

The Clapham Society

Newsletter



Issue 335

March 2011

Due to illness **Iain McCaig** had to cancel his talk for the January meeting on how to improve the thermal performance of traditional buildings. However, he has agreed to give this talk at the September meeting on **Wednesday 21 September**. Peter Cobley's presentation on the eco-restoration of his Victorian cottage, originally scheduled for that date will now take place early in 2012.

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 April. The current rates are:
Individual membership: £6.00. Household (up to three names): £9.00. Corporate: £15.00. Additionally, for members receiving the newsletter by post, there is a charge of £5.00 to cover the cost of postage.

Cheques should be made payable to *The Clapham Society* and sent to the Membership Secretary at the address on the back page. Members renewing their subscription by standing order should ensure that their bank is making the correct payment. Membership will lapse if the subscription is not renewed by 30 June.

If you have a query about your subscription please contact the Membership Secretary.

Our regular monthly meetings are held at Clapham Manor Primary School, Belmont Road, SW4 0BZ. The entrance to the school in Stonhouse Street, through the new building, is NOT open for our evening meetings. Use the Belmont Road entrance, cross the playground and enter the building on the right. The hall is open from 7.30 pm when coffee and tea are normally available. The talk begins promptly at 8 pm and most meetings finish by 9.30 pm.

Wednesday 16 March.

These were our Sons. Local historian, **Naomi Klein**, will describe her research on the 574 names on the Stockwell War Memorial of men who died in the First World War. Starting with just their names, she has traced most of them and unearthed many of their personal stories. She will tell us how she used a variety of public records and information from families, and share with us some of the lives she has recaptured. She will also tell us about the three Burleigh brothers commemorated on the memorial at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham.

Wednesday 20 April

This meeting will take place at **Wandsworth Museum, 38 West Hill, SW18 1RZ starting at 7.30 pm with the talk at 8 pm.** The Director of the museum, **Ken Barbour**, will talk about this new museum which opened in September 2010. He will tell us about the collection, future plans including forthcoming exhibitions and special events. Members may then look round the museum in their own time, or join the Director on a tour of the collection. **The 37 bus goes direct from Clapham Common to Wandsworth Museum. Routes 337 and 170 from Clapham Junction also go past the Museum. There is free parking in nearby streets after 6.30 pm.**

On the Common



Indignant carp – a fish out of water

Early in February there was an unusual sight on Clapham Common. Large nets were cast into Long Pond to gather up the fish which had been lodged there while work was in progress on Mount Pond. When the nets were hauled in the catches included a large quantity of fish and two model boats. About 550 lbs of fish were subsequently released into Mount Pond.

© Lambeth Council

The I'Anson family of Architects

Peter Jefferson Smith kindly stood in at very short notice when the speaker for our January meeting succumbed to 'flu.

Peter spoke with enthusiasm and deep knowledge about three generations of the local I'Anson family, who had first come to his attention over 30 years ago when he started researching Clapham buildings. The three architects – father, son and grandson – confusingly each called Edward I'Anson are usually identified as Edward I'Anson, Senior (1775-1853), Edward I'Anson, Junior (1811-1888) and Edward Blakeway I'Anson (1843-1912).

Edward I'Anson, Senior, (whose great-nephew was Lord Leighton) started as an assistant surveyor/architect and later partner of Daniel Alexander in the City. The partnership broke up in 1816 not long before Alexander was tried, though acquitted, for making fraudulent expenses claims. I'Anson mainly undertook surveying work for estates, and in particular, was responsible for surveying the sewers in Southwark. Peter explained the system by which sewers discharged in to the Thames at low tide, by gravity, until repeated cholera outbreaks and the 'Great Stink' in 1858 led to the construction of Bazalgette's sewer system. I'Anson Senior came to live on Clapham Common West Side in the 1840s.

At that time he was joined in practice by his son, Edward I'Anson, Junior, the most well-known of the three architects. The practice specialised in City of London offices following the success of their Royal Exchange Buildings (1844-5). Peter showed pictures of several buildings including the innovative stone and red brick Corn Exchange Chambers (1859) in Seething Lane, Colonial Chambers in Fenchurch Street (1857) with very large arched windows (reminding us that before the days of electric lighting maximising natural light was vital) and the Italianate British and Foreign Bible Society (1866) in Queen Victoria Street. The latter is one of the few I'Anson City

buildings to survive World War II bombing and redevelopment.

