



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2020-21

Membership

Numbers have remained consistent this year and, as at the beginning of September, we have 757 individual members in 521 households and seven business members. So far we have had 38 new members since January. Thank you to all members who have responded to my request to amend anomalies in the payment of their subscriptions.

Jennifer Everett

Common and Open Spaces

Progress has been made on a number of fronts, including a hugely successful redevelopment of The Spinney's playground, high Clapham Common user scores and the final confirmation of a £1m multi-year budget that will focus on access (paths, signs and toilets) and rejuvenating the paddling pool. We will benefit from the results of the members' survey which has given us a rich insight into the priorities of, and vision for, the Common among our members. The survey showed an overwhelming belief that commercial events are too large and long and that there is insufficient financial benefit to the Common to justify these events. The Society also took further legal advice to underpin our view that Lambeth Council must seek Secretary of State approval for large events such as those on the August bank holiday weekend. Lambeth Council, having agreed they would seek such approval (whilst never accepting it was *required*), went ahead with the events and are now looking for retrospective approval. (A novel concept for a temporary event that has now passed!) Our impact is unfortunately constrained by a severe lack of resources (financial and manpower), so we will have to be extremely focused in the year ahead. *Andrew Summers*

Roads and Transport

Covid has overshadowed most of our dealings since March 2020. The impact hit our public transport system as emergency measures were introduced. With a huge proportion of Transport for London (TfL) revenue coming from fares, drastic reductions in service were introduced with little or no warning. Consultation exercises that had been organised to review and improve services were postponed/cancelled.

During the summer of 2020 the government introduced emergency powers designed to promote cycling and walking, and we saw a range of controversial and hastily designed measures on the main road network and local

streets to restrict motor traffic, giving priority to cyclists over other transport modes. In addition, councils were encouraged to offer pavement licences to the hospitality economy.

Consultation on all these measures was almost non-existent. The closure of Larkhall Bridge; the 24/7 enforcement of bus lanes along red routes and hours of operation of the Congestion Zone; miscellaneous restrictions on vehicles accessing local roads; and temporary closure of Clapham South station, have all resulted not just in inconvenience, but also real personal hardship, and wider disbenefits that have been downplayed by decision-makers.

There was some good news during the year. The plans for the Cavendish Road/Clapham Common South Side junction have been revised again so that when a controlled pedestrian phase is introduced south-bound traffic (other than large vehicles) will still be able to turn left. Also, TfL and Network Rail have become more responsive in tackling graffiti, particularly around Clapham North, though this remains a problem.

Clearly the climate change agenda will continue to impact on policies affecting our townscape and highways into the future. One hopes that there will be improvement on the part of the planners to engage with the public and discuss options. This is an important sphere for the Society to play an active role, though it will not be possible until there is a greater appetite from members to be involved. Only a couple of members have indicated they are ready to engage on these issues to help the Society. It is never too late to say you are! *Mark Leffler*

Planning

Our committee lost Wanda Pratt when she died back in July. Joining the Society some 30 years ago as a young architect, she served on the Committee during the 90s before, more recently, rejoining as Secretary. She will be sadly missed.

We have addressed a number of major applications this year. Holy Trinity Church on Clapham Common is seeking permission to make significant alterations to the building. This initially included the rebuilding and enclosure of its classical entrance porch with glass which we strongly opposed so we are very glad to see that this idea has now been dropped.

We are always pleased when schemes we have supported from inception proceed. Studio Voltaire's redevelopment of artists' studios in Nelson's Row is now complete and about



to re-open in October. And work is finally about to start on the vacant plot at 18-19 Pavement, much to Marks Barfield's original design.

We were glad to see permission refused for an additional floor at No. 7 MacKay Road. The house forms part of a very charming unspoilt 19th-century terrace. We argued that this work would have spoiled the terrace and damaged the quality of the streetscape.

We remain concerned at further loss of office accommodation in Clapham and were disappointed when permission was granted for change of use, from business to residential, at North Street Mews.

