

## Lots going on!

### The new Tesco

There is no clear line on how councillors will vote on Tesco's application to build a "Metrostore" on the old South London Hospital site. The meeting to decide this will probably be held in April.

Wandsworth Council are pressing for refusal on the grounds that there is no retail need in this non-main shopping area, and the small local shops need to be protected.

Tesco have notified us of that Lambeth have asked them to incorporate a mural in the design, and to ask for our ideas and to identify suitable local artists. We have replied to say that if and when they receive agreement to the scheme, we would be happy to discuss this.

### The new Post Office

The Post Office are proposing to close the main Post Office in the High Street and replace it in Budgen's store further down the High Street. We are writing to them with a list of important questions.

We have not yet taken a formal view on this proposal, but we understand that the services and number of manned positions would not be reduced. There would clearly be advantages to Budgen's in drawing people into their store, so close to Sainsbury's, while opening hours would be extended, including Saturday afternoon.

### The old Clapham Manor Baths

Clapham Manor Baths have been taken over by a Leisure Group called Relaxion, who have also taken over the Brixton Recreation Centre. They are planning considerable refurbishment including the reception area, restaurant and gymnasium.

The work is taking about 10 weeks but the swimming pool will remain operative over this period. Prices for admission are dictated by Lambeth and will remain the same.

*Early Spring seems to have brought a flood of planning applications that could make significant changes to the area. These are -*

### The new police station

Sinclair Johnston and Moira Todd represented the Society at a meeting of Lambeth's Planning Committee when the application for the new Police Station in Grafton Square was discussed. The application was rejected but the meeting was told that another had been submitted. This will probably come before Lambeth in May.

Our objections still focus on the social aspects of the scheme rather than architectural ones, but in the meantime the police are mounting a big public relations exercise, including a newsletter, to help gain support for their case.



Some of the statues in the Church - having quite a jolly time too!

### Bus News

Lambeth Public Transport Group tells us that Countdown is coming to Clapham. This is the system of dot matrix indicators at bus-stops which tell you how long before the next buses arrive and their destinations - rather like the indicators at tube stations.

LT plans to introduce Countdown at all routes passing through Clapham except the G1, but it is not clear how quickly.

*This month's helpline to the Society: 0181-673 3759*

### Looking forward to some warm sun....?

We are looking at the idea of organising a picnic on the Common in the Summer for members and their families. There would be a guided tour of the Common pointing out features of interest aimed at older children.

If you and your family are interested in taking part or, better still, helping to organise the event please contact Charles Williams, 40 Shandon Road, SW4 9HR; tel 0181-673 0829.

*The winter party at St Paul's Church was a great success, and special thanks to all those people who contributed such a wide and good range of food for the buffet - again under the eye of Joyce Luck. Our thanks too to the newly-appointed vicar, Justine Alleyn-Chapman, for showing us around the church and some of its remarkable monuments.*



Yes, He's up there..... Justine tells Sylvia Foster, Moira Todd and others about the Church

The Committee wishes to remind members that they are welcome to attend the ordinary meetings of the Main Committee as observers.

The next meeting will be on 6 May at 8 pm. Please ring the help-line if you are interested in attending and we will let you know the venue. Meetings are usually in members' houses - so numbers may have to be limited.

## Clapham - from afar

by J. Willis

**Having just received the Annual Report for 1996, I noticed my name in the list of new members, which after all was to be expected. However I thought that other members would wonder what connection I had with Clapham being some 12,000 miles away, so I thought I would put this down on paper.**

I was born and bred in Clapham in 1918, and went to Macaulay Road Parochial School, leaving to take up an apprenticeship in 1932. During my schooldays I came to love everything about the Common. Having played cricket for the school on the Common, I have to confess that we were not that good when playing against Clapham Central, but then they were all older and more experienced!

We moved to Ivey Road about the time I started school, and moved again just before I finished to Wix's lane where I stayed to the outbreak of war. I was fortunate that while my parents were not rich, my father had constant work, which in those days was more than most people. Summer highlights were an excursion to the Common, the Eagle Pond which then was the boating pond, the Long Pond, then as now the model boat Mecca, and fishing with nets and dragging with Hessian sacks for red throat tiddlers and minnows. The Mount Pond was not used in those days except for skating in winter when frozen over - and when the Common keeper was not looking, using

folding chairs as toboggans.

The woods was a source of tree climbing and the area facing the Northside used for kite flying. I learned to play chess at the club under the trees in Windmill Drive. The Bandstand also was a delight in Summer with midweek performances of various artists singing and dancing; on Sunday evenings we had the band, and as a teenager this was where boy and girl met with one walking clockwise and the other anti-clockwise around the bandstand!

The fields to the east of Cedars Road were mainly used for cricket in Summer; over towards the West Side was Speakers' Corner, and across the Avenue were the tennis courts.

My apprenticeship meant not only 48 hours a week, but at least 3 hours a night for 4 nights at night school, gaining the Royal Society of Arts and London City and Guilds passes. I finished as war broke out, serving in the Royal Navy; afterwards I rejoined my original firm and was sent to Australia in 1950 to assist with a new Branch here in Brisbane.

I married during the war and have 2 children, both with their own families. We live on a quarter acre with the rear aspect looking out on a national park, yet I am only 12km from the city centre. I just thought I would mention my affinity to Clapham and how I remember it. *Does anyone remember Mr Willis? If so, his address is 232 Henson Road, Salisbury, Brisbane Qld. 4107, Australia.*

## The man who.....

Not even the biting wind, nor the overcast skies on Thursday 13th February could dampen the spirits nor the bonhomie of the small but select crowd that assembled outside 40 Nightingale Lane, home of Mr and Mrs Nigel Fox, to attend the unveiling of a Blue Plaque commemorating the residence from 1910-1914 of Henry Mayo (H.M.) Bateman, the cartoonist.

Presented by Francis Carnwarth, Chairman of the Blue Plaque working group at English Heritage, the plaque was jointly unveiled by Diana Willis, Bateman's daughter, and John Jensen, biographer of H.M. Bateman, and both cartoonist for "Punch" and Chairman of the Cartoon Aid Trust.

Apart from Dick Willis, the marine painter and Diana's husband, Frank Dickens of "Bristow" fame, and Peter Maddox, the Cartoon Aid Trust was strongly represented by Pat Huntley, Pam Whiffin, Ann McMullan, Mark Bryant



(co-compiler of the Dictionary of British Cartoonists and Caricaturists 1730-1980), Paul Gravett, Douglas Wood (ex-Secretary of the Trust) and Anne McManus. Bill Emmett and Peter de Lorient Chandieu represented the Clapham Society.

H.M. Bateman (1887-1970), best known for his "The man who....." series, is only the sixth cartoonist this century to be honoured with a Blue Plaque. He was born to English parents in Australia. The family returned to England in 1889 where he studied drawing and painting at Goldsmith's Institute. An admirer of Caran d'Ache and Ospovat, and sometimes referred to as the "British Caran d'Ache", his drawings satirised the social 'gaffes' of the time.

It is generally acknowledged that some of his best work was done whilst he lived in Clapham, depicting the man of



A chilly Diana Willis and John Jensen

## On the Common

Our representatives report back from the January MAC meeting -

*Pas de Chance!*: Hopes for raising money from, inter alia, the National Lottery for the Common have so far come to nothing because the Council have no money available for "matching funds". Among other matters, it seems to mean no present refurbishment for the Bandstand, which has been found to be structurally unsafe.

*Forthcoming events*: It has been confirmed that the 3 major events a year, with a 4-week gap in between, stipulated by Lambeth Council, will be honoured. They will include a Capital Radio event on 3 August, and possibly a Gay Pride Festival on 5 July. **The Society will be attending the meeting on 24 March at Lambeth when the applications are considered. We will submit our reservations based on the actual facts of the applications which we will have sight of beforehand.** An application for a May Day event has been refused on the grounds that last year's was badly run. There have been reassurances that the interests of people living near the Common will be protected during these events.

*Trees*: Plans for tree and shrubbery planting were well received. Trees will be from a wide range such as oak, ash, hawthorn, field maple, hazel, birch and hornbeam. The Clapham Society is going to help with tree-planting costs as well as contributing to the publication costs of "tree trail" leaflets.

*Fishy business*: There is as yet no outcome to the dispute between the Anglers' Association and Clapham Wildlife Watch over Eagle Pond but a further meeting is planned.

*Cleaning up*: Sita, the original preferred company to take over Common maintenance, have dropped out because of contractual problems related to possible future employment legislation, and another, Serviceteam is now in the final stages of negotiation: following meetings with voluntary groups the new company is expected to be formed in March.

omnibus fame in a variety of social faux pas.

Bateman's sharp, humorous cartoons were some of the most famous of the day, appearing in Punch, Tatler, The Strand magazine and Life, as well as posters for the Ministry of Health such as "Coughs and sneezes spread diseases" and advertisements for Guinness, Lucky Strike, Moss Bros amongst others.



## If the fish seems a little high...!

While the Head Bailiff for the Clapham Angling Society, Reg Gaffor, was walking round Eagle Pond in April, he was amazed to see two bags floating in the water, and containing drug capsules. He recovered these but saw another he could not reach. After consultation with the Parks Officer he got a boat out and recovered another 6 bags, each containing about 500 capsules. These were passed on to the police.

At the time of going to press, we do not know the background to this incident - and may never learn. However, some of the capsules were already melting when found and represented an obvious danger not only to local wild life, but to passers-by. It shows that the angling community can provide a useful service in monitoring what is happening around our ponds.

## Lots still going on!

### *The post office*

The Post Office have withdrawn their proposal to relocate the High Street office to within Budgens Store, as final agreement could not be reached with them about details of the actual position within the store.

However, the Post Office say that "as things currently stand" they intend to pursue the move of the High Street PO to a 'retail partnership' and as and when another prospective partner is identified further consultations will take place.

### *The police station*

The Police have amended their design for the proposed new Police Station/Central Charging Unit at Grafton Square, to include inter alia a basement ID suite at the custody facility, with an entrance also off Grafton Square.

Lambeth have narrowed their objections to the sole grounds of location and this will weaken their objection. *The question remains whether the Police will continue actively to pursue the scheme, or whether they may elect to build elsewhere.*

*This month's helpline to the Society: 0181-673 3759*

### *Tesco*

The application by Tesco for a "Metrostore" at the South London Hospital site went to Lambeth's Planning Committee on 9 April, but detailed discussion was deferred pending a site visit. It appears that Council officials are in favour of the proposal but many Councillors are against. The Society believes that approval as matters stand there would be in contradiction to Lambeth's present planning policies and we have written to the Council to point these out and resolve the matter.

### *A health club*

There is an application for a new private health club on the site of the old steel fabrication works (how appropriate....) in Nelson's Row, near Sainsbury's. The old Baptist Chapel is to be retained but with a three-storey building built behind it, with provision for parking for 6 cars and lots of bicycles. We have as yet not taken a view on the proposal, although surprised by the height, bulk and extent of the proposal.

### *Parking*

Lambeth has posted notices around Old Town about the scheme. The deadline for comment was 22 April. We are pursuing our own enquiries of the Council.

## Bumpy ride for Abbeville Road?

*There is to be a "traffic management" scheme for Abbeville Road, with an intended implementation date of end-1997.*

Present intentions are to complete design work by end-June, and then consult with local residents and the emergency services.

The scheme will probably include "entry treatment" at either end of Abbeville Road, speed bumps at the main junctions and probably elsewhere as well.

We understand that the Traffic Director for London is also proposing 'traffic calming' measures in conjunction with the introduction of Red Routes. The area affected by these measures are likely to be from Elms Road to Cavendish Road and from Rodenhurst Road to Hambalt Road, Klea Avenue, and Narbonne Avenue. The Red Routes are currently scheduled for implementation in early to middle 1998. *However the Society remains opposed to the Red Routes as planned for Clapham.*

### *Signs galore*

We have received notification of about 80 applications for illuminated hoardings in the Borough. These, we feel, will increase visual clutter when we would prefer to reduce this, especially as red routing would require more signage in any case. Additionally, the proposed signs will create difficulties in some cases for disabled access. So we have registered a letter of objection along these lines.

We need a temporary representative for Area Y for a couple of months. This is around Rodenhurst Road. Could anyone prepared to take this on kindly contact Joyce Luck, 15 Cavendish Road SW12 0BH, tel 0181-673 2616.

## Lambeth College - new plans

David Arscott of Lambeth College is considering the possibilities of extending the College and has approached the Society for our ideas. He has written a short introduction which we append.

Lambeth College has had since 1993 some 8,500-9,000 students on five sites across Lambeth, including one at Southwark. Turnover is about £18 million and it has 50,000 square metres of accommodation. The college is funded by the government body "The Funding Council for Further Education". Changes are proposed to the Clapham site because of the under-use of the large area. The Clapham buildings mostly have useful life left hence the retention of this site.

On the map, part A belongs to the college, part B belongs to Lambeth and is a community college, principally evening classes and adult education; part C is unused land which the college uses for horticultural teaching. This part has a double fence between it and the back gardens of the houses in Abbeville Road. The main part of the college buildings are for administration, sports, a multi-use gymnasium and auditorium, social care teaching, sports, horticulture and business studies. The Council part includes a house with an ex-Council employee, together with redundant courts and a play area.



① LAMBETH COLLEGE FREEHOLD - CLAPHAM CENTRE  
 ② LAMBETH COUNCIL FREEHOLD - HENRY THORNTON CENTRE  
 ③ LICENSED TO COLLEGE BY COUNCIL

Radical reorganisations are being discussed, particularly in conjunction with the Council regeneration officer, Charlotte Evans. The college has a strategic plan which includes the disposal of certain sites, but retention of the Clapham site. There are thoughts of applying for lottery funding perhaps for sports buildings and performing arts.

There is a problem with students' parking on the grassed area on Southside. The college facility managers are addressing this and the problem has been reduced, although not solved. It is assumed that most students come by public transport.

The swimming pool which is widely used by local residents and children had been closed but has now been reopened

From an architectural standpoint, the 1929 building in the 'community education part' is of "listable" quality and may in fact be nominated for 'listing'. The character of this should be enhanced and not compromised.

The Roman Road probably runs through the area of the site and any building or development works should be preceded by an archaeological dig.

The frontage buildings to Southside are very much of the period and should be enhanced rather than altered.

The main community needs of the area is provision for the Notre Dame Estate and Mr Arscott should bear this in mind.

**We are planning a site visit in May**

## Cable car(e)

After a period of inactivity in this area, Videotron have been back in the Abbeville Road area with several contractors' gangs laying ducts for the new services. One of our members who, before the works began, wrote to the company expressing concern about possible damage to tree roots, received a reply which stated that care would be taken to install the ducts below tree roots. A Code of Practice requires contractors to hand-dig round roots and not to leave them exposed for longer than is necessary.

We have no reason to believe that these requirements have not been met and it appears that the contractors are taking more care than in the early days of cable TV works. If you do feel that one of the contractors is falling short of the expected standards call Dawn Combe at Videotron on 0171-967 5643,

### The Society and the Common

The Society is still preparing its proposals for a policy for events on the Common for input to the Council before September 1997, prior to Lambeth's October review.

The Society does believe there is a place for events on the Common. However it is concerned about *very* large events, and do not believe it is an appropriate space for them. Nor do we believe that the Common should be used as a fund-raising vehicle for the Borough irrespective of the impact on the local environment and local residents.

## No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve... by Carolyn Rockman

*Close your eyes and imagine Clapham Common as it was exactly three hundred years ago when maids with pails and professional water-carriers walked westwards to the well that lay north of the Canterbury Way (now Northside).*

Samuel Pepys' partner, William Hewer, who owned the estate immediately east of the boundary between Clapham and Battersea parishes, had just (according to documents in the Public Records Office) "cause the well to be digged deeper and put a larger butt with iron hoops into the said well for holding the water sprung up from thence". So there was a good supply for Clapham villagers who kept the way to the well clear.

Nearly a century later a new well, the Springwell, was sunk on the other side of the road and, in our own time, the exact site of the plot of land that contained the original well has intrigued all those with an interest in local history.

I have been lucky enough, using local and county records and resources, to unravel the mystery and pinpoint the site as that now covered by 62 and 63 Northside, the twentieth century houses and their gardens at the top of Taybridge Road. The evidence for this has been accepted by the History Officer of Wandsworth Council's Planning Department who has visited the site and extracted a lump of mediaeval rubble.

The whole of Northside is designated as an area of archaeological importance and an archaeologist has told me that the presence of an abundant supply of drinking water can indicate a settlement (mediaeval, Saxon, Roman or earlier) and that a well site demands thorough excavation and the presence of a dowser, rather than a lightning visit. **You can help this to happen**, by (if you live in Wandsworth) asking your Councillor, directly or via your MP, to tell the Planning Officers and the Planning Committee that any relevant planning consents should always have attached as a condition that adequate, thorough archaeological investigations be made. If you live in Lambeth, you can ask your Councillor to write to Wandsworth, as an adjoining Borough, to ask that this be done.

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter

Issue 203

June 1997

## Do not pass 'go', do not...

At a meeting of Lambeth's Planning Committee on Tuesday 20 May, councillors unanimously rejected the Police's revised plans for the Grafton Square police station ("criminal justice facility"), to include 'holding cells'.

Jeremy Alun-Jones, on behalf of local residents, pointed out that the scheme was wholly inappropriate considering that

- it fell within a conservation area
- it was a residential area of high density
- the revised plans submitted had cell names changed to 'detention rooms' and 'vulnerable persons' rooms
- detention facilities had been increased
- it was therefore a de facto prison facility

The new plans had generated much ill-will towards the police - prior schemes of the type proposed had been implemented, but in waste-land rather than in a quiet residential area.

The meeting concluded with a requirement that the Chief Executive, Helen Rabbat, write to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to ask him to refuse permission if the police go to appeal.

**While the police lick their wounds, we wait to see what happens next. But it is significant that councillors of all political persuasions were united on these particular proposals.**

## Tesco - no sale

After a lengthy and exhausting debate lasting more than two hours, Lambeth Council eventually refused Tesco permission for its proposals to build a supermarket with extensive parking to the rear and flats above on the site of the South London Hospital.

This has been a long running saga and opinions within the Council, Officers, Planning Department and Councillors have varied considerably as to the outcome. The local residents in Englewood Road and Anchor Mews were very concerned about the proposals and the Society likewise had written on the subject to express its concerns. The Society's representative spoke at the meeting and it is likely that the combined opinions of the residents and the Society perhaps just made that difference on this vote.

## Common gossip

**Do they carry .45s?** The Common is to have a new style of maintenance - undertaken by "Park Rangers". These will be organised by 'Team Lambeth', which took over the running of maintenance services under Lambeth's 'externalisation' policy. The Rangers will be a mobile force responsible for ground maintenance in all open spaces and not based on single sites as in the past.

**Serious business, sport** Lambeth has also commissioned a consultant to prepare a framework document for a new 'sports strategy', including for the Common. Consultations with local sports groups have started to take place.

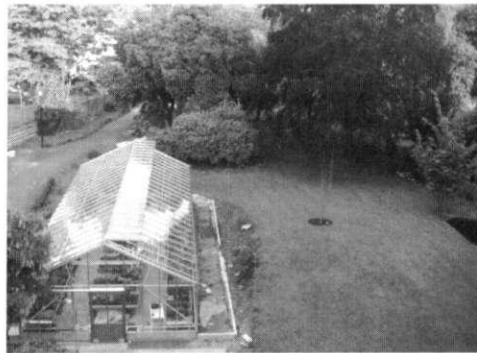
*This month's helpline to the Society: 0181-673 3759*

## Picnic time

Remember, we are looking at the idea of organising a picnic on the Common in the Summer for members and their families. There would be a guided tour of the Common pointing out features of interest aimed at older children.

If you and your family are interested in taking part or, better still, helping to organise the event please contact Charles Williams, 40 Shandon Road, SW4 9HR; tel 0181-673 0829.

*Who can recognise this tranquil rural scene? - see overleaf*



## Windmill Drive

It is understood that Wandsworth Council are planning to close Windmill Drive to traffic at their end. There has been general agreement at the Management Advisory Committee that

this should be done (and see previous Newsletters on the topic).

We will bring you further news when we learn more.

**Gimme shelter** Anglers have long used temporary shelters (called 'bivvies' - from bivouac, would you believe) but have been told they were illegal. However, on the basis of legal advice that any ban would be in practice unenforceable, John How of the Society has produced a formula for siting and use for such bivvies that has met with general acceptance.

**Peace at last?** The present temporary demarcation lines on Eagle Pond between Clapham Wildlife Watch and the Anglers' Association is by common consent to become permanent.

## Cable complaints

Not everyone takes such a benign view of Videotron activity as the article in the last Newsletter would suggest. Recent experience of working in the Clapham Park area includes:

- Positioning or rather proposing to position one of their switch boxes within the curtilage of a listed building without telling the owner or the local authority, never mind asking for listed building consent
- Cutting down against the flank wall of a building in such a way as to break out the corbel brick foundations and thus affect the structural integrity, again without as much as a "by your leave", and what is more a strong disinclination to stop when requested by the owner
- Although the leaflet says that the works are restricted to Monday to Friday and Saturday morning, on one Sunday morning four separate teams with four separate pneumatic breakers worked in Abbeville Road. Presumably oblivious to the fact that many people live above the shops and that divine service was proceeding in Holy Spirit Church
- In Rodenhurst Road, cutting into an electricity switchbox below the pavement, the position of which was well known to the LEB since they had dug it up about a year ago, and thus cutting off electricity supply in four households for three hours in one evening without so much as a note of apology to the occupiers
- Damaging a telephone cable outside the home of a local councillor so that her telephone did not receive incoming calls for a week

**But perhaps you have your own stories - the editor would be pleased to hear of them: write to Bill Emmett at 13 Crescent Lane, SW4 9PT or e-mail to [bill&sue@perlem.demon.co.uk](mailto:bill&sue@perlem.demon.co.uk)**

### **The Northside well - a letter from Sylvia Foster**

I was pleased to receive the latest edition of the Newsletter and interested in the speculation about the Roman Road.

