

YES WE CANNES!

CAMDEN SOCIETY FILM-MAKERS RECOGNISED AT OUR FIRST EVER FILM FESTIVAL AND AWARDS CEREMONY

EXCLUSIVE!
INTERVIEW
with
SIMON LIU
→



Selected for screenings at arts venues around London, the films of our talented writers, directors, producers and stars were celebrated in style at the Camden Society glamour event of the year.

Beneath the glittering chandeliers of the Glaziers Hall, we welcomed the award winners and showcased the winning films in all ten categories in our first ever film festival. Our charming compere, John Crawford, led the black tie-style event, welcoming a host of judges onto the stage. Announcing the winners, our judges handed out Oscars to the film supremos in front of a thrilled audience of service users, staff, trustees and partner organisations.

Having spent the last six months in production, our programme of twelve short films attracted large audiences for a private view at the independent Shortwave Cinema in Bermondsey and Jacksons Lane Theatre in Highgate. From tribute films and inspiring documentaries to creative animations and musical delights, the films were the result of hard work by groups from diverse projects across the organisation. The success of our screening events prove that Camden Society film-making teams have what it takes to create stimulating films that draw the crowds.

With paparazzi moments for our winners and Thames-side seats for our audience, everyone enjoyed a sophisticated afternoon of high tea and piano recitals. We caught up with a selection of our winners to find out about what the festival meant to them...

“ The film festival was a very good experience and we appreciated all of the effort that went into it – Angela Davies

I enjoyed being part of the film and would like to do it again – Christine Manion ”

We thank Rachel Halliwell for her fabulous multi-tasking skills and hard work in co-ordinating such a successful event. As we look forward to what has already been billed as a biennial festival, our *Pavement of the Stars* on the right gives the low down on the award-winners...



Shabna Uddin from Queens Road Day Service accepted the Creativity Award for “Hit Record”

<p>“CARNIVAL” BY ANTILL ROAD</p>  <p>KALEIDOSCOPE AWARD</p>	<p>“WORK IN PROGRESS” BY THE EMPLOYMENT GROUP</p>  <p>MOTIVATIONAL DOCUMENTARY</p>
<p>“HIT RECORD” BY QUEENS ROAD</p>  <p>CREATIVITY AWARD</p>	<p>“GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY” BY THE GRANGE</p>  <p>DRAMA AWARD</p>
<p>“STONE CROSSING” BY THE UNKNOWN</p>  <p>GROUP PERFORMANCE AWARD</p>	<p>“TOO MANY COOKS” BY QUEENS ROAD</p>  <p>MOST UPLIFTING FILM</p>
<p>“REFLECTIONS” BY QUEENS ROAD</p>  <p>GROUP CONCEPT AWARD</p>	<p>“JACK HARRIS, THE LEGACY” BY THE HERITAGE FILM GROUP</p>  <p>INSPIRATIONAL FILM MAKING</p>
<p>SOUTHWARK COMMUNITY PROJECT SOUTH</p>  <p>THE JACK HARRIS AWARD</p>	<p>“EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY” BY HELTER SKELTER</p>  <p>BEST FILM AWARD</p>

PARIS: THE CITY OF STYLE, BEAUTY & CULTURE...



...perfect then for a Camden Society trip as a group of 21 early risers took the Eurostar to the French capital in May. For some people it was their first time abroad with many lifelong ambitions fulfilled throughout the day.

Enjoying the luxury of having their very own guide and interpreter, Catherine, our group's first stop was lunch in the Jardin des Tuileries, where people enjoyed beautiful surroundings and soaked up the Parisian elegance. Splitting into groups, our daytrippers set off to explore the city, ascend the Eiffel Tower, stroll along the River Seine and pay their respects at Jim Morrison's grave. The Doors were definitely opened for Claire Wootton as she told us..."It was so cool, it was one of my dreams come true".

