



## THE HAMMERSLEY CONNECTION

*A Time to Enjoy – A Place to Relax*

### The Hammersley Connection Newsletter

Welcome to The Hammersley Connection newsletter, where we bring you news, forthcoming events, special offers and interesting articles to whet your appetite.

We want to stay in touch and we think that this is a good way to do it. You will receive a regular newsletter as well as invitations to attend separate events.

We hope you are enjoying your membership. We are working hard to ensure The Hammersley Connection is a success. Our dedicated team is busy preparing next year's activities and events. And to make it easier for you, we are also developing the website - which I am proud to announce now includes the ability for you to book your tickets and pay online.

We would like to hear your views and look forward to seeing you at Warren House soon.

Carolyn Henderson,  
General Manager

July 08

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#### Warren House launches The Hammersley Connection, an exclusive community for friends and guests.

The social scene in the Coombe Estate, Kingston, has never stood still. Since Warren House was built in 1884, it has played the role of a proud host to a lively social calendar. From royalty "time out" to family gatherings, the handsome rooms have been the setting for a tradition of fine entertainment and warm hospitality.

It was only natural that in keeping with this tradition, set over the past hundred and forty odd years, Warren House has extended its renowned, exquisite hospitality and superb service through the exclusive, invitation only, private club

called The Hammersley Connection. Carolyn Henderson said: "Over the years, many friends and guests have availed themselves of the facilities and amenities at Warren House, whether they were here for conferences, meetings or attending private events such as weddings and anniversary celebrations. We enjoy welcoming return guests, but we now want to go a step further. We decided that we wanted to recognise our esteemed guests and also reward them for their loyalty to Warren House. Hence The Hammersley Connection, our special way of saying: How lovely to see you again!"

#### Most Excellent Venue

Recognised by Johansens as the "Most Excellent Dedicated Venue" for conferences, meetings and events, Warren House is a five star haven in what has long been considered one of the wealthiest and most exclusive: The Coombe Estate, in the Royal Borough of Kingston. Many years of

hospitality have certainly left their mark. In the early 1900s it was often visited by royalty. In fact in 1912, as reported in the New York Times, Lady Paget was busy entertaining friends and royalty at "Coombe Warren", complete with after dinner American singers providing a musical programme.

Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, George V and Queen Mary, often stayed at Warren House on private visits. King Edward's bedroom is still there, along with a ballroom modelled on the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles.

Warren House has a history and tradition of fine dining, relaxed quality time and the warmest welcome you can imagine. In fact it is the perfect setting for the continuation of a fine tradition through The Hammersley Connection.

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## Celebrate Your Union

A celebration of your commitment to each other is special and very personal, a declaration to your partners, family and friends. What could be more splendid than affirming that commitment in the stunning surroundings at Warren House?

Ceremonies for blessings and vow renewals are often associated with special anniversaries or at significant stages in a couple's life together, such as after the birth of a long awaited child, or upon reaching a family milestone such as the marriage of one's own children or a family reunion. Often couples see them as an occasion to reinforce their commitment to each other.



Many couples who marry abroad use a blessing or vow renewal ceremony as a means of sharing the occasion of their union with friends and family who were not able to attend the wedding ceremony itself.

There is no age or religious specification. And it does not matter if you do not live in the area where you want to have your ceremony.

## Vow Renewal Ceremony

Renewing your vows is a dignified, personal event that allows you as a couple to:

- Renew your marriage vows in a bespoke ceremony
- Re-dedicate or give new rings to each other
- Reinforce your commitment to each other.



At Warren House, we have helped many couples create their personalised ceremony with selected readings and music. You will be able to choose what you want the ceremony to contain. In fact, the ceremony can be as individual as you wish it to be and no two ceremonies will ever be the same.

In the splendid surroundings of our 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian mansion, with its four acres of manicured grounds, you will be able to use our beautiful rooms with notable features and architecture such as the lavish Ballroom and reception rooms - Lilac, Lavender and Magnolia - along with the Persian Room for your celebration meal.

Our award winning team at Warren House will make sure your day is as splendid as your wedding day memories.

## Civil Partnerships at Warren House

Civil Partnership is a completely new legal relationship, exclusively for same-sex couples, distinct from marriage.

The introduction of civil partnerships in 2005 was a major legal and social landmark. It brings huge advantages to couples who want to make a lifelong commitment to each other and provides a secure legal framework for same sex families.

At Warren House, we enjoy making your day special. We will create fond and wonderful memories for you, your family, friends and guests.

