



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2015

The Clapham Society continues to thrive. We have 800 members, which is very encouraging, but we need more members who are prepared to help on committees, to create a stronger local community. Clapham is diverse; there are an estimated 40,700 residents and of those, 75% are aged 44 or under. The under 44s are not yet well enough represented in the Society's membership. Attracting younger, vigorous members is vital and we need to see some of them sitting on our various sub-committees.

We spent time this year feeding your views into the consultation for Lambeth's 'Cultural Services by 2020', which is intended as a road map for the challenges lying ahead. The results have not yet been announced.

Following the retirement of Anna Jefferson Smith, Deryn Watson has taken over as Convenor of our Commons and Open Spaces Sub-committee, and three new members have joined during the year. Following a couple of brainstorming meetings, we defined our principle aims and objectives.

We work with the Lambeth Senior Parks Officers, David Paul (trees), and Iain Boulton (environment), and now have a better mutual understanding of how and where our interests combine. We know that all our historic avenues of trees will be maintained through succession planting, and that progress is being made on the development of biodiverse ecological 'swathes' to link parts of the Common, starting with the seasonal ponds, and better planting in the spinney. Both these schemes form part of the overall plans outlined in the 'Clapham Common – the next 50 years' policy document of 2007.

We have also talked about emergency tree felling, the timing of cleaning and filling the paddling pool, and protecting the base of the 'Cook Tree' – the large black poplar near the Temperance Society Fountain. From each conversation we understand more the overall pattern of, for example, tree pruning borough-wide. Lambeth are re-assessing staffing levels and we commend the support of senior officers throughout this unsettling time. We are active on the Clapham Common Management Committee.

Our views on a number of initiatives have been given: the refurbishment of the war-time deep shelters at Clapham South in preparation for opening to the public, the redevelopment of the derelict public conveniences in Clapham Old Town, and the TfL/Sustrans' proposal for a cycle Quietway. We are equally concerned for the urban landscape of Clapham. We are privileged to have a number of experts on the Commons and Open Spaces

Sub-committee, including a landscape consultant, an ecologist and others with experience of community gardening, food growing and sports. We are always looking for more members who love the Common and open spaces, regardless of any specialism.

Concern for the over-use of the Common led us to form a Legal Sub-committee, headed by distinguished barrister, Daniel Dovar. The group's role is to ensure Lambeth Council respect the rules and laws concerning the Common and maintain a reasonable balance between making money and long-term sustainability. A specialist planning counsel has been instructed to advise on the use of the Common, and to attend and make representations at licensing committees in relation to use of the Common for major music events. Clearly Lambeth Council is keen to raise as much revenue from hires as possible in order to alleviate the impact of severe cuts. Council officers are interested to hear the views of local residents and businesses as to the use of the Common.

Philip Ashford remains as hard working Convenor of the Planning Sub-committee, with a committed team who work to ensure that good planning decisions are made. Some time is spent objecting to poor planning applications but the sub-committee also works with council officials to develop constructive relationships so that we can support good decisions. We are doing some of the work which Lambeth officials do not have time or budget for; notably submitting applications to English Heritage in order to list historic buildings and items of street furniture.

We have continued to make representations on inappropriate applications to over-extend the modest but historically important houses in Lillieshall Road, and we recorded their historic features before the houses were sold by Lambeth Council.

This year, we have participated in Lambeth's new planning policy consultations. On the bigger issues facing Clapham, we have drawn attention to the pressures to enlarge and alter existing homes to such an extent that their original character is lost, and to the change of use from commercial to residential in the town centre. The issue of house alterations and extensions is being addressed now as Lambeth Council prepares new planning guidance. Unduly relaxed guidance on basement extensions is a matter of increasing concern to residents and we will be pressing Lambeth Council to develop more stringent controls. Lambeth's initial response has been to acknowledge that there is a policy vacuum on the subject but that it is not as high as it should be on their list of priorities.