An archeological dig was made in the environs of Henry Thornton in the 60's which was very disappointing - no signs of anything Roman; but later, when the prefabricated post-war housing in Hazelbourne Road (on the Wandsworth side of the road) was pulled down and permanent housing erected, signs were found as I remember. The conclusion was made that "we" were wrong in thinking that Romans marched along straight roads over hills (which Balham Hill and the road to Clapham would be) and that they

## College plans

Following the article in the last Newsletter, the Society's Planning Sub-Committee have had an interesting tour of the site and the College on 14 May. The range of buildings facing Clapham Common Southside has an even better definitive 1950's concrete elevation to the garden which, for members who have not seen it, is remarkably rural with some splendid

### **The sub-committee - walking on the wild side!**

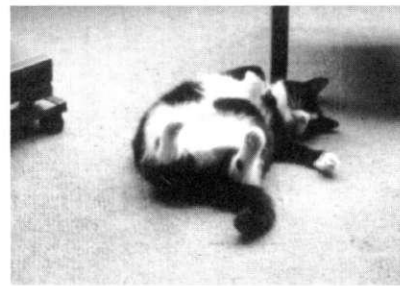


trees, tennis courts and towards Abbeville Road a pleasant remote area used for horticultural students - and it is hard to believe one is actually in SW4. The College has plans for significant extensions to the main buildings to the front but these have not been published yet nor planning application made, and the Society looks forward to seeing them in due course.

### **Open door policy**



**You have to come to Clapham for wild life these days... above, a pair of kestrels started nesting in the editor's roof, using a convenient ventilator. However, they have since moved on. It is not thought they were frightened away by the editorial cat (below)**



walked instead along the lower slopes - Dragmire Lane (Cavendish Road), and meandered along that road coming out at about Balham Station where signs of Roman occupation were also found.

I don't know if Eric Smith put anything on this in the Antiquarian archives but I quite clearly remember hearing about this, I think through involvement with the Clapham Society. Stephen Beavan, who came to my retirement party, and as I imagine still a member, might remember all this.

I was also interested to see that Caroline Rockman is still active, but wondered at her use of the word 'partner' for William Hewer. I always thought William Hewer was Samuel Pepys' clerk. Thanks for another very interesting newsletter.

Fond regards to you all.

### **Agreement on conservation**

The Society was represented by Sinclair Johnston at a ceremony to sign a Conservation Agreement between London Borough of Lambeth and English Heritage which took place in the Foyer of the Ritzy Cinema on 22nd May. The ceremony was marked by short speeches from Heather Rabbats, Chief Executive L.B. Lambeth and by Sir Jocelyn Steven Chairman of English Heritage.

Sir Jocelyn explained that this was the 30th of the 33 London Boroughs to sign the English Heritage agreement. It meant that EH would part fund three part time conservation officers in the Borough. This would streamline arrangements for listed building consent and be more flexible and allow much more localised control. English Heritage would concentrate on strategic issues and significant applications.

He went on to describe the wealth of listed buildings in the London Borough of Lambeth, some 2000 buildings, resulting in 150 applications for listed building consent per year and apart from the many Georgian houses around Clapham Common and Kennington; such important modern buildings such as The Festival Hall and the National Theatre.

Lambeth Council, in partnership with the Lambeth Environmental Forum, is planning to develop a Parks and Open Spaces strategy for the Borough. People who wish to put views forward are invited to write to Michelle Edwards, Local Agenda 21 Officer, Courtenay House, 9-15 New Park Road SW2 4DU

**Members are invited to a one-day private exhibition of drawings, tempera, acrylic and oil paintings by the Czech artist Milan Ivanic**  
**Sunday June 29, 11.30am to 5.30pm**  
**27 Crescent Lane SW4**  
**(0171-622 3628)**  
**with wine and refreshments**

D. Behn of Eglewood

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 204

July 1997

## Windmill Drive closure - oh yes it will..... oh no it won't.....

In our last Newsletter, we announced plans for closing Windmill Drive to through traffic. Richard Jones, Chairman of the Common's Management Advisory Committee, wrote to Wandsworth Council to enquire of the truth of stories that Wandsworth had made the first moves to close the Drive at one end.

Wandsworth replied in May to confirm that, following consultation with both the Traffic Director for London, and Lambeth who had then undertaken a number of traffic studies assessing the volumes of traffic that would therefore be diverted if closed.

However, a representative of Wandsworth's Technical Services Department went on to say: "My understanding is that the Traffic Director subsequently modelled the likely effect of the potential diversion of traffic on the junction of Clapham Common South Side with The Avenue and concluded that this would cause unacceptable traffic delays. The closure would require the approval of the Traffic Director and I understand that he is not currently prepared to give his support".

On further enquiry, the Traffic Director said: "... it would be difficult for the proposed new arrangements which include 3 new pedestrian crossings or (?on) the existing junctions between the A24 Clapham Common South Side with A205 Cavendish Road and The Avenue to be able to cope with the additional traffic movements that would be transferred to it." He goes on: "...the Traffic Director would be prepared to consider the closure of Windmill Drive if the Council is able to develop a suitable scheme to cope with the displaced traffic and not jeopardise the proposed new pedestrian facilities. Wandsworth Council is acting as the Traffic Director's consultants for the detailed design of the Toucan Crossing at the junction of Windmill Drive with The Avenue. It supports the implementation of the scheme that it put forward.... I instructed the Council to defer the detailed design whilst the preliminary assessment of the effect of closure of Windmill Drive was examined, but authorised the Council to continue with the detailed design after discussion with officers of both Councils had taken place." (This new crossing is part of the London Cycle Network scheme.)

Lambeth have now been looking at the possibility of some remodelling of that junction, including "an exchange of Common land" to overcome the Traffic Director's objections. *The Society will look at any such proposal very closely.*

## Parking controls on their way....

**The new controlled parking scheme in the area along and around the High Street will happen as soon as Lambeth get around to erecting the appropriate notices and street markings.**

Apparently leaflets etc will be available and details can be found in the library.

Although the High Street was to be designated a "Red Route" this is in

abeyance. If it happens in the future then the parking arrangements will be reviewed to enhance the flow of traffic.

Another controlled parking scheme is being proposed around Old Town, Rectory Grove and Larkhall Rise, as far as the railway bridge. Consultation notices will be sent out before the summer holiday, **but no public meetings are planned.**

## Summer party time is here!

This year's Summer Party will be held at 7.30 pm on Saturday 26 July at a private address in Northbourne Road (off Clapham Park Road). **Mr and Mrs Holmes have very kindly agreed to allow their beautiful garden to be the venue for the occasion.**

The garden, which was designed by Judith Sharpe, opens annually for charity under the National Gardens scheme. Judith Sharpe is a graduate of the English Gardening School at the Chelsea Physic Garden and has exhibited in the Garden Design Marquee at the Chelsea Flower Show. She is regularly commissioned to design gardens in London and the Home Counties and she also teaches and contributes to a wide range of gardening publications.

We are delighted that Ms Sharpe will also be present on the evening to talk about this interesting town garden and its imaginative layout and planting.

Please apply in writing for tickets to Deborah Rhodes (address overleaf). Full address details will be sent out with the tickets. Please note - we have to limit the numbers to 35, and tickets will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis so please apply early to avoid disappointment!

If anyone would like to contribute items for the finger buffet (for which full reimbursement will be given) please let Moira Todd know (0181-673 3759).

*Please note - this venue is 'fair weather only' - so we are all keeping our fingers crossed that we are spared any tropical downpours on the evening!*

*This month's helpline to the Society: 0181-673 3759*

## Traffic in Rectory Grove, Larkhall Rise and Larkhall Lane

### A letter from Ros Weatherall

These roads have been used as a rat run for many years, and since the Red Routes were proposed we have suffered from a type of 'planning blight' - Lambeth Council will not do anything at all about the ever increasing traffic because - eventually - they will be able to get the Traffic Director for London to pay for traffic calming. This will not happen until **at least 1999**.

Last autumn a group of residents met and decided it was time to take action. Everyone agreed it is getting worse. The problems we experience:

- too many crashes eg at corners with Killyon Road, Albion Avenue
- too many drivers ignoring the Highway Code
- road rage (physical and verbal)
- impossible to cross the road during the day
- not at all safe for children
- zebra crossing in a dangerous place and drivers ignoring it
- poor walking environment - eg narrow pavement at the bridge

- cars parked on the pavement especially Rectory Grove, Turret Grove
- no respect for cyclists, even though signed as a cycle route
- poor lighting
- residents can't turn into/out from driveways
- heavy vehicles ignoring the weight restriction on the bridge
- too many speeding police cars

We organised a petition and collected over 600 signatures, which we presented to Lambeth's Transport Sub-Committee in April. The council staff have been told to see what can be done. For example they could put a width restriction on the bridge, or more pedestrian 'refuges'.

We have also asked if we can be involved in identifying problems, and consulted when plans are drawn up. However, nothing has happened yet. We are setting up a subgroup to research our own solutions and may organise an exhibition later this year.

*If you would like to know more, ring Ros Weatherall on 0171-720 7299 or Fiona Law on 0171-622 7118.*

## Wheelie-bins

Lambeth's cleaning contractors, Service-Team, are planning the use of "wheelie-bins" in some areas, but details are not yet available.

For many blocks of flats, houses divided into flats and terraced houses with small front gardens they will be difficult and an eyesore, particularly in small gardens where bin stores have already been built. The use of wheelie-bins is apparently at the sole discretion of Service-Team and Lambeth have no planning or financial control over them.

## Sports Development

There was a meeting of the Environmental Services Committee on June 16 to consider the Framework Document for a Sports Strategy. The Forum will meet in late June/early July.

Anyone interested, please contact Keith Stevens, Roger Quinton Associates, who has been working with Lambeth Council on the 'externalisation' of the Leisure Centres and is developing the Framework Document, on 0171-926 0190 (fax: 0171-926 0187). *Even if you miss this date, but are interested in the subject, the Forum is on-going so please contact him.*

## Clapham people...

*Did you know that the opera singer Adelina Patti lived in Clapham Park and was married at St Mary's Church, Clapham Park Road, in 1868, that the artist Eric Gill lodged at St Saviour's Church House (now demolished) in Cedars Road from 1900-2, that the footballer Jimmy Hill went to Henry Thornton school in the 1940s, or that the Great Train Robber, Charles Wilson, was arrested at his home in Crescent Lane in 1963?*

We are making steady progress on research for the updated *The Buildings of Clapham* but though buildings are the basis of the book we want to include plenty of information about notable - or notorious! - residents. Do you know of anyone famous who has lived in the area? Either neighbours who have become well known or you may have found a chance reference to Clapham in a biography.

It is amazing how many people seem to have lodged or shared flats in Clapham at some time in their lives. Although we know that many stars live in the area now, we do not want to intrude on their privacy so only those who have lived here in the

past will be included except in general references.

Please send your suggestions with as much detail as possible (exact address and at least approximate date of residence, plus reference to a publication if appropriate) to Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, SW4 7AH. All suggestions will be gratefully received!

## ...and Clapham photos

Members may also be able to help with photographs for *The Buildings of Clapham*. Illustrations will be a very important feature of the book, and we would like to include as many as possible of hitherto unpublished photographs of buildings.

Those which have been demolished within the last 20-30 years



*Corner of Southside and Crescent Lane, 1967. Soon afterwards the garage closed and the buildings behind demolished, but years of dispute followed before the present block of flats on the site were completed in 1983*

are of particular interest, as are open sites which have now been built on. May we borrow any you may have in order to copy it so it can be considered

when we come to the final picture choice?

Contact Alyson Wilson at the address above.

The representative for Area Y (around Rodenhurst Road), Marie Denham, has had to give it up because of ill health; we thank her for her efforts and wish her a speedy recovery. Many thanks also to Mr Tunesi who is taking over.

Lambeth Council has appointed the accountancy firm Coopers & Lybrand to beef up its internal audit. It is not known how much this will cost - but they don't come cheap.

'Opera à la Carte' are organising a concert on Monday 7 July, 8.30 pm, at the Conservatory in the Windmill Pub on the Common. It features Karen Betely (clarinet), Jenny Morgan (soprano) and Philip Shannon (piano). Entrance is £5. Enquiries to 0181-678 7024.

## Building the future together: a Festival of Civic Renewal and Environmental Celebrations

**Spitalfields, Friday-Sunday 18-20 July**  
We will be represented by the Hon Sec at this important event celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Civic Trust. Any member interested in knowing more, please contact the helpline. There is a conference and an exhibition.

To Deborah Rhodes  
89 Park Hill SW4 9NX

Please send me .....tickets to the Summer Party, at £4 each. My cheque for £..... and a stamped return envelope, are enclosed

From.....



## The 1997 Annual General Meeting

The 34th Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on Thursday 16th October at the Wilberforce Centre at Holy Trinity Church on Clapham Common, starting at 8pm sharp.

Our business will be:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM 10 October 1996
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year Oct 96-Sept 97
4. Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 1997
5. Subscription rates: proposals for new rates
6. Election of officers and committee for the year 1997-8:
 

Chairman	Hon Treasurer
Vice Chairman	Hon Membership
Hon Secretary	Hon Solicitor

and 10 members of the Committee

- 8.45pm Interval and drinks -

7. 9pm Guest of Honour: Alyson Wilson

*Alyson Wilson will talk about the Society's new edition of the book in preparation:*

*"The Buildings of Clapham" - the progress to date*

8. Any other business and announcements

- Close: 10pm -

*Nominations of officers and members of the committee should be signed by a proposer and seconder and sent to the Chairman, Moira Todd, 17 Trouville Road, London SW4 8QL, before 14 October 1997.*

## Our Tree Fund

A provisional date of Thursday, 30 October has been set for the planting of the "Clapham Society Copse" on the Common, to which members are cordially invited. The copse will include oaks, red horse-chestnuts and beech trees. The total of about a dozen trees will be situated on a site West of the Long Pond. They will be equipped with watering pipes and be protected in guards in their early lives.

Monies remaining in the Tree Fund may be spent on perimeter shrub planting perhaps around the Rookery Road cafe area. *More information may be available at the Annual General Meeting.*

## Lambeth Development Control staff slashed

Because of budget overspend, Development Control staff at Lambeth are being drastically cut, from about 80 to 35. The effect on planning applications could clearly be serious, and the Society will be taking a close view of the results of these redundancies.

## Memories of Summer - the Society's garden party

The weather cleared just in time on 26 July for the Society's Summer party, held by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Holmes in the beautiful garden of their house in Northbourne Road.

Our thanks to them, and to Judith Sharpe, the garden designer, who kindly gave a talk to the members present on the way in which the garden design was planned and evolved. Thanks also to everyone who contributed food for the occasion.



Judith pointed the way to get an excellent garden



Moira and Judith share a drink....

# Forty years on

A report on the Civic Trust conference by David Perkin

The Civic Trust was founded in 1957 with a broad remit to care for "the built environment and especially for our rich heritage of historic buildings and places", but also to bring about "change, improvement and higher standards". The Clapham Society benefits from its affiliation to the Trust, so I went to its celebratory conference "Discover Your London" in July, held in the Opera House, Spitalfields Market.

There were 76 delegates, mainly officers from Borough Councils and Companies, but with a small sprinkling from Societies like ours

The Conference took two main themes, the first on general policy for today, and the second on a particular case study.

The Chairman, Michael Gwilliam, opened with a declaration of a new vision, in seven themes: people first, sustainable regeneration, taming the car and lorry, deigning for quality, incentives for investment, national leadership and local action, and Town and Country. These were to be supported by nine plans of action. A paper, "The London Study: the future of the City", delivered by Councillor Toby Harris, Chairman of the Association of Local Government, attracted special interest, as it has in the European Community, while Martin Walters of the Glasgow City Council

described its largely successful alternative approach.

However, when the discussion turned to what was happening in the Spitalfields area itself,, a certain 'frisson' developed in the atmosphere! After a historical analysis of this deprived area which nevertheless contains many exquisite Georgian terraces, Richard Pratt of the LIFFE project rose to describe a large scale development planned for the area. He argued it would be sympathetic to the area, inspire much needed capital and would encourage many new enterprises as well as providing many new jobs in an area of chronically high unemployment. But local groups were less enthusiastic.....

The argument ran that the development was totally out of scale with the area. It would in fact destroy the many small scale local enterprises many ethnic minority groups were providing in the market, and the new jobs would not be available for the largely unskilled and unqualified local young people. Local councillors, from whom planning permission was required, looked on uneasily.

Too many speeches, but much useful information to ponder, I thought on my way home, hands full of leaflets. Now, I think we are also affiliated to the London Forum. I wonder what that does?

*Thanks to Sarah Jane Spratt who has taken over as Representative for Area Y (Rodenhurst Road)*

## You all have talent!

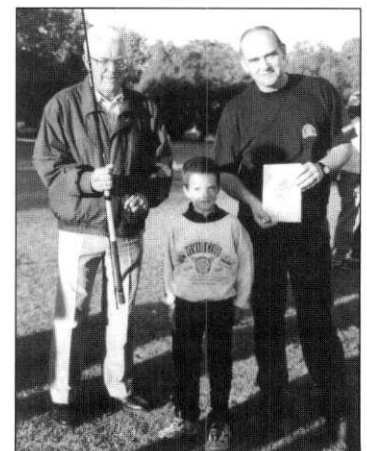
*There is a wealth of talent and expertise among our membership but your Committee cannot know about it unless you tell us. Our work would be so much more effective if you would let us know of any particular interest or expertise you have that might be of occasional use to the Society.*

Are you for example a member of the legal, accounting, banking etc professions? Have you an interest in architecture or landscape gardening? Do you have a concern for wildlife? Are you interested in local history or local government? Would you enjoy helping and planning our social functions? ✉

## Hot rods

Clapham Angling Preservation Society held a Junior Fishing Match on 27 August at Eagle Pond. 15 children took part, coming from all over South London.

Prizes included copies of the book "A romp with a carp" donated by the illustrator Peter Curtis who, together with Richard Jones, Chair of the Management Advisory Committee, presented them. The picture- right - shows Richard and Peter, with the 14-year-old winner Aaron Cubitt from Balham, who landed a 3lb 14oz carp (no grammes for anglers!).



## Caring for buildings

Britain's only permanent exhibition devoted to the repair and maintenance of buildings is moving to the Wandsworth Road this summer.

The **Care of Buildings** exhibition is designed to help householders learn how their homes are built, what can go wrong and how to maintain buildings in good repair. It features displays on all aspects of buildings and building maintenance. It is a popular teaching resource for schools, colleges and professionals.

The Exhibition is moving to South Bank University's Faculty of the Built Environment in Wandsworth Road. The move will take two months and it is due to be opened in November by the Minister for London, Nick Rainsford.

The exhibition is operated by Upkeep, an independent educational charity. The charity promotes good practice and education in building care. Until now, the charity was based at Hampton Court Palace. Upkeep was forced to move after the Historic palaces Agency decided to impose a rent on all charities at the Palace.

Upkeep also provides training courses on building maintenance and publishes educational material for schools and colleges. Much of its work is done by volunteers.

Upkeep is now recruiting new volunteers to help promote and operate the Exhibition at its new site. If you're interested in volunteering, or if you would like more information about the Care of Buildings Exhibition, call Upkeep on 0171-815 7211.

## Tesco's 'Metrostore'

**Tesco have put forward new proposals for the South London Hospital site, which the Society are considering. More details in the next Newsletter.**

Please help us by returning this slip

From:.....

I'm good at/interested in:

to :Moira Todd,  
Chairman, Clapham Society  
17 Trouville Road,  
London SW4 8QL

Tel:

To Mr & Mrs Kay

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 206

November 1997

## At the AGM

At the Society's Annual General Meeting on 16 October, it was agreed to increase subscription rates as follows:

Ordinary membership from £4 to £6

Each additional member from the same household:  
from £2 to £3

Pensioners from £2 to £3

Postal members £2.50 to £3

Business members, no change

(In subsequent issues of the Newsletter, we will include a slip for direct debit instructions for your bank, as this provides the most cost-effective method of collection.)

The following were elected: Moira Todd – Chairman  
Vice-Chairman – Bill Emmett Hon Secretary - David Perkin  
Hon Solicitor – Neil Acheson-Grey  
Hon Membership Secretary – Joyce Luck  
Independent Examiner (hon auditor) – Euan Kennedy  
Committee members –

Celia Bibby, Peter de Lorient Chandieu, Sinclair Johnston,  
Brian Massey, Deborah Rhodes, Rodney Watney.

After many years of service to the Society as Treasurer, Charles Williams has had to stand down; the Society owes him a debt of much gratitude for all he has done for it in the past. **Unfortunately, it has not been possible so far to find a permanent replacement - offers please to Moira Todd! (0181-673 3759).** In the meantime, Ray Todd is standing in as a temporary measure - thanks, Ray!

## The High Street - something to be done at last?

The Clapham Business Forum, which was set up two to three months ago, has now finalised its Constitution and, under the Chairmanship of Stewart Hobson-Jones, a local restaurateur (The Polygon) has submitted a bid for lottery funds under the (S.R.I.) Regeneration Initiative. This bid was put together for no cost by a group of local architects and other business professionals. The bid is to raise enough money to match possible Lambeth Council provision for projects.

The bid has three specific aims. Heritage funding for the protection of historic buildings in the Old Town, Green Space funding for a new green space where the buses park now in Old Town, improvements to visual appearances such as street lighting, signage and pavements.

The area of interest to the Forum is Clapham High Street and Old Town. Refuse collection which has deteriorated appallingly since the introduction of

wheelie bins is one of the services to business where the Forum is dedicated to lobby for improvements. This is part of the Forum's commitment to providing a strong and unified voice for business in Clapham.

Sainsbury's is also a member of the Forum and is preparing to commit 50% of the cost for CCTV cameras from Rectory Grove to Clapham North. Other businesses are also committing funds to match those from the public purse.

The Forum is lobbying Lambeth to provide a Clapham Town Centre Manager to manage change for Clapham. Heather Rabbatts, CEO of the Council, has said that there are people qualified and available to do the job - but no funds to pay for them.

The Society is meeting with Stewart Hobson-Jones to discuss the aims of both groups and future cooperation between us.

## Parking - it won't go away....

*There will be a public meeting at Lambeth Town Hall on 18 November to approve the extension of the Controlled Parking Zone to Clapham South.* The Society will be there to insist again that residents' parking is not needed in Clapham Park generally. Where there is a need round the station this should be appraised on a street by street basis taking into account residents opinion. Englewood Road does not come within the proposals, yet is one of the worst roads affected.....

## Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press

At the Environmental Services Sub-Committee meeting last week the majority confirmed Clapham High Street and the extension to Clapham Common as Conservation area protected.

The proposal for a Criminal Justice Facility (prison) in Grafton Square is to go ahead despite every objection. A period of consultation has now begun.

We hear that Lambeth Council is about to sell the site at Rectory Gardens to the private sector. With the Neco site, this will create a large site for redevelopment in an important part of historic Clapham. The Society is preparing to comment.

## Tesco

The fate of the most recent application from Tesco for the Hospital site redevelopment was decided at Lambeth Council's planning meeting on 4 November - after this newsletter went to press. We have written to Officers and Councilors with our objections as we consider that the proposed alterations from the original are negligible. The former application is still to be decided on in February 1998.