Sporting chic pearls and a glamorous handbag, Karma Bahadour enjoyed her first trip abroad. We spoke to Fiona, Karma's keyworker who told us "This was a learning curve for us and the day went so well we've decided to take a holiday to Europe in September.

It was great for Karma to visit Paris and even better that she was able to access the lift and view the city from the Eiffel Tower's first platform. I think Karma really enjoyed the statues and beauty of the Tuileries Gardens and our river walk. The whole day really made me think 'Yeah, we can do Europe, it will be a really positive thing for Karma'."

We wish Karma all the best for her next holiday!

Meeting up for dinner at a restaurant near Gare du Nord, our group chatted about the city sights of the day and their different experiences. Everyone agreed on one thing however, with plans already underway for more Ooh-la-la next year!



WATER TOP JOB! VOLUNTEERS' CANAL CLEAN-UP

Armed with water jets, brushes and goggles, a group of service users from our Employment & Learning Centre in Camden set out to rid the Grand Union Canal of its towpath graffiti on a beautiful sunny day in May.

Partnering with Thames21, an environmental charity that works to improve London's waterways, our group joined several other people to refresh the brickwork of the canal's Camley Street section.

Gaining great experience, learning more about the environment, using new tools and generally having fun, our group were rewarded for their hard work with a trip down the waterway itself. As Nagia Zia tells us "I really enjoyed the day, especially when we got to have a ride on the boat".



LONDON FROM THE TOP DECK

Setting out to visit every Camden Society café, Southwark's transport group have been wearing out their Freedom passes.

Using buses, trams, trains and tubes, the four ladies of the group told us that, so far, they've sampled the food delights of every café except Jacksons...and that's only because it's closed on Mondays!

Achieving their aim whilst sharing a love of shopping, the ladies made some great observations and gained increased confidence about using public transport. As Irene Farrington told us "I like to go on the top deck of the bus. I've never done that before. I like it because I can be 'nosey' and look at everybody."



Lorraine Farrelly, another member of the group gave us top tips about the best shopping areas they've come across and told us that the escalators used to make her feel nervous, but she manages fine now. Lynn Leverett recommended Flapjacks Café for its "very nice paninis" and everyone in the group felt sure that they had learned a lot from travelling around the city. The group are now looking forward to future adventures.



HISTORY IN THE MIX

Our mixed-media extravaganza celebrating the history of the Camden Society opened in April to dazzle audiences.

We had our heritage well and truly covered in film, photography and original theatre during the opening night at Jacksons Lane Theatre in Highgate. Around a hundred people attended the cultural evening, enjoying canapes and drinks to the sound of The Unknown band, who played a rocking live set in the foyer.

Screening groovy retro footage of 1970s Camden Society holidays and social clubs in the film 'Jack Harris: The Legacy', the work by our Heritage Film Group gave an intriguing insight into the early history of our organisation. Using archive clips, the film reflected service users' fond memories of Jack, one of the founding members of the Camden Society and celebrated his valued contribution.

Next up, the theatre production 'Where Are You Going?' was based on personal stories and memories of the cast. Written and staged by our Heritage Project Theatre Group, the show delighted audiences with highly visual, creative and humorous moments including a magical parade of blown kisses, together with imaginative sets. Jackie Fields told us about her experiences as a cast member: "It was very good, I enjoyed it, it was nice to be on stage".

Documenting the more recent history of Camden Society service users, Robin Robertson exhibited a beautiful series of portrait photographs in the theatre foyer. Shooting people in places and poses of individual significance, the photographs successfully represented people with learning disabilities as people with highly individual personalities, histories and interests.



A GIRLS' OWN NIGHT AT BOYZONE

Long-time fans of Boyzone, Michelle Cigie, Angela Davies and Ursula Allsopp sped to Wembley to catch the latest tour of Ronan and friends in May. Ursula reports on their evening...

