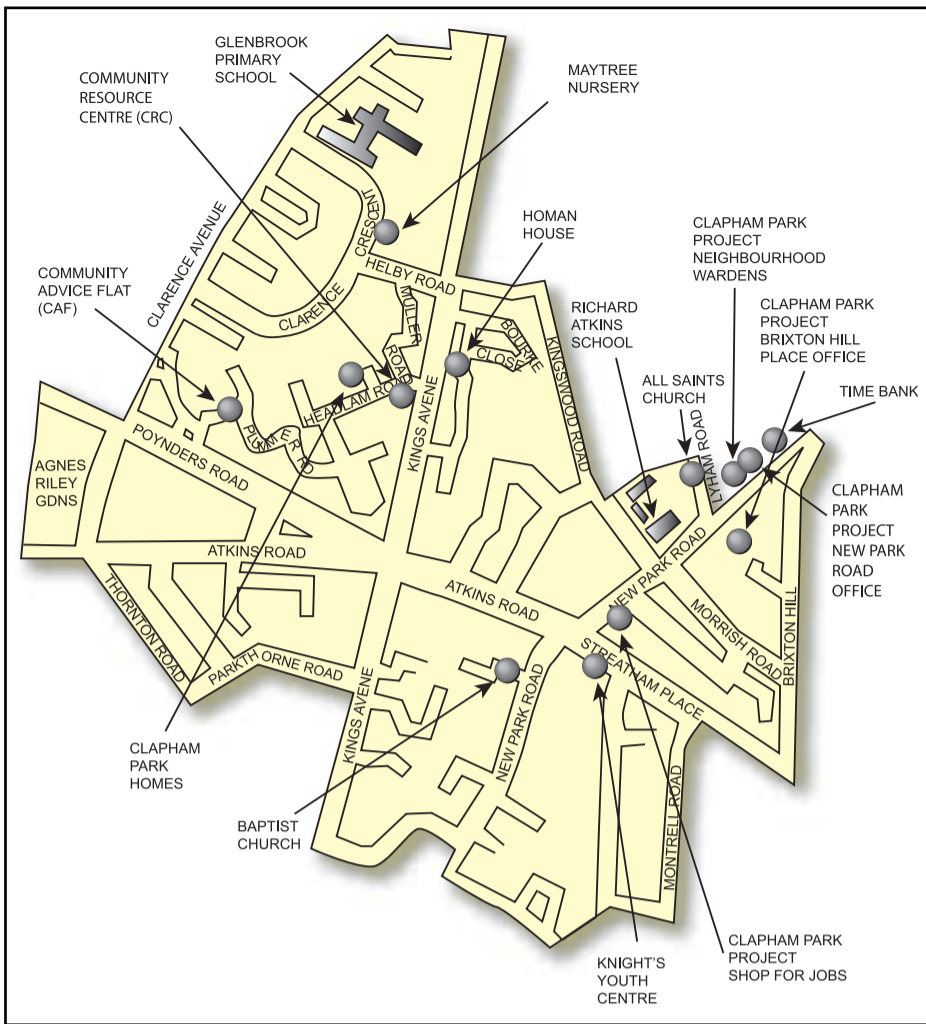
The drop-in service has been set up to give residents friendly straightforward advice and information on benefit related issues and debt referral. It will also give out useful information about other services in the local area and how to access them.




OCN Accredited Employability Courses: November 2009–March 2010	
Wednesday 18 November, 2009	Communication Skills in the Workplace *
Thursday 3 December, 2009	Presentation Skills *
Tuesday 12 January, 2010	Job Search Skills *
Tuesday 9 February, 2010	Selling Yourself Before, During and After the Interview **
Tuesday 16 February, 2010	CV Skills *
Tuesday 9 March, 2010	Communication Skills in the Workplace *

* = Full day 10.00am–4.00pm, lunch included | ** = ½ day: 10.00am–1.00pm

For more information, or to sign up, contact **Sheryl Buabin** on **020 8678 5945**.



Contact Us

If you have any comments or suggestions or would like to contribute an article contact **the Editor** on **020 8678 5934**, or email **parklife@claphampark.org.uk**

Contributions for the next issue are required by **Friday 18th December, 2009**.

All-new CPP website!

The new Clapham Park Project website is now live.



The site is designed to be much more interactive and features information on our activities, news, events, offers, jobs and much more.

There are also podcasts, video diaries and blogs.

We also have a monthly email newsletter, E-Life.

Sign up at the website to receive E-Life updates in between editions of Park Life.

There is also a section for young people. Please take a look at:

www.claphampark.org.uk

www.claphampark.org.uk/youth

If you would like to list any events, jobs or offers on the site, please contact Melanie Hook on 020 8678 5934 or email mhook@claphampark.org.uk

WORDSEARCH

Take a few minutes of your time to find all the words, related to the Community Fun Day, in the grid on the right. Words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, backwards or forwards. Once you have found all the words listed, complete the entry form below and send the completed grid and entry form to

Clapham Park Project using the freepost address below for a chance to win a £20 gift voucher. Congratulations to Alpha Cazley of Prendergast House, who was the winner of the Recycling Wordsearch Competition in the last issue of Park Life. She received a £20 Claire's gift voucher.

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel

Age (if under 18)

Closing date for all entries is **Friday 11th December, 2009**. Please send all entries to Clapham Park Project, FREEPOST RRHG-TZCX-HHLX 1-4 Brixton Hill Place, London SW2 1HJ. No correspondence will be entered into. Judge's decision is final.

COMPETITION

S A C L I X S C Q Y O L D I R
 N F H R E E U Q R A M X X K N
 O A S J K W P S Z Z L I B V O
 O C P Z B T I R W R A D C S I
 L E C G F U H I T Z L I E U T
 L P M A Q D Y A N W S N G N A
 A A N A K I W P Z U I G M S M
 B I N X P E G E M G H D A H R
 I N A Z Z N S R N T C I S I O
 S T I Z G Z S E E L S C S N F
 D I C D N T E C A L R J A E N
 B N I O R R I V L A F G G S I
 E G G A I V N X F C P F E J B
 V W A F D S Y T H A N Q A K H
 R U M A F D S J Y R L G R R C

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Regenerating the Clapham Park NDC Area