It was with sorrow that we heard of the death of Marie Denham recently after a long illness. She died peacefully. Marie was an area representative for the Society and was very helpful in 1993 when the Society attempted, with the assistance of the Civic Trust, to interest local business in regenerating the High Street.

## Christmas Cheers!

*Come and join us for a wine-tasting evening which will get us all in the mood for the festive season.* The testing will be led by John Ducker (better known professionally as the actor John Leeson). Those of us who have been taught by John in the past will know that we are in for an entertaining and informative evening - he will guide us through a number of wines all of which have been carefully selected to accompany Christmas food and which are readily available and affordable. Tasting notes will be available so that you have your own record to keep for future reference.

Date: Saturday 15 November Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: The Wilberforce Centre, Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common Northside

Please apply for your tickets on the tear-off slip below. Do it as soon as possible as this will be a very popular event!

Biographical note - John Ducker's long term love of wine has led him into teaching the subject to a wide range of audiences, from hotel and restaurant staff to Higher Certificate students of the Wines and Spirits Education Trust. An accomplished home cook, he was a top prize winner in the BBC's 'Taste of Italy' competition in 1994 and is very keen that wine should always be seen in its proper 'food' context.

## Buildings of Clapham

At the Society's AGM, Alyson Wilson set out the current state of play of the forthcoming revised edition of 'Buildings of Clapham'. The overall plan for its production is still fluid and evolving with time; currently still at the stage of research, collating material etc. Some earlier and over-ambitious plans have been scrapped as the succinctness of the original edition has become more and more appreciated.

'Buildings of Clapham' was originated with a 1967 survey to draw attention to buildings that needed to be listed or upgraded. Then in 1976/7 members of the Society carried out a street-by-street survey which was published, with photographs, in a 52-page book. This was designed to be read in conjunction with Eric Smith's 'Clapham' (1976, now out of print).

The new book will build on the earlier one, noting what has gone and what has been added in the past 20 years. It will however cover a wider area, bounded by Wandsworth Common and Wandsworth Road, and the intention is to appeal to a wider audience. The format will be different - it will be pocket-book sized, with 10 chapters each covering a separate area. Each chapter will contain a

### A public inconvenience...

A few months ago the parents of young anglers who fish in Eagle Pond on Clapham Common, as well as other concerned parents, notified Tim Holcroft of the Anglers' Association that gay

brief summary of the area and its history, and at the end of the chapter, a list of its streets with details of nearly all the houses there. Alyson gave her thanks to Peter Jefferson-Smith and Nick Long for the help they have given her.

It will include modern buildings, even where not architecturally distinguished. The aim is for most residents to be able to find their house with its approximate date of construction. Apart from the historical background, the book will include information about people who have lived there, and recent history - and all members may be able to help Alyson with this quest! She wants to produce something new, not just a re-vamp of what has been done before, and cover more about this century. But a problem is that so much is changing right now. There will be plentiful photographs, illustrations and drawings - indeed, the problem will be in editing the book to keep it to a reasonable size!

In conclusion, Alyson is asking everyone who has photographs, or other forms of illustration of the area, or knows of historical or prominent people who have lived here in the past, or can draw attention to in-filling, things behind and not visible from the road, to let her know by writing to her at 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH.

prostitutes and their clients were frequenting the public conveniences by the One O'Clock Club.

Consequently the police undertook a surveillance of the conveniences. Then a

## A call to the young! - from Sophie Leech

It has come to my attention that our views are not being heard!

I am interested in setting up a Council which will allow the young people of Clapham to voice their opinions on issues they wish to address. These could be anything that we feel needs to be focussed on, such as something environmental; perhaps something to do with the Common or Clapham High Street. We may even decide we want our views to be represented in the decisions made on issues in which the main Society is involved.

I feel it would be beneficial to the young people who have not been given the opportunity before to get involved in issues in their area that have a direct appeal on them. The Society as a whole will also benefit as it will represent the youth of Clapham as a result, so they will appeal to a younger audience. The Society can help in the funding of any projects we feel we would like to set up and we could arrange for representatives of the Council to help with the projects the Society carries out.

I feel as students we will not only be able to help improve our area for others but also the experience of organising and getting involved in a council will benefit us in studies and in the future as far as experience for jobs and university applications are concerned.

If you are interested in getting involved with this and getting your views across then please write to me so that we can organise our first meeting within the coming month.

**Please bring this article to the attention of any young people of student age who might be interested - they should write to Sophie at 17 Trouville Road, London SW4 8QL**

*This month's helpline to the Society:  
0181-673 2570*

youngster was assaulted in the men's toilet and the police arrested the assailant.

This problem has now largely been resolved. It is sad, however, that such an incident should occur due, in part, to Lambeth's apparent unwillingness to allocate funds towards policing and upkeep of the Common, leaving it to the public to react.

To: Moira Todd  
17 Trouville Road  
London SW4 8QL

Please send me ..... tickets for the wine tasting @ £5 each (members) or £6 each (non-members). I enclose a cheque for £..... and a stamped return envelope

From.....

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 207

Dec 97/Jan 98

## Parking - again

The whole issue of the introduction of the CPZ Residents' Parking Scheme has taken centre stage again. Although the Lambeth Environmental Services group dealing with this matter has been drastically cut like all departments, a Parking Group run by David Warimer (Consultant) is continuing with the intention of progressing the consultation process for the Clapham Park and Clapham South areas. We understand the timetable is as follows:

Distribution of proposals	1 Dec 97
Exhibition of plans, Clapham Park Library and at Notre Dame Community Tenants' Hall	8/9 Dec 97
Consultation expires	10-13 Dec 97
Report to Transport Planning Sub-Committee	5 Jan 98
Draft traffic order	Jan 98
Statutory Consultation	16 Jan 98
Second report to Committee	16 Jan - 9 Feb
<b>Implementation</b>	<b>April 98</b>

For contact during this period - Trevor Davies, Assistant Director of Environmental Services, London Borough of Lambeth, Courtenay House, 9-15 New Park Road, SW2 4DU. Telephone Gaz Ojjeh, Derek Rogers or Richard Clement for further information on 0171-926 7217.

A member of the Society's Planning and Transport Sub-Committee is in contact with Trevor Davies to pass on members' views and to obtain a clear picture of the Council's objectives in the consultation process with specific regard to the other inter-locking policies for Red Routes and Traffic Calming. The Society is concerned that the Council is taking a piece-meal approach which will not best serve the needs of residents and Clapham. **However, it is incumbent on every street to organise to decide what the residents want in terms of parking. This is the time when you must act yourselves to achieve what you want.** Lambeth say they are committed to listening to residents in a street and allowing what the majority in that street want. The action must be taken by you.. We are looking at all the Clapham areas involved: North Side, East and South. We will assist where we are in agreement with what the residents propose. Please send correspondence to the Society's address below if you have views or questions.

## A tribute for Diana

The Clapham Common Playgrounds are in a sad state of neglect and disrepair. The little train in the West Side playground is particularly damaged and the swings in the Windmill playground are mostly shackled due to their dangerous state.

*Clapham Common was partly owned by the Spencer family and as Diana, Princess of Wales took a*

*This month's helpline to the Society  
0181-673 2570*

*particular interest in children, the Society is proposing to launch an appeal to have the playgrounds resurrected, modernised and named in honour of the Princess.*

The Society is waiting to hear from the Council regarding estimates for the modernisation of these playgrounds. The Management Advisory Committee has already voted to contribute £2,000 and is backing the Society's appeal.

## Windmill Drive

There will be a public meeting organised by the Clapham Society at 11 am on Saturday 31 January in the conservatory of "The Windmill" to discuss the possible closure of Windmill Drive. It is hoped that Martin Low from the Traffic Director's office will attend, as well as Councillors and representatives from Wandsworth and Lambeth. *Everyone with a view on what should happen - or not - to Windmill Drive is urged to attend.*



Windmill Drive

Members may recall the delightful Turner Card we produced for Christmas last year. £1.00 each. Stocks are with Veronica Richardson who can be contacted on 0181-674 1848, or write to her at 70 Rodenhurst Road, SW4.

We would appreciate suggestions from members, ideas that would help to launch this appeal and volunteers to assist in the management of this interesting and worthwhile project. Any member who knows of an individual or corporate body who could assist with their expertise is also asked for their input.

**Please write to or telephone the Society on its helpline on page 1.**

## Taste buds at the ready...

20 or so members had a very jolly and informative meeting on Saturday 15th November. John Ducker, the wine tasting expert, took us through 8 wines from a sparkling Prosecco to a rich Chivite Coleccion 125 Reserva, and lastly the 'liquid sunshine' of a Passito di Pantelleria.

Many thanks to Deborah Rhodes for arranging this and John for a most professional exposition.

## The Neco site, and Rectory Gardens

Planning proposals have been received for a major development around the North Street/ Rectory Gardens area, with provision for 26 new dwellings, refurbishment of 27 existing dwellings with associated parking and landscaping.

This is an important site and the Society have asked for a presentation on the proposals from the developers.



Simon Vernon, at last year's launch party for the Map of Clapham

## On the buses

We have written to London Transport Buses congratulating them on the improved frequency on Route 345 but pointing out that, by contrast, the routes 137 and 137A offer a very poor service in the evenings.

Lisa Page, the planning coordinator, has replied saying that they are hoping to improve reliability on that route. At present for much of the day the route operates in two sections which overlap: Oxford Circus - Streatham Hill (137) and Clapham Common - Crystal Palace (137A).

One possibility is to make this split operate at all times. There is no promise, though, of an improved frequency even though a better evening service would be likely to attract more passengers.

If you have specific suggestions about how bus services in the Clapham area can be improved, drop a note to Lisa Page at London Transport Buses, 172 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1W 9TN.

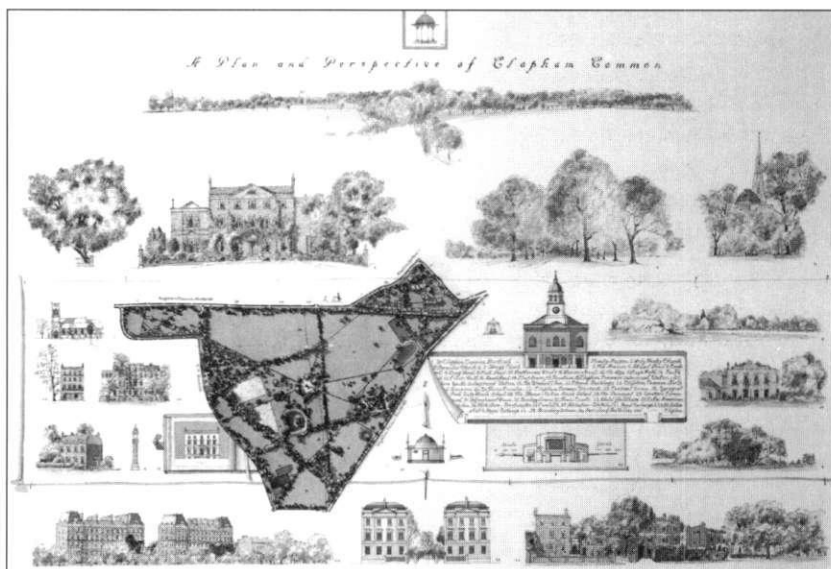


## The Eagle Pond project

The Common Management Advisory Committee have voted to donate £2,000 to an ambitious 'millennium' project initiated by the Angling Preservation Society to carry out a series of improvements to Eagle Pond, including landscaping. Team Lambeth have agreed to carry out excavation work on a 'pro bono' basis.

At a meeting of the main committee of the Clapham Society, the project was welcomed, particularly moves to encourage wild life. There were just some reservations: it should be clear that the area around Eagle Pond was for all, not just anglers; provision should be made for proper maintenance; planning permission should be sought where appropriate, and care needed to be taken to preserve the aesthetic quality of the area.

## The 'Map of Clapham'



Members may recall an evening last December at Trinity Hospice to launch the 'Map of Clapham', created by Mapmaker Simon Vernon. This is a "Plan and Perspective of Clapham Common, 1997" - 25.5x24 inches. An edition of 200: hand painted etching with Pencil and Watercolour.

The map of the Common is supported by architectural and topographical vignettes and is the culmination of a year's work. Each etching is individually painted by the artist. The Artist's Proof was exhibited at the 229th Royal Academy of Arts' Summer Exhibition 1997.

An example of the map is at the Deborah Bates Gallery, 191 St John's Hill SW11 1TH (tel: 0171-223 1629) for viewing and ordering. A very special present for Christmas, or the New Year!

## At last - regeneration in the High Street?

We have now had sight of the preliminary application document 'Conservation and Regeneration' produced by Lambeth Environmental Services and the Civic Trust Regeneration Unit in July 1997 on whose proposals funding has been provisionally approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage. The document is lengthy but a copy can be obtained from us if needed. **The application has also been approved by Lambeth's Environmental Sub-Committee, to be worked up into detailed proposals for presentation early in the New Year.**

The Heritage Lottery Fund bidding opportunity would support the development and delivery of a scheme in Clapham through the newly formed Clapham Conservation Area Partnership, as outlined in the application. This covers:

- Structural repairs to architecturally important buildings in Clapham High Street, the Old Town and adjacent roads;
- Reinstatement of features to buildings along Clapham High Street, Southside, The Pavement and the Polygon;
- Environmental enhancements undertaken at two prominent urban spaces, Clapham Cross and Old Town Terminus, both major transport interchanges;
- Lighting schemes to highlight attractive buildings, the improved urban

*Right - Bernard and Margaret Battley held an open day for clients to celebrate the centenary of Battley Brothers Printers at their premises in Old Town.*

*Here, Bernard and Margaret show a copy of their Centenary Book dressed, appropriately in Victorian clothing!*

*Our next visit there is for the Society's party - don't forget to get your tickets now!*



## Just breathe those traffic fumes...

One feature of recent years in Clapham is the increasing use by restaurants of pavements for 'al fresco' eating.

The Society is investigating the Council's policy on this: we will report and express our views in the next newsletter.

spaces and contribute towards the measures required to ensure local residents and visitors can enjoy their time in Clapham with a reduced fear of crime.

These are the possible projects in detail -

Structural repair: 136-138, 148-150, 92-96, 31-31, 101, 103 and 107 Clapham High Street; 12-16 Northside; 1 Voltaire Road; 9-21 Old Town

Reinstatement work: 106-108, 114, 178-190 Clapham High St; 3-7 Southside; 23-26 The Pavement; 1 The Polygon; 12-16 Southside

Environmental improvements: Old Town Terminus; Clapham Cross; Lighting.

The Council intends adopting management arrangements similar to those in place for the Brixton CAP scheme. This will involve two existing Conservation Officers with a third to be appointed. Specialist management will be provided by the Civic Trust Regeneration Unit for financial and project coordination, with architectural input from Richard Griffiths Architects, responsible for supervision, sketch schemes and work specification. This will be funded as part of the CAP programme. **This will be a three year project costing approximately £740,000, comprising £300,000 from Heritage, £250,000 from Lambeth, and £190,000 from the private sector.**

The Society's Planning Sub-Committee will be meeting to review all the buildings named and will report back to members early in 1998.

## Bang to rights

In the last Newsletter we announced that the Police Criminal Justice Facility - containing 62 cells - in Grafton Square was going ahead. We are pleased to say we were wrong! The police station will be built, but as a divisional police headquarters only. Economies will also be achieved by reducing Lambeth from three to two divisions over the next three years.

## Party Time!

Saturday Jan 31st 1998

*Our party this year will be held at Battley Brothers (Printers), courtesy of Margaret and Bernard Battley.*

It is a special occasion this year as Battley Brothers are celebrating their Centenary. At the party we will see their special Victorian Exhibition and have the opportunity of buying the unique Centenary Book they have produced to mark the event as well as to see round their state of the art printworks.

Tickets are £10.00 each, £6.00 for concessionaries (that is, retired, students and unemployed). To book, send a cheque made out to the Clapham Society and send it to: Joyce Luck,

15 Cavendish Road SW12, with a stamped addressed envelope. .

The next newsletter will not reach everyone before the 31st January so book now while it is on the top of your mind! For those who have never been to a Clapham Society Party, there is an excellent two course buffet provided and it is a good opportunity to meet other members in a relaxed social environment.

You can use the slip printed at the end of the Newsletter.

## Out of the wood

The Common Management Advisory Committee (MAC) are going to re-define ecological 'set-aside' areas on the Common, with the view of setting up a feasibility study on creating an urban wood, under the auspices of the Woodland Trust.

An interesting project: we will keep members informed of progress.

**We are very grateful to member Michael Strong, who responded to the appeal in the last Newsletter for a new Treasurer to replace Charles Williams, who has stood down after many years' service. Thank you Charles, and thank you too Michael!**

## Tesco - turned down again

At a stormy meeting on 3 December at a Lambeth Planning Sub-Committee meeting, the application for a Tesco Metrostore at the South London site was refused on grounds including unacceptable bulk and height, negative impact on a metropolitan open space, traffic disruption and loss of local resident amenity.

The Society presented objections founded on non-compliance with Council transport policy, shopping policy, design policy and sunlight and daylight issues. These objections had been circulated in advance with drawings to the relevant councillors for discussion. Objections were also presented by a representative of the recently formed Clapham South Neighbourhood Association. An application to demolish the Hospital was also rejected.

### Thank-you time

Thanks to Lili Massey who was Area Representative for Area H but has had to give up; thanks also to Deborah Rhodes who has taken over from her.

Work is commencing on the old Halliday Hall site on Southside. Below is a model of what the new development will look like, viewed from South Side.



**We wish all our readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year!**

## Red Routes - the latest

The Society's Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee has met with Martin Low, Assistant Traffic Director for London, to discuss the proposed Red Route scheme. Further details have been obtained:

- Traffic calming measures are to be implemented in Narbonne, Cautley, Lynette Roads and Lessar and Klea Avenues;
- Hazelbourne Road is to be closed at the Poynders Road end;
- The entrance to Abbeville Road is to be narrowed;
- There will be no right turn out of Cavendish Road into Southside - vehicles wishing to turn right will have to turn left and enter a gyro scheme to turn around;
- There will be improved pedestrian crossing on Southside and across the 2 sides of the gyro scheme;
- The Red Route would continue up to Long Road.

The Society expressed some of its concerns, including the need for improved pedestrian crossing of Cavendish Road; the possible effects of the traffic measures on Elms Road; the desirability of the closure of Windmill Drive; the proposed changes to Abbeville Road; and whether the attempts to improve traffic flow would only result in greater traffic density.

John How of the Society is acting as a coordinator between the Traffic Director and the Society so as to ensure that we are kept fully briefed on developments.

## Cheers for the tree fund!



**On the 30th October 30 members of the Society met to plant the Clapham Society Copse on the Common with the money supplied by our Tree Fund.**

The trees are mixed oak, beech and chestnut chosen for both traditional and ecological reasons. Oak trees in particular harbour vast quantities of insect life and were among the London Ecology Unit recommendations.

The area chosen was west of Long Pond in the areas marked on the maps undertaken by Jeremy Hammerton, who is both Vice Chairman of the MAC (Commons Management Advisory

Committee) and a member of the Society, with additional advice from London Ecology Unit, the London Wildlife Trust and others.

After the Great Storm of 1987 John How, then Chairman of the Society, took photographs and did a survey of the fallen trees which he reckoned came to 200 representing 10% of then total. It was the extent of the loss that led him to recommend the setting up of the Tree Fund. It is very gratifying to know that ten years on the Fund is able to support the planting - which was the subject of an item for the BBC World Service!

Cut here -----

To: Joyce Luck  
15 Cavendish Road  
London SW12 0BH

Please send me ..... tickets at £10 each (£6 concessionary) for the Society's Winter Party on Saturday 31 January  
I enclose £..... and a s.a.e.

From.....  
.....  
.....

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 208

Feb 1998

### Parking - the result

The Society has always taken the view that it is for local residents to decide, on a street-by-street basis, whether they want a controlled parking zone (CPZ) in their street. At a meeting at Lambeth Town Hall on 22 January, local councillors also took that view and the result is as follows.

In the area East of Southside, Englewood Road, Hazelbourne Road (odd-numbered, Lambeth side) and Briarwood Road are to have a CPZ because they clamoured for it (work to start April, and end June) and Englewood Road is also to be made one-way from Southside to Cavendish Road in order to cut out 'rat-running'; a grid of streets bounded by Cavendish Road, Southside, Abbeville Road and Narbonne (ie not the section of Narbonne, Hambalt and Shandon east of Abbeville Road) are not to have it now, but will be re-consulted in a year's time, when residents have experienced whether or not their parking situation has worsened as a result.

The rest of Clapham Park is excluded from the scheme entirely unless they ask to be included at some time in the future.

The scheme is to go ahead in the rest of Clapham as proposed except that the area North of Wandsworth Road is to be unrestricted.

Non-resident parking is to be extended up to 8.30 pm.

Traffic wardens in the Borough are obviously enthusiastic about their work. The editor saw one handing out parking tickets in St Alphonsus Road - wearing plain clothes! You have been warned.....

### Piece of cake

A couple of issues ago we printed the reminiscences of Mr J Wallis, an ex-Clapham resident now living in Brisbane. (Bet he doesn't have our fuel bills.) He writes in connection with the forthcoming book on Clapham that Alyson Wilson is producing:

"As a matter of interest I wonder how many of the Society members would remember prior to the second world war the confectionery shop named Carpenters which was situated on the Pavement close to Clapham Underground Station, and just prior to Christmas each year, made a cake shaped like a famous building such as the House of Commons or Hampton Court Palace. All was on show for a few weeks, then it was cut up and sold piece by piece; I can't remember exactly but I think it was sixpence a portion. I hope you all had a great Christmas and wish everyone the best for 1998."

Lambeth is taking enforcement action against Oblivion, the bar on the corner of Cavendish Parade and Englewood Road. This followed complaints about the extension built without planning permission on the forecourt.

Oblivion have 8 weeks to remove it and its awning.

### Walkers on the wild side...

A meeting was held on 11 February at Venn Street, addressed by Ben Plowden, Director of the Pedestrians' Association, to set up a group to represent pedestrians in Clapham.

Anyone concerned about conditions for people who walk about and would like to learn more about the group should contact Rosamund Weatherall on 0171-720 7299

### Tesco

A Public Inquiry is being held on February 17 to determine Tesco's appeal over Lambeth's rejection of its application to develop the South London Hospital for Women site at Clapham South into a so-called 'Metrostore'.

