



STUDIO VOLTAIRE REOPENING

Clapham arts organisation Studio Voltaire will reopen on Friday 15 October 2021, following completion of their transformative capital project.

Visit their newly renovated site to see Anthea Hamilton's garden, which forms the new entrance, and Joanne Tatham & Tom O'Sullivan's permanent commission in their public toilets.

Across their new learning and events spaces are special displays by Monster Chetwynd and Conal McStravick, and a new café and a permanent space for the House of Voltaire shop.

The opening exhibition is the first significant survey of San Francisco-based artist William Scott. This expansive exhibition of over 80 paintings, drawings and sculptures from the early 1990s to present includes a number of previously unexhibited works, alongside large-scale public works displayed throughout our neighbourhood.

As well as displaying Scott's artwork inside the building, his work will also feature across public spaces in Clapham. The public exhibition has been funded by the Arts Council with support provided by This is Clapham.

In his multifaceted practice, Scott creates a complete and fantastical world that explores the intersections of African American culture with science fiction, architecture, pop culture and private desire. Scott often describes himself as an architect, and his practice at large reimagines the social topography of San Francisco, which is 'cancelled' and returned as the utopian 'Praise Frisco', a gleaming and safe city centre.

Image courtesy of William Scott and Creative Growth.



OUTDOOR DINING IN CLAPHAM

If you're looking to make the most of the Autumn sun, then Clapham's outdoor dining spots remain popular locations for people to enjoy a meal and watch the world go by. We've rounded up some of our favourite locations from secret gardens to rooftops.

At least 65% of those who completed the survey are also supportive of exploring a range of improvements in the Clapham area including pavement widening, cycle parking, planting, public seating, public art and pedestrianisation.

The new planters and seating arrangements on Voltaire Road will provide additional outdoor space for customers for local businesses and members of the public. This is a temporary scheme and will evolve further into a more comprehensive pavement widening scheme.

Residents will have noticed that Lambeth Council has been supporting the hospitality industry through the repurposing of some parking spaces on the Pavement and on Voltaire Road. In line with government legislation and following formal consultation it is expected that the new arrangements on The Pavement will remain in place for a further year. A recent survey by Lambeth Council about the seating on The Pavement received 336 Responses. 88% of people who completed the survey are 'very supportive' of keeping the seating in place for a further year.

Scan the QR code to see some of our favourite outdoor spaces.



TODAY'S LIVING CELEBRATES 35 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Today's Living is a family run business and Clapham's longest serving health food shop and this year it will celebrate 35 years on Clapham High Street. Harbans and Baljeet Soor opened Today's Living in 1986 after recognising the benefits and popularity of health supplements.

To celebrate, Today's Living will be selling the Clapham shopping bag, made from 100% sustainable cotton, at an exclusive 50% discounted price. So visit Pinder, Harbans and Baljeet today and grab yourself a bargain.

To view and purchase the bag and other exclusive Clapham merch online, including the Clapham Cultural Map by Jenni Sparks, please scan the QR code below.

Over the last 30 years they have been selling a large range of natural health food products and providing advice on alternative forms of medicine to Clapham residents. Today's Living specialise in natural health products such as organic and gluten free foods, vitamins, minerals, herbal remedies, aromatherapy oils, homeopathic remedies, body care, cosmetics and sports nutrition supplements.



CLAPHAM HUB WOMEN'S SAFETY

The Clapham Hub reopened its doors on the 23 July for the first time since hospitality businesses were required to close in 2020.

The Clapham Hub is a 'safe space' located at the Clapham Methodist Church on Clapham High Street. It is a partnership scheme that operates to make the night-time economy safer and ensure that vulnerable individuals are helped to get home safely from Clapham.

The Clapham Hub provides a range of services, which includes trained medical assessment and supervised recovery and discharge. It supports clients usually exhibiting one or more of the following: injury, intoxication and vulnerability.