Maintenance and management of our transport systems and thoroughfares concerns us all. The Roads and Transport Sub-committee, ably convened by Mark Leffler, continues to investigate and give voice to a range of issues resulting from the competition for our streets and their upkeep. Just as we began to enjoy the end of the extensive programme of works to upgrade and regenerate Old Town which had caused havoc for the past year, Clapham High Street and surrounding streets were dug up simultaneously by various statutory bodies. For three months these essential but uncoordinated works caused congestion, noise, diversion of bus routes and traffic jams.

Following a ballot of local businesses, Clapham was accorded Business Improvement District (BID) status last year, and 'This is Clapham' was set up in October 2014. BID has the power to raise money from, and represent, local businesses. Their role is to focus on initiatives to improve the townscape. This includes deep cleaning some of the dirtiest parts of the High Street and undertaking a townscape audit to see where planting would make an impact. Other BID initiatives include a directory of local businesses, support for the Hub (a late night drop in emergency centre at weekends), introduction of a street warden service to curb anti-social behaviour, a recycling service for local businesses and a plan for the greening of Clapham.

We have lobbied Lambeth Council for a solution to the problem of large vehicles trying to find a route through to Wandsworth Road via Old Town resulting in dangerous turning when drivers encounter Larkhall Bridge. We have also lobbied for a review of the parking controls operating in certain roads off North Street, and hope this will be part of a borough wide review.

We have shared the concerns of the Vauxhall Society at TfL's plans to demolish Vauxhall Bus Station as part of the planned removal of the gyratory system and the creation of a new shopping centre on the island site. Whilst we support the removal of the gyratory system and creation of safer routes for cyclists through this busy intersection, we consider the demolition of the bus station would be a considerable loss.

The Local History Sub-committee, under the guiding hand of Derrick Johnson, has unveiled two further commemorative Green Plaques this year. The first, in October 2014, at Omnibus, the former Library on Clapham Common North Side, to coincide with the 125th anniversary of the Library's opening. The next at Oddfellows Hall, Belmont Close in April 2015. After the unveiling the Trustees of the Pride of Clapham Lodge of the Oddfellows Friendly Society invited us into their meeting place and provided us all with a lavish spread and drinks. Our eighth Green Plaque will be unveiled on 5 October by Michel Roux, at Clapham Pottery, Rectory Grove which was originally the chapel of Ingleton House Boys Home. An article on the Clapham Society Green Plaques scheme appeared in *South West Residents' Journal* recently. Two other articles on the Clapham Society have been published this year, in *South West Residents' Journal* and in *Time and Leisure*.

The Local History Sub-committee has had input with a new book, *Clapham through Time*, to be published by Amberley Publishing in November. It features 90 historic images of Clapham coupled with present day photographs taken from exactly the same positions. The early pictures were provided by

members of the Society and Claire Fry has taken the present day photographs. Jennifer Everett continues her excellent work on the labelling of photographic images of Clapham, which are to be stored by Lambeth Archives.

As usual, our summer walks have been well attended. Timothy Walker led a lively walk 'Twixt the Commons' in June, Anne Wilson led one around the Larkhall area in July and Peter Jefferson Smith had a large group for his September Clapham Common North Side walk.

Our thanks to Sarah and Julian Lush who hosted our Annual Summer Party in July in their lovely garden in Larkhall Rise. It was greatly enjoyed by many members.

Peter and Anna Jefferson Smith organised the Clapham Society Annual Bandstand Concert on 6 September, when many local residents enjoyed a sunny afternoon listening to Baker Street Brass, a quintet of talented young musicians who played a selection of classic and jazz favourites.

Our meetings started in January with The History of the French in London and we learnt just how important the French have been in shaping London culturally, artistically and financially since William the Conqueror. In February, Nicolas Mounard talked to us about Fairtrade and how it can support economic transformation across developing countries. Other talks were Dr Adrian McLachlan on the NHS in Lambeth; Edmund Bird on his book on Lambeth architecture *A Brave new World*; Angela Cobbin, MBE entertained us with stories from her career as a theatrical wig designer which was peppered with celebrity anecdotes. Christopher Woodward, spoke about the Garden Museum at St Mary-at-Lambeth where the 17th century scholar, gardener to King Charles I and a keen collector is buried. Nobby Clark, a theatrical photographer who has worked with major English theatre, opera and ballet companies and followed the Rolling Stones on tour kept us entertained with his brilliant photographs and stories.

