# **CLAPHAM AND STOCKWELL CYCLE RIDE**









This seven-mile ride, largely on attractive back streets, gives an introduction to some of the amazing people who have lived in Clapham and Stockwell and helped shape history.

#### A CLAPHAM COMMON BANDSTAND

Opened in 1890, this is the largest bandstand in London and Grade II listed, with a number of concert bands playing during the year.

#### **B** CLAPHAM SOUTH DEEP SHELTER

Eight air-raid shelters, each designed to hold up to 8,000 people, were built under London Underground Stations during World War 2, coming into use for the government in 1942. Clapham Common, Clapham North, and Stockwell also have deep shelters. In 1944 the deep shelters at Clapham South and North and Stockwell were opened to the public as bombing intensified.

London's severe labour shortage after the war led, in 1948, to the Colonial Office recruiting workers from the West Indies. This new workforce, vanguard of the post-war immigration boom, was housed in this shelter, having arrived on the MV Empire Windrush (after which Brixton's Windrush Square is named). A display board by the shelter gives more details.

# SIR CHARLES BARRY (1795-1860), ARCHITECT OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, LIVED HERE

Barry was apprenticed at 15 to Middleton & Bailey, architects and surveyors in Lambeth, then went on a Grand Tour of Europe and the Middle-East from 1817-1820. Much of his work was inspired by the Italian palazzo style of Florence and Rome, and his fine Traveller's Club (1829) in Pall Mall was a turning point in English architecture.

He is best known however for the new Houses of Parliament to replace the building burnt down in the fire of 1834. Barry won the competition with a design in Perpendicular Gothic style, drawing upon support from Augustus Pugin for the detailed Gothic decoration.

Since 1899, 29 Clapham Common Northside has been the Trinity Hospice, providing end-of-life care.

As you pass 50 The Chase, note the Grade 2 listed hexagonal 'Penfold' post box; now rare, this was the standard design between 1866 and 1879.

#### D NATSUME SÖSEKI HOUSE AND MUSEUM OPPOSITE

The author of Kokoro, Botchan and I Am a Cat, Natsume Sōseki (1867 –1916) was an acclaimed Japanese novelist of the Meiji period (1868–1912) whose portrait graced the 1,000 Yen note from 1984 to 2004. Also a scholar of British literature, in 1900 the Japanese Government sent Sōseki to England. He studied at UCL but didn't enjoy his time in London, "the most unpleasant years in my life. Among English gentlemen I lived in misery, like a poor dog that had strayed among a pack of wolves."

He spent much of the time indoors reading the many books he acquired while here, and copies of these, recreated from lists he kept, can be seen in the private Sōseki Museum opposite (limited opening hours).

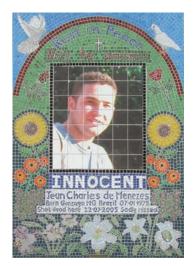
# **E** JEAN CHARLES DE MENEZES PLAQUE

On Thursday 21 July 2005, two weeks after 52 members of the public were killed in the public transport suicide bombings of 7/7, four attempted bomb attacks took place, luckily with only the detonator caps going off and no-one injured, at Shepherd's Bush, Warren Street and Oval stations on London Underground, and on a bus in Shoreditch.

The following morning, Jean Charles de Menezes, who the police had wrongly identified as a suspected bomber, was shot and killed as he boarded a train at Stockwell.









# F STOCKWELL DEEP SHELTER, MURAL AND BRONZE WOMAN STATUE

The mural, created by Brian Barnes and Myra Harris, includes local residents such as Bond star Roger Moore, who grew up in Streatham, van Gogh, and WWII SOE agent, Violette Szabo, who was captured and executed while on a mission in France. Szabo's daughter, Tania, and Virginia McKenna who plays her in the film "Carve her name with pride" ceremonially opened the mural in 2001.

Nowadays the deep shelter houses the Guardian Newspaper's Archives.

Bronze Woman is a poem by Guyana-born Cecile Nobrega (1919 - 2013), who lived in Stockwell, celebrating the achievements of black women in Britain. The statue is the first of a black woman to be on permanent display datable.



## **G** STOCKWELL BUS GARAGE (1952)

The sweeping expanse of Stockwell Bus Garage, a concrete modernist building designed by Adie, Button & Partners, was, at the time of construction, the largest unsupported area under one roof in Europe - 6,814 m2. Local author Will Self views it as "a triumphant attempt to show that form and function can be beautifully integrated through what were then the most advanced civil engineering techniques." Responding to the post-war steel shortage, reinforced-concrete roof arches were used in place of conventional steel trusses.

