



The Clapham Society

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2011

Once again the Society has had an active year, doing our best to influence life in the area for the benefit of those who live or work here.

We are primarily a civic amenity society, with a legal role of representing local people's views on developments in the area. This is often misunderstood as meaning that the Society acts on behalf of our members, or people who join us intending to get our backing for their individual views. We draw on our members' experience, but try to adopt a wider perspective, that of the whole community, now and in the future, when its needs will be different.

In this capacity we have had 310 planning applications notified to us over the last twelve months and our Planning Sub-committee considered 70 of them. We made representations, as mentioned in our newsletters, in almost half those cases. Our representations are usually objections, but this does not mean we are only capable of being critical; we have to concentrate on cases where we want to stop something going ahead. If we see particularly good schemes being put forward we say so.

We raised especially strong objections to two proposed developments. We argued that Block J of 25-33 Macaulay Road should be used for office and commercial space as originally planned, and not be re-designated as residential if not let after one year. This is another local example of the pressure our country is under to build more homes, however small and closely-packed and whatever the impact on the local environment. And we objected to the proposals for a Sainsbury's Local store in the Abbeville Road shopping parade – which residents and councillors opposed and have campaigned against. We made the points that that the design was inappropriate, that the store's activities would cause a nuisance to nearby residents, and that the presence of a national supermarket in a small parade would damage the vitality of the conservation area generated by the local independent retailers. We recognise that there is a limit to the local authority's power to intervene here.

As for the 'Clapham Gateway' proposals for the Old Town area, further options are being discussed to try to address the various concerns regarding the location of the bus stands. When these have been subjected to a technical and operational appraisal by Transport for London we hope that the final design can get under way. The Venn Street component, now nearly complete, gives a foretaste of the quality of work we hope to see in Old Town.

Our view that the berm around the bandstand on the Common should be built up with granite setts has prevailed. A design using these materials received planning permission earlier in the year, and the work is now finished, using the money we held in the Restoration Fund. The result is both pleasing and robust. Small children may be finding it initially less satisfactory as a playground than the muddy slope was, but they seem to be exploring its potential.



The new berm around the bandstand.

Earlier in the year Lambeth Council invited nominations for 'locally listed' buildings. This would be a list of buildings that, without reaching the level of architectural and historic interest justifying listing by English Heritage, ought to be recognised locally. We have discussed around 110 suggestions with the Council's Conservation Officer. We expect to hear which ones are selected later in the year, and we will report the outcome in the newsletter.

Turning to our work on local history, we were happy to fund geophysical surveys of the area around St Paul's Churchyard, believed to be the site of the Norman Manor House, and of the site, in the vicinity of The Chase, where we believe Clapham Place to have been. Under the ground lie remains that will tell us more about the area's most significant buildings during the course of its history. The survey findings are impressive, though technical. More work is under way and we hope to be able to report what it reveals in the newsletter. Although the Society met the cost of the survey work, it is Michael Green's initiative and the credit is owed to him.



The Society uses several means of disseminating knowledge of Clapham's history. Articles have been posted on our website, about Mount Pond, and about the Clapham connections of the Victorian diarist Francis Kilvert and the astronomer Charles Pritchard. Not all our monthly open meetings are on historical subjects, but many are. In the last year we have held talks on the Stockwell War Memorial, and on individuals from Clapham's past. The author of a new book on the Clapham Sect addressed a particularly large audience. On summer evenings, in place of our usual open meetings, members of our Local History Sub-committee led free guided walks around different areas of Clapham. We had stands at Lambeth Archives' Open Day and the Maze Local History Fair at the Guildhall.



Happy walkers outside Eagle House on our guided walk of Clapham Common South Side.

We are grateful to Dame Vivienne Westwood for finding time to unveil the first Clapham Society plaque, on Sycamore House in the Old Town. Tim Gosling was very generous with his time, patience and design expertise in developing the plaque itself. The next plaque, once again commemorating a significant building that has been used in different ways since it was built, will follow soon.

Turning to the challenges of the present, we are working with Lambeth's officers and councillors, and other local groups, to try to mitigate the effect of financial pressures on our Common. The issue we are most concerned about is the lifting of the Council's self-imposed restrictions on the size, extent and frequency of events in order to generate income. As the open space from which Lambeth derives the greatest revenue, Clapham Common stands to sustain the worst impact. The summer season ended with two large events back to back which, particularly with the wet weather, resulted in considerable damage to the main event site.

