

**Go on, to Elms Road. Detour down it to the Lambeth Academy (on left) (2004 by Howarth Lichfield Partnership). Its walls fan out like the pages of a book. Continue on South Side to Euro House.**

9. No. 54 (Arthur Scantlebury 1875). Imposing residence with a wealth of classical detail including Corinthian columns and bath stone window surrounds. Caroline Perret who owned Wandsworth Brewery lived here in the 1890s. Now business premises.

Next door, No. 53, more than a hundred years older (1780), more modest, in the Ionic order with Venetian windows either side of the door and ladies' heads carved in the headstones. Once the home of the 19th century architect Lewis Vuillamy, and before him Alderman Humphery, Lord Mayor of London, and also Thomas Grissell, the building contractor responsible for Nelson's Column and other notable projects. It was a car showroom for fifty years till the 1980s.

**Carry on along the road noting the terraced houses with ornate mouldings, by George Jennings circa 1875.**

10. The top floors of No 50, then 'Ben Lomond', were the family home of the teenage Noel Coward during the First World War. He later set the play *This Happy Breed* in Clapham between the wars, which also became a 1944 film directed by David Lean.

**A little further on is part of Lambeth College.**

11. A blend of styles. The former Henry Thornton School buildings of 1966 (Farmer and Dark) with their bold shapes and modern materials, particularly concrete, and the 2009 Sixth Form Centre (Building Design Partnership), with its striking curved brick drum. The school was named after Henry Thornton of the Clapham Sect and friend of William Wilberforce in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The buildings cover the site of several former mansions. Lytton Strachey, the noted author and Bloomsbury group member, was born here in 1880. The Pigeon sisters, Ann and Ellen, two of the earliest and most accomplished women mountaineers, were born next door and Anna lived here until her death in 1917.

**Continue on South Side, past the entrance to the recent Thornton Park development, built on the site of the former sweet factory, Batgers. Turn right, (gap in wall), into Notre Dame Estate (C H James, 1947-52). Take path, then road, ahead for 200 yards - keep fence (then**

**wall) on right. At the small turning circle pass between two blocks (half left). The Orangery will appear in front.**

12. The Orangery, by Dr William Burgh (1793), in Greek temple style. Six ionic half-columns in Portland stone, topped by a pediment with flowery Coade Stone decoration. Across is written, in Latin, 'Here is eternal spring and summer in months not her own'. Behind the now missing windows tender plants flourished, and Robert Thornton, Henry's loose living brother who later fled to America to escape his creditors, entertained Queen Charlotte in 1808. An ornamental lake reflected the scene. From 1851 to 1939 the Convent of Notre Dame was here, whence the estate name now.

**Take the road to the left of the Orangery, out of the estate, and turn left into Crescent Lane.**

13. The Studios (Peter Deakins, 1978), with long narrow windows, a homage to the design of windows in the painters' studio formerly here, which enabled large paintings to be removed unbent.

**Reaching South Side, look left to see South Buildings (1812), the only Georgian terrace remaining in the road. Turn right on South Side and right again into the private road of Crescent Grove (developer Francis Child, 1825).**

14. In Denmark Lodge, to the left as you enter, lived Dr Gideon Mantell, whose wife, Mary Ann, was the first to discover a fossil of the dinosaur Iguanodon. This was the first multi-house development in Clapham. The crescent on the right recalls Bath and Regents Park. Classical features include ionic columns to the porches and decorative ironwork. Impaled crescent moons on top of the railings are a nice touch.

**Return to South Side and turn right.**

15. The parade of shops contains several gems. Among them is No 16A, now a restaurant after many changes of use. It was built as a Baptist chapel in 1777. In 1837 new gothic windows were put in. You can still see them down the passage to the left.

At Nos 12-16 is the Alexandra Hotel (Edward l'Anson 1863), named after Princess, later Queen Alexandra – Clapham's own dome, covered with fishtail slates and topped with an ironwork crown. It has polychrome patterned brickwork, ironwork window boxes and sculpted ladies heads looking down on the passer-by.

**You are now close to Clapham Common Underground station, where the walk concludes.**



## Clapham Walks 5: South Side

The walk starts at Clapham South Underground Station and goes mainly along South Side – the south east border of the Common, towards the High Street. The road roughly follows the line of the Roman Stane Street to Chichester.

