



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2021-22

This is my first Annual Report as Chairman, having taken over at the last AGM from Annabel Allott who had led the Society for 10 years. Before running through key areas over which the Committee has responsibility, I want to thank the many special people who help to run the Society and have supported its work over the last year. Particular thanks are due to the members of the Committee who have helped organise all our activities and steered us through another year, and to our office holders: Treasurer, David Brown; Secretary, Gill White; Membership Secretary, Jennifer Everett; Solicitor, Daniel Dovar, who is sadly moving away to a more pastoral setting; and Vice Chair, Alison Macnair – a constant source of good counsel. I also take this opportunity to thank Anna Long, our Independent Examiner, for undertaking the generally thankless task of verifying our accounts.

I am immensely grateful to those who serve on sub-committees, and the reliable team of deliverers of our brilliant Newsletter, which is professionally managed and edited, come rain or shine, by Ruthie Eastman. Appreciation is also due to those who come to our meetings, who do so much to ensure these are lively and interesting and, in attending, provide a great chance to catch up. I am delighted that we have been able to hold live meetings at Omnibus Theatre again this year; it makes such a difference. Omnibus Theatre is a wonderful community theatre and local resource that many of our members fought hard to see established, but two years of extended lockdowns due to Covid dealt it a hard blow and threatened its very existence. It has been so heartening to see it bounce back into life, and I hope it can weather the economic threats we all face currently. We have had a number of illuminating and inspiring events during the year, and I extend my thanks to all our speakers for the time and care with which they crafted their talks – and the contributors who then gave them coverage in the Newsletter.

Finally, before providing a roundup of last year's activities contributed by members of the Committee, I must pay a very special tribute to Alyson Wilson who has tirelessly played such a vital part in guiding and supporting the Society in every aspect of its work for more years than, one suspects, she would care to admit. Alyson has decided to stand down from the Committee, but she has agreed to continue with the Local History sub-committee and remains on hand as the fount of knowledge and an endless source of wisdom.

Mark Leffler, Chairman, September 2022

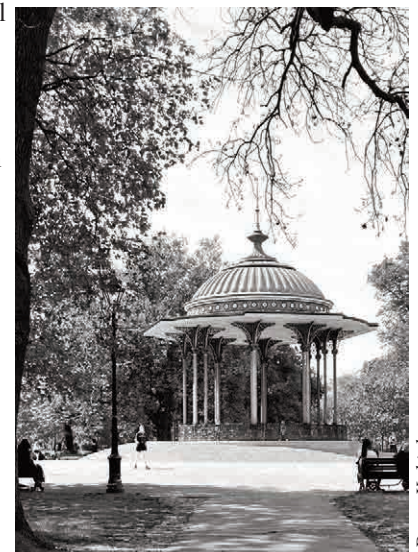
Membership

At the end of August membership of the Society stood at 744 individuals in 513 households and seven business members. Since the beginning of this year there have been 28 new members and one new business (included in the figures above). We remain hopeful that those few members whose subscriptions are still outstanding from last year will re-join the Society. Many thanks to those of you who have heeded the request to amend standing orders. The Society is setting up a system to enable us to email members with urgent information that needs to be circulated before the next Newsletter. Please email the Membership Secretary at membership@claphamsociety.com with your current email address if you wish to receive these messages.

Common and Open Spaces

Lambeth Council, which owns Clapham Common, has a five-year contract with events organiser and promoter Live Nation to mount major music events to take place each summer on the Common. Summer 2021 saw a series of such events. The Society and Friends of Clapham Common (FCC) obtained specialist legal advice confirming our view that Lambeth must obtain government approval for events like this taking place – just as it would for a permanent building or other structure. The law does not allow local authorities to give themselves permission to do as they like with common land (albeit that the legislation has been routinely ignored over the years). When Lambeth applied for permission for similar events this summer, there were so many objections that the Planning Inspectorate decided to convene a public inquiry to consider the matter. Lambeth failed to meet various deadlines for submitting its case, leaving insufficient time for the application to be duly considered, and Live Nation announced they would not be staging events on the Common in 2022. Since then, Lambeth has confirmed that it will not apply to hold large events on the Common in 2023, but that it does intend to seek Secretary of State consent for such events in future years, commencing 2024.