I'Anson, Junior was also the most closely associated with Clapham. He first set up home at 3 Church Buildings (now 14 North Side) and later built his own home on the corner of Victoria Rise (37 North Side). Some of his distinctive Clapham buildings survive and are well-known: the Hibbert Almshouses (1859) in Wandsworth Road, 21-22 The Pavement (1862) and the Alexandra Hotel (1863) on South Side. As he became prosperous, I'Anson purchased some land on the Hampshire/Surrey border, and built Grayshott Hall which became the centre of the family's country estate.

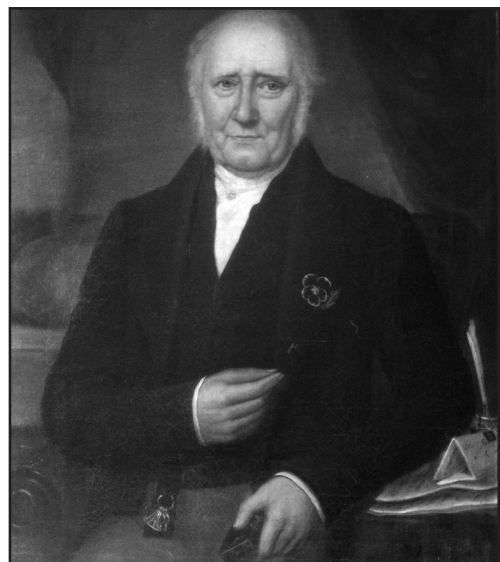
In 1873 Edward Blakeway I'Anson became a partner in his father's practice, which had now moved to Laurence Pountney Hill, in a Georgian house which still exists. Their style of City office was no longer in vogue, and their most notable buildings at this time were the Corn Exchange (1878) a huge top-lit glazed hall with cast iron ribs and granite columns (destroyed in World War II), Merchant Taylor's School built on the site of the former Charterhouse school buildings and the museum and library of St Bartholomew's Hospital. Working on his own after his father's death, EB I'Anson was responsible for Clapham Library (1889) on North Side and St Anne's Hall (1895-7) in Venn Street. His later work included the former public baths in Manor Place, Newington, and convalescent homes in Swanley, Kent and Much Wenlock, Shropshire, all of which survive today, still in institutional use. He also built the church in Grayshott village.

We are grateful to Peter for a most interesting talk about an important local family, and especially for giving it at such short notice. Thanks also to Jennifer Pearson, who showed the meeting a picture of the Hibbert Almshouses which may be the one that I'Anson showed in an architectural exhibition in 1860. This, and pictures of other Clapham buildings by the I'Ansons, appear in the Society's publication *Discovering Clapham*.

Daniel Gould

To Clapham historians the name of Daniel Gould has long been familiar as the surveyor of the most detailed early nineteenth-century plan of the area. But we knew little about him until a descendant, who is researching the family history, contacted us recently.

Daniel Gould, my four times great grandfather, was born in 1769 at Syston, just outside Bristol, the first of six children born to Daniel and Sarah Gould. Daniel Senior was Steward at Syston Court in the employ of Mr Fiennes Trotman. Daniel Junior married Esther Shipley in 1793 and soon after their first child was born the family moved to live in Clapham. Eight more children were born in Clapham and baptised at Holy Trinity Church. Daniel's trade was a tallow chandler but he was also a skilled surveyor. He lived in Acre Lane and later Clapham High Street.



© Margaret Knighton

Daniel Gould, 1841, by William S Thompson

In 1815 Daniel drew up a plan of Clapham and its vicinity which listed the houses and their owners. He was also involved with drawing plans for the Tulse Hill Estate when he was employed by Dr Edwards as a surveyor from 1813 until at least 1842. I have a letter dated 1815 written by Daniel to his brother in Bristol in which he mentions drawing up plans for four estates in Grenada. My family has a large portrait of Daniel painted in 1841 by William S Thompson, a portrait painter living in Clapham at the time. Daniel was a contemporary of members of the Clapham Sect and friendly with Messrs Hanscomb, Fothergill and Poynder, all builders and developers in Clapham. Mr Hanscomb and Mr Poynder were partners with Mr Fothergill at his iron works at Sirhowey near Tredegar, now a scheduled ancient monument of national importance.

Lambeth Archives holds a copy of the 1815 plan, now used as a definitive record of Clapham residents because rate books have been lost, together with various old documents containing Daniel's signature. Daniel died in 1843 – his family are buried in West Norwood Cemetery. Although I have more details about Daniel than I am able to include in this piece, if anyone can add further information about him and his family and their life in Clapham, I would be most grateful. Please contact me through the editor of the newsletter.