### Santa gets the bird



On Tuesday 30 December Father Christmas visited Clapham Common, to install 8 further nesting boxes and 2 bat boxes, courtesy of the Clapham Angling Preservation Society and the charity "Whitbread Action Earth". So far 22 mixed bird and bat nesting boxes have been installed around the Mount and Eagle ponds.

The Angling Society hope to install a lot more in 1998 to encourage local wildlife and have approached a number of local firms and organisations (including the Clapham Society!) for support.

Anyone interested in donating money or effort to this cause should contact Tim Holdcroft on 0171-733 9197

### Subscriptions

Members are asked to take immediate action to pay their subscriptions at the new rates by standing order. On the back page of this issue we include a form to send your bank.

So would members please notify their banks of the change - now!

# The High Street

We gave details in a previous Newsletter of the proposals for the redevelopment of the High Street. The following extracts from the architectural report, and the maps of the High Street, come courtesy of the architects Greig & Stephenson.

## A Brief History

With the site on a Saxon village to the north and lying at the end of an old Roman road, this area has been a hub of activity from ancient times to the present day. Formerly the London Road, Clapham High Street before 1827 was characterised by large residential properties set back between 10 and 20 metres from the road edge with generous gardens in front. Some of these magnificent properties still stand today although behind inferior single storey retail structures built at the turn of the Century.

By 1897, the High Street became a continuum of The Pavement forming the main shopping centre for the area, stretching beyond Manor Street and built directly to the back of the pavement. After this period, rigorous redevelopment

saw the formation of Venn Street and realignment of Bromells Road which now joined Stonhouse Street, forming the boundaries of the site we know today.

The scale and character of the newly constructed four storey corner buildings on Venn Street and Stonhouse Street departed from those buildings between (168-180 Clapham High Street), which in essence were a collection of one and two storey Georgian buildings with the addition of a three storey

building, no.180 in the Edwardian period. The prominence of these smaller buildings on the parade would sadly be forever diminished by the size and relative sophistication of detail of its taller neighbours.

## Urban Context

Redevelopment at the turn of the Century left 168-180 Clapham High Street untouched, even forgotten.



1746 - from the John Roques map

Evidence from the Ordnance plans of 1897 indicates that the last alley into the centre of the site (now 54 Bromells Road) was closed by the Edwardian building at no. 180 Clapham High Street, completing the urban block. Viewing the block for the opposite side of Clapham High Street the

complete facade is characterised by buildings of disparate floor and window levels with animated Victorian corner buildings at Venn and Stonhouse Street in brick and stone, serving as book ends to the more restrained brick Georgian and Edwardian buildings between.

Whilst the value in terms of its contribution to the character and appearance of the area of 168-180 Clapham High Street is subjective, the overwhelming

evidence at hand

regarding the condition and quality of what can be considered genuine, has driven the architectural response towards the predominant themes that currently exist on site, namely the Victorian buildings at either side.

Built simultaneously, these Victorian buildings display a common, relative sophistication of detail and polychomy typical of the period, sharing similarities in height, rhythm and fenestration. All of these elements have informed the new

proposals for the site and are illustrated below.

It may be noted that the context informed the design as opposed to standing alone in contrast as seen in the ultra modern design of the Sainsburys store opposite.

## Building Condition

Current Ordnance plans indicate premises of small frontage and great depth. These plans, however, hide the reality of undersized shops being extended, ad hoc, to inhabit back yards with a variety of sheds and temporary structures. Whilst these inventions may have prolonged the working life of the shops along the High Street, their deterioration makes for a sub-standard space in terms of retail and due to the ingress of water from leaking roofs and rising damp, makes for an unhealthy working environment.

On close examination the frontages of the buildings 168-180 Clapham High Street, without exception and have been substantially if not completely rebuilt with varying degrees of success and sensitivity. The rear elevation of the buildings in particular are no longer recognisable as period buildings, with no.180 having aged best but still bearing the marks of intervention.

The current position must reflect that these buildings are in bad repair and of uncertain structural integrity. Beyond the

facts of failing party walls and flooded (untanked) basements, the public face along Clapham High Street has suffered through neglect and major alteration, removal of the traditional fabric canopy boxes and signage zones, leaving a pale impression of what may once have been

an acceptable elevation.

Today, viewed collectively from the newly refurbished Clapham Common underground station, the site 168-180 Clapham High Street presents a literal and metaphoric low point along the parade which in the main is four and a half storey in height and of an architectural sophistication far beyond its own means. In effect the site presents itself as an urban gap with the rendered side walls of his neighbours in clear view, thus contributing a only minor role towards the character and appearance of the block.



...1875



...and 1887

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 209

April 1998

## The Tesco appeal

The two week Public Inquiry in which Tesco was appealing against the decision by Lambeth Council to reject its application to develop the site continues.

The Society presented our concerns about the Tesco application covering:-

- a The cultural value of existing buildings
- b The impact on existing town centres
- c The impact on Clapham Common Conservation Area
- d The internal Planning of the site

– and concluded that the application

should be rejected on the following grounds:

Transport Policy (PPG13) Shopping Policy (Policy S10 and PPG6)  
Design Policy (Policy C3, C16) Clause ST2 of the UDP (Sunlight and daylight)

We stated that the site is ideal in our view for a mixed scheme combining proper local needs, shopping, residential, including family housing and other uses such as BI and leisure. Open, ground level, unbroken, public parking should be avoided.

The recently formed Clapham South Neighbourhood Association presented their objections covering the same points and fielded four consultant representatives covering legal, planning, and traffic issues.

Nicholas Long presented for the Twentieth Century Society and focussed on the retention of the existing building because of its intrinsic value as a building by Sir Edwin Cooper, although not listed, and PPG 15 which states that "the general presumption should be in favour of retaining buildings which make a positive contribution to the character of a conservation area. The Secretary of State expects that proposals to demolish such buildings should be assessed against the broad criteria as proposals to demolish listed buildings."

Other objections were made made by, among others, The Balham Society, The Green Party, Councillor Ruth Ling and Stuart Hopson Jones. Support for the scheme was provided by some local residents and a lady representing OAPs locally.

*The result of the appeal will be available probably in May.*

*Norman Marsh, our President, is recovering from a bad fall at home. Members and the Committee extend their sympathy. Get well soon.*

### Windmill Drive

The Society is working with the Clapham Common Residents Association to keep up the pressure on Lambeth to progress investigation into the costs and the feasibility of the various options for Windmill Drive. With local elections imminent. We expect real proposals to be available in September at the earliest.

City Village Day is on the 21st April. This is run by the London Community Alliance. Interested in getting involved in this for Clapham? - contact 0181-444 5687.

### Crimebusting

Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust is working with the Council, the Police and other agencies to develop the Borough's first Community Safety Plan. There will be a public consultation on this during the summer. There are awards in grants to local organisations for practical crime prevention or community safety projects. James Watt, Manager of the Windmill on the Common, is also enthusiastic about getting something like this moving. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with him or our Help-line.

This month's help-line to the Society  
0181-673 2570

## Clapham Conservation Area Partnership

**The Partnership is hopeful that the Heritage Lottery bid will be successful.**

Lambeth has ring-fenced the funds they need to contribute for the next year. Everyone is geared up to starting the three year programme on time in April 1998.

Wanda Pratt had agreed to be the Society's representative on the CCAP Steering Group. This group's prime role will be to ensure delivery of approved and appropriate schemes within the period given to spend funds. Such matters will be discussed at regular meetings of advisers, project officers and other representatives.

Barry Rowland has retired after many years' service at Lambeth looking after the Common, and his place has been taken by David Paul. We look forward to working with him.

## 10th anniversary celebration of the London Forum

**Gala Party 9th June 6pm to 9pm**

Venue: The London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

Guests will include all the London

Mayoral candidates, London MPs and Ministers for Transport and the Environment. Celebrity Guest Speak-

ers. Price £15 per head includes a trip round the Museum (which is brilliant), buffet, drinks, guest speaker, and live music/concert. The London Forum exists to help amenity and civic societies to work together to protect and improve the quality of life in London. Since its foundation in 1988 under the auspices of the Civic Trust it has grown in strength and influence derived from its membership of well over 100 local societies with a combined membership of almost 100,000 Londoners.

For tickets contact the Help-line.

## Planning for Clapham

It is with regret that we have had to accept the resignation of Sinclair Johnston as the Convener of the Planning and Transport Sub-Committee. Pressure of business has forced his decision. Naturally we are pleased that business is good, but it is still a loss to the Society. Sinclair has convened this very important sub-committee on and off for many years, stepping into the breach when we really needed help.

This sub-committee is made up of architects, planners and others who have a strong interest in the Society's aims for Clapham, namely to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning, to stimulate public interest in Clapham and its affairs, and to encourage the preservation and development of features of historic interest or public amenity in Clapham.

Half of its present members have given more than 10 years service to this sub-committee. All are very busy in their own professional and private lives. New blood to bring new enthusiasm and some more willing hands would be welcomed.

*If you are an architect, a town planner or just someone with an interest in these aspects of the Society's work and you think you could give even a little time, please contact the Help-line.*

## Events on the Common

Lambeth Environmental Sub-Committee will be meeting on the 25th March to approve/ not approve the events proposed for the Common for May to September 1998.

Applications have been received from two organisations to hold the Pride Festival on the 4th July 1998. Others for different days have been received from Capital Radio, from Choice FM, plus a sports organisation and two or three church/religious organisations.

Officers will prepare a report with their recommendations, a copy of which will be sent to the Society before the meeting, at which we will make our comments. The officers' recommendation for the Pride Festival will be based on the preferred organisation's ability to organise and manage the event safely.

## Al fresco

We are informed by Lambeth Council that they are drawing up a policy on restaurants and their pavement presence in the area.

We understand that they are finding out how other boroughs such as Camden and Islington handle this issue. What do you think?

## Come on, members!

### by our Hon Sec

Most members of the Main Committee and Sub-Committees have full-time demanding professions to pursue. They give of their time and experience willingly and voluntarily, but there is a limit to what they can do for the Society. We now need to ask members to help with specific, limited obligation tasks for our Functions. We need especially:

1. *Drivers with cars* - to deliver and return cutlery and crockery at parties. To deliver and return sale or return wine and glasses at parties. To deliver and return items for our Society Stall at events.
2. *Members to arrive early to help lay out the buffet at parties.* And members to cook/prepare one savoury or sweet dish for parties, ingredients paid for by the Society if requested (I have even attempted one dish myself!).
3. *Members to help run our Society Stall at events.*

It would be a pity if we had to abandon our very popular functions for lack of help. Now is the opportunity to make them even better. Please ring me on the helpline to let me know how you can help. Most of us are willing, but don't like 'pushing in'.

*Now is your chance to respond.*

**David Perkin**

## Subscriptions and standing orders - have you completed the form yet?

Please note that the telephone no for the new treasurer was not correct in the last Newsletter. The correct number is 0171-622 6159. Apologies to Charles Williams (the retiring treasurer) for any inconvenience.

However, let us make this a reminder to all who have not yet done so, to complete the Standing Order mandate in the February Newsletter, at the new rates (£6 ordinary membership, additional members in a household £3, pensioners £3).

If you need another copy of the Standing Order form, send a stamped addressed envelope to Bill Emmett, at 13 Crescent Lane, London SW4 9PT.

## Red Routes

From the official leaflet.....

The Traffic Director of London is a non-departmental public organisation set up by the Road Traffic Act 1991 to introduce the network of Red Routes to the Capital.

The key aims of the organisation include:

- co-ordinating traffic management on London's main roads to reduce the impact of traffic congestion without encouraging further traffic into Central London.
- providing special help for the movement of buses

- providing better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists

By the year 2000, Red Route measures will cover 507 km (315 miles) of strategic roads in London. Roads included in the network have been designated by the Secretary of State for Transport.

The measures for the A205 South Circular are already being introduced under an experimental traffic order. (see maps, Cavendish Road). IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE SCHEME ONCE THE NEW MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IT IS SAID THAT YOUR VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE THE MEASURES BECOME PERMANENT.

Address to write to:

Derek Turner,  
Traffic Director for London,  
College House,  
Great Peter Street,  
London SW1P 3LN  
tel 0171- 222 4545.

The Society is writing to object to the pedestrian crossing arrangements at the gyratory system at the junction of Cavendish Road and Clapham Common.

## Parking

The CPZ (controlled parking zone) continues to be implemented. All households should have received details in a letter enclosed with a map. The key thing is that some roads are being held back depending on the impact of Red Route implementation, effects of the new restrictions and objections received before the end of March.

Lambeth anticipates commencing site works in April 1998. All enquiries to Alec Pettet (at Lambeth) 0171-926 6910 or fax 0171-926 7155.



*Bernard Battley hosting the Winter Party in his Old Town works*

DAVID

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 210

May/June 1998

## Tesco - no go!

The application to develop the South London Women's Hospital site and demolish the Hospital building (The Cooper Building) by Tesco has been refused. Some key comments by the Inspector from the 15 page document give some details. A full copy of the judgment can be bought for 50p from Abbeville Rd Post Office. "Having considered all the evidence on the Cooper building's architectural merit, including that from the Twentieth Century Society (Nicholas Long) and The Clapham South Neighbourhood Association my conclusion is that the Cooper building's massing and its juxtaposition with the Commons side buildings give rise to a very attractive and coherent group of buildings within which it could be said to be a landmark building. When viewed from the periphery of, or within the Common, the Cooper building forms part of the familiar and cherished skyline against which the Common is seen. Consequently I consider that the Cooper building makes a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Clapham Conservation Area....I am not satisfied that the option of retention of the Cooper building for a range of alternative uses together with redevelopment to the rear has received sufficient attention..... finally the bulk, mass, scale, rhythm, access provisions and design details of the proposed building would cause harm to the established character and appearance of the Clapham Conservation Area. I consider that the adverse impact on the Clapham Conservation Area is sufficient reason by itself to dismiss these appeals...."

The arguments about retail impact on local Town Centres, impact on amenity, access and traffic matters were dismissed.

Tesco have written to reassure us that the removal of the wall, which was unsafe, fronting 16 Cavendish Parade, immediately adjacent to the southern end of the former South London Hospital for Women has nothing to do with the recent application.

## Party time!

The Summer Party will be held on the 11th July at Westfield, 125 Kings Avenue at the kind invitation of the owner, Tracey Lee Thier.

The House is on land which was originally held by Cubitt and the freehold was later held later by the Bowyer Estate. This small villa was named Malvern House originally, then Ashburton and now Westfield and was probably built at the same time as the Heidelberg Villa. We think that the villa was occupied by relations of the owners of the Heidelberg Villa as reflected by the shared stables and gardens.

The ground rent in 1856 was £28 on a lease of 77 years from the 29 9 1856. The villa consists of an upper floor ( 6 bedrooms, a dressing room and a fitted bathroom), a ground floor (dining room, drawing room and library) and basement (kitchen, scullery, pantry, cellar).

Regrettably only the small villa, Westfield, remains fully intact of all Cubitts local buildings. Its own garden is 1/6th acre which is smaller than those of the bigger houses on the estate which were up to an acre and a half.

Our host is Tracey Lee Thier, who has been carefully renovating the house with great attention to retaining and enhancing the original features. We regret the renovation will not be fully complete for the garden party and would be grateful for your patience. As ever we will be providing a two course buffet with wine/ or soft drinks. The food has always been a feature of the Society's parties as many members already know. If you are a new member or have never come along, give it a try. You will be very welcome. Non member guests are also welcome. Tickets are £10.00 per head, (£6.00 for concessions). Please complete and return the tear off strip.

## Our next meeting

There will be a talk on the Cartoonist H.M. Bateman (1887-1970) on Thursday 11 June at 8.00 pm at the Contact Centre, Hambalt Road. This is situated at the Abbeville Road end of Hambalt Road. It will be given by his daughter, Diane Willis. Members will remember that last year his house in Nightingale Lane was presented with a Blue Plaque in his memory.

Entrance is by ticket costing £2 - see the tear-off slip.



This month's helpline  
0181-673 2570

## Trinity Fair - Saturday, 27 June, Clapham Common

We are keen to be at the Fair this year, not only because it is usually such a nice day, but because it is good for recruiting new members. We have found our display boards so will be able to give a visual story about what the Society does. We sell the Society books, cards and maps. The day starts at 10 am and finishes at 4 pm. *Would you like to 'person' the stall for an hour or two? If yes, call the helpline.*

**LONDON FORUM 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY 1988-1999  
GALA PARTY 9th June  
6pm to 9pm  
London Transport Museum,  
Covent Garden**

The London Transport Museum exhibits are wonderful and this is a good chance to get a private view of them, plus food, wine and an enjoyable evening at a subsidised price. You will meet MPs, Ministers, London's Mayoral Candidates, Michael Gwilliam of The Civic Trust, and Chief Executives from Local Authorities and major businesses.

There will be some celebrity guest speakers and the Guest of Honour is Paul Finch, Editor of The Architect's Journal.

Moira Todd is making up a party. Contact her on 0181 673 3759 for details. Tickets £15.00 each.

## New South London Group

There will be a Public Meeting to launch a proposed new Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) local group for South London. It will be called the Lambeth and Wandsworth Local Group.

CPRE says this meeting is to provide the opportunity to "use CPRE to influence the local environment. If you are concerned about a threat to build on local open space or a proposal for a large superstore, becoming involved in a district group will help you to take action.

There is a great deal going on in South London,

including development opportunities on derelict land on the South Bank of the River and proposed retail developments which would generate extra traffic. We are aiming to gather together a group of individuals who would like to have a say about their surroundings. All you need is to care for your local area.

The meeting will be in the Wilberforce Community Centre, (Trinity Church), Clapham Common on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm. Admission Free.

*To Wandsworth resident members* -If you want to use the weekly household recycling collection telephone Wandsworth Amenity Services Section 0181 871 6378 or by returning a pre-paid postage card which you can get on 0181 871 8232. You need to take action to get collected. It's not automatic.

## Summer in the city

We were disappointed that after the agreement reached with local residents in 1996 about adequate consultation for events on Clapham Common ( their frequency, size and management) Lambeth officers have not allowed sufficient consultation for the three major events they had applications for this summer. These were The Gay and Lesbian Festival (their 'new' name still not known now that it is not Gay Pride), Starlight Cinema and the World Cup Festival. Below was the proposed programme of events for Summer 1998, all requiring the fencing off of substantial and significant areas of Clapham Common from the general public. Entry to all these events would be by pre-sold ticket only.

**World Cup Fest** 10/6/98-12/7/98  
**Gay and Lesbian Festival** 3/7/98-5/7/98  
**Starlight Cinema** 17/7/98-27/9/98

These dates do not include setting up time. The Common would therefore have thousands of people till 11 pm every night through the entire summer.

The Society objected to the World Cup and the Starlight Cinema events on the grounds that these were both inappropriate uses of the Common. The Common is not a site but a common and under modern legislation can only be used for purposes appropriate, for a common over which the public has an unimpeded right of access at all times. We have not objected to the Gay Festival because the decision was taken at an Urgency meeting which we did not know of. This event now contravenes the normal use of a common,

because this year it is a pre-paid ticket event, unlike in previous years where there was no entrance fee.

We will be writing to Lambeth Parks Division. The other two events have not been approved because of local objections. We understand that Starlight may appeal.

Sally Sturridge of the Clapham South Neighbourhood Association reports: "*Lambeth has postponed its residents' parking scheme (CPZ) in the Clapham South area after problems with its statutory paperwork and objections from Wandsworth residents, who understandably felt threatened by its unilateral introduction. Lambeth had apparently attempted to negotiate a compromise, but discussions had collapsed because of their conflicting schemes. On current timetables, Lambeth is ready to go, but Wandsworth want to start from Tooting Broadway, not reaching Clapham South for at least eighteen months.*"

## Old Town developments

*The bid submitted to English Heritage Lottery Fund for Clapham has been successful.* An allocation of £270,000 has been approved, the amount sought which will fund the programme of works to buildings and open spaces in the area over a period of three years, commencing in April 1998. Lambeth has allocated £250,000 over the same period as matched funding. The remaining £100,000 will be sought from the private sector over three years.

Wanda Pratt from our Planning Sub-Committee will be the Society's representative on the Steering Group which will assist in the delivery of the programme.

Moira Todd, Chairman, represents the Society on the Clapham Partnership Working Group. This small group reports back to the Partnership which comprises members of the local business community, the Common's Management Advisory Committee, local churches and other voluntary groups representing the interests of people who live and work in Clapham.

## The NECO site

Applications to develop the light industrial Neco site in Rectory Grove to a complex of residential accommodation and a leisure centre have gone to Lambeth for approval. It is likely a revised application will be submitted shortly.

The Society will express its reservations about this development on the grounds of the awkward and infelicitous building relationship on a sensitive site in a Conservation Area, loss of local employment and impact on parking.

Have you wondered why Videotron have not followed up all the cable work laid a year ago around Southside? It appears they have been unsuccessful so far in identifying a suitable location for their electronic control equipment for the area.

## Spread the word?

Our new application form will be out soon. Would any members be willing to help publicise the work of The Society by distributing a few of these leaflets to their neighbours in their own street? Now that we have a more ephemeral population in Clapham there are lots of people who do not know about us and what we do. New subscriptions would help funds and we might tap in to some willing volunteers too. Call Moira Todd if you can help: 0181 673 3759.

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 211

August 1998

## Windmill Drive - to close or not?

We have learned from Tony Leach at Lambeth Planning that his Transport officers have met twice with the officers from Wandsworth Council to discuss feasibility and costs of the various options which could be appropriate for Windmill Drive.

A document will be produced early September to be sent to interested local groups detailing these options. These options may be affected by the impact on traffic flow of the Red Route. A public consultation meeting will be called by Lambeth, probably in the Windmill two or three weeks later to discuss the document.

If anyone knows of other groups who might be interested in receiving a copy could they get in touch with Tony Leach, Transport Department, Room 24, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2 1RW.

As our next Newsletter will not be out in time, any members who wish to attend this meeting should contact our help-line, or Tony Leach in early September for the date and the time.

## Planning News

### A report on three major developments

#### Three developers and their architects presented their schemes/plans to the Planning and Transport Sub-Committee on the 1st June.

1. David Bigg and Roger Taylor Zion Estates on 13-21 Old Town.

The proposed development is for a ground floor restaurant, possibly One-Bar-One, with flats above. Concerns were raised about the design of the development, particularly relating to the flats above, and parking. The Society is preparing its objections.

2. Paul Hensby, architect, and Rod Pearson MD of Arcadia on the development of the Budgens site to a possible Chicago Rock Cafe.

Concerns were raised about the lack of imagination in the design of the development of the site and the probable difficulty in sound-proofing the building cost effectively. The Society is also concerned that the Cafe will be a night-club similar to the one in Sutton, open till 3am. The impact on local residents must be taken into account, especially with reference to the spillage into Clapham High Street of drunken and noisy clubbers in the early hours of the morning.

