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## ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2009

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This year has seen us carry on all our usual activities with undiminished vigour and success.

Because the core role of a civic and amenity society concerns the built environment, I shall begin by mentioning 'Future Clapham', the proposed replacement of Mary Seacole House on Clapham High Street and the leisure centre on Clapham Manor Street – taken together, the most significant building developments in Clapham for many years. We joined in discussions of the details of both designs before they were granted planning permission earlier this year. Our concerns included the scale of the proposed new Mary Seacole House (driven by the inclusion of yet more floors of residential units, sale of which has to pay for the development) and its white cladding. We also felt that the mixed-sex showers proposed for the new pool will put off a lot of people who would otherwise swim there.

At the time of writing we still do not know the outcome of the developer's bid for a loan from the government's 'Kickstart' programme – without which the project is probably not viable in current economic conditions. Given this uncertainty, we were pleased that Lambeth were able to assure us that the swimming pool and leisure centre will stay open unless and until funding for the replacement is secure.

The members of our Planning Sub-committee commented on emerging planning policy documents from Lambeth Council, including the Core Strategy, which contains a vision for how Clapham will develop in the future (namely, much as it is now with the addition of the 'Future Clapham' buildings) and an associated list of development sites. Most of these have already been granted planning permission, are known to the Society, and should not pose a threat to Clapham's character. Between them, Lambeth and Wandsworth Councils notified us of about 380 applications for planning permission. This is a smaller number than in the previous year, particularly for commercial developments, reflecting the state of the economy during the year. The sub-committee reviewed 140 of the applications and sent in comments, published in our monthly newsletters, on 46.

Our local history work is aimed primarily at increasing knowledge of Clapham's past as a means of fostering pride in Clapham present. We therefore especially welcome all

opportunities to engage with young people, and have continued to give talks to local schools. This year we took part in a successful new venture, working with Big Up Films and Bonneville School on their 'Common Voices' project, enabling pupils at the school to interview older people, several of them members of the Clapham Society, about life in Clapham around 1948. This culminated in a film, shown to an appreciative audience at the Clapham Picture House in July, as well as artwork illustrating the stories and a mixed-media map of Clapham Common, which was facilitated by tours and talks by members of our Local History Sub-committee. We plan to show the film and exhibition at a future meeting, and look forward to engaging in similar projects in future.



Maurice Stewart shares childhood memories with school children.

The way Clapham was during the Second World War and its aftermath continues to fascinate many local people. One of the most popular meetings of the last year was in September 2008, when members of the Society presented a comprehensive illustrated account of the wartime Deep Shelters and their subsequent history. We will shortly post this on the Local History Series section of our website.

Two of our members, Michael Green and Alyson Wilson, gave readings from Michael's recent book *Historic Clapham* and from Society publications at local bookshops and Clapham Library. During the year we sold out of our popular title *The Buildings of Clapham*. We also ran a special offer, which still continues, whereby anyone who buys a copy of *Discovering Clapham* may have a copy of *Clapham in the Twentieth Century* at half price.



Many of the monthly talks we held during the year involved aspects of the area's heritage. These included accounts of the histories of Eagle House on Clapham Common South Side and Scholars House in Clapham High Street, the area's proud record of success on the soccer field with Clapham Rovers, and its connection with scientists including the great Sinologist Joseph Needham and Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the founder of the World Wide Web.



*The surviving wing of Eagle House.*

We owe thanks to all the speakers who came along to Clapham Manor School to deliver talks, and in particular, to a number of local individuals and businesses for their contributions to our programme of activities. I will single out for mention Ann Kay and Colin and Tamae Beswick, who generously hosted visits to their respective houses at 36 Crescent Grove and the Coach House in Nightingale Lane. The Heard Gallery in Stonhouse Street let us use their premises for a Christmas party for all the members whose work keeps us going through the year. Derrick Johnson and David Perkin guided walks around the area in place of talks indoors in the summer months.

Our Common and Open Spaces Sub-committee has faced a difficult year for the Common. There was a freeze on expenditure other than that on the maintenance contract. Against this background the Society would like to acknowledge here the work done by Jeff Macdonald and Hector Marshalleck, now of the contractors Veolia, and Dave Paul, Parks Client Contract Manager for Lambeth Council, who do so much to maintain the Common despite the shortage of staff and resources.