Margaret Knighton (née Gould)

David Perkin (1930 – 2011)

David came to live in Clapham when he retired in 1992, and quickly became involved in the local community. He joined the Clapham Society and was Secretary of the Society from 1997 for four years. He was soon well known and popular. But, as so often happens with those one meets only when they are retired, most of us in Clapham knew very little about David's earlier life.

It was not until after his death that we learnt more from his two brothers. After grammar school in Kent and a history degree from Pembroke College, Oxford, David went to Lincoln Theological College. In 1956 he was ordained Deacon at Southwark Cathedral and in 1957 Priest at St Paul's Cathedral. His first curacy was in St John's Wood, but in 1961 he changed direction to become Chaplain and Lecturer in Economic History at Loughborough College (later University). In 1984 he returned to parochial ministry in London and was Vicar of St James's, Sussex Gardens until his retirement in 1992.

It was then that he came to live in the Clapham house which he had providently bought several years earlier. David was enthusiastic about local history. He was a founder member of the Society's Local History Group, of which he was a valuable member until his death. He contributed to the books we published and to our displays for local events, he manned stands and ably fielded questions,

but he will be best remembered by many for his well researched and entertaining local history walks. He was always prompt to offer to lead a walk, and his years of lecturing students resulted in a consistently audible delivery, despite constant background traffic noise.

David gave two especially memorable presentations in our 'Clapham Portraits' series at Society meetings. The first about the artist's model turned actress, Ada Pullen aka Dorothy Dene who lived in The Chase, and the second about the early tabloid journalist, Hannan Swaffer, whose housekeeper inherited his house (close



to David's) in Englewood Road. In fact, so that this original research on Dorothy Dene should reach a wider audience his talk was adapted to become one of the first in a series of historical articles on our website.

Although history was his first love, David took an interest in many other local matters – in particular Clapham Common, serving on the Common and Open Spaces Sub-committee for 12 years. He was an active member, and one time Chairman of TERRA (The Englewood Road Residents Association), and he fought a long battle against the Tesco development on the former South London Hospital site which was just over his back wall. When the battle was lost and building was under way he had a ladder against his back wall, so that visitors could view progress!

David rarely missed a meeting, a party or a social event. His wide interests included sculpture, fine art and architecture, music and travel. He worshipped regularly at Southwark Cathedral, especially enjoying the music at Sung Eucharist, was a member of the Friends, and a benefactor to the Cathedral and its Library.

From the attendance at his funeral we found that David kept in touch with friends made throughout his life – including primary school! He will be remembered by many with affection and respect.

Alyson Wilson

Masterpiece of the month

This month's painting in the loan series celebrating the bicentenary of Dulwich Picture Gallery is Vermeer's *The Music Lesson* from the Royal Collection. This is a unique opportunity to see one of the most valued paintings of the Royal Collection. On **Thursday 10 March** and again on **Thursday 17 March** Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures (and former Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery) will be giving a lecture on this painting at 7.30 pm. Contact the gallery for ticket availability.

Also continuing at Dulwich Picture Gallery until 27 March is the first exhibition in Britain of the art of Norman Rockwell, who for nearly 50 years created covers for the *Saturday Evening Post*. In addition illustrations for books, magazines and advertisements provide a full survey of his career.

For more details and tickets go to www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk or telephone 020 8693 5254.

Clapham Young Musicians' Festival 2011

The 10th Clapham Young Musicians' Festival will take place in Holy Trinity Church from 6 pm to 8 pm on **Saturday 12 March**. This year, all proceeds will go towards a local charity, 'Springfield Community Flat'. This is made possible through very welcome support from both the Rotary Club of Battersea and Clapham and the Rector of Holy Trinity Church.

CYMF provides a well-established showcase for young musicians between the ages of 6 and 19. This year, upwards of 300 performers will be taking part ranging from a wide variety of choirs to instrumentalists from the South London Guitar Orchestra and the Centre for Young Musicians. As usual, the evening will culminate in an uplifting finale with all musical forces joining together.

All children/students are admitted free of charge, adults £3.50.

Ian Dury: the definitive biography

Will Birch will be reading from his biography of Ian Dury on **Thursday 10 March** at 7 pm at Clapham Books, 120 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UH. This event coincides with the release of the book in paperback.

Drivers wanted

Trinity Hospice needs volunteer drivers to help take patients in to the hospice. You need a car with an MOT, and a clean driving licence. Support and training will be given and a mileage allowance paid. Contact Anne-Marie Zaritsky on 020 7787 1042 for details.