We look forward to meeting Edward Stourton, radio presenter, news anchor and writer and at our AGM and we still have Shaun Opperman from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home to speak in November.

We are still looking for an Honorary Secretary to help at Committee meetings. This is an interesting post which need not take up a huge amount of time but is invaluable.

Big thanks are due to Alyson Wilson, ably assisted by Bill Emmett and Jennifer Everett for the well-loved monthly newsletters; to Christina Bonnett who manages our website and to the intrepid newsletter deliverers who are out in all weathers. And finally, my thanks to all Committee and Sub-committee members who work so hard for our members.

Annabel Allott
Chairman



THE CLAPHAM SOCIETY (Charity No. 279595)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 31st March 2015

	2015			2014		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
INCOME						
Subscriptions: Standing Order	3,650		3,650	3,555		3,555
Other	678		678	742		742
	<u>4,328</u>		<u>4,328</u>	<u>4,297</u>		<u>4,297</u>
Donations	1,361	224	1,585	1,590	50	1,640
Income Tax recoverable	151		151	504		504
Summer Party	656		656	962		962
Interest receivable	12		12	11		11
	<u>6,508</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>6,732</u>	<u>7,364</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>7,414</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Newsletter costs	2,034		2,034	2,111		2,111
Printing, postage and stationery	527		527	371		371
Meeting room hire	1,338		1,338	1,017		1,017
Summer Party	782		782	775		775
Events expenses	1,079		1,079	651		651
Subscriptions & affiliations	132		132	140		140
Insurance	252		252	252		252
Donations: Chairs for Omnibus	0		0	1,700		1,700
Sponsoring Clapham Opera Festival	500		500	0		0
Others	370		370	195		195
Commemorative plaques	1,068		1,068	1,031		1,031
Website hosting & design	2,043		2,043	555		555
Professional fees	2,126	274	2,400	600		600
Leaflets relating to Clapham Common	0		0	2,355		2,355
Depreciation	440		440	538		538
Sundry expenses	80		80	80		80
	<u>12,771</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>13,045</u>	<u>12,371</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,371</u>
Deficit	<u>-6,263</u>	<u>-50</u>	<u>-6,313</u>	<u>-5,007</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>-4,957</u>
Deficit/Surplus from publications	-2,640		-2,640	285		285
Deficit for the year	<u>-8,903</u>	<u>-50</u>	<u>-8,953</u>	<u>-4,722</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>-4,672</u>
Balance brought forward	28,291	503	28,794	33,013	453	33,466
	<u>19,388</u>	<u>453</u>	<u>19,841</u>	<u>28,291</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>28,794</u>

Publications

Sales	848		707
Stock brought forward	7,067		7,383
Purchases	0		0
Other publication expenses	130		117
Stock carried forward	-6,573		-7,067
Cost of sales	624		433
Surplus:	224		274
Bank interest	12		11
Stock written down	-2,876		0
Deficit/Surplus for year	-2,640		285
Balance brought forward	18,214		17,929
Designated Fund	<u>15,574</u>		<u>18,214</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2015

	2015			2014		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Cost	1,331	1,462	2,793			2,793
Less: Depreciation	-1,331	-877	-2,209			-1,769
	<u>0</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>584</u>			<u>1,024</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of publications			3,697			7,067
Debtors: HM Revenue and Customs		3,353			3,637	
Other & Prepayments		1,753	5,106		312	3,949
Cash at bank and in hand:						
NatWest Bank		1,995			1,242	
Charities Aid Foundation: Main Account		9,203			16,187	
In hand		0	11,198		0	17,429
			20,000			28,445
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors & prepaid income			743			675
Net Current Assets			<u>19,257</u>			<u>27,770</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>19,841</u>			<u>28,794</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Fund			3,814			10,077
Designated Publication Fund			15,574			18,214
			<u>19,388</u>			<u>28,291</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
Local History Fund			453			453
Legal Action Fund			0			50
			<u>453</u>			<u>503</u>
			<u>19,841</u>			<u>28,794</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 £151 represents the estimated sum recoverable for the year of £795 less unrecoverables from prior years.
- Unrestricted Funds** - The historic surpluses on publications are held in a "Designated Fund" for financing future publications.
- 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.
- Other Statutory Information** - Details of the committee of the Society and the Treasurer's Report are shown in this Report.