“When we got to Wembley we were looking for somewhere to have a drink and something to eat and went inside the Arena. Everywhere was jam-packed with lots of people there. We went upstairs to find our seats to see the show and when Boyzone came on stage, we all started shouting for them. They were singing all their popular songs. It finished at 10.30. It was so brilliant, I would like to go again. It made me laugh.”



Ursula, Angela and Michelle: Pre-show excitement...



...Ursula, Angela and Michelle: Post-show partying!

FUNDRAISING FOCUS UPDATE



Kal and the Camden Society at high altitude!

Congratulations to courageous Kal, who reached Uhuru Peak (Mount Kilimanjaro's summit) on 18 June and finally completed his gruelling Kilimanjaro Challenge on 23 June.

So far, Kal has raised a whopping **£8,515** for a sensory garden at Hotel in the Park and for equipment for the Antill Road Centre. At the time of going to press, we needed another **£1,485** to reach our fundraising summit, so please donate now at: <http://www.justgiving.com/kaltaheem>

PROWORK STUDENTS SET THEIR STALL OUT FOR ENTERPRISE



Setting up 'Bookstop', a secondhand book-selling enterprise at Lambeth College, students linked to our ProWork Project have generated healthy profits, £200 of which they recently donated to the Camden Society.

Starting and running a business has encouraged the students to build skills in marketing and sales, customer service and administration. As Tolu Shokunbi says: *"We have gained so many useful skills for the real world"* The students will now continue to use their enterprise experience to seek jobs and feel that employers will be impressed by their performance. Presenting a

cheque to the Camden Society, Nicola Edwards told us that getting a job was her priority as she intends to "get my own place with my boyfriend". Thank you to the Lambeth students, we're sure that this experience will look great on your CVs!

STILL MORTAR RAISE YET!

Our tenacious fundraiser, Janet Lavin, spent the day at our Film Festival Awards Ceremony collecting donations and running a raffle generating extra cash for our Bag of Cement campaign.

Aimed at making our Captain Jack's holiday house a great place for everyone to visit, the campaign has so far achieved **£3,436** towards our **£35,000** target. If you want to donate, or if you have an idea for raising more cash, please contact Janet on **020 7267 4508**.

RECORD TURNOUT FOR PROWORK FORUM

Past and present students at Lambeth College celebrated their successes, shared their experiences of work and job searching and waved goodbye to Laura Dent, ProWork's first staff member, at the ProWork employment forum in June. Seventeen students attended with four ex-students taking a break from their jobs to offer advice about getting paid work in catering and childcare. Current students talked about their experiences on work placements at the Spa Sanctuary and the National Theatre before enjoying a homemade lunch prepared by the college's catering students.



MY LONDON



SIMON LIU'S CITY VIEWS

This issue, Simon Liu from our Camden City Living Services, talks to us about life in his neighbourhood and beyond.

What do you like about London?

I like Camden and Westminster, they are nice areas. The people are friendly and they talk to you. In Camden, I like the market, it's always busy and I help the market people to run their stalls. I carry things for them, all sorts of things like sunglasses, hats and pashminas. I'm friends with Mr Wong, he sells sunglasses and I help him out at weekends. I order food for the market people and sometimes go to Chinatown to pick it up.

I like sitting by the canal, watching people ride their bikes. I watch the boats coming in and out and sometimes I feed the birds peanuts that I buy from a sweetshop in Camden.

I also like walking around Soho and going for Chinese food there. There are lots of old Chinese people in Chinatown. They walk with walking sticks and I help them to cross the road or sometimes I order taxis for them. I sit in Trafalgar Square and look at what's going on. Sometimes, there's a lot of tourists. Buckingham Palace – that's a nice area and you can see the soldiers. Bayswater is very posh, they've got nice flats there and in Hyde Park you can see lots of big fish in the water.

What would you advise people to do in London?

I would tell people to travel around on the buses to get a good view. I'd tell them to go to London Bridge or Tower Bridge and ride a boat where they'll be able to see it all. On the boats it's nice to watch people and listen to what they're talking about.