Festival Chorus

On **Saturday 26 March** at 7.30 pm the Festival Chorus will be singing Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Cherubini's *Requiem* at St Luke's Church, Thurleigh Road, SW12 9RQ. Tickets: £10 (£6 concessions) on the door or from St Luke's Music Society box office 07951 791619.

Mystery solved

Keen viewers of BBC1's *Antiques Roadshow* may have noted a reference to Clapham in a programme late last year from Somerleyton Hall in Suffolk. The owner of a collection of Meissen and English porcelain said that it came from her grandfather's house called 'Westwood' and showed an album of photographs taken between 1919 and 1935 when the house was sold. It was an imposing Victorian structure with a lofty tower, and set in an extensive garden. When asked where it was she replied 'Clapham, just off the Common'.

Our local historians were unable to identify the building but, as a result of an overheard conversation, Professor Andrew Saint who spoke to us recently on the *Survey of London* contacted the *Antiques Roadshow*. They replied that since the programme was transmitted they had heard from the owner that she had

made a mistake during the recording and that 'Westwood' was actually in Upper Norwood rather than Clapham!

Our colleagues at the Norwood Society have done some initial research and identified 'Westwood' in Upper Norwood as likely to be the great house which was located off Beulah Hill now in Spurgeon Road SE19, the home of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the famous Baptist preacher and his wife Susan Spurgeon. The site is now occupied by Westwood College for Girls, an Academy which specialises in languages and other subjects. Coincidentally, there is a strong Clapham connection since Spurgeon lived in Nightingale Lane before he moved to Norwood and he preached at the opening service at Clapham Methodist Church, as Revd Norman Grigg mentioned in his article about the church in our December/January newsletter (No. 333).

Lambeth's Edwardian Splendours

This recent publication by Fiona Price of Lambeth Archives and Edmund Bird, Lambeth's former Head of Conservation and Urban Design is a useful, and lavishly illustrated survey of the rich variety of Edwardian buildings in the borough.

The book is divided into chapters on different themes from Public Buildings to Edwardians at Play, and Public Health to Edwardians at Prayer, with a final chapter on lost Edwardian buildings. The chapter on Lambeth Town Hall illustrates details of the interior as well as three of the 140 entries to the competition, and interesting pictures of several buildings in their early days are shown alongside recent photographs – often highlighting a change of use.

Some buildings, for instance, Bonneville School and the former Temperance Billiard Hall in Clapham High Street (now Moxley Architects), will be familiar to Clapham residents but others slightly further away in the borough will be new territory, and well worth exploring. The text is concise and informative. This is a valuable addition to books on our local area.

Lambeth's Edwardian Splendours is available from Lambeth Libraries.

Clapham Chamber Concert

The final concert in this series is on **Thursday 24 March** at 7.30 pm. Amanda Lake (violin) and Jessie Maryon Davies (Piano) will perform Beethoven's much treasured *Spring Sonata* alongside Ravel's glittering gypsy-themed *Tzigane* – with some favourites by Elgar as well.

The concert is at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove, SW4 0DX. Tickets are available on the door at £10, £8 (concessions) and £3 (under 12s).

I-spy...

...an uncharacteristic but appealing touch of municipal whimsy in the Wandsworth Road. If you look carefully you'll see that the new cycle racks opposite Victoria Rise spell out a seven-letter word...

If you have any queries about **The Clapham Society** or have news of local events, please contact the appropriate person below:

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Details of meetings, activities and a full list of our publications are on

The Clapham Society website at

www.claphamsociety.com

KJV 400 – the anniversary of the King James Bible

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible – a landmark not just for the Churches in England, but for the English language, here and in all countries where English is spoken. Holy Trinity Church, on Clapham Common North Side, will be holding an exhibition to commemorate and celebrate the event.

Holy Trinity has Bibles, Prayer Books and commentaries, running from the 1790s to the present day. The Church would also like to display examples of family Bibles and personal Bibles. Do you have a family Bible, kept from generation to generation, with a record of your family's births, marriages and deaths, which you would be prepared to lend for a short time? If so, please contact the Parish Administrator, Gill White, on 020 7627 0941 or admin@holytrinityclapham.org.

The exhibition will start on **Monday 2 May**, publication day 400 years ago. It will run for up to a year, with displays changing from time to time – opening times to be announced. There will also be six evening services with guest speakers choosing a passage from the Bible, to be read from the King James Version, and explaining how it has contributed to their faith. The first, on **Sunday 8 May** at 6 pm, will feature the distinguished composer James MacMillan.

More information about this anniversary is on the website of the King James Bible Trust www.kingjamesbibletrust.org. For the history of the Bible and its many translations, see www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-the-bible.

Peter Jefferson Smith