Another local campaign, which attracted 640 objections, halted plans to turn the former bowling greens and pavilion on West Side over to Putt in the Park, a company that develops miniature golf courses using artificial grass (Continued on p2)



Dana Kubick



(Continued from previous page) playing surfaces. Wandsworth (the planning authority in this case) turned down the application. Lambeth has subsequently started to look for an operator to take on the pavilion as a café, and early plans have been circulated to turn the greens into a community sensory garden.

Wild Clapham, a joint enterprise of the Society and FCC, is contributing to The Queen's Green Canopy, created to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which has had a busy year planting trees and shrubs (thanks to a generous gift of nearly £10,000 from the April Trust, a national charity based in Clapham, see Newsletter 446), and a wildflower meadow on the Common. The Society continues to be one of the bodies represented on the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC), which has overseen several initiatives during the year. Lambeth installed 37 new lamps across the Common in the aftermath of the murder of Sarah Everard. Some new litter bins, which replace the previous design, have been installed to discourage birds and foxes spreading detritus outside them. Thanks to the sterling efforts of many, but in particular of CCMAC member Adrian Darley and his wife, 40 bird boxes have been installed. Finally, discussions on developing the paddling pool next to Holy Trinity Church are progressing between CCMAC and Lambeth planners. The intention is to convert this space into a water play area.

Roads and Transport

This year has again been overshadowed by the pandemic, the impact it has had on the finances of Transport for London (TfL) and the panoply of emergency measures to curb traffic and encourage cycling that were rushed through by councils and TfL. Some of these measures, such as the extension of pavement licences, in some cases removing short-term parking spaces to enable this, have proved very beneficial for local hospitality businesses. Others, aimed at reducing road space and car usage and giving priority to cyclists over other road users, have proved more controversial. In recent months, the majority of the initial emergency measures have been made permanent, to the dismay of many local people. The closure of Larkhall Bridge to motor traffic is a case in point.

TfL's finances have not recovered, with journey-to-work patterns having largely failed to recover to pre-pandemic levels. It is now becoming increasingly clear that the impact of sharply rising energy costs, labour shortages and general economic uncertainty will have long-lasting effects on many of London's businesses, and the transport infrastructure that supports them.

A number of projects to 'green' the High Street and improve pedestrian safety that we have discussed with TfL and Lambeth in recent years have been put on hold due to TfL's financial position and, sadly, the promised controlled crossing at the Cavendish Road/Clapham Common South Side junction is one of the casualties.

As stated in last year's Annual Report, this is an important sphere for the Society to articulate local needs and priorities, and to encourage transport planners and those in charge of our public realm to engage in a meaningful way. If you can assist in this work, we would be interested to hear from you. Please email: chairman@claphamsociety.com.

Planning

The sad demise of Wanda Pratt in July 2021, and the subsequent resignation of her husband, Martin Pratt, some weeks later dealt a severe blow to the operation of the Planning sub-committee this year. Both professional architects, they provided a formidable team, ably sifting through the applications each month, highlighting those where it was most appropriate for the

Society to respond formally. This loss and other changes in members' personal circumstances have meant that the sub-committee has struggled to re-establish itself post-pandemic. We have recruited one new member, Eva Palacios, who has excellent architectural skills, and could really do with someone with recent planning experience. The role of convener remains unfilled. Volunteers extremely welcome!

During the past year the development by Eco Group on the north side of the High Street finally got underway. This resulted in the closure of Superdrug and Esca, but Eco was able to reopen in time for Easter following a clever lateral conversion across the frontage and relocating its very large pizza oven. This ambitious project will eventually result in a conversion of the Edwardian upper floors from storage to residential use, and new residential additions to the rear.