With years of experience operating and organising private celebrations, family gatherings and weddings, we understand that each function we undertake is unique. Each client; each budget; each location and each brief is intrinsically different – and, as a result, we tailor our response and our creative skills accordingly.



Should you wish to hold your celebration at Warren House, please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Jane on 020 8974 7115 to discuss your plans and show you around.

## Outside Catering At Warren House

Summer is here, parties and picnics are on the agenda and often, catering is the biggest headache you will face as a host or hostess.

Offering the very best in modern British cuisine, in the unmistakable style that is Warren House, we can come to you to provide an unparalleled service with a truly unique, flexible and affordable approach. Our bespoke menus can be tailored for any palate, size of event, venue and special requirements.

Whether hosting an intimate occasion for friends and family, a wedding, celebration dinner, an alfresco event or entertaining corporate guests, our dedicated events team at Warren House will make your event truly exceptional.

For more information or to meet and discuss your ideas please contact Samantha Jane at [Samantha@warrenhouse.com](mailto:Samantha@warrenhouse.com) or call on 020 8974 7115 today to discuss your plans.

## Hammersley Connection Members' Offers

Please mention the Hammersley Connection when booking. Full details of the offers can be found on the Hammersley Connection website:  
<http://www.warrenhouse.com/HammersleyConnection/offers.php>.

10% discount at **Clarke's Restaurant** in Notting Hill.

Priority Booking at **The Rose Theatre** in Kingston upon Thames.

Exclusive on board credit on a **Silversea Cruise** via **The Sovereign Cruise Club**.

**Wineservice:** Regular exclusive wine tasting sessions at Warren House. Place your order directly with Nick Hillman of **Wineservice**, ask for advice, have your wine delivered to your door and build up an impressive collection of special wines.

**Julia Boggio Photography:** A complimentary 10x8 frame, valued at £95, when ordering prints from your portrait session.

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## Focus On: Sally Clarke - Restaurant, Shop and Wholesale Bakery

**Sally Clarke is something of a landmark in London, having graced Kensington Church Street with her presence for over twenty years. She is dedicated to food perfection and the concept of a limited choice menu based on seasonal produce. Her restaurant, housed in two old shops that have now been knocked through, has indeed become something of an institution.**

Much of what Sally does has been inspired by her experiences in California. From a childhood dream to become a chef, today she runs a successful empire, comprising one of London's most esteemed restaurants, a highly popular deli-café, a leading commercial bakery and a published recipe book - while still finding time to cook supper every night for her young son.

More significantly, before many of today's famous chefs had even picked up a chef's knife, she spearheaded two culinary revolutions in Britain: one for fresh, seasonal, locally produced and organic food, the other for artisan-made bread. Indeed Sally Clarke, a highly talented and determined chef was quietly bringing a new kind of eating to Britain.

Following her training in the UK and at Cordon Bleu in Paris, she worked for a few years in restaurants in California. Returning to England, Sally opened Clarke's restaurant in 1984. The deli and bakery opened soon afterwards and it wasn't long before she was supplying some of the best restaurants in London with bread, as well as turning out fabulous cakes and puddings.

### Those Early Days

"From school I went to technical college to follow a business course in hotel and catering... I loved the course but the cooking was a bit dull and classic... I wanted more. So I took myself off to the Cordon Bleu school in Paris. Unfortunately it wasn't quite what I had envisaged and I found myself doing much the same cooking as I had before."

Paris however had more to offer. "Being in Paris for the best part of a year was informative. Once I finished my course I went around Paris offering my services as a commis for pretty much free. Two restaurants took me on, both very different - one a brasserie, the other one 'nouvelle cuisine'. I loved it. Like a sponge I soaked it all up. While in Paris, I met a man who would change my career path. A year later he called

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from California to say he was opening a restaurant in Malibu and would I join him?"

### **The American Experience**

"At that time, I imagined most American food to be giant steaks overhanging plates, surf 'n turf and all that. But knowing this chap I felt what he had in mind would be different and exciting. He was one of the first in California to break away from French classic cooking."

And her instincts had been right. She stayed on for four years as she refined ideas for her own restaurant. "I knew I wanted to serve seasonal ingredients on a no-choice menu," she says. "How can 20 different dishes all be right?"

It was in California that she met Alice Waters of Chez Panisse in Berkeley who was to become her mentor and friend. Alice Walters was building a reputation as a guru of what was almost an alternative way of running a restaurant - sourcing products from independent suppliers, demanding the best and getting it 101% 'right down to the last peppercorn' as Sally puts it. All this learning Sally brought back to the restaurant that bears her name.