The full plans have now been submitted and will go before the Lambeth

*This month's helpline -  
0181-673 2570*

Planning Sub-Committee on the 24th August. The Society is preparing its objections. We will also be meeting with Alistair Burford MD of Chicago Rock Cafe to hear his actual plans in terms of use.

3. Mark Long of Delta Mitre and Andrew White on the Neco site. The Society's concerns about loss of employment and impact on local parking were answered. We were assured that there would be a policy in the Leisure Club to recruit locally and it was pointed out that this kind of business is labour-intensive, also there will be no parking provision associated with the Club. Opinions on the buildings themselves were mixed.

The Society would like to thank Mark Long and his team for taking the time to see us.

## The South London Women's Hospital Site

Rumours are rife that Tesco are planning to knock down the Cooper building. Lambeth planners, who are inundated daily with telephone calls from concerned residents, tell us that they have been assured by Tesco that no such action is planned. It appears that this may have been a practical joke by some of the builders!

## A Date for your Diary!

*We are delighted to announce that Ms Heather Rabbatts, CEO of Lambeth Council will be our guest speaker at the Society's AGM on Thursday 15th October 1998. A great opportunity for you to ask questions about issues concerning you.*

## Tea with the Councillors

We were very pleased that Councillors Michael English, Ruth Ling, Christopher Henley, Roland Doven and Mr M McEwan responded to the Society's invitation to tea on June the 21st. The discussion was very useful in introducing the society's aims to the new councillors and listening to their views and those of Councillors Ling and English, both of whom are long standing members of the Society.

Discussions covered the revised Urban Development Plan (UDP) for 1999, town centre management for Clapham High Street and Old Town, the management of Clapham Common, building conservation and planning, given considerably reduced Council resources and licencing.

As a result of these discussions, the Society will pursue the possibility of setting up a Licencing Sub-Committee and pursue the appropriate sources at the Civic Trust on the matter of planning application costs. The Society will also keep in close touch with Lambeth Planning as regards the UDP, and will watch with interest the recruitment and installation of a Clapham Town Centre Manager (to work with the Clapham Partnership).

The Councillors agreed that the Code of Practice for Management of the Common being produced by the Society would be useful to the Council's Environment Committee and the Parks Department.

(Many thanks to Maxine Leech and Jeremy Johnston who gave up two hours of a sunny Sunday so cheerfully.)

**- Stop press -  
Managing Lambeth's  
Open Spaces**

At the Environment Committee meeting on the night England lost, a proposal for a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Management Group for Lambeth was approved. This proposal was submitted by Derek Hoare, Chair of the Brockwell Park Management Advisory Committee (MAC).

Its remit is to co-ordinate and develop a sustainable strategy and the framework for future management and service delivery. The Group will consist of representatives from Councillors, Council Officers, the Lambeth Environment Forum, Chairs of the MAC's, 'Friends of' and other user groups and Team Lambeth. The group will also consult with other interested groups and will report and make recommendations directly to the Environment Committee.

The role of the Group is strictly advisory. We have not met to take a view on this development yet and are particularly concerned with where Clapham Common would come in the pecking order of demand for financial assistance and appropriate management.

**Friends of Clapham Common**

Members may be aware of a new 'single issue' group called the Friends of Clapham Common, which has recently been formed. The object of this new group as stated in their constitution is 'to promote the protection, improvement and development of Clapham Common, to enhance its facilities for the enjoyment and benefit of the general public, and to protect the Common from use and schemes which threaten the integrity of the open space'.

The new group are looking for new members from Lambeth residents who share these concerns in order to increase their impact on Lambeth Council who see them just as a Wandsworth resident pressure group.

**Street life**

*The Abbeville Street Festival on 11 July was a great success. It included (pictured on this page) a steel band, a dog show, the Battersea Youth Orchestra, a "Dulux Dog", and a particularly youthful (and painted) police officer.*



**The Pride Festival**

The licensing application for the Pride Festival on the 4th of July was withdrawn by the organisers due to poor ticket sales (this was to be a pre-sold ticket event) and therefore their inability to provide the fee (£150,000) and the bond (£50,000) to Lambeth Council in advance. Some members may have seen the appearance on the common late June of a row of portaloos, which then quietly vanished after a couple of days.

A new date was proposed for the 15th August but the organisers have now cancelled this.

**Starlight gets the go-ahead**

You will probably all know that the licence for the Starlight cinema to run nightly - 5.30 pm to 11 pm - on the Common from the 20th August to the 19th September was approved by Lambeth Council despite objections including our own and many local residents. The organisers hope to make this an annual event.

Our concerns include the use of Clapham Common for an event attracting as many as 4000 people per night over a long period, in a fenced off (effectively) area, with an inflatable screen measuring 18.6 metres by 13.6 metres,

around 50 portaloos, a bar, a box office and a 6 foot fence. We are also concerned with the amount of noise that may be generated from the sound system, people entering and leaving the site, and from patrons returning home after the screening starting cars etc - especially

after they have been drinking. The police will not be offering security as it is a commercial event. Large trucks will have to be on the Common daily to remove waste from the portaloos etc.

It should go without saying that if, as seems likely, the event goes ahead, we shall monitor it carefully and would appreciate reports (preferably in writing!) from members near the Common on their experience on sound disturbance, behaviour of the cinema-goers, obstruction of the Common etc.



## Fair Do's

The Society had a very enjoyable day at the Trinity Fair on 28th June despite the never quite too threatening wind and weather. We were rained off at 4.00pm but not before we had sold a good wodge of publications and maps and met many possible new members and lots of existing ones.

The next event is the Family History Day at the Minet Library on Saturday September the 26th. Any one who is interested in local history would find the day helping on our stall a great opportunity to see what is around, meet people from other local societies and see the special display about the history of Clapham Town Centre arranged specially for the day. If you would like to help for an hour or two call David Perkin on the Help-lin (see front page).

We wish to re-create a display to accompany our stall now that we have found the display boards. Would anyone interested in helping with taking photographs of local buildings/developments in which we are interested and/or designing the display please also ring David.

## Clapham History Revived

The recent Bateman evening was the first result of the new initiative by David Perkin to revive the Society's historical activity, moribund for several years now due to lack of man-power, not lack of interest.

The next event will be the Georgian Clapham Walk on Saturday October the 3rd by Sinclair Johnston. David would be delighted to hear from others interested in local history to form a history sub-committee. Ring him on the Help-line (front page).

## New Clapham Society!

The Main Committee of the Society is considering changing the Society Logo. It is felt that the present logo is not representative of the Society, and the looming Millennium gives us an incentive to create something new, something readily identifiable.

We would welcome your views, opinions, flair, imagination and expertise. Please contact Peter de Loriol on 0171-622 4505.

## H.M.Bateman

*"The master of wild exactitude" - G.K.Chesterton*

35 members of the Society attended a talk given by Ms Diane Willis, the daughter of H.M.Bateman, the well-known cartoonist, about his life and work. This was accompanied with slides of 40 Nightingale Lane, the artist, his most famous and some less well-known cartoons, and his photographs and paintings. The object of the talk was to raise donations for a Cartoon Centre which his daughter is setting up, a Cartoon Archive.

We were told how Bateman came from a rather stern, restricted middle class background. He was 14 when he did his first cartoon drawings but wanted to be a serious artist. He had a nervous breakdown on his 21st birthday. Then he broke out; he was the first cartoonist to

draw the way people felt rather than the way they looked. His drawings were more mobile and exaggerated than his contemporaries.

We saw a line wash of his mother in 40 Nightingale, a drawing based on a thorough knowledge of form, light, shape and balance. Also the Antique shop, using items which the family still own, and the Sweet shop, subtle and painterly. In American Buck dancing he added a sequence of drawings to the main incident. Although not really political, he used the same technique for drawings from the Boer War (concentration camp) and suffragettes..

On a visit to Holland he took photographs used later as references. We also saw fisher cottages in St Ives he snapped. He was much influenced by

French artists such as Toulouse Lautrec. He believed strongly that hands reveal character and this was well evidenced in his 1912 series of eating and drinking cartoons.

Not gregarious, he always carried a sketchbook, and in the First World War when he was invalided out, he felt a failure, but the War office asked him to go to the Front and observe, and these drawings appeared in Punch and Tatler. A Tatler set went for 10/6d each.

We were shown 'The Man who took to it kindly' - uplifted and benevolent - and 'The boy who breathed on the glass' published in Punch which was really a strip cartoon. Bateman peaked in

the 1920's when he was at his most wealthy, earning the equivalent of a top comedian nowadays. In the 'Colonels' our attention was drawn to his use of the ceiling - a bird cage or pendant light - to lift the eye. 'The Student' series is being used on book token advertisements today.

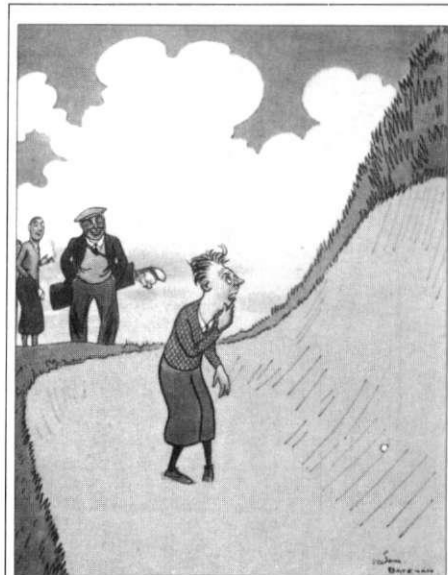
After this, Bateman went back to painting

and was not always so successful. At the end of the war, he gave a lecture to the Royal Society. We were shown a wash drawing of a black man which showed his subtlety. He was described as "going mad on paper". 'The Guardsman who dropped it' was a famous double page spread for Tatler. 'The man who missed the ball at St Andrews' is still in 'Annabel's'.

Bateman always meant well. There was The Banned Book, then the abdication, some war posters and, finally, a regeneration in his 70's. His self-portrait 'still getting on in years' was very engaging.

Bateman went to Gozo in Malta and died in 1970 with Tim the Dog.

*The London Forum 10th Birthday Party was a great success and will have helped to raise the profile of civic amenity societies' work in London. The Evening Standard ran a short and positive piece.*



"What should I take here, Caddie?"  
"I should take a Guinness, Sir!"

## Red Route Signage on the Common

The institution of the Red Routes round Clapham Common and in The Avenue is continuing apace. Part of this will involve 6 very large road signs spanning the Avenue. These will be intrusive and we are told by the London Director of Traffic that they are obliged to put these up by law. The only way to get them removed is to get a change in the law. The Common is not an ordinary trunk road and should really be considered differently.

Please contact Moira Todd (on 0181-673 3759) if you have any views about what action the Society should take.

Apart from the 'uglification' of the roads along the Common, it is now becoming apparent that some of the measures being taken look like causing difficulties to local residents. For example, the narrowing of the entry/exit from Elms Road to Southside with metal bollards close to the kerbs makes exit/egress more difficult as larger vehicles cannot make the turn if the other lane is occupied. Also, the narrowing of lanes at certain points from two to one on Southside may well be the cause of problems. We shall see.....

## MAC News

At the Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (MAC) on 12 May, Mrs Joyce Bellamy gave an interesting talk on the law concerning Commons, and suggested that Clapham Common might be regarded as a Heritage landscape. This was particularly relevant in view of the urgent need for renovation of the bandstand, Mount Pond, etc.

Derek Hoare, Chair of Brockwell Park MAC, said that there was a need for a clear, costed strategy for Lambeth's parks and open spaces. All MACs were facing the same problems and concerted action would be necessary.



Could the Bandstand be restored to its previous glory?

Richard Jones, Chair of the Clapham Common MAC, led the discussion on the 'Starlight' cinema application and urged the MAC to think of this event raising funds for the much-needed renovation of the Common's structures.

The Clapham Society representative made it clear that the Society did not object to events per se, but that a month-long cinema showing might be intrusive. West Side residents on the MAC opposed the 'Starlight' event outright.

## Rural Clapham

The Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) held a second meeting on the 1st July after the one in May. Their object is to set up a group spanning Lambeth and Wandsworth boroughs, so that they have some representation there.

At the moment, it is difficult to see what they could offer us all since they would be dependent on our own Society, the Wandsworth Society and other residents' groups to inform them of what our issues are and what we are doing about them. The London Forum currently acts as liaison between all the London amenity



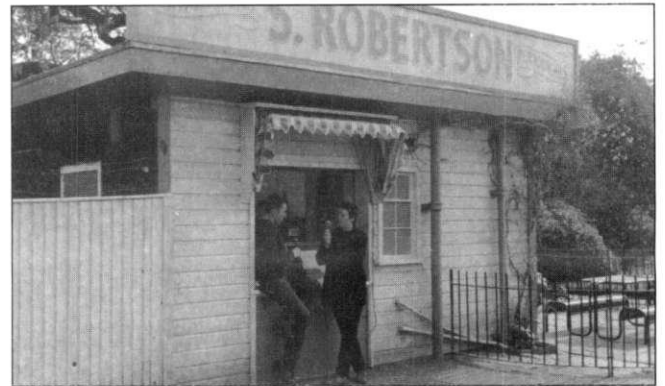
David Perkin manning the Clapham Society stand at the Abbeville Road Festival - and attracting a lot of interest. Thanks, David!

groups and the CPRE would be a 'me too' group. Lambeth and Wandsworth residents who attended these meetings were not keen on an umbrella group for the two boroughs since their problems and issues are too diverse. Manpower is already at a premium, and new people would be needed to help the CPRE.

## Trompe l'oeuil

Later in the year, members may see a television revival of "The Winslow Boy" by Terence Rattigan. Outside shots will show this charming Victorian newsagent's kiosk.

In fact, it is the 'Bowling Green' cafe at the tennis courts on Clapham Common, all in heavy disguise. And interior shots are of a house by the courts on West Side.



All you can eat for a penny farthing?

## The 'Summer' party - not a dampener!

In spite of truly dreadful weather, members thoroughly enjoyed the Summer Party at Tracey Lee Thier's house at 125

King's Avenue on 11 July.

We saw the house in its early stages of restoration, but enough to see what a beautiful home it would become again in time. What a shame that we could not appreciate its fine, spacious garden because of the downpour!

For once, Joyce Luck did not mastermind the buffet as she was away, but nevertheless everyone appreciated the excellent food provided.

As we squelched away, we all thought - how interesting to return in another year or two - perhaps when there is a Summer!

Thanks again to Tracey Lee for hosting the party which we all enjoyed in spite of the weather.



## THE 1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on Thursday, 15th October at the Wilberforce Centre at Holy Trinity Church on Clapham Common, starting at 8.00pm.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (16th Oct 1997)  
Adoption of the Annual Report for the year Oct 1997-Sep 1998
4. Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31/3/1998.
5. Election of Officers and Committee for the year 1998-1999

Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Hon Secretary	Hon Treasurer
Hon Solicitor	Hon Membership Secretary

A maximum of ten further committee members

6. Proposal to amend the Constitution. Under 6.1 Delete 'and the audited accounts of the Society for the year ended on the preceding 31st March' and replace with 'and the accounts, examined by an Independent Examiner, for the year ended on the preceding 31st March' (cf Charity Commissioners CC53)
7. Re-Appointment of Independent Examiner.

There will be an interval for refreshments following formal business.

8. The Guest of Honour, Ms Heather Rabbatts, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth, will address the Society.

9. AOB and Announcements

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the election of Officers and Members of the Committee shall be made to the Secretary at least two clear days before the Annual General Meeting. Every nomination shall be in writing, supported by a seconder. The consent of the person nominated shall have been obtained.

David Perkin, Hon Secretary  
14, Englewood Road, London, SW12 9NZ

The minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting are for convenience reproduced in the following pages of this Newsletter.

## Starlight Cinema - *Gone dark!*

The open-air cinema "Starlight" did not appear on the Common on 20 August as originally planned. Readers of the local press (and our own newsletters) will know that there have been numerous objections to Starlight, amongst them our own, on the grounds that a month-long event, closing off a central grassland portion of the Common and involving a great deal of noise, equipment etc, is an unsuitable event for Clapham Common (see August newsletter). The bad weather and low audience figures at the Alexander Palace "Starlight" last month may have affected the company's decision which was signalled by a lack of response on the "hotline" for tickets, and a failure to apply for a liquor license.

The next large "event" on the Common will therefore be one for which the Clapham Society *has* given its support. Our Common Sub-Committee has asked the Council to reconsider their decision after last year's cancellation of its long-standing and popular "Fireworks" display on Clapham Common and have been told that it will now take place, as usual, on 5 November.

## A Georgian Clapham Walk

*led by Sinclair Johnston*

Saturday, 3 October 1998

Meet at 10.30 am  
at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham  
Common Northside.

Finish with coffee at about noon at  
Eagle House, Narbonne Avenue  
SW4.

## The cuts bite deeper... and it's wildlife this time...

The post of Lambeth Field Officer for the London Wildlife Trust has been abolished after a recent round of Council budget cuts.

Thomas Peel-Yates, who took over from Valerie Selby last year has a new job, and we wish him well. The LWT has done valuable work in Lambeth and will be much missed; they have kept in close contact with the the Clapham Society over many years. We are still hoping to publish their "Clapham Common Nature Walk" as a "schools" project.

It is hoped that the London Ecology Unit will be taking on responsibility for some aspects of LWT's work on Lambeth's parks and open spaces. The LEU undertook ecological studies on the Common in 1994 (the Avenue) and 1996 (Eagle Pond); both LWT and LEU contributed to our "Story of Clapham Common".

## Lambeth's five town centres - how they developed

An Open Day is being held on Saturday 26 September, 10.00am - 5.00 pm, at the Minet Library (52 Knatchbull Road, SE5). It will feature the history and background of the five town centres that form Lambeth. The day will also comprise a series of talks including:

- 11.00 am Conservation in Lambeth - Edmund Bird
- 11.30 am Edwardian Brixton - Bill Linsky
- 12.00 pm Black Brixton - Sam Walker
- 12.30 pm Victorian Norwood - Sue Mckenzie
- 2.30 pm Streatham: Surrey Village to London Clubland - Brian Bloice
- 3.00 pm Edwardian Streatham - John Brown
- 3.30 pm Marsh and Water: Lambeth before the bridges - John Newman
- 4.00 pm Historic Kennington - Dr Graham Dawson

## 4.30 pm Clapham - Peter Jefferson-Smith

- More information from the library,  
0171-926 6076 -

## Look, there's our house! - Clapham from the sky

The London Aerial Photo Library has some excellent colour photographs of our area available at reasonable prices. They can be provided in various sizes and cost less if several are ordered.

For example, a single 10" by 8" photograph would cost £37.60 including VAT and post and packing, while five copies of the same photograph would cost £22.32 each.

The contact at the Library is Nigel Stockwell. The phone number is 01508 488320, fax 01508 488282, and the address is PO Box 25, Ashwellthorpe, Norwich NR16 1HL.

*This month's helpline to the Society  
0181-673 2570*

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 16 October 1997

The AGM of the Clapham Society took place on Thursday 16 October 1997 at the Wilberforce Centre, Holy Trinity Church.

The President, Norman Marsh QC, was in the Chair. There were 32 members attending.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Bill Emmett, Rodney Watney and Councilor English.

2. Minutes of the AGM 10 October 1996. There was a query concerning the non-appearance of the Guest Speaker. It was reported that all efforts to contact him had proved unsuccessful. No expenses had been incurred by the Society. The minutes were then approved nem con.

3. The Chairman outlined the Report as published. It was adopted nem con.

4. The Treasurer outlined the Financial Report and Accounts for the Year ending 31 March 1997 which was adopted nem con.

5. Subscription Rates. It was proposed to increase these as follows:

Ordinary membership from £4 to £6. Each additional member from the same household from £2 to £3. Pensioners from £2 to £3. Business members, no change. Outside Clapham (postage extra) from £2.50 to £3.

There was general support for these measures, three suggestions being made from the floor concerning the importance of keeping the Publications Fund, which should be used for facilitating future publications, separate from the general fund; the need to emphasise the convenience of Standing Orders, and even more of Direct Debit, and the desirability of giving members plenty of notice in the Newsletters, especially in the April number. The increases proposed were then approved nem con.

6. The following Officers of the Society were elected nem con:

- Chairman, Moira Todd;
- Vice-Chairman, Bill Emmett;
- Hon Secretary, David Perkin;
- Hon Membership Secretary, Joyce Luck;
- Hon Solicitor, Neil Acheson-Grey.

There being no candidate for the office of Hon Treasurer, Ray Todd agreed to stand as Acting Treasurer. He was elected nem con.

The following Committee Members were elected nem con: Celia Bibby, Peter de Lorient Chandieu, Sinclair Johnston, Brian Massey, Deborah Rhodes, Rodney Watney.

It was observed that the Auditor, Euan Kennedy, should, according to the Charity Commissioners' guidelines, be described as "Independent Examiner". He was elected as such *nem con*.

7. After the Bar interval the President introduced **Alyson Wilson** as Guest of Honour, who then addressed the Society on progress so far on the Society's proposed new edition of the "Buildings of Clapham", which it was hoped would be published as its contribution to the Millennium Year.

She began with a tribute to the work of Nicholas Long, Peter Jefferson-Smith and Roger Armstrong who had produced the previous edition, covering the Parish of Clapham and now out of print.

The new edition would be based on the previous book with the following features:

(a) The previous edition was limited to the Parish, divided into 7 areas. The new edition would extend this to 10 areas to include the area from West Side to Bolingbroke Grove and from North Side to Wandsworth Road which though not in the Parish were traditionally regarded as part of Clapham.

(b) Each area would be introduced with a map followed by a descriptive essay and a street by street survey.

(c) Importance would be attached to including changes in the last 20 years (since the last edition), especially of public buildings and infilling. Information and photographs of these would be welcome.

(d) There would be historical details and records of past (but not present) notable residents.

(e) There might be architects' biographies and a glossary as well as an index with reference to areas.

Alyson Wilson drew attention to the demise of small factories, changes in the residential nature of the area and the increase in private schools as examples of recent developments still being recorded, though soon there would have to be a decision about a 'cut-off' date.

It was hoped that the new book would be convenient for carrying on a personal tour of Clapham, but above all it should be accurate, scholarly, accessible and readable.