## **H** TRADESCANT STATUE

This statue, by Hilary Cartmel, and nearby Tradescant Road, which marks the former boundary of the Tradescant botanical garden, pay tribute to John Tradescant (c1570 – 1638), the first great gardener and plant-hunter in British history. He kept his natural history and ethnographic 'collection of rarities' in a house, The Ark, which was open to the public, and his collection went on to form the core of The Ashmolean in Oxford, the oldest public museum in Britain, and the first purpose-built public museum in the world.

#### ARTHUR RACKHAM (1867 –1939) LIVED HERE 27 Albert Sq.

Considered the leading decorative illustrator of the Edwardian period, Arthur Rackham studied at the Lambeth School of Art. He provided fantastical illustrations for Rip Van Winkle (1905), Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens (1906), Alice in Wonderland (1907) and countless other books.

## J VINCENT VAN GOGH (1853-1890)

The post-impressionist painter lodged at 87 Hackford Road having moved to London in May 1873 to work for international art dealer Goupil & Cie in Covent Garden, a few years before deciding to become an artist. His letters to his brother Theo showed he enjoyed his time in London; snippets can be found in the adjacent Van Gogh Walk, which won the Placemaking Award for design excellence in 2013.

#### K THE TYPE ARCHIVE

Since 1995 a former veterinary hospital in Stockwell has housed the largest and most valuable collection of type founding equipment in Britain, the Type Archive. Though not currently open to the public, the plan is to open it as a museum. The archive has acquired key collections documenting the principal chapters in the history of type in Britain, including traditional typefounding, woodletter type and 'hot metal' mechanical typecasting.



# LILIAN BAYLIS (1874 – 1937) LIVED HERE

Lilian Baylis was a theatrical producer and manager of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells theatres. Her work, as the legendary manager of the Old Vic for 25 years, laid the foundations for a national theatre. She produced, over 7 years, all 36 plays published in Shakespeare's 'first folio'.

In 1925 Baylis decided that Sadler's Wells would make the ideal location for the extension to the north London of her theatre policy. Over time opera, and later dance settled into the Wells. Baylis enabled the creation at Sadler's Wells of what became The Royal Ballet, English National Opera and Birmingham Royal Ballet, as well as the Royal Ballet School.

# M EDIBLE BUS STOP, LANDOR ROAD

The garden was initiated in 2011 as a local community response to plans to build over a space, created as result of a bomb in WW2. The planning application was rejected and The Edible Bus Stop volunteer community gardeners transformed it into a verdant community garden, enhanced in 2013, using salvaged granite kerbstones as the retaining walls, as part of Lambeth's Neighbourhood Enhancement Program and the Mayor of London's Pocket Park scheme.

## N CLAPHAM LIBRARY

The library by London architects Studio Egret West is at the base of residential blocks in the form of a row of books. Inside the library, bookshelves follow the curve of a wide spiral ramp which leads up from the cafe and children's library on the basement level to the reading room on the upper level. It won the Culture and Community category at the 2012 New London Awards.

Having turned into Clapham Manor Street you pass Bicycle Mews on the right, the name commemorating London-based bicycle dealer and frame-builder Claud Butler whose works were in Clapham Manor Street from 1932 to 1956.



Stockwell Bus Garage



**Tradescant Statue** 



Arthur Rackham



Van Gogh Walk



**Edible Bus Stop** 

# **O** VENN STREET

Venn Street is named after Reverend John Venn (1759 - 1813), Rector of Clapham from 1792 and a leader of the progressive Clapham Sect which successfully campaigned for the abolition of the slave trade amongst many other religious, philanthropic and moral causes. His grandson, Dr John Venn, was a logician and philosopher, after whom the Venn diagram is named.

Lambeth

In 2012 the street was redesigned to be a more sociable space and now hosts a fresh food market each Saturday morning.

## P HOLY TRINITY CHURCH 1776

A blue plaque on the front of the church records that "William Wilberforce and 'the Clapham Sect' worshipped in this church. Their campaigning resulted in the abolition of slavery in British Dominions, 1833."

Active from c. 1790–1830, The Clapham Sect was the name later given to a group of Christian social reformers, based in Clapham, with William Wilberforce as its centre of gravity. On the right hand side of the church, as you look at it, is an older plaque (scarred by the bombing in WW II which left the Lady Chapel gutted, main roof near to collapse and all the windows destroyed) listing the core members of the group.