What are your favourite places for eating and drinking?

I like the vegetarian or Italian pizza restaurants in Camden and Soho. My favourite places to eat though are Malaysian restaurants. I like sitting in the cafes in Camden because they are busy and lots of customers come in and talk. I like the food from Marks and Spencers, it's tasty but expensive.

What about the nightlife?

I sometimes go to the West End clubs. I talk to the people with the badges, the security guards and they let me in to listen to the funky music and watch people dancing.

My favourite pub is the Liberty Inn in Camden, I watch rugby and football in there and talk to friends about how many goals have been scored. I think London is clean because at night, people use water to clean the streets and they're good at picking up the rubbish.

If you'd like to feature in 'My London', call Hanna Tozer on 020 7485 8177

MOST WANTED • NEW FACES ENTER OUR TRUSTEE GALLERY

Combining our AGM and film festival events this year allowed us to welcome another group of talented people to the Camden Society in June.

Kindly giving their time and skills for free, our new trustees were introduced & formally elected onto our Executive Committee at our post-film festival AGM.

Chaired by Cllr David Noakes & Keith Shortman, the AGM offered us a chance to acknowledge our achievements of the past year. We also thanked our outgoing trustees, got to know our new trustees and congratulated a service user on his announcement that he was to become a parent.

CHECK OUT OUR TRUSTEE GALLERY TO FIND OUT WHO'S WHO...

TRUSTEE GALLERY ☆ TRUSTEE GALLERY

GERALD OPPENHEIM: CHAIR



Gerald is currently the Director of Policy at the Big Lottery Fund. Entering the Chair's hot seat, Gerald has previously held trustee positions at the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund and the BBC Charitable Appeals Advisory Committee.

JEAN TAYLOR: DEPUTY CHAIR



Having been a Camden Society trustee since 2005, Jean has also been involved with our organisation for over 30 years as the parent of a daughter with learning disabilities. Jean brings senior level experience within the voluntary sector.

CHRIS DUDGEON: TREASURER



As a Finance Manager at Linklaters, Chris steps into the Treasurer's role as a Chartered Management Accountant and MBA graduate. Chris has been known to get busy in the kitchen volunteering for Food Chain and is currently learning to be a mentor in a Linklater's partnership with Hackney Schools.

ALEX KIEFFER: HONORARY SECRETARY



As a lawyer specialising in corporate and company law, Alex also brings experience of working in the voluntary sector with adults and children with learning disabilities.

DEBBIE SORKIN: TRUSTEE



As our highly dedicated Chair for the last 6 years, Debbie brings a fantastic knowledge of the Camden Society to her new role as trustee. Most recently Debbie has been Director of Programmes and Services at the Royal Town Planning Institute and brings further experience of trusteeship, having sat on the boards of East Thames Housing Group and Richmond Fellowship.

ALISON WALLACE: TRUSTEE



Alison is a familiar face at the Camden Society, having been a trustee since 2000. Bringing fundraising experience from some big name charities such as Amnesty International and Friends of the Earth, we are more than happy to welcome Alison for another year.

We are indebted to Debbie Sorkin and Nick Prior who stood down this year as our Chair and Treasurer respectively. Both Debbie and Nick have been highly dedicated trustees, showing enormous commitment and supporting us with several key achievements including our move to Holmes Road & our day services modernisation contract in Southwark.

We are very lucky to have retained Debbie's commitment to our organisation by welcoming her as a trustee. In the departures lounge however, we say a very grateful thank you and goodbye to Nick after a whopping 16 years enthusiastic service. We hope to co-opt Nick onto our Board so we can continue to benefit from his sound advice but in the meantime, we wish him all the very best for the future.

KAL TAHEEM: TRUSTEE



Kal kicks starts his trusteeship with a Kilimanjaro climb. Raising funds for a sensory garden at Hotel in the Park is a sideline for Kal as his professional life is spent in governance, risk & control as a Director of Internal Audit at LCH. Clearnet Ltd.