Until the 18th century the road was bordered by wild heathland to the north and farmland to the south. City of London merchants and bankers then established country mansions along it. By 1800 there were 20 of them, with extensive gardens and farmland behind.

Early in the 19th century a new wave of business people and professionals lived in houses built in the grounds of the early mansions – Crescent Grove was an early example. With the coming of the horse drawn tram in 1871, and later the underground, most large properties were sold for building terraced and semi-detached houses, along many new roads. Schools and religious establishments arrived.

In the 20th century the Second World War created bomb-sites, and economic and population changes. The larger houses remaining were too expensive for those here to run. They fell into disrepair and industrial use. In the 1970s Clapham attracted the young and aspiring, and economic revival began, with restorations, rebuilds and numerous flats.

You will see architecture from the 18th century to the 21st, discover where some colourful characters lived, and how the large estates of the 18th century rich evolved into the small estates of the mixed community of today.

The full walk will take about 1½ hours.

*The Clapham Society is a local civic amenity society, which aims to improve the quality of life for residents, promote quality in new developments and to conserve the best features of the past. For further information please visit our website [claphamsociety.com](http://claphamsociety.com)*

## Start at Clapham South Underground Station.

1. The tube reached here in 1926 originally planned as Nightingale Lane station – entrance building by Charles Holden, more famous for the later, curvy, Arnos Grove. Octagonal hall with period detailing: stonework, wooden shop fronts, black fluted tiled walls, iron chandelier echoing the restored exterior London Transport logo.

Seen across the road, the site of the former South London Hospital for Women, founded by Dr Maud Chadburn. It opened in 1916 and closed in 1984 after 68 years of care of women by women. Redeveloped by Tesco (2006), incorporating the fine hospital facade (Sir Edwin Cooper, 1935). Neo-Georgian, with some original stone window and door cases. Chimneys, the west wing, entry staircase and anachronistic urns are new.

## Cross Nightingale Lane onto the Common to the large round structure. Deep Shelter, completed 1942.

Visits bookable via Hidden London @www.ltmuseum.co.uk

2. Entrance to shelter. Below, two 1,400 foot long tunnels of 16'6" diameter, beneath the tube tunnels. Used as air raid shelters in 1944, they housed the 240 people from the West Indies, who sailed on the Empire Windrush in 1948. Until 2015 an archive store. Listed Grade II in 1998.

Looking over South Side, Cavendish Parade is called after Henry Cavendish, 18th century scientist. In his house on this site, in 1798, he was the first to measure the earth's density, with remarkable accuracy, using a torsion balance.

Detour down Englewood Road to see at No:17 the house of cricketer Sir Jack Hobbs (Blue plaque).

## Cross The Avenue to the triangle of grass, pass the 1745 milestone to Whitehall and the Royal Exchange. Cross the South Circular onto the Common again, halting near the SF bus stop ("Lynette Avenue").

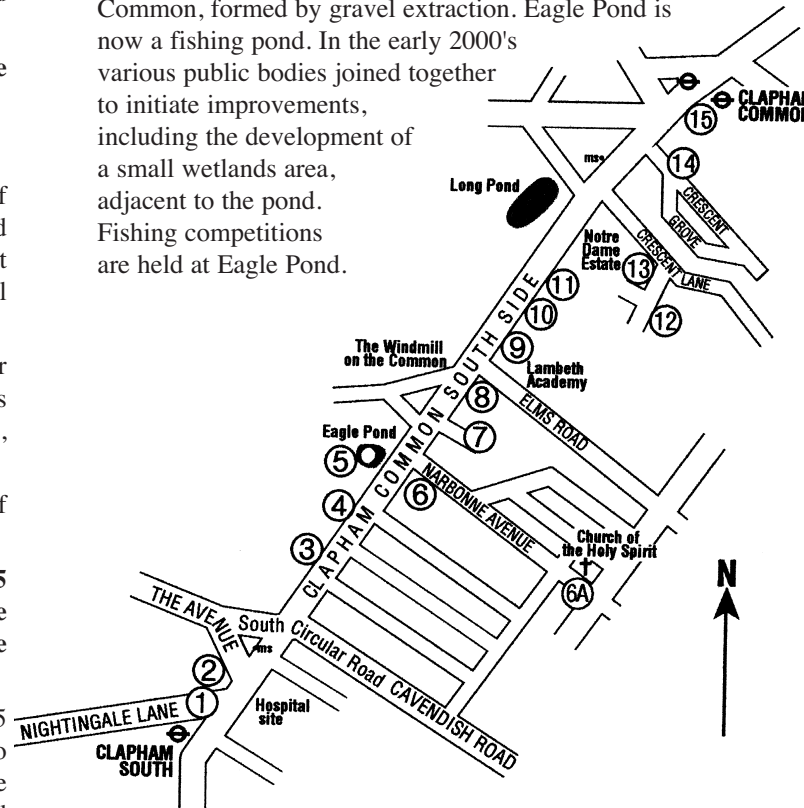
3. Opposite and beyond are terraced houses, built from 1885 on the site of the Clock House Estate, once (1775-95) home to the King's printer, Charles Eyre. Later, members of the Clapham Athenaeum marvelled at demonstrations conducted in its extensive grounds showing the ability of a new phenomenon, electric light, to illuminate over long distances (1853). In the streets behind can be seen decorative door cases, stained glass, ceramic porch columns, urns on gables and carved headstones.