Our current concern at Thornton Park is with what appears to be a retrospective application for additional residential units and greater height to some of the apartment blocks even though their construction is well advanced.

We continue our close association with London Forum. We share its concern over central Government's intentions to overhaul national planning procedures and relax permitted development rights. *Martin Pratt*

Local History

This sub-committee has been fortunate to be able to hold real meetings around a table in the last few months. Our main focus this year has been on guided walks which we held in person from April to September. These were quickly booked up, so to satisfy demand we added extra in October. We introduced three completely new walks this year, led by relatively new members of our group who have strengthened it and injected new ideas following the recent loss of two pre-eminent Clapham historians, Peter Jefferson Smith and Derrick Johnson.

We have added one new article to our Local History page this year, on the subject of the noted Hanbury family of Clapham pharmacologists and botanists, and their links with China, particularly in relation to importing plants. We have continued research on important 18th and early 19th-century residents with a view to a possible future publication and Michael Tuffrey's extensive research on the development of the Abbeville Road area resulted in a walk as well our major contribution to Lambeth's September Heritage Festival.

The pandemic meant that our attendance at local events this year was limited to St Paul's Summer Fair and Lambeth Local History Fair in September. Both were well supported and proof that our presence at such events is valuable.

Publications also suffered as a result of the pandemic, and although Clapham Books were not able to reopen until April 2021 we were fortunate that they continued online ordering and a click-and-collect system, introduced in the summer of 2020, but nothing compares with browsing a bookshop.

Alyson Wilson

Events

Meetings were planned on a variety of topics: the arts, health, local initiatives, and historical places and people, in the hope that there would be something for everyone. After lockdown, most of the talks were on Zoom, and those that couldn't be have been rescheduled for 2022. When the

restrictions were lifted, the Local History and nature walks resumed, so a big thank you to those who organised and led them. The August party, held jointly with the Friends of Clapham Common, was a roaring success and as well as an opportunity to meet up with friends old and new it raised a significant sum, well over £5,000, towards the Wild Clapham fund for planting new trees on the Common.

Christine Armstrong

Newsletter

Printing in colour, a decision taken by the Committee in the gloom of 2020, continues to inject life and there has been much positive feedback about it. There were tragic stories in 2021, very unfortunately – Sarah Everard – when in March the Clapham Common Bandstand became her shrine, and upbeat, an interview with the amazing actor Toby Jones. (If there are any local actors, musicians, scientists, artists or writers who would like to be featured in the Newsletter, email news@claphamsociety.com and we will try to include you.) Thanks to *all* our contributors, regular and occasional, and to committee members who update us in their spheres.

Thanks also to Alyson Wilson for continuing to be a valuable second pair of eyes as well as a ready source of news, to Jennifer Everett for collating the Annual Report while I was on holiday and organising distribution of the Newsletter, to the volunteers who deliver it and to Christina Bonnett who created and now manages our website and posts our stories and the Newsletter with such care. I would like to pay special tribute to Annabel Allott for her vision and support.

Social media has come my way again as our excellent volunteer (NL437), Dave Cross, had too much else on to continue. If you are on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, please engage with us by sharing or liking our posts. It is so important to get our messages out there. And, at the risk of sounding ageist, we love having news about and from younger residents of Clapham! *Ruth Eastman*

Thanks to David Brown, our super-efficient Treasurer who keeps us under financial control; to Anna Long, our Independent Examiner; and to our legal expert Daniel Dovar who we have kept rather busy what with one thing and another this year!

As stated above thanks to all our volunteers who make the time every month to get out in all weathers and deliver the Newsletters. Special mention goes to Jennifer Pearson who sends out some 70 plus copies by post.

Finally thanks to everyone on the committee and to all of you, our members. Without you, we simply could not survive.