The Clapham Hub also provides other services, including pastoral care, access to toilets and help and advice to those who are lost or need to get home safely such as charging a mobile phone or calling a taxi.

In the first two weekends of operating 33 people were supported at the Hub, of which 60% were female. In 2018, 838 people in need of help accessed the Hub for support. In 2019 this number increased to 935. Attendees are split equally between men and women.

Unlike similar safe spaces in the UK the Clapham Hub is managed and funded by a partnership between the This is Clapham BID and Churches Together in Clapham. The photo includes Hub Team members and some recent visitors who were assisted with phone charging, getting a taxi and a cup of tea.



BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visited Clapham Old Town in May to meet local business people and workers in the hospitality industry as Clapham looks to continue its recovery from the coronavirus lockdown.

The visit first saw Their Royal Highnesses join an outdoor reception at the Michelin Starred Trinity Restaurant. The Prince and The Duchess were greeted by guests including members of the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts, apprentices, chefs and trainee chefs.

The reception was held to mark the 40th anniversary of the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts, of which The Prince is a Patron. The Academy is the leading professional membership association of head chefs, head pastry chefs, restaurant managers and suppliers.

Their visit then saw The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall tour local shops. They started outside of the Omnibus Theatre where they met the cast, crew, staff members and local children.

Their Royal Highnesses went on to visit local independent shops and businesses. This included visits to Birksen Flowers, the Prince of Wales pub where the Prince pulled a pint, Rex and Wolfe pet shop and dog groomers and Old Town Traditional Barbers, before finishing the visit at the Clapham Fire Station.

Scan the QR code for more pictures of the Royal visit.



CLAPHAM COMMON INVESTMENT

Working in partnership with the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC), Lambeth Council is set to invest some £1 million in infrastructure projects across Clapham Common.

CCMAC has identified key areas for the first major investment in many years: installation of a new water play area to replace the children's paddling pool; and an upgrade of paths, signage and access across the Common.

A new wet play feature will replace the children's paddling pool, which, despite repeated repairs over the years, is not fit for purpose and remains closed. This denies local families the opportunity to enjoy what is one of the most popular free summer play activities on the Common.

The project to improve access to the Common – including for wheelchair users – will comprise restoring paths and replacing the current hotchpotch of signage with more informative and consistent signposting.

An additional, much smaller project, is a feasibility study to establish the economic, community and ecological benefits of reshaping the area around the basketball and skate park to make better use of this cramped, busy and untidy space.

This investment follows the restoration of the Bandstand in 2019, funded by a levy on events on the Common, and a complete upgrade of the children's playground near Windmill Drive in 2020.

There are also separately-funded plans to landscape the closed section of Windmill Drive and bring up to international standard the basketball courts, both of which will begin this autumn.



PODCASTS AND CARGO BIKES

Greg Andrews, the owner of local business Dvine Cellars based on Voltaire Road have teamed up with local cargo bike company Hugo's Eco Delivery to deliver their cases of wine in a more sustainable way.

Dvine Cellars is a wine bar, shop and delicatessen who specialise in biodynamic, organic and sustainable wines from around the world. The business started as stall on Venn Street Market some years ago, before moving into a shop on Landor Road and subsequently moving to Voltaire Road.

You can pop in and buy wines by the bottle or order online for full and half cases, which will be delivered by cargo bike within the local area.

Greg explains – "the covid pandemic got me and my customers thinking differently. The increased congestion doubled the time it was taking me to do deliveries from 40 minutes to 2 hours, time that I couldn't afford. Sustainability is also important to the business in the products we sell, and in how we operate, such as recycling. Looking for alternative delivery options became a higher priority and eventually I found Hugo, who is also a local business."

To add to their cycling credentials, Dvine have also teamed up with 'The Cycling Podcast' and have created cases of wine based on the Giro d'Italia, Tour de France and Vuelta a España cycle races. Each race comes with an accompanying podcast where Greg discusses his wine selections for each race.