## Continue on the path until you nearly reach the pond. Note the modern blocks of flats flanking Lessar Avenue, site of war-time bomb damage.

4. No 78 South Side, named The Dutch House (Grade II listed), originally 'Den Haag' (George Scott 1888) on the east corner of Cautley Avenue, in Arts and Crafts style, stands out in bright red brick, with its projecting octagonal turret, banding of scalloped tiles on the roof and walls, ironwork roof feature and unusual drainpipes. It was originally built for William de Wilde Cater, an army uniform outfitter who later went bankrupt.

## Continue to Eagle Pond and bear left to walk around it.

5. This is one of four remaining ponds of eleven once on the Common, formed by gravel extraction. Eagle Pond is now a fishing pond. In the early 2000's various public bodies joined together to initiate improvements, including the development of a small wetlands area, adjacent to the pond. Fishing competitions are held at Eagle Pond.



## Cross South Side at the lights and then cross Narbonne Avenue. A little way down Narbonne is the cobbled entranceway to Eagle House.

6. The stone arcade with its Tuscan columns is all that remains of Eagle House, one of the original 18th century mansions on

the South Side. Palladian inspired, this is the west wing – the main house stood across where Narbonne Avenue is now. William Edgar of Swan and Edgar department store once lived here, and a pair of bronze eagles once graced the gateposts. Rescued from dereliction in 1989 by Sinclair Johnston, structural engineer. Look up and you will see replica eagles perched on the roof, installed by Sinclair in 2021. By the front door is one of the Clapham Society's commemorative green plaques.

## Detour (5 minutes each way) down Narbonne Avenue.

6A. Church of the Holy Spirit. (H P Burke-Downing 1912-13). A memorial to Canon Philip Greene, rector of Clapham, on land he bought for the purpose. Gothic, rose window, landmark bell turret. 'Tall, Bodley-esque... interior lofty and restrained.' (Sir John Betjeman).

## Walk back to South Side, go past Charleston House and 64-67 Clapham Common South Side and turn into St Gerard's Close. On your right over the wall is Wakeford Close. On your left is the car park of the St Gerard's Close development.

7. Wakeford Close and Charleston House (Pollard, Thomas and Edwards 1997-8) are on the site of Halliday Hall, a King's College hall of residence, formerly the Montrose Court Hotel, run for 30 years by Mabel Schoneboom until it closed in 1949. This was itself a redevelopment (1934) of several houses the hotel by then occupied. The houses of Wakeford Close are on the site of the Clapham Palais de Danse, built at the back in 1927. Its architect was H Wakeford, and of course the Charleston was danced there.

St Gerard's Close (Bellway Homes 1990) was named in honour of the patron of the previous building, a Roman Catholic boys' school. Before the Second World War it had been Clapham High School for Girls. Over the gardens and to the North is 'The Laurels' (early 19th century), with double bow windows, its garden truncated by the electricity substation at the back.

## Return to South Side, turn right and proceed till opposite the Windmill pub on the Common.

8. An 18th century building still in its original use! Straight ahead is the oldest part, 1797, Georgian with sash windows. There has been an alehouse here since at least 1665. In its days as a coaching inn it welcomed the rowdy crowds with their horses and donkeys, going to and from Epsom on Derby Day.