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Welcome to our latest edition of Park Life, which highlights some of the

work we have undertaken recently.

We are currently looking to recruit volunteers for the project (see page 2). This has led me to reflect on volunteering in general. Many of our former volunteers have used the experience as a stepping stone on to better things. However, there seems to be a growing expectation that volunteers will do more, that the state will diminish and an army of local residents will fill the gap. I am not convinced, as I talk to my neighbours, their concerns are closer to home. They are worried about paying their bills, rising costs, losing their jobs and how much debt their children will have to take on if they want a university education.

Let me close by wishing you a long hot summer, we all need something to look forward to.

Donna C. Henry, MBE, Chair, Clapham Park Project *Charity*

Get to know your neighbours



Volunteers assist with face painting.

On Saturday 24 March 2012 over 100 adults and 40 children and young people from Cotton, Angus, Crossman and Currie House got together for a Bring & Share Lunch at the New Park Road Baptist Church.

The event was supported by many volunteers and residents who helped with setting up tables and chairs and decorating the hall. Some prepared delicious food from

all over the world and others helped with children's activities, including face-painting, headband making and book making. Football and games were also organised close by and for the less energetic, a game of bingo! Thank you to Generation Radio for providing us with great music throughout.

The purpose of the day was to help residents to get to know their neighbours. We have already been asked when we will be doing it again and whether we can do it with other blocks on the estate. If you would like us to help, please contact us on 020 8678 5900.



Local residents enjoying their lunch.

Introducing Time Loving Care project worker Claire Puttick

Clapham Park Project *Charity* has recruited Claire Puttick (right) to work part-time on the Time Loving Care (TLC) project, which helps to improve the well being of vulnerable adults.

Assisted by a small team of volunteers, Claire will provide support to elderly and vulnerable residents whilst they are in hospital and afterwards when they are recovering at home. She will be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays until December 2012.



Claire, who started her new job on 1 May 2012, is returning to work after a period of illness. She said: "I have many years of nursing experience, in hospitals and the community, in England, USA and Brazil. My past experiences in nursing and also in my personal life have shown that there are gaps in care which need filling. I feel that the TLC project will fill these gaps and I am looking forward to working with the TLC team."

Her post is funded by the Lambeth Community Fund and the London Community Foundation.

If you think you would benefit from the TLC service, or know someone who would, please contact Claire on 020 8678 5933 or 07946 299 881 or cputtick@claphampark.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Can you spare a few hours a week to help support the Time Loving Care project?

- Volunteers will give practical support to local residents while they are in hospital and as they recuperate from illness at home
- Help may include watering plants, topping up the electricity meter or mobile phone, contacting friends and family on their behalf, or liaising with the hospital
- Volunteers will be given training, support and any reasonable expenses incurred will be reimbursed

If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact: cputtick@claphampark.org.uk or phone 020 8678 5933 (Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

CPP Board Trustee appointment



Local resident David Wood has been appointed a Trustee to the Clapham Park Project *Charity* Board.

David worked for CPP from 2002 to 2008. He undertook a variety of roles but primarily he worked as a Monitoring Officer within the Evaluation Team progressing on to Fundraising Officer prior to his departure. He has lived in the area since April 2004 and has witnessed the way the area has changed for the better.

Speaking of his appointment, David said: "Working for CPP gave me an insight into some of the historical problems encountered by residents of the Clapham Park area and I am hoping that my experience can be put to full use."

TRUSTEES WANTED

Clapham Park Project *Charity* is seeking a new Trustee to join its 12-strong Board.

- **Are you passionate about your community and want to make a contribution?**
- **Would you like to be involved in making important decisions about your community?**
- **Would you like to attend a meeting to discuss this opportunity?**

For more information contact us today on 020 8678 5940

Clapham Park Neighbourhood Forum

Together we are making a difference in our community

Thanks to the Lambeth Forum Network who have recently approved a £10,000 grant for the Clapham Park Neighbourhood Forum, we will be able to continue to deliver some very exciting work this year. This includes working with young people to provide them with skills required to become youth leaders in their community; continuing the Inter-generational project; a Bike Project involving the whole family and we are able to continue to support local community and voluntary groups. Read about some of the groups and activities we supported last year on this page.