### **The Restaurant**

Sally pioneered her 'no choice' menu from day one. The menus change according to the season, and what the vegetable and fish markets dictate. For lunch, there is a choice from three individually priced courses. For dinner, a perfectly balanced, no choice four course set menu,

comprising a first course, main course, British cheeses followed by dessert and freshly roasted coffee. In addition to this, Sally also offers a limited choice of other dishes which change daily. Dietary requirements or allergies are accommodated for on request.

### **The Wine List**

The restaurant boasts a highly acclaimed wine list featuring over 200 Californian, French & Italian wines, many sourced from little-known wineries with small production levels. Sally's many connections in California have enabled her to purchase some rare & unusual wines and as a result the wine list is acknowledged as having one of the best Californian selections in Europe.

### **The Delicatessen**

Not content in having a packed restaurant, Sally opened the delicatessen "**& Clarke's**" next door, which sells delicious breads, pastries and cheeses - all made on the premises, or carefully selected from specialist producers.



[www.sallyclarke.com](http://www.sallyclarke.com)

Freshly baked breads & muffins are on display from early each morning. Tarts, cakes, pizza & foccacia with seasonal vegetables, fruits, herbs & salad leaves are made by the pastry kitchen throughout the day. The kitchen also produces jams, jellies, pickles & chutneys, fresh soups, pasta sauces & relishes to accompany meats, fish & crostini.

To complement the Sally Clarke own products, the deli stocks over 40 British and Irish cheeses, especially ripened to perfection by Neal's Yard Dairy; a selection of coffees from Monmouth Coffee House, extra virgin olive oils and dry store goods, many of which are used by the Restaurant.

### **& Clarke's Bread** (wholesale)

Established in 1990, **& Clarke's Bread** hand shapes & bakes over 2000 loaves per night. All Clarke's products are made with the finest quality ingredients & contain no artificial colourings, preservatives or improvers.

**& Clarke's** offer a selection of breads: from rosemary, raisin & sea salt to honey wholewheat. Mouth watering pastries include cheese straws, croissants, pains au chocolat, almond & raisin, cinnamon & pecan and brioche buns all made with French unsalted butter.

**& Clarke's** distributes daily to more than 100 other restaurants, hotels and shops including Jeroboams, Carluccio's Stores, Harrods, The Dorchester, Harvey Nichols and of course Warren House.

### Winners of the South London Business Awards

Once again, Warren House beats competition to walk away with the 2008 South London Business Award for Customer Service.

The best businesses in South London were celebrated in May at the Crystal Palace Football Club's grounds. During the evening, business leaders were recognised for their achievements in an Oscars' style ceremony, hosted by LBC radio's James Max. It came as no surprise that Warren House was awarded the Customer Service Award, sponsored by NatWest.



This is not the first time that Warren House has been recognised for its outstanding service and venue facilities. It has twice been recognised as the Johansens "Most Excellent Dedicated Venue Award", and has also won business awards including the Seeboard Energy Local Business Awards (Kingston Upon Thames), the Caterer and Hotel Keeper 21<sup>st</sup> Catey Awards 2004, and the Johansens/Taittinger Wine List of the Year Award in 2005.

As Carolyn Henderson, General Manager said: "It is all down to the fantastic team I lead here at Warren House. They are outstanding in their dedication and I am so proud that Warren House continues to keep and surpass its own standards by regularly winning such prestigious awards."

### Calendar of Events: Our Year So Far

We have been busy hosting some fantastic events, from leisure to professional activities. Your feedback has been tremendous. Here is a quick look at some of our events to date.

#### March: Mothers' Day Lunch

Our lunches for Mothers' Day, together with Fathers' Day, are firm favourites with guests and members alike. Treated to a fabulous three course luncheon with champagne and canapés on arrival, there is no nicer way to say thank you.

**March: Women's Luncheon.** A highly successful glamorous fashion event organised by Style Studio Club in conjunction with Matches Boutique of Wimbledon. Guests were given fashion tips and trends by Matches Fashion Director, Bridget Cosgrove, followed by drinks, a three course lunch and an informal fashion show by Matches featuring Diana von Furstenberg, Maxmara and Spy outfits.

**April: Dean Richards.** A Global Investment Opportunities event. Dean Richards, MBE shared his insights as the most capped Rugby Union number 8 in world. During a champagne reception, Dean explained how his tactical and leadership ability, as well as willingness to be where the action was toughest, was as pivotal to his leadership on the rugby pitch as it is any business today.