We are represented, alongside the Friends of Clapham Common, on the Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces Forum and the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee, where we have been involved in a variety of both practical and policy matters. The most unfortunate has been Lambeth's decision to get rid of the Park Rangers on cost grounds. We have been involved with the Rangers since the scheme began and feel that this is a retrograde step in several ways, particularly public safety.

Among the colleagues we have enjoyed working with, we have, in particular, welcomed the hard work and dedication of Victor Chin-Kit, our Area Parks Officer. His initiative in arranging watering parties for the young trees on the Common, in which our members participated, and his management of work on the bandstand berm, were good examples of this.

Some of our activities over the year were aimed solely at enjoyment. We had a summer party at the bandstand, and stalls at a series of local summer fetes in June.



The Clapham Society stand at Ben & Jerry's event.

As far as chairing the Society is concerned, this is my last hurrah. I am going to be away from home too often in the future to allow me to keep up the same level of commitment. I regret this, not only because I think the work the Society does is worthwhile, but also because the members are interesting, knowledgeable, and generally the kind of people among whom I would want to spend my time.

The work of the Society depends on its members turning up at meetings, representing the Society in formal and informal situations, being prepared to speak on behalf of the Society (sometimes at a moment's notice), writing for and delivering newsletters. This year as in other years, Alyson Wilson, with support from Jennifer Everett and Bill Emmett, has produced our monthly newsletter, and Jill Cramphorn has kept the organisation's administration going: we are very lucky to have both, doing the work at the standard they achieve. Thanks too to Christina Bonnett for continuing to maintain our website. Lastly, I cannot finish without mentioning that this was the year in which we lost David Perkin, our former secretary and one of our most valued local historians, whom we remember with as much affection as respect.

Alison Macnair

*Alison Macnair
Chair*



THE CLAPHAM SOCIETY (Charity No. 279595)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 31st March 2011

Note	2011			2010		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
INCOME						
Subscriptions: Standing Order	3,435		3,435	3,219		3,219
Other	779		779	1,153		1,153
	4,214		4,214	4,372		4,372
Donations	1,569		1,569	1,465	375	1,840
Income Tax recoverable	389		389	169		169
Summer Party	888		888	642		642
Events	165		165	580		580
Interest receivable	26	3	29	100	3	103
	<u>7,251</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7,254</u>	<u>7,328</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>7,706</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Newsletter printing	1,394		1,394	1,906		1,906
Printing, postage and stationery	525		525	416		416
Meeting room hire	1,149		1,149	810		810
Summer Party	922		922	747		747
Events expenses	0		0	878		878
Subscriptions & affiliations	530		530	105		105
Insurance	200		200	230		230
Donations: Trees for Cities	0		0	1,350	375	1,725
Committee member	46		46	0		0
Plaques planning/conference	61		61	95		95
Website maintenance	460		460	406		406
Society map	1,450		1,450	0		0
Geophysical/architectural fees	3,090	3,238	6,328	0		0
Depreciation	262		262	169		169
	<u>10,089</u>	<u>3,238</u>	<u>13,327</u>	<u>7,112</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>7,487</u>
-Deficit/Surplus	-2,838	-3,235	-6,073	216	3	219
Deficit from publications	-81		-81	-274		-274
-Deficit/Surplus for the year	-2,919	-3,235	-6,154	-58	3	-55
Balance brought forward	40,779	3,689	44,468	40,837	3,686	44,523
	<u>37,860</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>38,314</u>	<u>40,779</u>	<u>3,689</u>	<u>44,468</u>

Publications

Sales	1,254	1,361
Stock brought forward	10,559	12,181
Purchases	117	0
Other publication expenses	14	13
Stock carried forward	-9,865	-11,103
Cost of sales	<u>825</u>	<u>1,091</u>
Surplus:	429	270
Bank interest	18	0
Stock written down	-528	-544
Deficit for year	-81	-274
Balance brought forward	18,385	18,659
Designated Fund	<u>18,304</u>	<u>18,385</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report

Income was reduced slightly as compared to last year. Noteworthy items of expenditure were the publication of a map of Clapham Common, architectural fees for proposals for the surround of the bandstand and a geophysical survey.

David Brown ACIS - Treasurer
30 August 2011

EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year to 31st March 2011.