SIMON YAUNER: TRUSTEE



Re-elected for a sixteenth year, Simon is a qualified architect specialising in disability & 'green' architecture. Simon has supported the Camden Society in all matters related to property and building development.

MARY ELFORD: TRUSTEE



Having been re-elected into the trustee role she has held for 10 years with us, Mary currently serves as a non-executive Director of Barts, the London NHS Trust and Camidoc (a GP co-operative). Mary has commercial experience in senior positions at the John Lewis Partnership and is the parent of a daughter with learning disabilities.

FIONA BAIRD: TRUSTEE



As an NCVO accredited consultant, Fiona has worked with voluntary organisations for over 10 years and offers her skills and experience in business planning and strategy.

ALICE ETHERINGTON: PEOPLE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE



Nominated representative of Camden People First, Alice sits on our Board to represent the views of our service users & other people with learning disabilities. Alice was at the forefront of the self-advocacy movement; was one of the first members of National People First and is a member of Mencap's National Assembly. Alice is currently employed as a children's librarian.

KEITH SHORTMAN: PEOPLE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE



Formally representing Camden People First, Keith sits on our Board to represent the views of people with learning disabilities with the Metropolitan Police. Keith is also an active member of his community and supports many local events.

GROWING GLOBAL WITH A NEW PARTNERSHIP

Getting into the spirit of urban farming, Café One KX has been in search of a rooftop or disused green space for a while. Aiming for the ultimate in fresh, local ingredients for its healthy menus, the café has just begun growing its own herbs and vegetables.

Meeting with other interested food growing parties a few months ago, the café partnered with the environmental charity, Global Generation and the Guardian to secure and develop an underutilised area at Medway Court, a residential block opposite our Kings Cross café.

Armed with a successful Lottery bid, the café received help from the Guardian's corporate volunteering team and staff and trainees from Mill Lane Garden Centre to create a vegetable garden, making a small part of the city edible. Local school children also joined in to build willow baskets, weed flowerbeds and turn areas into fruit, vegetable and herb growing spaces. This was great practice for Mill Lane who have also recently partnered with Emmanuel School's eco group in West Hampstead to start to grow even more vegetables!

Funnily enough, the Guardian gardeners were also a whizz in the kitchen, helping Nathalie, Café One KX's manager, rustle up a tasty lunch for all the hard workers. Café One KX & local residents at Medway Court will share the GYO space, ensuring both the café and the community around it benefit from a ready supply of fresh produce.

GREEN FINGERS CROSSED...

...for Mill Lane who have entered the Camden in Bloom competition. With an awards cabinet still bulging from last year's Green Corners success, let's hope they win! Camden will announce the winners at the end of July.

HORTICULTURE HITS FOR MILL LANE TRAINEES

Congratulations will soon be in order for our group of eight gardening trainees who are on track to achieve the NPTC Skills for Working Life Level 2 and 3 qualifications in horticulture at the end of July.

Mustafa Kigili, a participant on the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers course told us that he learned about "wearing goggles & boots to protect us in the garden" whilst Stephen Cumberbatch can now give advice on "dead-heading plants – getting rid of the dead leaves and flowers". Jim Baird now hopes to use his skills to "look after the plants at the project" whilst Stephen is looking to "get a job doing more gardening". **Congratulations on your success guys! We wish you all the best for the future.**

RECRUITING NOW

FOR THE NEW COURSE STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Contact Charlotte at Mill Lane on 020 7431 1160 to sign up



EVENTS... EVENTS... EVENTS... EVENTS...

DAY TRIP TO CLACTON: 17 SEPTEMBER

Book now with Janet on 020 7267 4508 as seats are filling up fast!

BBQ AT MILL LANE GARDEN CENTRE:

30 JULY

12-3pm. Cost: £2 "meal deal" donation