The Common's increasing popularity with people enjoying all kinds of sports and recreation means growing pressure on a relatively fragile environment. Lambeth Council promised to restore the area where organised events take place at the end of summer 2008 but failed to do so: now, at the end of the 2009 season, the state of the site is the worst in memory. Both the Society and the Friends of Clapham Common have lobbied to ensure that it is thoroughly restored.

The Society is finding that where Lambeth Council has positive plans for developments for the Common, they tend to

be oriented around the interests of cyclists, sometimes overlooking other perspectives. We were concerned to find that Lambeth Council were constructing a second cycle path on the Common, branching from the north/south cycle path across Long Road to end at the southern end of The Chase. We have argued with Lambeth councillors and officers that the designs for the closure of Windmill Drive risk damaging the historic landscape of the Common in order to create yet another cycle route: at the very least, the involvement of officers from Parks and Open Spaces would have been appropriate.

Through our representation on the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC) we have continued to argue that the money Tesco agreed to pay under S106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 should be used for purposes around Clapham South, where the supermarket was built, not facilities elsewhere on the Common.

In April this year, the Civic Trust, the umbrella body for civic and amenity societies, ceased operating. Its management had decided that while the work of civic societies was as important as ever in their history, what was needed was a relaunch, with an appeal to new grassroots support and new focus. The Civic Society Initiative ([civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk](http://civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk)) is now using a variety of methods to find out what people want and need from their civic and amenity societies, and to draw in ideas for achieving it. The Clapham Society is following these developments with close interest.

If this report were to list all the individuals who contribute their skills and energy to the work of the Society, the result would be a long list. So instead I will say thank you to all those who attend our main committee and sub-committee meetings, deliver the newsletter, staff our stalls at fetes and festivals, prepare the newsletter and this report, and otherwise carry out the work of the Society, making Clapham a better place for everyone to live and work.

*Alison Macnair*

*Alison Macnair  
Chair*



## THE CLAPHAM SOCIETY (Charity No. 279595)

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 31st March 2009

Note	2009			2008		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>INCOME</b>						
Subscriptions: Standing Order	3,253		3,253	3,393		3,393
Other	986		986	1,024		1,024
	<u>4,239</u>		<u>4,239</u>	<u>4,417</u>		<u>4,417</u>
Donations: Bandstand	0		0		13	13
Other	1,556		1,556	1,358		1,358
Income Tax recoverable	2 315		315	-111		-111
Parties	660		660	390		390
Events	0		0	1,000	116	1,116
Interest receivable	465	138	603	513	225	738
	<u>7,235</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>7,373</u>	<u>7,567</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>7,921</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Newsletter printing	1,446		1,446	1,282		1,282
Printing, postage and stationery	991		991	828	1,528	2,356
Meeting room hire	810		810	578		578
Parties	176		176	374		374
Events expenses	470	424	894	1,116	610	1,726
Subscriptions & affiliations	310		310	303		303
Insurance	230		230	230		230
Donations: Trees for Cities	1,000		1,000	0		0
Other	225		225	0	60	60
Trustee	0		0	177		177
Website maintenance	187	621	808	411		411
Noise survey - 50% of cost	0		0	1,761		1,761
Depreciation - Software	135		135	135		135
	<u>5,980</u>	<u>1,045</u>	<u>7,025</u>	<u>7,195</u>	<u>2,198</u>	<u>9,393</u>
Surplus	1,255	-907	348	372	-1,844	-1,472
Surplus from publications	-117		-117	1,371		1,371
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<u>1,138</u>	<u>-907</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>1,743</u>	<u>-1,844</u>	<u>-101</u>
Balance brought forward	39,699	4,593	44,292	37,956	6,437	44,393
	<u>40,837</u>	<u>3,686</u>	<u>44,523</u>	<u>39,699</u>	<u>4,593</u>	<u>44,292</u>

#### Publications

Sales	2,777		2,777
Stock brought forward	15,417		17,024
Purchases	66		169
Stock carried forward	-13,246		-15,417
Cost of sales	<u>2,237</u>		<u>1,776</u>
<b>Surplus:</b>	540		883
Bank interest	408		488
Stock written down	-1,065		0
Surplus for year	-117		1,371
Balance brought forward	18,776		17,405
<b>Designated Fund</b>	<u>3 18,659</u>		<u>18,776</u>

### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2009

Note	2009		2008	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Equipment - Cost		901		901
Less: Depreciation		<u>-901</u>		<u>-766</u>
		0		135
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock of publications		12,181		15,417
Debtors: HM Revenue and Customs	1,919		2,261	
Other	<u>790</u>	2,709	<u>923</u>	3,184
Cash at bank and in hand:				
NatWest Bank	6,993		2,765	
Charities Aid Foundation: Main Account	<u>19,546</u>	26,539	<u>18,803</u>	21,568
Bandstand Restoration Fund Account	4 3,233		3,546	
Local History Fund Account		453		1,047
		<u>45,115</u>		<u>44,762</u>
Less: <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors & prepaid income		592		605
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>44,523</u>		<u>44,157</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>44,523</u>		<u>44,292</u>
Represented by:				
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General Fund		22,178		20,923
Designated Publication Fund	3	<u>18,659</u>		<u>18,776</u>
		<u>40,837</u>		<u>39,699</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Clapham Bandstand Restoration Fund	4	3,233		3,546
Local History Fund	4	<u>453</u>		<u>1,047</u>
		<u>3,686</u>		<u>4,593</u>
		<u>44,523</u>		<u>44,292</u>

#### Notes to the Accounts

- General** - These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities.
- Income Tax Recoverable** - The amount of £315 is made up of £536 for this year less £221 overprovided for 2002/03. (2008 £544 less £655 overprovision).
- Unrestricted Funds** - The historic surpluses on publications are held in a "Designated Fund" for financing future publications.
- Clapham Bandstand Restoration Fund and Local History Fund** - The income and expenditure for these funds have been included in these Accounts as Restricted Funds. The expenditure allocated to these funds was for paying for a band concert £424, and making records available on our website £621.
- Risk Policy** - The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Treasurer's Report

Subscription income was slightly reduced as compared to last year and the proportion of subscriptions paid by standing order was unchanged. A noteworthy item of expenditure was the donation of £1,000 to Trees for Cities for plantings on the Common.

David Brown ACIS - Treasurer  
30 August 2009

Alison Macnair, Chair

David Brown ACIS Treasurer  
30 August 2009

## EXAMINER'S REPORT

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year to 31st March 2009, as set out last year.

### Respective Responsibilities of Executive Committee and Examiner

As trustees of the Committee you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Committee Members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare Accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Euan S Kennedy FCA, 5 Gauden Road, Clapham SW4 6LR  
30 August 2009



## COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2008-2009

### President

**Martin Drury**

3 Victoria Rise, London SW4 0PB

### Vice-President

**Peter Jefferson Smith**

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### Membership Secretary

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Tel: 020 7627 4770

### Secretary

**Jill Cramphorn**

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## COMMITTEE

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## SUB-COMMITTEES 2008-2009

### Common and Open Spaces

Anna Jefferson Smith (Convenor), Diana Bell, Anne Dukes, Jennifer Everett, Mike Fry, David Perkin. Adviser: Jackie Fisher.

### Events

Maev Sullivan (Convenor), John Adams, Jill Cramphorn, Alison Macnair, Peter Jefferson Smith, Alyson Wilson.

### Local History

Peter Jefferson Smith (Convenor), Annabel Allott, Mary Coales, Michael Green, Derrick Johnson, David Perkin, Alyson Wilson.

### Planning

Philip Ashford (Convenor), John Adams, Roger Armstrong, Jeremy Bayliss, Ellen Leslie, Emma Nicholson, Martin Pratt (from April 2009), David Whitestone.

### Roads and Transport

Currently in abeyance.

### Newsletter Delivery

The following members were responsible for delivering the monthly newsletters in 2008-2009. If you would like to know who delivers to you, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Christine Armstrong, Alan Bevan, Liz Coulson, Kath Derrig, Jennifer Everett, Mike Fry, Marian Gleeson, Keith Grant-Peterkin, Sonia Hancock (from March 2009), Peter Holland, Derrick and Janet Johnson, Val Johnson, Anna Long, Lili Massey, Charity McEvoy, Michael McNish (to February 2009), Stuart and Ros Pedge, David Perkin, Vivienne Pickering, Joan Sinclair, Hazel Smith, Jean Virgoe, Helen Widgery, Alyson Wilson.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Discovering Clapham.* (March 2007) 104 pages. The book starts with an overview of the history of Clapham, setting out how it developed from a small rural village to the bustling part of inner London it is today. The following seven chapters take seven different areas of Clapham, and illustrate a selection of the interesting buildings, giving some background and details to put them in context. Illustrations and information about some notable former residents are included in appropriate places.