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:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

(a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

(b) to prepare Accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or

(2) 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 2011

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2011

Note	2011		2010	
	Website £	Newsletter CD £	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Cost	931	756	1,687	1,687
Less: Depreciation	-280	-151	-431	-169
	<u>651</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>1,256</u>	<u>1,518</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock of publications			9,337	10,559
Debtors: HM Revenue and Customs		2,087		1,698
Other & Prepayments		851	2,938	1,377
Cash at bank and in hand:				
NatWest Bank		8,436		6,340
Charities Aid Foundation: Main Account		19,633	28,069	19,594
Bandstand Restoration Fund Account	4		1	3,236
Local History Fund Account			453	453
			<u>40,798</u>	<u>43,257</u>
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors & prepaid income			3,740	307
Net Current Assets			<u>37,058</u>	<u>42,950</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>38,314</u>	<u>44,468</u>
Represented by:				
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
General Fund			19,556	22,394
Designated Publication Fund	3		18,304	18,385
			<u>37,860</u>	<u>40,779</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Clapham Bandstand Restoration Fund	4		1	3,236
Local History Fund	4		453	453
			<u>454</u>	<u>3,689</u>
			<u>38,314</u>	<u>44,468</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. 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.

2. Income Tax Recoverable - The amount of £389 is made up of £815 for this year less £426 not claimed in time for 2006/07 and 2007/08. (2010 £735 less £566 not claimable for earlier years.)

3. Unrestricted Funds - The historic surpluses on publications are held in a "Designated Fund" for financing future publications.

4. 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 of £3,238 was for architects fees on proposals for the surround to the bandstand. (2010 £375 for tree planting.)

5. 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.

Alison Macnair, Chair

David Brown ACIS Treasurer
30 August 2011



COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2010-2011

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SUB-COMMITTEES 2010-2011

Common and Open Spaces

Anna Jefferson Smith (Convenor), Diana Bell, Jennifer Everett, Mike Fry, Alison Macnair, David Perkin (until December). Adviser: Jackie Fisher.

Events

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

Local History

Derrick Johnson (Convenor), Annabel Allott, Mary Coales, Joan Deckker (until May), Michael Green, Monique Hood, David Perkin (until December), Alyson Wilson.

Planning

Philip Ashford (Convenor), John Adams, Roger Armstrong, Ellen Leslie, Martin Pratt, David Whitestone.

Newsletter Delivery

The following members were responsible for delivering the monthly newsletters in 2010-2011. If you would like to know who delivers to you, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Christine Armstrong, Alan Bevan, Nicholas Butler and Rosaleen Hughes, Liz Coulson, Kath Derrig, Ann Dunkley, Jennifer Everett, Mike Fry, Marian Gleeson, Keith Grant-Peterkin, Monique Hood (from January), Derrick and Janet Johnson, Val Johnson, Anna Long, Lili Massey, Charity McEvoy, Jennifer Pearson, David Perkin (until December), Stewart and Ros Pedge, Vivienne Pickering, Joan Sinclair, Hazel Smith, Jean Virgoe, Helen Widgery, Alyson Wilson.

PUBLICATIONS

Discovering Clapham. (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 photographs taken specifically for the book, 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 (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. **NOW REDUCED TO ONLY £6.**

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, on a 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 starting at the centre of modern Clapham and tracking back through its past, via The Polygon, Old Town, Grafton Square, North Street, Hibbert Almshouses in Wandsworth Road, Matrimony Place, St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove and back to Clapham Library on North Side. **(Revised edition 2011)**

2. Clapham North. From Clapham North Underground Station through developments of different periods, which include St John's Church, the Clapham Rise Estate (Gauden Road, Sibella Road, Chelsham Road and Bromfelde Road) Larkhall Park, Christ Church, the Springfield and Larkhall Estates, and back along Clapham Manor Street to Clapham High Street. **(Revised edition 2011)**

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 Thurlleigh Road, St Luke's Church and Hightrees House, and along the side of the Common back to Clapham South. **(Revised edition 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. **(Revised edition 2010)**

5. South Side. From Clapham South Underground Station this walk goes 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. **(Revised edition 2011)**

6. West Side. Starting at Hightrees House at the corner of West Side and Nightingale Lane this walk follows the west side of the Common to Broomwood Road, then through the side streets to return to Canford Road and along West Side back to Broomwood Road, passing houses of various periods and detailing their former residents. **(Revised edition 2011)**

7. North Side. This walk starts at Clapham Common Station, going past Holy Trinity Church all along North Side, covering Church Buildings, Trinity Hospice, Cedars Terraces, Eaton House The Manor School, Parkgate House School as far as St Barnabas' Church and The Shrubbery in Lavender Gardens. The walk ends at the top of Battersea Rise. **(New Walk 2011).**

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. 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. **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