The strongly opposed proposal to develop the Old Dispensary at 42 Clapham Manor Street as a crammer school, enacting a permission granted on appeal in 2017 to the Russian Ballet School, was eventually withdrawn. We remain very concerned that the owners of the premises will persist with their endeavours to find a buyer prepared to undertake the monumentally inappropriate scheme for which the Ballet School secured its approval.

Development of the long-vacant site at 18-19 The Pavement to designs by local architects Marks Barfield has sadly still not commenced.

Last year, Martin Pratt highlighted the development of Thornton Park at 44 Clapham Common South Side as a major concern. The developer was granted retrospective planning permission to increase the storey heights of a number of the blocks already at an advanced stage of construction. We are now faced with the same developer doing a deal with Southbank Colleges for the redevelopment of Lambeth College next door. The proposal would clear the whole site, including the architecturally interesting main college building constructed just over 10 years ago, and replacing it with a range of high-rise residential blocks.

We have recently supported a long-awaited scheme to part-redevelop and restore St Mary's Hall in St Alphonsus Road, and a proposal by Growing Underground to enable it to extend significantly its salad-growing operations in the former air raid shelter running under the High Street.

Local History

Our guided walks have been well attended this year and we have updated and reprinted all seven of our self-guided walk leaflets, which have been selling well at Clapham Books, where our books also sell slowly but steadily.

We had opportunities to meet people and promote the Society with our stands at the Common People event over the Jubilee weekend and at St Paul's Church Fair in June. Our display at both events concentrated on the history of Clapham Common, which is also proving one of our most popular walks. For the Lambeth Local History Fair at St John's Church, Waterloo, we had a new display tracing the development of Clapham through maps. This was partly inspired by Mike Tuffrey's article about his search for a lost map of Clapham, published in the London Topographical Society newsletter and on our website at: claphamsociety.com/articles/41-daniel-gould-surveyor.

Another member of our group, Timothy Walker, has been asked to provide an article about Georgian Clapham for The Georgian Group Journal. We see this as a welcome opportunity to promote the history of our area. The exhibition of Clapham photographs at Omnibus Theatre during September did this for the 1970s.



We have joined other local societies in the search for a solution to the problem of the closed Wandsworth Museum and we have also helped with the preparation for the move of Lambeth Archives to their new premises in 2023.

Events

Since the last AGM and the lifting of Covid restrictions, we are glad to be back at Omnibus Theatre for our regular talks. We heard about a woman MP for Battersea South whose achievements included a maternity hospital at Wandsworth Common; the refurbishment of Studio Voltaire; the back story of our fabulous local opera company, St Paul's Opera; the importance of research being conducted at Guy's and St Thomas' Trust into maternal and foetal health in pregnancy; the life of William Morris; the diaries of a volunteer ambulance driver during World War II; and the creation of the newly built Lambeth Palace Library.

The Summer Party, held jointly with the Friends of Clapham Common, was a roaring success, helped by good weather, good food and excellent company.

Newsletter

The Clapham Society Newsletter continues to be produced every month except January and August, when Society news spans two months. We are fortunate in having a steady supply of wide-ranging news from both regular and occasional contributors. News is always welcome and every effort is made to accommodate each submission but sometimes, regrettably, there is more news than space to print it: less a case of 'all the news that's fit to print', more a case of 'all the news that fits to print'. We are always interested in receiving feedback on the Newsletter. If you have any suggestions or a fascinating idea for a feature or interview, email news@claphamsociety.com.

Thanks are due to Alison Macnair who proofreads every issue and always finds something that can be improved upon, to Dana Kubick who provides wonderful photographs, and to various members of the Committee for their support and contributions. Thanks too, as ever, to Jennifer Everett for lining up our wonderful delivery volunteers.