This is our first colour publication. Many of the pictures are recent photographs, and older pictures include prints and drawings, historic photographs as well as paintings and watercolours, which for the first time we are able to do justice to by printing in colour. £6.00 (members) or £7.50 (non-members)

*The Clapham Sect.* Margaret Bryant (April 2004) 64 pages. The story of a group of people whose activities changed the world. Wealthy Clapham businessmen and religious philanthropists, they fought to change the moral climate of their times, and campaigned against the injustices of slavery and the slave trade. Led by William Wilberforce in Parliament, their greatest achievement was the outlawing of the Atlantic slave trade in 1807. Margaret Bryant paints a vivid picture of these remarkable people and their lives in late eighteenth century Clapham and reminds us how much our modern world owes to them. £6.00 (members) or £7.50 (non-members)

*Clapham in the Twentieth Century.* (2002) 236 pages. A collection of letters, diaries and memories of Clapham during the century, from Graham Greene, Jack Hobbs and Noel Coward to immigrants from the West Indies, Poland and Kosovo, local businessmen, shopkeepers and schoolchildren. In the words of those who witnessed them, the book tracks the changes in Clapham from the last years of Queen Victoria's reign through two World Wars, depression, revival and gentrification to the lively, popular family area that it had become by 2000. £10.00 (members) or £11.95 (non-members)

*Clapham Saints and Sinners.* Eric Smith (1987) 78 pages. A fascinating selection of extracts from the Occasional Sheets of the Clapham Antiquarian Society, packed with information about the history of Clapham and its residents. £ 9.00

*CD of Clapham Antiquarian Society Occasional Sheets.* (2005) The entire collection of monthly sheets (see above) issued between 1947 and 1992 by the CAS, which merged with the Clapham Society in 2005, have now been put on to CD. An invaluable resource for anyone researching Clapham history. Price £30.00

*Clapham Walks:* Self-guided walks leaflets, each covering a different area of Clapham. Price 50p each.

**1. Old Clapham.** A walk round the centre of Clapham, including The Polygon, Old Town, Rectory Grove and St Paul's Church and back to North Side, Holy Trinity Church and Trinity Hospice. (2003)

**2. Clapham North.** From Clapham North Underground Station to St John's Church, round the Clapham Rise Estate (Gauden Road, Sibella Road, Chelsham Road and Bromfelde Road) to Larkhall Park and the Springfield and Larkhall Estates, and back along Clapham Manor Street. (2007)

**3. Around Nightingale Lane.** From Clapham South Underground Station to Malwood Road and along Nightingale Lane as far as The Nightingale PH, coming back via Thurleigh Road, St Luke's Church and part of West Side. **Currently out of print. Revised edition due Spring 2010.**

**4. Clapham Common.** A tour of the Common starting from Clapham Common Underground Station, taking in Holy Trinity Church, the Bandstand, Windmill Drive, and all three ponds. **Currently out of print. Revised edition due Spring 2010.**

**5. South Side.** From Clapham South Underground Station along the south east border of the Common towards Clapham High Street, including a brief diversion down Narbonne Avenue, The Windmill on the Common, Notre Dame Estate and Crescent Grove. (2007)

**6. West Side.** Starting at Hightrees House at the corner of West Side and Nightingale Lane following along the side of the Common to St Barnabas Church and Alverstoke on North Side, and returning along streets one block back from West Side. (2007)

**The Drinking Fountain, Clapham Common. Christmas 1906. Greetings card.** Sepia photograph of the Drinking Fountain in the snow printed on high quality white board. 12.7 x 17.6 cm. folded. Available with Christmas greeting or with the inside blank. Pack of 10 cards with envelopes £4.00.

Publications may be obtained from:

Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH. Tel. 020 7622 6360.

Email: [alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net](mailto:alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net). **Personal callers by prior arrangement.**

Postage and packing £2 per book. Greetings cards £1 for one pack, £2 for 2 or 3 packs. Please make cheques payable to The Clapham Society.

**Details of meetings, activities and a full list of our publications are on The Clapham Society website at [www.claphamsociety.com](http://www.claphamsociety.com)**