In the discussion following it was suggested that Area Representatives might keep Alyson Wilson informed of changes in their areas, it being pointed out that most of the scholarly research had been done for the earlier edition; what was now being undertaken was observation on the ground. Suggestions from the floor included public transport changes, the IRA bomb-making 'factory' some years ago on North Side, the change of traditional Public House names and using Census material for information about the occupancy of buildings. Emphasis was given to the importance of recording recently or likely to be demolished buildings, notably Marianne Thornton school, the South London Hospital, and the Post Office in the High Street, while reference to the "Zeitgeist" reminded members to consider items which might not be noticed now but which could be of importance to future generations.

The President thanked Alyson Wilson, which sentiment was approved by general acclamation.

8. The Chairman asked members to note 3 future events:

(1) The tree planting ceremony on Clapham Common, Thursday 30 October at 10.30 am;

(2) The Wine Tasting Party at the Wilberforce Centre on Saturday 15 November at 7.00 pm;

(3) A Public Meeting on Windmill Drive and other traffic concerns on a date to be announced at the Windmill Public House.

The meeting closed at approximately 10.00 pm.

## **STOP PRESS**

*The final public consultation meeting on Windmill Drive has been arranged by Lambeth Council for Saturday 26 September, between 9 a.m - 12 noon at the Windmill Pub - drop in at any time*

*Please do come! This is your last chance to comment - if you cannot attend, write to the Clapham Society.*

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 213

December 1998

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Thursday, 15 October 1998

The AGM of the Clapham Society took place on Thursday 15 October at the Wilberforce Centre, Holy Trinity Church at 8.00 pm. The President, Norman Marsh, QC CBE, presided and 55 members were present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from John Kay and Marion Prideaux.
2. The minutes of the previous AGM (16/10/97) were approved nem con.
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year October 97 - Sept 98: the President presented the report as published. This was adopted nem con.
4. The Treasurer outlined the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 1998. They were adopted nem con.
5. The Chairman announced that as the Chairman was not standing for re-election it would be appropriate to record this before proceeding to the election of officers. He invited Mr Peter Jefferson-Smith to address the meeting. In his address, Mr Jefferson-Smith recorded that Moira Todd had given outstanding service to the Society, with over 8 continuous years as Chairman, quite apart from years of previous service as member of the Committee and Vice Chairman. During these years there had been many difficult and controversial planning and other issues requiring the Society's attention and she had presided with great energy and determination to ensure that the Society's remit was respected and its views both heard and upheld. A presentation of flowers, a set of wine glasses and a case of wine was made to general applause.

In her reply, Moira thanked everyone for their support, mentioning in particular those officers of the Committee who had worked with her during her years of Chairmanship, and assured the meeting that she would continue to support the work of the Society, while hoping that she would be able to inform members in our News Sheet of her continuing work for the Amenity Societies of London through the London Forum.

The President then called for the election of new Officers of the Society for the year 1998-9.

The following were elected *nem con*:

Chairman	<i>John Adams</i>	Vice Chairman	<i>John How</i>
Hon Solicitor	<i>Neal Acheson-Gray</i>	Hon Membership Secretary	<i>Joyce Luck</i>
Hon Treasurer	<i>Michael Strong</i>	Hon Secretary	<i>David Perkin</i>

The following Committee Members were then elected *nem con*:

Sinclair Johnston; Alyson Wilson; Bill Emmett; Peter de Loriol Chandieu; Celia Bibby; Jeremy Hamerton.

6. The Secretary proposed an amendment to the Constitution. Following the recommendation of the Charity Commissioners that the Society's accounts be inspected by an external examiner, it was appropriate that the Society's Constitution be revised to reflect this change. The proposal to delete 'and the audited accounts of the Society for the year ended on the preceding year 31st March' and replace with 'and the accounts, examined by an independent examiner, for the year ended on the preceding 31st March' was approved nem con.

7. The proposal to reappoint Mr Euan Kennedy as independent examiner was approved nem con.

The President then declared an interval for refreshments.

*(continued on next page)*



**"What can this possibly be?" - Moira receives the box of wine glasses from Peter Jefferson Smith**

## On the planning front

A proposal to turn Budgens supermarket, which is closing due to competition from Sainsbury's, into a large restaurant/club has been turned down by Lambeth after strenuous local objections including from the Society. More club than restaurant, we anticipated unacceptable noise and disturbance at night.

**And now for some positive news.**

George West House, the building next to the Library on Northside, is being taken over by QAS Systems Ltd who are expanding out of their existing premises in Old Town. They are a computer firm and have developed software systems for locating addresses precisely from postcodes. *It is so good to see industry staying in rather than moving out of Clapham.*

Though not listed, it is a building of some significance in the conservation area on an important site facing the Common.

Their architects, Allies and Morrisson, have consulted us and we can expect design of the highest quality in the adaptation of the building.

## The AGM cont'd - Heather Rabbatt's speech

8. *The President welcomed Ms Heather Rabbatts, Chief Executive for the London Borough of Lambeth, as Guest of Honour.*

Ms Rabbatts began by noting the wry comments of friends on taking up the appointment of Chief Executive of a Borough with an annual budget of £750 million, 10,000 staff and the subject of much hostile criticism in the media.

The budget had been reduced by £190 million, the staff reduced to 6,500 and the accounts now balanced. Though there remained many long-standing problems, the main priority now was to improve the organisation of the Borough.

The improvement of education and regeneration were special concerns. Ms Rabbatts cited the Vauxhall 'Project V' as an example.

'Working in Partnership', especially between the health, police and probation services was vital. The prospects of a new Mayor for London should further help in co-ordination of activities. (A query from the floor evoked the response from Ms Rabbatts "I haven't been asked yet!")

There was great potential for development in Clapham. There should soon be a manager for Clapham Town centre, and an Area Office as a focus for Environmental Services. Thanks were due to English Heritage for its help.

Questions from the floor included enquiries about Team Lambeth and the need to refine terms and conditions in future contracts, the maintenance of the Common, and the desirability of 'micro' local consultations before introducing new schemes. The Society's officers urged the desirability of reviving the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee and prior consultation about the future of key sites, citing the Clapham Common tube station and the Old Town bus parking area as examples.

The President concluded the evening by thanking Ms Rabbatts not only for a most useful address but for finding the time in a very busy schedule of activities to visit the Society. This was greeted with warm applause.

The meeting ended at 10.15pm.

## Tesco - the story continues

As we go to print, Tesco is circulating local residents with an invitation to an exhibition of their latest proposal for the South London Hospital site, at the Windmill on the Common on Wednesday and Thursday, 2/3 December, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.. Their circular states they propose to retain the existing building; the development will comprise a foodstore together with housing.

We hear in detail they are proposing "partial demolition of existing buildings on site with the retention and refurbishment of remaining building ("Cooper Building"), together with new development to provide a Class A1 foodstore of 2513 sq.m (gross external), service yard, landscaping, car parking for 156 customer/staff cars; 104 flats including 12 affordable housing units and associated car parking for 101 cars and a 316 sq.m ground floor unit(s) to be used for Class A1 purposes; together with ancillary plant and equipment and the provision of a new means of vehicular access on land at the former South Hospital for Women".



Heather Rabbatts clearly entertaining Moira Todd!

the season, 25th July until 5th September 1999 (Thursday - Sunday plus Bank Holiday Monday) were clearly stated.

Since this event, wherever sited, would isolate a part of the Common for a period of around seven weeks, and, if successful, would profoundly affect the Common as a local amenity, the Society has lodged a provisional objection. This will be reviewed when more facts become available.

## Windmill Drive

A well attended meeting was held at the Windmill Public House on Saturday 26th September to discuss the future traffic plans for Windmill Drive.

It was convened by Tony Leach, Acting Transport and Civil Engineering Manager for Lambeth and chaired by Cllr Roland Doven of Clapham Park Ward.

Wandsworth Borough Engineer's Service had produced an excellent, comprehensive paper on traffic management schemes ranging from warning signs to road closure.

After discussion of perceived problems and possible scheme components views from the floor were encouraged. The Assistant Director of Traffic for London also took part both in providing information and asking for views. Opinions were wide ranging with several people hoping for complete closure. Ms Moira Todd, the Society's ex Chairman drew attention to the previous agreement which was understood to have involved the closure of Windmill Drive in exchange for the provision of a cycle track across the Common.

In view of the diversity of views no vote or show of hands were taken. The issue now returns to officers from Lambeth and Wandsworth with a final public consultation meeting in April 1999.

## Starlight - plus ça change....?

The non-appearance of Starlight Open Air Cinema on Clapham Common in August was noted in issue 212.

Research showed that the firm had gone into liquidation. However, the idea has been taken up by the major firm IMG Media Ltd and posters inviting objections to the provision of an Occasional Licence appeared on September 25th.

Neither Lambeth Council nor the promoter were able to give detailed information, even the site on the Common had yet to be agreed. The size of the event, maximum 5000 per evening performance, and the length of

## Thanks are due...

Many thanks to Marion Prideaux for acting as Area G representative for many

years; and thanks also to Lily Massey who is taking this area over in her place.

## A letter to members - from Moira Todd

I wish to thank the Committees, Sub-Committees and all the members for the flowers, wine glasses and wine which were presented to me on my retirement as Chairman at the AGM. As well as being lovely, they were beautifully presented in imperial purple and gold: very suitable some might say!!!

I would also like to thank Peter Jefferson Smith for giving such an impressive appraisal. I only hope I have lived up to half of it. My time in the Society's service has been most involving and enjoyable and has introduced me to many interesting and vivid characters in the Society.

Naturally I will continue as a 'useful person' for the Society and look forward to working, if elected, on the Society's behalf on the London Forum's Executive Committee.

Thanks but not goodbye.

## The Greater London Authority - and where Clapham will sit

The Local Government Commission for England have conducted a review of arrangements for electoral areas for the Greater London Authority.

Their recommendations are for 14 new electoral areas, each with an electorate of roughly 360,000. The 'constituent borough' for most of Clapham will consist of the combined Lambeth and Southwark boroughs; for those in the Wandsworth side of Clapham, the combined Wandsworth and Merton boroughs. See a detailed map on the back cover.

Provision for the electoral areas will be made in a Bill being introduced in this current Parliamentary session.

## Consigned to oblivion?

The retrospective application by the restaurant at Clapham South, 'Oblivion', against an enforcement order to remove a temporary awning and extension into the pavement has been rejected by Lambeth. *N.B. - from the Thesaurus: Oblivion - void, nothing, emptiness, nil, nothingness.*

## Around 'Georgian Clapham'

We would like to thank Sinclair Johnston for a most enjoyable walk for a large number of members around 'Georgian Clapham' that he organised on 3 October.

Here we see Sinclair and some of the group outside Holy Trinity Church, as Sinclair points out the wartime damage to the inscription outside that has deliberately been left as a reminder.



Now - a date for your diary. On Saturday the 9th January 1999 (doesn't '1999' have such a final ring about it?!) - there will be a further walk. The theme for this: Planning. There is an amazing number of significant developments in the offing. The walk will again be conducted by Sinclair Johnston, and take in a number of these future planned developments, as well as exploring the Society's views on them.

**So - meet in the portico of Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common Northside at 10 a.m. on 9 January; ending around mid-day.**

*See you there!* - below, some of the group in Old Town



## Ground down

The Society has learned of a proposal to install a large grinding machine in the waste site in the middle of the Common.

It would grind down to sawdust all

lopped wood, not just from the Common, but from the whole of Lambeth. In view of the possible noise and nuisance this could cause, the Society is seeking more information.

## A Westsider's Generosity

Many thanks to Richard Jones (Chair, Management Advisory Committee) who has brought to our attention an error in our annual report (Common Sub-Committee Section).

We mistakenly thanked "Westside Residents' Association" for their donation of 17 trees on the common this year! Our gratitude (and apologies) are instead due to one generous individual Westsider, Nick Bentley at No. 18 Westside, who is a member of the Clapham Society, who supplied all 17 trees from his own private nursery of oaks, beech, horse chestnut, "handkerchief" trees and many more.

The trees were planted, as usual, with the help of Lambeth's Parks Officer, Dave Paul, and Team Lambeth. Nick has not only graciously accepted our apology but is willing to advise anyone else interested in sponsoring trees under the MAC/Council scheme.

## NEW RELEASES

Looking for Christmas present ideas? We can recommend:

***The Larkhall Tavern on Larkhall Lane***  
J M Bartlett, circa 1780 - image taken from the original watercolour, reproduced in full colour on high textured quality card, individually wrapped in cellophane, no internal message. An Archive Original: Printed by Battley Brothers 1998 - £1 each (30% discount for orders in excess of £25). From Tamar Baker, Lambeth Archives, 52 Knatchbull Road SE5 9QY: 0171-926 6077

***Clapham Past* by Gillian Clegg**  
Published by Historical Publications Ltd  
"The story of Clapham from early Saxon village to its current status as a smart London suburb - the book discusses Clapham's buildings, industry, infrastructure, amenities and residents and includes 180 illustrations, many of which have never before been published"  
Quarto, 144pp, 180 illustrations, £14.95 hardback. From: Phillimore-Jane Gunton: 01234 787636, fax 01234 787639

**Don't forget! - next year you can buy the Society's own updated Buildings of Clapham.**

### Early warning - the Winter Party!

Put this date in your diary *now* -  
**Saturday 6 February 1999**  
- at St John's Church, near Clapham  
North tube station

## The tough gets going

At the Meeting of Lambeth Council's Environment Committee on 12th October Mr Frank Quigg, the new Director of Environment Services, was welcomed. He has worked in other London Boroughs and according to Lambeth's own 'Freebie' paper is "tough and experienced."

## Space needed!

Veronica Richardson has, after many years, given notice that she cannot continue holding the stocks of the Society's publications at her home. Many thanks are due to her for this service.

So - we are looking for a member simply with room in a large cupboard to take over. Here's your chance to help the Society simply by using your space! - contact David Perkin on 0181-673 2570.

## Walkies! - and other events

**Our new Committee wishes to revive an old custom of holding a monthly event.**

This 'programme' will not only consist of our ever-popular winter and summer parties but will also include talks on local history and other subjects of interest to members, and a new feature, to be organised by our Planning Sub-Committee, which will take the form of a guided walk to examine proposed new developments in the area.

Most of the months are already in being planned, and we start off in January with Sinclair Johnston's walk, advertised elsewhere in this issue.

Our new Vice-Chairman, John How, will be in overall charge of this Programme, and he will be extremely pleased to receive ideas and comments from interested members (write to 26 Lynette Avenue SW4 9HD; or telephone 0181-673). ?



**The Local Government Commission for England: above is a map of the Commission's draft recommendations for London's voting boundaries for the new electoral areas for the new Greater London Authority. See story on inside page.**

Note from the Editor - In the index of the Oxford Book of Quotations is a reference to Clapham. From George Grossmith's 'The Diary of a Nobody': "I... recognised her as a woman who used to work years ago for my old aunt at Clapham. It only shows how small the world is". Not the most exciting reference!

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 214

Jan 1999

## The Common - *regenerated?*

**A well-attended and lively meeting of the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) for Clapham Common took place in the Windmill Pub Conservatory on Saturday, 12 November.**

The meeting was particularly significant for the presence and participation of Councillor Jim Dixon, leader of Lambeth Borough Council, as well as three local Ward Councillors. Many of those present represent single issue interests such as fishing, dog walking etc, though the Society sees itself as having the broader interests of general amenity, conservation and the management of change at heart.

Richard Jones, MAC Chairman, gave a frank account of the difficulties faced by the MAC. He questioned the relevance of the MAC if it cannot influence council policy and/or spending on the Common. He reviewed a year dogged by lack of funding for the many improvements needed to the Common's infrastructure; the continuing pressure from Lambeth to use the Common for revenue generation; the MAC's lack of power over the few funds generated from events (which had often been appallingly run). He said that with the contractors, Team Lambeth, take little heed of MAC advice and nor do the Council. *The MAC appears redundant.*

Most people recognised that the Environmental Services budget has been continually cut and are aware of the difficulties, but the MAC needs to be involved in forward planning.

Cllr Dixon's comments seemed to herald a breath of fresh air, not to mention a new determination on the part of the Council to redress these problems, to improve performance and increase investment in all the parks. He spoke of the dissatisfaction with Team Lambeth and the possible renegotiation of their contract, the need for more capital investment and for a strategy that might include Lottery Funding. He said that the original contract and management specification had been drawn up hurriedly and without sufficient consultation but that this was now being renegotiated. He mentioned the "Green Ventures" project undertaken at Brockwell Park as an example of what might be done elsewhere, and acknowledged that the Playground and the Bandstand needed funding. Much of the difficulty and dereliction result from a poor level of Council middle management and the next tranche of recruitment is intended substantially to improve the calibre of recruits. Lambeth is now willing to negotiate a percentage of revenues from events - perhaps 25% - for reinvestment on the Common in consultation with the MAC.

This address was warmly applauded, as was the part played by Cllr Roland Doven who has responded promptly to the many problems raised by local interest groups and amenity societies.

Derek Hoare, Brockwell Park MAC, explained the strategy of the MAC management group and their attempts to co-ordinate activity across the MACs. Reg Gafoor of Clapham Anglers complained of difficulties being encountered in implementing plans for Eagle Pond, and of the clogging up of Mount Pond.

For the Clapham Society, John Adams and Celia Bibby referred to local press coverage about the Princess of Wales Playground Initiative and said that while the project was in its infancy the best way forward could involve an application to the Lady Diana Memorial Action Group which had initiated action for nationwide support to playgrounds (including if possible facilities for disabled children).

In the discussion that followed, most of the other important issues affecting the Common were raised. The proposal for a shredding machine and "Green Recycling Site" at the depot is particularly contentious (see the December Newsletter) and Anna Jefferson Smith will represent the Society on a visit to a demonstration machine at the Team Service depot in Hertfordshire.

On the bandstand, both John Adams and John How spoke of the need for the owners to accept proper responsibility. While Lambeth were responsible for maintenance, Wandsworth Council 'own' the bandstand - and it was therefore their duty to apply for grant aid to English Heritage. Cllr Dixon said this split responsibility should not cause any dispute between the two Councils. An action group was proposed. John Adams will represent the Society, with John How for the Clapham Antiquarians.

Nick Bentley's offer to provide trees (see the December Newsletter) was welcomed provided that the species are appropriate to the landscape as defined by the Management Plan.

The need for a proper strategy for the care and development of the Common and the production of a master plan was reiterated.

## WINTER PARTY!!!!

**Have you applied for your tickets yet?**

*See over*

## Hello, new members

With so many members, over 650 at the last count, it is difficult for the Committee to keep in touch. This Newsletter, of course, is vital and we hope that a monthly event such as we are re-introducing for 1999 (see programme 1999) will be popular with members. Towards the end of 1998 the Committee decided to invite new members to a Reception, and we are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Andrew Bell, themselves new

members, who kindly offered their home for the occasion. Some 20 members who had joined in the year were able to accept the Committee's invitation to meet them on Tuesday, 8 December for what proved to be a very pleasant social evening.

It was interesting to meet a broad mix of ages and a wide variety of professions and interests. We were soon discussing Society concerns and we hope that, having broken the ice, new members present - and also those unable to come on

the night - might be encouraged to share in, and contribute to, our activities.

Another reception?

Provisionally, and dependent on finding a suitable venue, we hope to make another Reception our event for the forthcoming December.

## Another swellegant, elegant party.....

Our Winter Parties are well known for their unusual venues - a garage, a printing works, a swimming pool. This time we gather at the Church of **St John the Evangelist**, 386 Clapham Road, on **Saturday 6 February at 7.30 pm**. (It is located between Clapham North station and Union Road.) We are most grateful to the Churchwardens for allowing us to use their 'Open Space' for the occasion. We hope that one of their clergy or Churchwardens will be able to talk to us during the evening on the present concerns and opportunities in that part of North Clapham.

Our parties are also well known for their excellent two course buffet suppers with wine. We do not employ caterers, relying largely on the excellent home cooking of our members. **Joyce Luck will be very grateful for new as well as regular offers of help!** Remember, we do reimburse you the full cost of ingredients, and that some of the most entertaining moments of all Parties are in the kitchen!

The Greek revival church, built in 1840-2, was designed by T Marsh Nelson with hexastyle Ionic portico. This style was already going out of fashion when the church was built. In 1883 (to conform both with contemporary taste and with changes in the liturgy) the church was much altered by T J Bailey, also the architect of several schools in the area, including Haselrigge and Bonneville. The orientation of the church was changed, the altar placed behind the central door to the portico.

Although the plain gallery on three sides was retained, it too was reoriented with access just inside the new main entrance. Elaborate wooden stalls were added on a raised choir. In the late 1980's a screen, which matches the gallery in style and height, was introduced to make a smaller seating area for the reduced congregation. The body of the church is thus used for community events. There is now a cafe, open daily, and a varied programme of lunch-time events and exhibitions by local artists. The church is regularly used for social occasions.

During the Winter Party members will have the opportunity to see round this interesting and unusual church.

The above description is based on the entry for St John's Church in the revised edition of *The Buildings of Clapham* to be published by the Society in October 1999.

cut here

Please detach and post to

Mrs Joyce Luck

15 Cavendish Road

London SW12 0BH

to arrive by Wed 27 Jan at the latest.

WINTER PARTY

Saturday 6 February, 7.30 pm

I can help set up, wash up, bar etc (tick if you can help)

I can provide a savoury/sweet dish for the party.....

Please send me ..... tickets for the party (£10 each; £6 concession)

I enclose a *stamped, addressed envelope* and cheque (to the Clapham Society) for £.....

from .(capitals).....

Address.....

.....Phone.....

Thanks to Alan Rigden, for many years Area Representative for Area R, who has now had to give this up, and *warm thanks also* to Richard Jones (inter alia Chairman of the MAC) who has taken this area over.

Our talks will be held in the Small Parish Hall, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St Alphonsus Road (off Clapham Park Road) by kind permission of Fr Michael Creech. More details of the programme will be

published in the Newsletter as available. Enquiries about the programme to John How, 0181-673 3945.

## It is planned....

Some planning issues that the Society is currently looking into:

- The leases of public toilets around Clapham Common are being sold off by Lambeth. One at Clapham South is being considered as a restaurant. The men's toilet at Clapham Common Station is already sold to London Underground; the ladies' and some land has also been sold. The future of the toilet at the Polygon is not known.

*We are pushing Lambeth Council for a policy statement on the provision of public toilets and the legality of the Council selling or leasing parts of the Common.*

- The bungalow on West Side near the bowling green/tennis courts - an attractive building hitherto occupied by the Green Keeper - has been empty for some time, falling derelict, and now squatted. The land it is built on is owned by Wandsworth. *What is its future?*
- An application has been made to convert the Parkside Hotel on Northside into 38 flats. This is of major interest as the building is by J T Knowles and has fine interiors.
- A structural survey of the Bandstand has shown it is in danger and English Heritage have classified it as a Building at Risk.