Social Media

The Society is active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Volunteers are dedicated to maintaining platforms aimed at raising awareness of walks, talks and events in the area and conveying the message that the Society is here to conserve the architectural and historic nature of Clapham and the surrounding area. We also use social media to publicise the work of charitable and public sector bodies that strengthen the Clapham community. This mutual support has widened the partnerships between the Society, charities, social enterprises and arts projects that make up this vibrant south London community. This continues to provide those interested with visual content of the work of the Society and attract wider attendance at events and support throughout the year.

The number of posts continues to rise with a net gain of followers across all social media. The rate of engagement rises week by week. Top performing posts on Facebook and Twitter regularly relate to issues concerning building developments in Clapham, as well as the talks that we present at Omnibus Theatre. On Instagram lovely pictures we think members might enjoy, not necessarily newsy or even local, receive a good response as do updates with useful information. Engage with the Society on all our social media platforms to keep in the loop.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2021-2022

President

Martin Drury

Vice-President

Julia Barfield

Chairman

Mark Leffler

chairman@claphamsociety.com

Vice Chair

Alison Macnair

vice-chair@claphamsociety.com

Solicitor

Daniel Dovar

Treasurer

David Brown

treasurer@claphamsociety.com

Secretary

Gillian White

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Membership Secretary

Jennifer Everett

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Christine Armstrong

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Ruth Eastman

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Alison Inglis-Jones

socialmedia@claphamsociety.com

Lee Roberts

Stephen Savage

Andrew Summers

openspaces@claphamsociety.com

Alyson Wilson

history@claphamsociety.com

SUB-COMMITTEES AND GROUPS 2021-2022

Common and Open Spaces:

Andrew Summers.

Meetings and Events:

Christine Armstrong (Convener), Ruth Eastman, Alyson Wilson.

Local History:

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

Planning:

Roger Armstrong, Philip Ashford, Peter Cobley, Mark Leffler, Eva Patricios, David Whitestone.

Roads and Transport:

Jenny Cobley, Mark Leffler, Robert Williamson.

Newsletter Delivery

The following members were responsible for distributing the Newsletter: **Claire Brown, Pamela Eden, Bill Emmett, Jennifer Everett, Michael Fry, Marian Gleeson, Rosalind Hedley-Miller, Sue Keegan, Pauling Khng, Val Johnson, Alison Macnair, Lili Massey, Nigel Parker, Jennifer Pearson, Stewart Pedge, Stephen Savage, Joan Sinclair, Andrew Summers, Roberta Tarran, Jean Virgoe, Deryn Watson, Helen Widgery, Alyson Wilson.** (If you would like to know who delivers to you, please contact the Membership Secretary.)