Inter-Generational Project

This project is trying to change attitudes between two groups of people divided by a generation gap. The desire to break through the barriers, misunderstandings, mistrust and fear of each other brought 12 young people and eight elderly residents together for a discussion. During the discussion, it was easy for the young people to see how wearing a hoodie could be a barrier in itself. The young people were interested in the lives of the elderly, and listened as they spoke about their experiences. The elderly wanted to know why young people join gangs, and why they weren't more involved with their families. They also wanted to know what they can do for the young people. Both groups agreed that society placed too much importance on the self.

Further inter-generational discussions will take place in the future.



Sue Bowman, MBE, talks to younger residents about her life, meeting the queen and bringing up a family in the Army.

Clapham Park Tenants & Residents Association (CPTRA)

The funding helped to support the newly established joint Tenants & Residents Association (TRA) to publicise their meetings by producing leaflets and circulating them. This had the desired effect of boosting attendance numbers. We will continue to work and find innovative ways of increasing membership. A joint event will take place in the summer and we are looking for volunteers to help us plan and support the event on the day.

Over 50s Social Club

Some of the Lambeth Forum Network (LFN) grant was used to resurrect the Luncheon Club after a break of over two years. We were able to support 25 elderly residents to enjoy a traditional Christmas Lunch and we also continued to support lunches for a further three months, providing a much needed opportunity for elderly residents to meet up and share their news over a hot nutritious meal.

We have provided training for two volunteers to drive the minibus, and working in partnership with the Weir Link, we hope that the shopping trips will restart again soon.

For more information about the Neighbourhood Forum or any of the projects it supports, contact Ching Wah Wong on 020 8678 5922 or email cwong@claphampark.org.uk

ROOMS FOR HIRE

Clapham Park Project *Charity* has a range of rooms available for hire at very competitive rates. We can also offer equipment hire (laptops, projectors, flip charts etc.)



For more information contact Adriano Jesus on 020 8678 5946 or orajesus@claphampark.org.uk

Brixton Hill Place offices become home for two more charities



From left: Laide Ladipo from Into University, Donna C. Henry, MBE, Chair, Clapham Park Project *Charity*, Jackie Nunns from Kids City, Angus Johnson, Chief Executive, Clapham Park Project *Charity*.

Two more charities are now based at Clapham Park Project *Charity*'s offices at Brixton Hill Place.

Our new tenants are Kids City, a London based charity providing childcare and out of school activities to children in Lambeth, Merton and Wandsworth, and Into University an award winning educational charity helping young people from underprivileged backgrounds attain either a university place or other chosen aspiration. Both charities are bringing services into the heart of the community.

The Challenge – Inspiring young people to transform their communities

The Challenge is an exciting summer programme which connects young people from different backgrounds across London, helps build their confidence and inspires them to improve their local communities.

Teams of 16 year olds take on a three-week programme that includes physical, creative and social action challenges. The first two weeks are residential, with all meals and accommodation provided. During the first week, young people take on intensive outdoor challenges like hiking, abseiling, and canoeing in a natural setting outside London.



Next, the Challengers spend an inspiring week in university accommodation, gaining skills in an area they are passionate about, be it music, sport, film-making or street-dance! The programme finishes with the young people designing and running their own community project in their local area.

There is a cost involved, which is heavily subsidised to ensure that cost is not a barrier for any young person wanting to take part.

The Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for young people from diverse backgrounds to work together, make new friends, have a fun break away from home, challenge themselves, master new skills and make a difference in their local area.

For more information please call 020 7921 4404, 0330111 0101 (free from mobiles) or email giannina.walsh@the-challenge.org. or visit our website: www.the-challenge.org



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