D Perkin 14 Engle

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 215

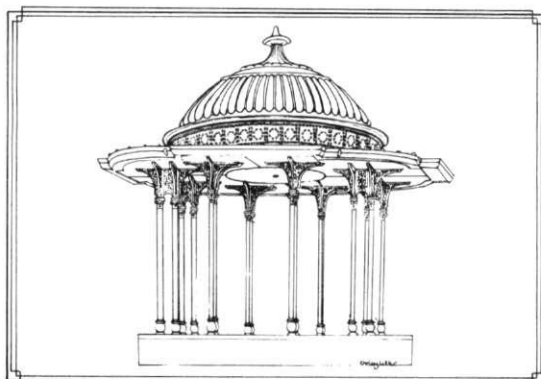
Feb 1999

## The Bandstand - update

The last Newsletter told us that the Bandstand is in a parlous state. It is one of a pair erected in the Royal Horticultural Society's garden for the 1861 exhibition in South Kensington, on a site now lost in "Albertopolis". It was moved to Clapham in 1890 and it is now in that half of the Common which is in Wandsworth. However, the land is now vested in Lambeth who manage it.

The Bandstand is listed Grade 2. Two years ago English Heritage put it on their *Buildings at Risk* register.

Lambeth have recently commissioned a structural survey from Galton and Townsend (Structural Engineers), and their report expresses concern for the Bandstand's stability, as well as noting that it is a structure of considerable interest. "...The dome structure is best described as a timber space frame, but constructed before the space frame was identified as a particular structural form".



The Bandstand, by Chrissy Leffler - a Society card

A full restoration is expected to cost between £175,000 to £250,000 and it is clear that neither Wandsworth nor Lambeth are keen to provide that sort of money on their own. John Adams and Anna Jefferson Smith attended a meeting initiated by Cllr Roland Doven at Lambeth Town Hall on January 14, and the problem was given an initial airing. At that point no-one was clear about prime responsibility but in reality it is likely that either Council will be looking for a partnership arrangement that will be capable of qualifying for and attracting Lottery funding. **For this, it is important that Lambeth present the case within the context of a proper plan for the conservation, management and future development of the Common and its landscape.**

*This is a task that the Society should promote and it could also consider a role of enablement or support for the repair of the Bandstand itself.* Obviously we don't have the means to directly donate meaningful amounts to a restoration fund, but it seems entirely appropriate that the Society should actively involve itself joining a partnership in order to raise money.

## Trail blazing

The Common and Open Spaces sub-committee are proposing to produce a new Clapham Common Nature Trail for the under 11's. As the newest member on this committee, with a particular interest (though not expertise) in all wildlife, I have been asked to initiate this project.

We already have in our possession three previous trails or walks, each in its own way providing valuable information.

The first, undated and unsigned, is aimed at primary school children. The second, by a Mrs J. M. Adams, is also undated and is a guide for teachers or leaders of young groups. The third, "Clapham Common Nature Walk", is produced by the London Wildlife Trust and should be of interest to people of any age.

Clapham Common has the potential for a number of Nature Trails, depending on the scope or depth of exploration that is chosen. The committee decided that

Note the date **now** -

**Tuesday 16 March 1999**

### The Study of Local History

Peter Jefferson-Smith, whose interest is in local architectural history, will show slides illustrating the history of Clapham.

Brian Bloice, a well-known teacher of the local history of South London, who runs the local history group of the Streatham Society, will describe the opportunities for local history research.

There will then be a discussion of what the Clapham Society could be doing to encourage the study of local history. What would members want? - and what could they contribute?

*Come and join in!*

At the Small Parish Hall, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St Alphonsus Road (off Clapham Park Road), starting at 8.00 pm.

initially we should produce an updated version for under 11's. The previous version is definitely pre-computer technology! **We are therefore asking anyone, but particularly parents or teachers of this age group, who have information or interest in helping with this project, to contact me, Anne Dukes, on 0171-622 3669.** We are looking to enlist the help of schools around the Common. We would be glad to hear from anyone with direct links to the schools. They may have already produced their own common trail.

We are also hoping to write a monthly or bi-monthly article on the changing face of the Common throughout the year. Here again we would be grateful for any information from strollers, dog walkers, cyclists, pram-pushers or anyone else with an observant eye; the more the better.

## Developing concerns

by Virginia Richmond-Scott

On January 9th I tossed up between an Equity union meeting and a walk with the Clapham Society to visit and learn about some of the developments in our area. As a new member of the Society I had attended some very pleasant social gatherings but not so far learned a great deal about how it operates. So, on a very cold Saturday morning I opted for the walk. Around 25 of us, plus a couple of dogs, gathered at Holy Trinity. The tour was led by Sinclair Johnston and Jeremy Hamerton, respectively the former and the current coordinators of the Society's Planning Sub-Committee.

Our first stop was at 35 Macaulay Road. This was once the parochial school and, until now, had retained most of its original character with separate entrances for boys and girls either side of a centrally projecting bay. Its last use was as the headquarters of the Muscular Dystrophy group of Great Britain but now it is being converted into a private house. The central bay is to become a drive-in garage, the window to a large door, and the changes to the elevation are extensive and controversial.

On our way to Old Town we passed 4 Northside with its unusual crenelated parapet which is being developed for flat conversion and heard that permission is being sought to add a Mansard roof. Between this house and the library is George West House, now acquired by QAS Systems (developers of quick address software). The Society is consulting on the proposed changes, especially to the windows.

Walking along Old Town we took in the new development in Scout Lane and the Sycamore House flats conversion - secure behind iron gates - and 17-21 Old Town which is to have a ground floor restaurant and pub with flats above. To the rear of Rectory Gardens (sometimes used as a film location) we saw the site of a new "Holmes Place" Health Club. In line with current council policy, there is no parking provision. Crossing over, we saw the current QAS offices, housed at the pleasant backland development at 5 and 7 Old Town, again secure behind iron gates. Further on we came to the large wasteland at Grafton Square which is the site for the new district police station. Their proposals continue to change in relation to their shifting requirements, and as yet no starting date is in sight.

We reached the High Street via

Brommells Road, and the Hastings School of Management building for which a new application has just been lodged, with the lions at the front and the unusual 'fist' flagpole at the side. We looked at the extension of the Clapham Picture House into the adjacent old billiards club building - the regenerative effect that the Picture House has had on this area is remarkable. The large development on the High Street nearby is, after Sainsbury's, the biggest thing in Clapham for many years. There will be shops on the ground floor, though we don't yet know who the tenants are to be, and above, 22 flats. There is no parking available for the flats though there will be access at the rear for delivery to the shops.

We looked at the outside of the old Majestic Cinema, now the 'Watertown' / Southside nightclub complete with its haphazard additions. It is in a sad state of neglect and apparently houses a swimming pool on an upper level! We crossed over and walked down Nelson's Row. The Perseverance pub is being converted into flats which at least saves the building. In Carpenter's Place, Sinclair showed us the vent to the tunnel which runs 40' below the Northern Line and which was used by the Admiralty in World War 2. It is now used for secure document storage.

We walked through Sainsbury's - the site planning was generally agreed to be a good thing for the area, giving access to the High Street and surrounding roads, with useful parking facilities. We took refuge from the cold in the 'Tuba' coffee house where I was interested to note that a cappuccino costs more than in the West End!

Throughout the tour, which lasted around 2 hours, Sinclair talked with knowledge and enthusiasm punctuated by additional information from our Chairman John Adams and Jeremy Hamerton. I was interested to learn that as new developments come up before Lambeth Council, the Clapham Society is notified for comment. I felt I had learned a great deal, noticed a lot of features new to me in the area, and begun to understand how the Clapham Society functions. I'll catch up with Equity next month.

## Sketches of Clapham life

Bernard Battley of Battley Brothers Printers, researching the firm's historic connections with Clapham, recently unearthed a fascinating document given to the firm's founder in 1940. Frank Byford ran the piano shop 'Dunkley's Music Store' in Clapham High Street and produced a notebook of reminiscences and drawings covering the period 1880-1914. This has been part reproduced in Battley's 1999 calendar. Below, by kind permission, is the illustration for March: *"At the old Fire Station it always thrilled me to see the smart turn-out of the old steam fire engine. The quaint cottage-like building, standing in such a picturesque position opposite the old 'Cock Tavern', and almost on the Common. The big red doors, the magnificent horses, and the gleaming brass helmets of the men..."*.



Some copies of the calendar are still available - members interested should contact Francis Davis at Battley Bros Printers, 37 Old Town SW4 0JN.

## A Town Centre manager

Members may have seen the advertisements for a Town Centre Manager for Clapham High Street and Old Town in the local and national press. Every effort is being made to attract high quality applicants. It is critical that the new Town Centre Manager will have real authority to deal with local residents' and businesses' concerns and needs. The work of the Clapham Conservation Area Partnership will be integral to the work of the Town Centre Manager.

Reports from the Clapham Conservation Partnership Steering Group are optimistic and Lambeth is ahead of programme because of the experience of running the previous CAP scheme in Brixton. BPR Architects Ltd, who have a conservation work background, have been appointed as specialist architectural advisers.

The 1999-2000 Action Plan includes the implications of the Red Route, links with existing schools, Rectory Grove, the Old Fire Station and overall work on the environment - notably, open spaces, monuments and horse troughs.



82 Westside and Coach House, before its conversion - photo by Eric Smith

## A date for your diary

Saturday 3 July 1999

Yes, it'll be Summer at last, and time for the Society's Summer party!  
 This year it will be by the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Roxburgh, at their lovely home at 82 Clapham Common Westside.  
 In addition, Carole Kinross will be there to talk about her work in the garden of this house.  
 As usual, there will be a buffet supper.

So make a note now!

## Film fun

London Borough of Lambeth have *not* received an application from IMG for the use of the Common this summer for an open air cinema. This means that their 'slot' will be offered to others and their current application for a licence is almost certain to be turned down.

**We would like to think that the threat of opposition from the Society and others was instrumental in making them think again.**

## The London Forum

The Chairman of the London Forum, Marion Harvey, was awarded an MBE in this year's New Year Honours List. This reflects the standing the London Forum has achieved and can only add impetus to the civic society movement generally.

The London Forum has campaigned effectively for 10 years on London-wide issues on behalf of 120 societies across the Greater London area. Its role and significance, and of its constituent societies, is recognised at government level. **The London Forum has Executive Committee representatives on the new Civic Forum Development Team, which is the consultative body for the Greater London Authority, and the Traffic Advisory Panel for London.**

The London Forum is therefore directly represented in the work of developing the GLA, representing the opinions and concerns of member societies and negotiating on their behalf. The GLA will have leverage with London local Councils, so membership of the London Forum could also assist us at local level.

## Pond life

Cllr Michael English is most concerned by the state of the ponds on the Common because the banks are in a state of collapse. So, of course, are we!

Once again, large sums of money will be needed to put them in proper order and, once again, the Council is likely to see this as a project rather than maintenance.



Above - Joyce Luck welcomes some of the visitors at our recent reception for new members

## Tesco and toilets..... planning work

The Planning Sub-Committee welcomes the retention of the existing frontage of the South London Hospital building, but is concerned by the poor quality of the shop parade extension, with the traffic controls that will be needed, and with the loss of privacy for existing residents from a planted terrace on the second floor where flats will be provided.

As reported in the last issue, we have written to Lambeth to gain

clarification of the legal position related to the selling-of of public toilets.

London Underground have bought the basement toilets at Clapham Common station, but for what purpose we do not yet know.

## Noise annoys

If you are concerned about aircraft noise, a local pressure group called CLEAR: SKYS has been formed.. Contact John Stewart on 0171-737 6641 or at 13 Stockwell Rd, SW9 9AU.

## CLAPHAM SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

We have to thank Alyson Wilson who has taken over the stocks of Clapham Society publications from Veronica Richardson (to whom also warm thanks). We are repeating below details of these publications. Items can be ordered from Alyson on 0171-622 6360. Rates for members are much cheaper than in the shops!

**“The Story of Clapham Common”** Our latest publication. 48 pages of text and photographs. Printed by Battley Brothers of Clapham. Price £5.95, £5.00 to members.

**“Clapham” by Eric Smith** A completely new edition, (1990), with much additional material, of the book first published by Lambeth Council in 1976. 96 pages packed with old photographs and descriptive text. Price £5.95, £5.00 to members.

**O.S. 1870 Maps of Clapham** Facsimile reproductions of 3 sheets (65, 75 and 84) of the rare first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of Clapham to a scale of 25" to the mile, and showing every house and garden. Together they cover an area stretching down beyond King's Avenue in the east and well down Nightingale Lane in the west, from Nine Elms in the north to Tooting Bec Common in the south. Printed by George Philip & Son. Each sheet is 28" x 40". Price: £4.00 per sheet to members, £5.00 to non-members. Stout card tube 70p extra.

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**Clapham Cards** Views of Clapham. Attractive line drawing postcards by Chrissie Leffler. Price: 20p each or £1.00 per set of six.

*Postage and packing 60p extra for all orders.*

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### The Clapham Society programme, 1999

We are planning to repeat and update the programme every Newsletter issue.

**Tuesday 16 March** Illustrated talk on the history of Clapham, led by Peter Jefferson Smith, followed by an introduction to the study of local history, led by Keith Bloise. Starts at 8.00pm.

**Saturday 17 April** ‘Planning’ walk.

**May** Talk. Details when available.

**June** Talk. Details when available.

**Saturday, 3 July** Summer garden party.

**Sat 14 August** ‘Planning’ walk.

**Sept** Talk. Details when available.

**Thursday 14 Oct** AGM

**Nov** Talk. Details when available.

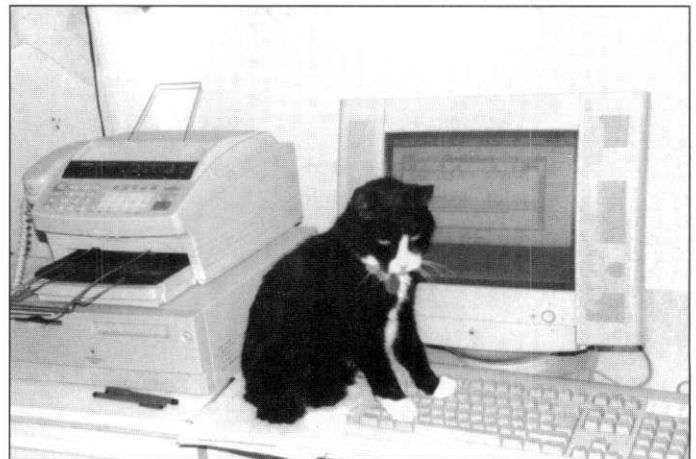
**Dec** Reception for new members.

Our talks will be held in the Small Parish Hall, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St Alphonsus Road (off Clapham Park Road) by kind permission of Fr Michael Creech.

More details of the programme will be published in the Newsletter as available. Enquiries to John How, 0181-673 3945.



Northside



Due to pressure of work, the Editor has had to employ an assistant. Spelling not up to much, but fast on the mouse.....

D. Perkin 14 Englewood

# The Clapham Society Newsletter

Issue 216

Mar 1999



## Windmill Drive - closure?

Subsequent to the public meeting called by the London Borough of Lambeth at the Windmill Pub in September 1998 a report was submitted by the Environmental Services to the Transport Sub-committee on February 10th 1999.

The following possible options were listed in the report:

1. Closure of Windmill Drive at the point that the cycle track from Cedars Road meets Windmill Drive. Turning heads would be provided immediately on either side of the road closure. (Although through traffic would be prevented, car parking and access would be retained).
2. This option is similar to option 1 except that the closed section is wider and the turning head on the east side of the recycling area. (There are possible excavation problems associated with siting the turning head within the recycling area).
3. Closure of a long stretch of Windmill Drive from a point immediately east of the recycling area to a point close to The Avenue. Parking could be provided in designated car parking areas in the Common alongside The Avenue. (These areas are currently used as temporary car parks for large events on the Common).
4. Traffic calming along the length of Windmill Drive. Measures would take the form of speed humps, speed tables and entry treatments.
5. Do nothing.

Further public consultation is planned for early in the new financial year. **The Committee's favoured option is 3 - we will provide more information on our position before the next consultation due in April.**

## All change at the MAC

At the meeting of the Common's Management Advisory Committee on March 1st, Richard Jones, the founding Chairman, stood down as did the Vice-Chairman, Jeremy Hamerton.

Elected was Nick Bentley as Chairman, and K.S. Gebhardt as Vice-Chairman.

Derek Johnson remains as Secretary.

## A guided tour

**A walk led by John How, Deputy Chairman of the Society, on Saturday 17 April.**

These walks have proved to be very popular with members. This one will cover Southside, Nightingale Lane and Westside, ending at the Bandstand, and John will be discussing new and proposed developments and drawing attention to interesting features along the way.

Meet outside the Conservatory of the Windmill Pub, Southside, at 10.30 a.m.

The walk will finish around mid-day.

## A strategy for Parks and Open Spaces

There are twelve open spaces across the borough of Lambeth. Some share the same problems, often made worse by the absence of long term strategy and management planning.

The Lambeth Environment Forum, led by its Chairperson Derek Hoare, proposed to the Environment Committee in June 1998 that a group representing all the Open Spaces be set up. The role of the group would be to look to the future and aim to maintain and develop these much valued areas according to best practice and for the benefit of all sections of the community. The proposal was accepted and the first meeting of the group was held on February 8th 1999.

Each open space will be represented by at most two people. In the major spaces like Clapham Common this will be the Chair of the Management Advisory Committee and one other. This presents a problem since there is little doubt that both the Friends of Clapham Common and the Society will want to have a voice.... watch this space! Also on the group will be three councillors, one from each political party, Parks officers, representatives of Team Lambeth and the Environment Forum.

Following discussion of the management of the group itself Cllr. Jim Dickson, Leader of the Council, spoke to the meeting. After a rapid fire assessment of the problems currently being experienced, particularly lack of resources, and how they should be dealt with, he went on to outline some plans for the future. Of particular interest to the Society was the allocation of £250,000 to children's play equipment in the borough.

More worrying were some of his comments on the vexed question of events in parks and open spaces. In the criteria used by the council first on the list was that they would generate income. It is the Society's view that the benefit of those participating should be considered ahead of remuneration.

Under the direction of Mr Frank Quigg all aspects of service delivery are under review. It is to be hoped that this new forum will prove a useful and creative tool in caring for our fragile environment.

## If music be the food of love....

Stephen Bennett, a professional musician and artistic director, is creating a local pressure group to support an idea to require Tesco to incorporate a small 300-500 seat theatre/venue within the old South London Hospital site.

Such a facility does not exist locally and could be used for many purposes during the day and evenings. He thinks this would also help to revitalise the local area.

Anyone interested in lending support should contact Stephen at 47 Hambolt Road, SW4 9EQ (tel: 0181-675 3877).

Stephen is performing the world premiere of 'Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra' by David Hoyland at St Stephen's Church in Southwall Gardens (off Gloucester Road, SW7) on Saturday 27 March at 7.30 p.m. Also on the programme is the Mozart Requiem. Further details from Stephen at the above address..

## Feeding the machine

The Editor recently tried to park in a parking area near Bromells Road, but found that neither of the two ticket machines there were recording coins inserted. A note was left to this effect on the windscreen, but a parking ticket nevertheless was received. Thanks to Councillor Ruth Ling, the following is Lambeth's Environmental Services advice to motorists:

"As a rule it is advisable not to park on a faulty meter, as Parking Attendants are not able to assess whether the meter is working or not.

## Programme of events

**Tuesday 16 March** Illustrated talk on the history of Clapham, led by Peter Jefferson Smith, followed by an introduction to the study of local history, led by Keith Bloise. Starts at 8.00pm. In the large hall, same address. **DON'T MISS IT!**

**Saturday 17 April** Walk, guided by John How. *Details overleaf.*

**Tuesday 18 May** "The Albert Memorial", by Alasdair Glass (Deputy Director for Major Projects, English Heritage)

**Tuesday 15 June** An illustrated talk by John How on "Benjamin Ferrey, Architect".

**Saturday, 3 July** Summer garden party, at 82 Westside.

**Sat 14 August** "Planning" walk.

**Sept** Talk. Details when available.

**Thursday 14 Oct** **AGM**

**Nov** Talk. Details when available.

**Dec** Reception for new members.

Our talks will be held in the Small Parish Hall, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St Alphonsus Road (off Clapham Park Road) by kind permission of Fr Michael Creech.

## Clapham Society Publications

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The performance of the Red Routes will be reviewed after 6 months. Should traffic lights be included in the review? Some residents of Elms Road are petitioning for this, especially at the South side end of Elms Road. For further details, contact Stephan Cook, 49 Elms Rd, tel 0171-622 2523.

**O.S. 1870 Maps of Clapham** Facsimile reproductions of 3 sheets (65, 75 and 84) of the rare first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of Clapham to a scale of 25" to the mile, and showing every house and garden. Together they cover an area stretching down beyond King's Avenue in the east and well down Nightingale Lane in the west, from Nine Elms in the north to Tooting Bec Common in the south. Printed by George Philip & Son. Each sheet is 28" x 40". Price:

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If money entered does not register, it is advisable to ring the Local Authority concerned so that the fault is registered and an early check on the meter can be carried out."

A piece of good news for the Editor: as a result of this enquiry his £30 fine was refunded!

## The use of the Common

The Society's 'Recommended Guidelines for Events on Clapham Common' are now agreed and are being sent to the Management Advisory Committee and Lambeth Council.

Copies may be obtained from David Perkin ( 14 Englewood Road London SW12 9NZ) - please enclose an stamped addressed envelope and also enclose two first-class stamps.

## That TV programme

There seems to be general agreement from people who saw the recent Channel 4 programme "Clapham Common" that it was a cheap, silly and thoroughly distorted view of our local open space.

You can write with your views to Channel Four, Viewers Comments, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1.

## Some other dates for your diaries:

Brockwell Park County Show, 17/18 July  
Open House, London - 19/19 September  
Churches' Open Day, 18 September  
Mint Library Open Day, Saturday 25 September. The theme: "Lambeth, Rich and Poor"

**Note to all our readers: we are always glad to publicise events of local interest.**

**This can include street parties, Church fetes, musical events, charity functions - anything that adds to the fun and culture of living in Clapham.**

**Write/fax to the Secretary, David Perkin, 14 Englewood Road, London SW12 9NZ**

Could any member with a carousel slide projector and/or reasonably-sized screen be prepared to lend it/ them occasionally to the Society for talks? - contact John How, 0181-673 3945



## Clapham Society/MAC - working together

**Good news on the Common at last!** In our last issue we reported the election of officers for the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) for Clapham Common.