Annabel Allott, Chairman

David Brown ACIS Treasurer
30 August 2015

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report

Subscription income is similar to last year. The deficit was mainly due to the increased costs of website hosting and design and to a higher figure for professional (legal) fees incurred by the Society, and in future we will be looking to increase donations to the Legal Action Fund to cover the costs of these professional fees.

In respect of publications, slow selling stock has been significantly written down, that has led to this year's deficit for publications.

Claims continue in respect of tax recoverable under the Gift Aid scheme.

David Brown ACIS - Treasurer 30 August 2015

EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year to 31st March 2015, as set out above.

Respective Responsibilities of Executive Committee and Examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state 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 given by the Charity Commission. 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 130 of the of the 2011 Act; and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act

(b) to prepare Accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Anna Long FCA, 58 Crescent Lane, Clapham SW4. 30 August 2015



COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2014-2015

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3 Victoria Rise, SW4 0PB

Vice-President

Peter Jefferson Smith
22 Ively Road, SW4 0EW Tel: 020 7622 8285

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SUB-COMMITTEES 2013-2014

Common and Open Spaces

Deryn Watson (Convenor), Diana Armstrong Bell, David Dandridge, Mary Dickinson, Jennifer Everett, Michael Fry, Nicholas Kroll, Alison Macnair, Nina Murdoch.

Events

Heather Binney (Convenor), Annabel Allott, Jenny Cobley, Ebuni Okolo, Peter Jefferson Smith (until March), Alyson Wilson.

Local History

Derrick Johnson (Convenor), Annabel Allott, Monique Hood, Peter Jefferson Smith, Timothy Walker, Alyson Wilson, Anne Wilson.

Planning

Philip Ashford (Convenor), John Adams, Roger Armstrong, Peter Cobley, Martin Pratt, David Whitestone, Mark Leffler (Transport Sub-committee liaison)

Roads and Transport

Mark Leffler (Convenor), John Adams, Philip Ashford, Jenny Cobley, Jill Cramphorn, Jon McIver, Deborah Saunt, Virginia Stevens..

Newsletter Delivery

The following members were responsible for distributing the monthly newsletters in 2014-2015. If you would like to know who delivers to you, please contact the Membership Secretary. Christine Armstrong (until November), Alan Bevan, Nicholas Butler and Rosaleen Hughes, Ann Dunkley, Jennifer Everett, Michael Fry, Marian Gleeson, Monique Hood (until November), Derrick and Janet Johnson, Val Johnson, Pauline Khng (from May), Anna Long, Margi Mahoney (from December), Lili Massey, Alison Newbery (until April), Jennifer Pearson, Stewart and Ros Pedge, Martin Richards, Anna Roads, Vivienne Pickering, Joan Sinclair, Hazel Smith, Maev Sullivan, Jean Virgoe, Helen Widgery, Alyson Wilson.

PUBLICATIONS

Discovering Clapham. (2007) 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 £5.**

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. £ 5.00

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 on application.

Clapham Walks: Self-guided walks leaflets, each covering a different area of Clapham. Price £1 each or all seven walks for £5.00.

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 the former Clapham Library on North Side. **(New edition 2015)**

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. **(New edition 2015)**

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 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 2015)**

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. **(New edition 2015)**

7. North Side. 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 edition 2015).**

We also have stocks of several FREE publications: Clapham Common History Map, Clapham Common Trees, and CS50, our 50th anniversary celebration booklet. If you would like copies of these please contact Alyson Wilson.

Publications may be obtained from:

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

Email: alysonwilson.sw4@gmail.com **Personal callers by prior arrangement.**

Please telephone or email to check postal charges which will vary according to your order. Cheques payable to The Clapham Society

Details of meetings, activities and a full list of our publications are on The Clapham Society website at claphamsociety.com

Our books are also available at Clapham Books, 26 The Pavement, SW4 0JA.