#### May: Alfresco Jazz Bar-B-Que

Timed to get into the spirit of The Chelsea Flower Show with a BBQ buffet lunch while relaxing to the sounds of our jazz band, it was rather unfortunate that the weather forecast was dismal. Notwithstanding the threatening rain, it was a well attended afternoon during which the saxophonist from the well known jazz and swing quartet Sejuiced entertained guests present.

### Forthcoming Calendar Of Events

#### 25th July: Cheese & Wine Tasting

Join our cheese expert from H&B Foods and our wine expert Julie Jackson from Jackson Nugent Vintners, who will pair these wonderful cheeses with the finest wines. Followed by a cheese inspired three course dinner. £55 per person.

#### 9th August: Champagnes and Chateaux Gourmet Dinner

An indulgent evening of seven courses & superb champagnes and wines. Hosted by Champagnes & Chateaux. £115 per person.

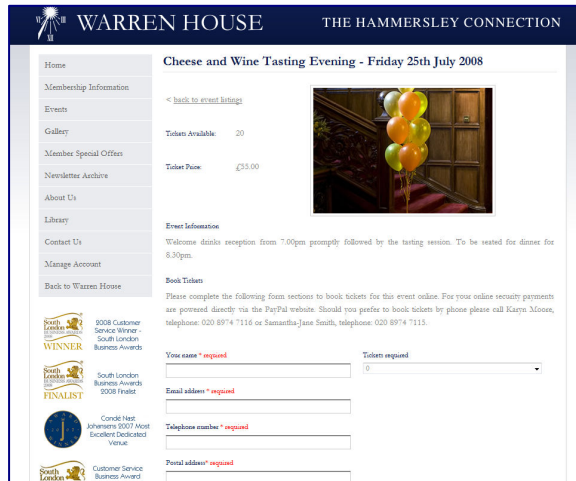
#### 27th September: CJ Pask Wines Gourmet Dinner

Award winning winemaker Kate Radburn of CJ Pask Winery in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand will host a gourmet dinner of seven courses & the finest wines. £75 per person.

To book, please call Karyn Moore on 020 8974 7116, or email [karyn@thehammersleyconnection.com](mailto:karyn@thehammersleyconnection.com).

## News from Warren House

July marks the launch of our enhanced The Hammersley Connection website, which includes a secure events booking system.



The new online booking system at  
<http://www.warrenhouse.com/HammersleyConnection/>

This online booking system has been designed to make it as easy as possible to view events, book and pay directly from your computer. The system is linked to a PayPal account, which allows you to pay either through your personal PayPal account - if you have one - or through your debit or credit cards.

As a private club, there are certain pages on the website which can only be accessed by members following a login.

Once logged in, you will be able to view exclusive events, book through the Events Booking System, access the members' special offers, and browse through the member-only pages such as the Photo Gallery and the Library. Details of how to login for the first time have been sent out to registered members by the membership team.

We have placed a selection of pictures from our some of our activities to date in the Photo Gallery:  
<http://www.warrenhouse.com/HammersleyConnection/gallery.php>.

Please feel free to browse and enjoy using the site.

## A Time for Celebration

It is never too soon to start planning your Christmas party, whether it is for your work party or for your family and friends. In fact, an early booking is definitely recommended to secure your preferred party date and avoid any disappointment.

Christmas parties are an absolute must for companies, whatever their size. A night out to remember is an excellent way of saying a heartfelt thank you to your teams for all the hard work they have put in over the year, while making sure that the team spirits are still riding high. Christmas is a time for reflection, as well as a great opportunity to let your hair down and share a relaxed and fun environment with your colleagues.

And Warren House is uniquely set up to deliver on such expectations – whether it is a special occasion, Christmas party or a family fun day spent together.

## Exclusive Use

If you are a small party or company, you may want to consider a

private dinner or a themed dinner.

On the other hand, if you are catering for 60 guests or more, why not consider

exclusive hire of Warren House and make the

party an overnight stay? We take all the hassle out of the organisation and make sure that you and your party are a great success.

Over the past years, we have designed bespoke parties that have catered from 10 to 100 guests. With the emphasis on good quality food, fine wines, excellent company and superb service, we disprove the common notion that it is impossible to have good food and service anywhere at Christmas time.

Please contact us to discuss your requirements and let us put together your perfect Christmas event.



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