Annabel Allott, Chairman, September 2021



THE CLAPHAM SOCIETY

(Charity No. 279595)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021

Note	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
INCOME						
Subscriptions: Standing Order	6,223		6,223	5,587		5,587
Other	522		522	1,209		1,209
	6,745		6,745	6,796		6,796
Donations	546		546	597	1,550	2,147
Income Tax recoverable	1,038		1,038	580	400	980
Summer Party	0		0	585		585
Miscellaneous income	0		0	0		0
Interest receivable	9		9	11		11
	8,338	0	8,338	8,569	1,950	10,519
EXPENDITURE						
Newsletter costs	2,437		2,437	2,012		2,012
Printing, postage and stationery	665		665	577		577
Meeting room hire	1,522		1,522	2,228		2,228
Summer Party	0		0	641		641
Events expenses	0		0	291		291
Subscriptions & affiliations	193		193	200		200
Insurance	160		160	152		152
Donations: FCC Litter pickers	258		258	0		0
Commemorative plaques	0		0	0		0
Website hosting & design	2,392		2,392	1,135		1,135
Legal fees	0		0	0		0
Sundry expenses	40		40	0		0
	7,667	0	7,667	7,236	0	7,236
Surplus	671	0	671	1,333	1,950	3,283
Surplus/(Deficit) from publications	(310)		(310)	289		289
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	361	0	361	1,622	1,950	3,572
Transfer Commemoration Fund				(2,500)		(2,500)
Balance brought forward	16,855	5,488	22,343	15,233	6,038	21,271
	17,216	5,488	22,704	16,855	5,488	24,843
Publications						
Sales	829		829	2,241		2,241
Stock brought forward	3,580		3,580	1,722		1,722
Purchases	0		0	5,837		5,837
Other publication expenses	108		108	504		504
Stock carried forward	(2,549)		(2,549)	(3,580)		(3,580)
Cost of sales	1,139		1,139	4,483		4,483
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(310)		(310)	(2,242)		(2,242)
Transfer Commemoration Fund				2,500		2,500
Bank interest	0		0	31		31
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(310)		(310)	289		289
Balance brought forward	15,973		15,973	15,684		15,684
Designated Fund	15,663		15,663	15,973		15,973

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

Note	2021			2020		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Cost	1,331	1,462	2,793			2,793
Less: Depreciation	(1,331)	(1,462)	(2,793)			(2,793)
	0	0	0			0
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of publications			2,549			3,580
Debtors: HM Revenue & Customs		3,750			3,273	
Other & Prepayments		997	4,747		1,194	4,467
Cash at bank and in hand:						
NatWest Bank			16,036			15,504
			23,332			23,551
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors			628			1,208
Net Current Assets			22,704			22,343
TOTAL NET ASSETS						
			22,704			22,343
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS						
General Fund			1,553			882
Designated Publication Fund	3		15,663			15,973
			17,216			16,855
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
Local History Fund			453			453
Legal Action and Special Purposes Fund			5,035			5,035
			5,488			5,488
			22,704			22,343

Notes to the Accounts

- General** - These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.
- Income Tax Recoverable** - Represents estimated sum recoverable for four years ended 31 March 2021.
- 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 Society's Committee are shown elsewhere in this Report.

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Committee on 12 July 2021

Annabel Allott, Chairman

David Brown ACIS, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report

Subscription income has increased again as the new rate came into effect. As a result of Covid it was not possible to hold our meetings at Omnibus. This has resulted in a reduction of meeting room hire creating a surplus for the year of £671.

David Brown ACIS, Treasurer

12 July 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year to 31 March 2021, 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
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- 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 Examiners 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:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act;
 - 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 have been drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Anna Long FCA, 47 Hambalt Road, Clapham SW4 9EQ



COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2020-2021

President

Martin Drury

Vice-President

Julia Barfield

Chairman

Annabel Allott

chairman@claphamsociety.com

Solicitor

Daniel Dovar

Treasurer

David Brown

treasurer@claphamsociety.com

Secretary

Gillian White

secretary@claphamsociety.com

Membership Secretary

Jennifer Everett

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COMMITTEE

Christine Armstrong

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Ruth Eastman

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Mark Leffler

transport@claphamsociety.com

Martin Pratt

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Andrew Summers

openspaces@claphamsociety.com

Alyson Wilson

history@claphamsociety.com

SUB-COMMITTEES 2020-2021

Common and Open Spaces

Andrew Summers (Convenor).