# **Q** OMNIBUS - ROMAN ALTAR

Sitting by the entrance to the former Clapham Library, now Omnibus, is a nondescript large stone, actually a Roman altar erected by vitus Ticinius Ascanius, probably first century, which was discovered during building operations at Clapham Common South Side in 1912. The Roman military road Stane Street ran from London to Chichester following the line of Clapham Road and then onward along the line of Abbeville Road.

# **R** GRAHAM GREENE

14 Clapham Common North Side

Graham Greene, 1904-1991, novelist and playwright, lived here from 1935-1940 during which time two of his four major Catholic novels, Brighton Rock and The Power and the Glory, were published, as was The Confidential Agent, one of several concerning international politics and espionage.

#### **END OF RIDE**



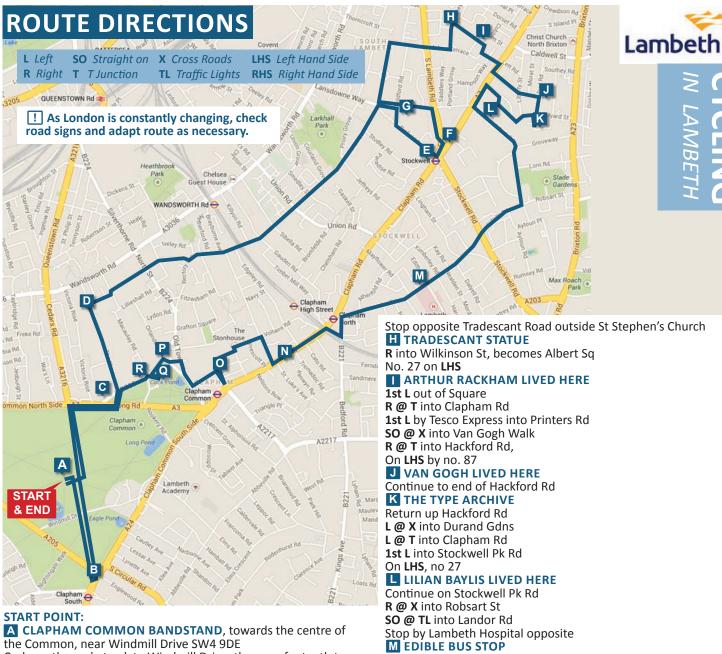






Venn Street Holy Trinity Church

**Graham Greene** 



Cycle on the cycle track to Windmill Drive, then use footpath to south-east corner of the Common, opposite Clapham tube station

**B** CLAPHAM SOUTH DEEP SHELTER

Return towards the Bandstand

Remain on the Cycle Path to top of Common

R into Clapham Common Northside

Bear L, then stop on LHS by no. 29, just before The Chase

C SIR CHARLES BARRY, architect for the Houses of Parliament, lived here

L into the Chase

Stop just before Hannington Rd on LHS

D SÖSEKI BLUE PLAQUE AND MUSEUM OPPOSITE

R into Hannington Rd

L@T, then immed R into Broadhinton Rd

SO @ X into Turret Grove

L@T into Larkhall Rise

SO @ TL

R @ X into Lansdowne Way

1st R into Binfield Rd

At end walk right past Stockwell Tube station and on RHS

**E** MEMORIAL TO JEAN CHARLES DE MENEZES

Cross to traffic island

F STOCKWELL DEEP SHELTER, WAR MEMORIAL AND **BRONZE WOMAN STATUE** 

Cross to South Lambeth Road and cycle north

L into Lansdowne Way, on LHS

**G** STOCKWELL BUS GARAGE 2nd R Lansdowne Gdns

SO @ RAB

R @ T into Thorne Rd

SO @ TL into Aldebert Terrace

L into St Stephen's Terrace

L@TL into Bedford Rd

Immed R into Lendal Terr

L into Clapham High St

Stop on LHS after Clement Ave o/s

N CLAPHAM LIBRARY

Continue on Clapham High St

Immed R into Clapham Manor St

1st L into Cresset St

L into Stonhouse St

Immed R into Venn St

Walk through No Entry into

**O** VENN ST

Turn around and Linto Bromell's Rd

**R @ T** onto cycle track

Follow cycle track to go L onto Clapham Common N Side

P OMNIBUS (FORMER CLAPHAM LIBRARY)

L to front of

**Q** HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ON THE COMMON

Continue on cycle track along Clapham Common N Side

Stop opp no. 14

R GRAHAM GREENE LIVED HERE

Follow cycle track to Toucan Xing

R into Long Rd

L @ TL opp Cedars Rd onto Clapham Common cycle track Cycle to Bandstand

## **END OF RIDE**

Route researched and created by Charlie Holland for Cycle Confident www.cycleconfident.com