THE CLAPHAM SOCIETY

(Charity No. 279595)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022

| Note | 2021-22 | | | 2020-21 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Unrestricted £ | Restricted £ | Total £ | Unrestricted £ | Restricted £ | Total £ |
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| Subscriptions: Standing Order | 6,285 | | 6,285 | 6,223 | | 6,223 |
| Other | 596 | | 596 | 522 | | 522 |
| | <u>6,881</u> | | <u>6,881</u> | <u>6,745</u> | | <u>6,745</u> |
| Donations | 725 | 900 | 1,625 | 546 | | 546 |
| Income Tax recoverable | 1,081 | 187 | 1,268 | 1,038 | | 1,038 |
| Summer Party | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Donations for Trees | 1,205 | | 1,205 | 0 | | 0 |
| Interest receivable | 12 | | 12 | 9 | | 9 |
| | <u>9,904</u> | <u>1,087</u> | <u>10,991</u> | <u>8,338</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>8,338</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | |
| Newsletter costs | 4,144 | | 4,144 | 2,437 | | 2,437 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 144 | | 144 | 665 | | 665 |
| Meeting room hire | 0 | | 0 | 1,522 | | 1,522 |
| Summer Party | 300 | | 300 | 0 | | 0 |
| Events expenses | 125 | | 125 | 0 | | 0 |
| Subscriptions & affiliations | 169 | | 169 | 193 | | 193 |
| Insurance | 202 | | 202 | 160 | | 160 |
| Donations : FCC Litter pickers | 1,165 | 2,000 | 3,165 | 258 | | 258 |
| Omnibus | 500 | | 500 | 0 | | 0 |
| Commemorative plaques | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| Website hosting & design | 2,604 | | 2,604 | 2,392 | | 2,392 |
| Legal fees | 0 | 600 | 600 | 0 | | 0 |
| Sundry expenses | | | 0 | 40 | | 40 |
| | <u>9,353</u> | <u>2,600</u> | <u>11,953</u> | <u>7,667</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>7,667</u> |
| Surplus | 551 | (1,513) | (962) | 671 | 0 | 671 |
| Deficit from publications | (3,886) | | (3,886) | (310) | | (310) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | <u>(3,335)</u> | <u>(1,513)</u> | <u>(4,848)</u> | <u>361</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>361</u> |
| Balance brought forward | 17,216 | 5,488 | 22,704 | 16,855 | 5,488 | 22,343 |
| | <u>13,881</u> | <u>3,975</u> | <u>17,856</u> | <u>17,216</u> | <u>5,488</u> | <u>22,704</u> |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|---------------|--|--|
| Publications | | | | | | |
| Sales | 1,385 | | | 829 | | |
| Stock brought forward | 2,549 | | | 3,580 | | |
| Purchases | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| Other publication expenses | 88 | | | 108 | | |
| Stock carried forward | (2,554) | | | (2,549) | | |
| Cost of sales | 83 | | | 1,139 | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | <u>1,302</u> | | | <u>(310)</u> | | |
| Cost of Redesign of Website | <u>(5,188)</u> | | | <u>0</u> | | |
| Deficit for the year | (3,886) | | | (310) | | |
| Balance brought forward | 15,663 | | | 15,973 | | |
| Designated Fund | <u>11,777</u> | | | <u>15,663</u> | | |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

| Note | 2021-22 | | | 2020-21 | |
|--|----------|----------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | | |
| Cost | 1,331 | 1,462 | 2,793 | | 2,793 |
| Less: Depreciation | (1,331) | (1,462) | (2,793) | | (2,793) |
| | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | | <u>0</u> |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | |
| Stock of publications | | | 2,554 | | 2,549 |
| Debtors: HM Revenue & Customs | | 3,645 | | | 3,750 |
| Other & Prepayments | | 316 | 3,961 | | 997 |
| Cash at bank and in hand: | | | | | |
| NatWest Bank | | | 11,466 | | 16,036 |
| | | | <u>17,981</u> | | <u>23,332</u> |
| Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Creditors | | | 125 | | 628 |
| Net Current Assets | | | <u>17,856</u> | | <u>22,704</u> |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | | | | | |
| | | | <u>17,856</u> | | <u>22,704</u> |
| Represented by: | | | | | |
| UNRESTRICTED FUNDS | | | | | |
| General Fund | | | 2,104 | | 1,553 |
| Designated Publication Fund | | | 11,777 | | 15,663 |
| | | | <u>13,881</u> | | <u>17,216</u> |
| RESTRICTED FUNDS | | | | | |
| Local History Fund | | | 453 | | 453 |
| Legal Action and Special Purposes Fund | | | 3,522 | | 5,035 |
| | | | <u>3,975</u> | | <u>5,488</u> |
| | | | <u>17,856</u> | | <u>22,704</u> |

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 2022.
- Unrestricted Funds** - The historic surpluses on publications are held in a 'Designated Fund' for financing future publications. The upgrade and redesign of the website has been taken from this fund.
- 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 11 July 2022

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report

The website upgrade has been expensed against the publications designated fund. Significant donations were made to Friends of Clapham Common (FCC) in connection with a joint action to protect the Common, and to Omnibus.

David Brown ACIS, Treasurer

11 July 2022

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 2022, 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 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 2011 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 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