Meetings and Events

Christine Armstrong (Convenor), Alyson Wilson.

Local History

Alyson Wilson (Convenor), Tom Jansz, Gillian Robinson, Michael Tuffrey, Timothy Walker.

Planning

Martin Pratt (Convenor), John Adams, Roger Armstrong, Philip Ashford, Peter Cobby, Mark Leffler, Wanda Pratt, David Whitestone.

Roads and Transport

Mark Leffler (Convenor), John Adams, Jenny Cobby, Robert Williamson.

Newsletter delivery

The following members were responsible for distributing the monthly newsletters in 2020-2021:

Claire Brown, Pamela Eden, Bill Emmett, Jennifer Everett, Michael Fry, Marian Gleeson, Ros Hedley Miller, Sue Keegan, Pauling Khng, Val Johnson, Alison Macnair, Lili Massey, Nigel Parker, Jennifer Pearson, Stewart Pedge, Stephen Savage, Joan Sinclair, Andrew Summers, Jean Virgoe, Deryn Watson, Helen Widgery, Alyson Wilson.

If you would like to know who delivers to you, please contact the Membership Secretary.

The following have also helped out on an ad hoc basis: Annabel Allott, Ruth Eastman, Madeline Johnston, Mark Leffler.

PUBLICATIONS

The l'Ansons: A Dynasty of London Architects & Surveyors (2019) 424 pages. Peter Jefferson Smith. A highly successful dynasty of architects and surveyors, the three Edward l'Ansons, father, son, and grandson, rose to eminence by means of reliability, networking and sheer indefatigable energy. From their original base in the City of London, they spread all over London's southern suburbs, notably Clapham, where they lived for years. This book represents years of dedicated research and writing by its author. The virtually complete text he left at his death has been edited and published by The Clapham Society. £20

Clapham through Time Amberley Publishing (2015) 96 pages. Alyson Wilson and Claire Fry. Ninety historic images of Clapham coupled with recent photographs taken from exactly the same position, with a linking historical text. A fascinating record of how Clapham has changed over the years. £15

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. Seven chapters take 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. £6 (members) or £7.50.

The Clapham Sect (2004) 64 pages. Margaret Bryant. The story of a group of people whose activities changed the world. Wealthy Clapham businessmen and religious philanthropists, they 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. £6 (members) or £7.50.

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. The book tracks the changes in Clapham from 1900 to 2000. **Reduced to £5.**

Clapham Saints and Sinners (1987) 78 pages. Eric Smith. 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. **Reduced to £5.**

Clapham Walks Self-guided walks leaflets, each covering a different area of Clapham. £1 each or £5 for all seven walks.

1. Old Clapham (Revised edition 2019) 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.

2. Clapham North (Revised edition 2019) 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.

3. Around Nightingale Lane (Revised edition 2018) From Clapham South Underground Station to Malwood Road and along Nightingale Lane as far as The Nightingale, coming back via Thurleigh Road, St Luke's Church and Hightrees House, and along the side of the Common back to Clapham South.

4. Clapham Common (Revised edition 2019) A tour of the Common starting from Clapham Common Underground Station, taking in Holy Trinity Church, the Bandstand, Windmill Drive, and all three ponds.

5. South Side (Revised edition 2019) From Clapham South Underground Station this walk goes along the southeast border of the Common towards Clapham High Street, including a brief diversion down Narbonne Avenue and on to The Windmill on the Common, Notre Dame Estate and Crescent Grove.

6. West Side (Revised edition 2020) 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, through the side streets back to Broomwood Road, passing houses of various periods and naming their former residents.

7. North Side (Revised edition 2019) This walk starts at Clapham Common Station, going past Holy Trinity Church and all along North Side, covering Church Buildings, Trinity Hospice, Cedars Terraces, Eaton House The Manor School, Parkgate House School as far as St Barnabas' Clapham and The Shrubbery in Lavender Gardens.

Publications may be obtained on our website at claphamsociety.com/clapsopublications.html.