Nick Bentley, the new Chairman of the MAC, an Arboricultural Officer with considerable experience of local council management of parks and open spaces, has proposed a new vision for the MAC. After careful consultation with the MAC's many interest groups, including our own representatives and our Chairman, John Adams (see his note on the need for a 'master plan' reproduced here to the right) Nick has put forward a proposal to Lambeth Council which will include a Heritage Lottery Fund Urban Parks Programme bid.

The first stage of the process will include a topological survey and the services of a landscape consultant. Included in the bid for Lottery funds would be the renovation of the Bandstand, and that of the Playgrounds and Ponds. In the meantime he has suggested minor repairs, such as those of paths and banks to the ponds, as well as planting of marginal plants. We look forward to working with Nick on this.

Other good news is that the Traffic Director has offered to contribute some 200 or more trees on the Red Route area on the West Side. Similar environmental improvements for other parts of the Common adjacent to Red Routes will be investigated for planting during the 1999/2000 season. We would like to thank Dave Paul, the Parks Officer, who continues to work tirelessly on all aspects of the Common and also the MAC's former Chairman, Richard Jones, who did so much to initiate tree planting on the Common and devoted so much energy during very difficult times.

## Events on the Common

Now that our sub-committee has finally made its Guidelines for Events on the Common available (have you ordered your copy yet?) we would ask members to report back on events this Summer. In this way we can check both the events' impact on local residents during real-life situations and satisfy ourselves that our Guidelines are appropriate.

The projected list includes a Pop Concert on 24 July for one day only, of approximately 30,000 people which will be held on the area by the netball court/Rookery Road and the annual event called 'Boardex', with an expected audience of 4-5,000 which will take place over 3 days from 31 July. An application by Mardi Gras (formerly Gay Pride) for a one-day event on 3 July is also under consideration by the Council. This would have a projected 65,000 attendance: provided the organisers produce appropriate guarantees and deposits and show a satisfactory clear-up schedule we have no objection. We will keep you updated.

## More news on the Common

A member of our Common sub-committee, Anna Jefferson Smith, accompanied officers of the Council and Team Lambeth on an inspection visit to the proposed "shredder" on the dump site on the Common. Although much was learned about composting and shredders, a 'real life' trial of the noise generated was not possible. It is hoped that this will take place shortly. In the meantime the Common sub-committee received a petition from members of the One O'Clock Club, objecting to the site of the shredder so close to the children's playground (Windmill Drive). This matter is being kept under close scrutiny. The petition was forwarded to the Parks Office and Councillors.

Members of the sub-committee have also received pleas from concerned members of the society and the general public on the all-day (and overnight!) parking on Windmill Drive. Channel 4's unhappy and dispiriting 'Cutting Edge' documentary also inadvertently drew attention to the 'parking' of overnight campers etc on the Drive. This has now reached the state where bona fide users of the Common for recreational, sporting and playgroup facilities can no longer find a place to squeeze in! Please make your views known to us!

*Celia Bibby, Common and Open Spaces*

## The Common: a strategy and master plan

**The only way forward for Clapham Common is for the MAC to press for a master plan which encompasses conservation, management and development issues.** Until this is done we consider that no ad-hoc proposals for planting, road closures or landforming should be actioned.

The MAC is the best placed to channel our concerns for the future of the Common to Lambeth Council. The latter do not any longer appear to have the in-house professional expertise necessary to formulate a landscape master plan or make a convincing application for full lottery funding. However some of the local Councillors are beginning to realise that something must and can be done.

We are therefore encouraging the MAC to apply now for £5,000-£10,000 of Lambeth Environmental Committee's £100,000 Open Spaces budget to be spent on consultants to make the first of a two-stage Lambeth application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding under the Urban Parks Programme; the 1st stage to pay for consultants to prepare the master plan and all that is necessary to drawing up the full 2nd-stage. The seedcorn money will be worth spending in order to get a proper plan agreed, and more so if it also gains full funding. A MASTER PLAN will be needed, based upon the following.

- proper and current topographical survey
- conservation plan to identify and protect significant features etc, to include a gazetteer of all artefacts and structures
- proper survey of existing vegetation
- condition surveys and budget estimates for repairs of artefacts and buildings
- Management Plan for future maintenance and use (including a business plan if revenue and income generation is proposed as a means of future upkeep or development)
- This will cost a lot to prepare. The value of the overall project is likely to run to more than £1m and there is no point in applying half-cock. The seedcorn money is an essential prerequisite to a convincing application.

*John Adams, Chairman*

## The May talk - Restoring Albert

The Albert Memorial, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, erected in Kensington Gardens in 1863-72, has always been recognised as the epitome of Victorian architecture. For many considered vulgar and ostentatious, its statement of self-confidence cannot be denied.

It is now restored to its former glory with Albert himself clad in gold leaf.



**On Tuesday, 18 May at 8.00 p.m.**

at St Mary's Church in St Alphonsus Road,  
**Alasdair Glass MA, FSA, RIBA, FRSA.**

Deputy Director of Major Projects at English Heritage will give an illustrated talk on the fascinating history of the Memorial and the restoration that he supervised.



## The Clapham Sect - a celebration

*an invitation to Clapham Society members by the Reverend David Isherwood*

The Church Missionary (now Mission) Society was founded by members of the Clapham Sect 200 years ago this year. Holy Trinity will be playing a central role in this year's national celebrations over the weekend of 29-30 May and I am writing to extend a very warm welcome to all members of the Clapham Society and your friends to some very important events over that weekend - see separate list.

Led by the Archbishop of Kenya, people connected with the CMS will be gathering from all over the world. Do come and join us and them at the services at which we will be giving thanks for the work of the CMS and celebrating its work in very different parts of the world. There is a performance of Haydn's Creation - also 200 years old - and the church will be open, with an exhibition showing the CMS/Clapham link.

I'd like particularly to draw attention to the debate on the Sunday on third world debt which will take place at 12 Noon. I hope that many people who feel they cannot join in our worship will want to come and involve themselves in one of the great moral and political challenges of our day. Rather than debating the global and sometimes unmanageable, and unimaginable, bigger picture, we will be focusing on the scourge and slavery of debt and its consequences in Kenya. Martin Dent, the founder of Jubilee 2000, a national coalition of churches and voluntary bodies campaigning for the remission or reassessment of debt, will be with us as will other guests.

The history of Clapham is closely bound up with the history of Holy Trinity. In my book it ought to be impossible to put even a cigarette paper between public worship and the very public consequences of faith and trust in God. Our forbears know nothing of that "privatisation" of faith and trust in God and I warmly invite you to recapture something of their story and ours over this important weekend.

## Programme

**Saturday 29 May at 2.00pm**

Service of Thanksgiving led by Archbishops of Canterbury and Kenya in the Big Top next to Holy Trinity Church.

**Saturday 29 May at 8.00pm in the Big Top**

**Haydn's Creation with the Vasari Singers and the Langham Ensemble.**

**Tickets £10 from credit card line 01904 644 194.**

**Saturday 29 May**

Holy Trinity open all day - refreshments, and exhibition of Clapham and the CMS.

**Sunday 30 May at 10.00am in Holy Trinity Church: Holy Communion.**

Preacher: The Most Revd David Gitari, Archbishop of Kenya.

**Sunday 30 May at 12 Noon in Holy Trinity Church: Public debate on third world debt. Participants to include the Archbishop of Kenya and Martin Dent of Jubilee 2000. Bring a sandwich lunch.**

Mrs Spratt (Rep, Area Y) has had to give up, and Sally Lang has taken over. Richard Jones has given up Area R and Ian Duff has taken over this area in addition to Area S. Euan Kennedy has given up Area X; Liz Coulson has taken over. Cristel Marsh has had to give up Area E. Ann King-Hall has taken over part of this area but we need someone to take over some calls in Clapham Manor Street. Many thanks to old and new Reps for all your efforts. Volunteers please call Joyce Luck on 0181-673 2616

## The Winter Party

Sixty-three members enjoyed our Winter party at St John's Church in Clapham Road. Some talked eruditely about the respective qualities of the Doric and Ionic columns. Others joined the tour of this 1840s Classical style church, made remarkable by a strange decision in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century to reverse the interior so that the traditional ecclesiastical West gallery over the entrance was removed and placed at the East end, satisfying, perhaps, a desire to have the altar at the East end. Again, others heard of the new community uses the cleared central space made possible and of plans to develop this further. Everyone was impressed by the buffet supper organised by Joyce Luck and her helpers, including this time some new members.

We are most grateful to the clergy and for allowing us to use their 'open space' for the occasion.

## Memories....

A new member, Charles Pearce now living in Wimborne, Dorset, writes: "It was a very great pleasure to have confirmation in Eric Smith's 'Clapham' of Mr Gallop's wonderful second-hand bookshop on The Pavement where I spent many happy inexpensive browsing hours as a schoolboy and student in the 1920s and early 30s.

Mr Gallop, a veritable Dickensian character sat among his books, always wearing a rusty old bowler hat and faded blue serge suit - never uttering a word. I read somewhere a short autobiographical note by Graham Greene which mentioned his visits to Mr Gallop's shop when he was living nearby on North Side.

Similarly the beautiful cover of Eric Smith's book - 'Return from the Derby, Clapham Common 1862' reminded me of how as children we were taken onto the Common on Derby Day to watch the seemingly never-ending stream of costermongers returning from Epsom in their gaily decorated donkey carts - a wonderfully colourful annual scene which of course gradually disappeared as te

## Local history

Forty-six members enjoyed the excellent introductory talks on local history given at St Mary's Church Hall in St Alphonsus Road on Tuesday 16 march.

Peter Jefferson Smith illustrated his talk on the history of Clapham with slides from his extensive collection, and Brian Bloice, who organises a Local History Group for the Streatham Society, gave a complementary talk on the history of Streatham, using slides to demonstrate the adaptation of buildings to new uses over the years.

From the discussion on local history that followed, and from the list of interests that members recorded at the meeting, it is clear that the Clapham Society should have its own local history group. Peter Jefferson Smith is heading a small group to analyse the interest shown and set up particular projects, some perhaps to be published as

monographs for the Society. We hope to have more detail for a future number of the Newsletter.

In the meantime John How, our Vice Chairman, has been developing the programme of monthly events now being advertised in the newsletter, many of which have a local history slant. At the same time, as the Millennium Year approaches, plans are going ahead for the Society's own contribution to the many suggestions being made to Lambeth's coordinating committee.



The Winter Party at St John's Church in February - the Churchwarden, Catriona Robertson addresses the gathering, watched attentively by John How in a very fancy waistcoat!

## Clapham Conservation Area Partnership

A group from the Clapham Society has met with Charlotte Evans, Lambeth's Regeneration Officer in charge of the Clapham Conservation Area Partnership (CCAP) works, and made a tour of properties in the Conservation Area on which work was about to start, while she updated the group on the general progress of other projects being undertaken.

Charlotte is presently liaising with the Traffic Director for London in the matter of general 'streetscape' improvements. The aim is to make best use of CCAP funding by coordinating these improvements with the proposed Red Route works. The focus is in keeping works of townscape simple, using quality materials.

Charlotte is also in touch with London Buses regarding the bus stand in Old Town. It is hoped that another site could be found for the buses and that the triangle could then be landscaped simply, with grassed areas and tree-planting, criss-crossed with footpaths. The idea sounds exciting.

Works due for an early start were various improvements to buildings along The Pavement (Travel Centre, Hairdresser, Casino and Café DesRes). Consideration was being given to the shed at Cock Pond (how to 'lose' it) and the bus shelter at Clapham Common (how best to restore and use it).

We were all pleased to hear that Charlotte will shortly be taking up the new post of Town Centre Manager, her office to be based in the High Street. She has accepted our invitation to give a talk to the Society in June.

years went by and motor traffic took over.

In the quiet roads around Clapham itinerant muffin men, catsmeat men, tinkers, gypsies, ice-cream vendors and singers all still plied their trades in the

1920s...."

(Note by the Editor - we still have plenty of itinerant sales people. My favourite is a door-to-door poet, Peter Cadle, whose books of poems I regularly buy.)

## Our programme 1999

**May 18** - 'Restoring Albert': The Albert Memorial. Talk by Alasdair Glass, Deputy Director of Major Projects, English Heritage - see separate announcement.

**June 15** - 'Clapham - the Future'. Talk by Charlotte Evans, Town Centre Manager

**3 July** - the Clapham Society's Summer Party - 82 Westside (Mr and Mrs Roxburgh)

**12 August** - 'Clapham at Night (an evening walk)

**21 September** - 'A short history of cinemas in South London'

**14 October** - Clapham Society Annual General Meeting

**November** - talk (to be confirmed)

**December** - talk (to be confirmed)

## Other events

May 29/30 - Church Missionary Society Bi-Centenary (see separate notice and programme)

June 2 - Walk round Clapham (Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society)

5 June - United Reformed Church, Grafton Square: afternoon Strawberry Teas

26 June - Holy Trinity Summer Fayre

10 July - St Paul's Fair

4 September - Notre Dame Estate Carnival (2.00 pm)

18 September - London Houses Open Day

25 September - Minet Library (Archives of Lambeth) Open Day: theme - "Rich and Poor in Lambeth"

## Help wanted please

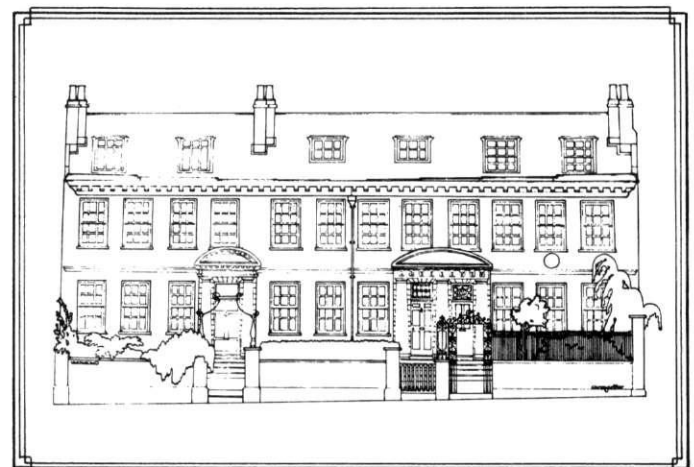
We are often asked why there are not more opportunities to display our publications and publicity material.

The obvious display point is our Clapham Society stall, which ought to be available at functions throughout the year, but which is rarely seen and in need of refurbishment and new volunteers to make it function properly.

*If you have a car and are willing to transport Society material to and from functions, or are willing to sit at the stall during functions, please let us know, even if you can manage just once a year, so that we may draw up a list of functions and volunteers.*

For more information, contact the Hon. Sec. on 0181-673 2570.

*Trinity Hospice needs volunteers for its 'Sunflower' Appeal throughout June. Contact 'Fundraising' on 0171-787 1061 if you can help in a street collection.*



39, 41 and 43 Old Town - Chrissie Leffler

## CLAPHAM SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

For copies of Society publications call Alyson Wilson on 0171-622 6360 (22 Crescent Grove, London, SW4 7 AH). Rates for members are much cheaper than in the shops!

**"The Story of Clapham Common"** Our latest publication. 48 pages of text and photographs. Printed by Battley Brothers of Clapham. Price £5.95, £5.00 to members.

**"Clapham" by Eric Smith** A completely new edition, (1990), with much additional material, of the book first published by Lambeth Council in 1976. 96 pages packed with old photographs and descriptive text. Price £5.95, £5.00 to members.

**O.S. 1870 Maps of Clapham** Facsimile reproductions of 3 sheets (65, 75 and 84) of the rare first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of Clapham to a scale of 25" to the mile, and showing every house and garden. Together they cover an area stretching down beyond King's Avenue in the east and well down Nightingale Lane in the west, from Nine Elms in the north to Tooting Bec Common in the south. Printed by George Philip & Son. Each sheet is 28" x 40". Price: £4.00 per sheet to members, £5.00 to non-members. Stout card tube 70p extra.

**Postcards - "Views of Clapham" by Karen Keogh** (in colour). Mini mum order 10 cards at 20p each. SAE needed - 19p for 10, 29p for 20 (postage).

**Northside Card** Full colour reproduction of Watercolour by John Pedder with plain back. Approximately 7 1/2" x 5", folded. £1.00 for 4.

**Clapham Cards** Views of Clapham. Attractive line drawing postcards by Chrissie Leffler. Price: 20p each or £1.00 per set of six.



## Entertainment on the Common

So far this year we have had two events on the Common.

On 22-24 April, the Hollywood Stunt Show was held on Speakers' Corner, a hard surface on West Side. The Society monitored the event, as did the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) whose Chairman, Nick Bentley, wrote a letter to the Council pointing out that the noise of revving engines had been excessive.

On May 1st, the Legalisation of Cannabis march was held on the events field. The Society had not logged a formal objection because Lambeth's Licensing Committee had already refused a Public Entertainment licence for this event. However, the Urgency Committee agreed to a scaled down event which would not include music. Although there was some noise it was not unduly intrusive. Members of the Common sub-committee monitored the event along with parks officers and a strong, but low-key, police presence, and confirmed that litter was cleared promptly and efficiently. While toilet facilities were – again – inadequate, the event on the whole went off better than many had expected, which no doubt explained the glazed smiles on the faces of the organisers....

Two planned events for July – Mardi Gras, or Gay Pride, and a pop concert – will not now take place on the Common. There will be a small-scale event – Board X – at the end of July.

An application has been lodged for another open air film show between 26-29 August by Stella Film Tours, sponsored by Whitbread. Stella have had previous showings including at Battersea Park, by reports well-organised. The Society will not lodge a formal objection as our enquiries indicate that this is a far cry from last year's Starlight proposal, and it will provide an opportunity to evaluate the actual impact of such an event – we would welcome feedback from members. The Society will continue to voice concern to the Council and to be represented on the MAC.

## Tesco - the latest

The Planning and Transportation sub-committee objected again to the latest proposals from Tesco for the former South London Hospital for Women site.

The main objections were:-

- a) that the Supermarket was too large for the immediate area and could have a detrimental effect on the shops in neighbouring high streets, and in particular Clapham High Street;
- b) the vehicular access roads would be extremely disruptive to pedestrians, as they are sited almost opposite Clapham South tube station.: they would also create more traffic congestion;
- c) vehicle movement in the car park behind the store would create noise and pollution affecting the adjacent properties in Englewood Road.

Most of the Edwin Cooper building is being retained with a new wing added at the West end to complete the symmetry of Cooper's unfinished façade.

However, this wing would be penetrated by an ungainly archway and tunnel through to the car park at the rear. This, together with the handling of other new architectural elements, such as the new residential block at the rear, we consider unacceptable.

Whilst the buildings in their current derelict state are something of an eyesore and a proposal for their re-use is sorely needed, it was felt that this was not a good site for such a large supermarket.as still is proposed.

## Clapham High Street - the future

Don't miss this!

Charlotte Evans, the new Clapham Town Centre Manager, will talk to the Society on Tuesday 15 June at 8.00 pm St Mary's Hall

St Alphonsus Road (off Clapham Park Road) on

"Clapham – the future".

An unmissable opportunity to hear about plans and about the Clapham Conservation Area Partnership

**Tuesday 15 June at 8.00 pm**

**The 'Fetch the Stick' competition on Richard and Judy's 'Good Morning' programme was filmed on Clapham Common on Thursday 25 February. Dog lovers, dog owners and politicians were cordially invited to the Bandstand at one o'clock sharp!**

Dogs are chosen to run after and fetch a stick thrown by a celebrity. The winner's identity is carefully hidden until a viewer guesses the right dog and wins a cash prize.

This cold grey Thursday, I rushed with a camera hoping to snap a dog or even a politician! Mark Wogan was the Master of Ceremonies, all togged up in top hat and a blue and red morning coat. Drove of people watched and competed with their canine pals, and there were a good fifty of those! It was good clean fun and was done in the best possible taste!

*Story & picture on next page by Peter de Loriol.*

## It's Party Time again! –

Or it **will be** on Saturday July 3rd, commencing at 7.30 pm at the home of Mr and Mrs Roxburgh at 82 Westside.

We look forward to seeing you there and as usual will offer wine and a selection of savouries, salads and desserts. Help in supplying food, of whatever nature, will be appreciated, and also help in clearing up and washing up after the party. Members will as usual be reimbursed for the cost of any food supplied.

So mark this date in your diary!

**And complete the form overleaf to secure your tickets for the Summer's major social event in Clapham!**

## The Albert Memorial talk

The largest monument to a male consort in the world, the largest external mosaics in the world and a 200 foot high jewel case. The Albert Memorial is a thing of superlatives – a masterpiece of Victorian High Gothic. The money to build the original Memorial was raised by public subscription from a nation which felt collective guilt that it had failed to recognise Albert's worth in his lifetime. It was completed in 1872, eleven years after his death. Sadly it did not wear well and by the late 1980s it was in a dangerous state of disrepair and had to be cordoned off from the public. Alasdair Glass' story began at this point.

English Heritage was given the responsibility for the renovation and Alasdair became the project director, with funding from the National Lottery. We learnt how the damage had arisen. A design fault had enabled rain water to penetrate the decorated lead cladding causing it to separate from the cast iron skeleton and eventually to fall away completely. The sumptuous gold leaf decorating Albert and other figures was painted black during the first World War to camouflage the Monument from marauding Zeppelins. The 169 figures making up the frieze at the base had fallen victim to pollution, some of them to vandalism.

Most of the decorative lead work and the statues were removed to be renovated in craftsmen's workshops. Every fragment was entered into a computer database. Some of the restoration relied on high tech processes such as pulsed lasers to clean delicate mouldings but traditional methods were also used. One Italian master craftsman restored the mosaics in situ locating defective areas with a tuning fork and medical stethoscope!

Eventually the work was completed: all the components were reinstalled, the protective awnings were removed and in October last year the Albert Memorial was revealed in all its magnificent splendour. Sadly, although the renovation came in ahead of schedule and under budget, the Lottery would not fund a Visitor Centre in the vaulted undercroft which would have been an excellent resource to highlight past and present achievement.

It was a fascinating talk complemented by a unique collection of slides. John How thanked Alasdair on behalf of the Society.

Members wishing to know more should look out for a book about the restoration about to be published by English Heritage. For a closer view, guided tours of the Memorial take place at 2.00pm and 3.00pm Thursday to Sunday. (Adults £3, concessions £2.50: advance booking 0171-495 0916 10.00am-4.00pm.) It is highly recommended.



## A Local History Group

The March meeting of the Society showed an encouraging interest in local history, and a group of us has been discussing how to take matters forward.

The Society's main Committee has now agreed that there will be a Local History group within the Society. I will convene it and Caroline Clark, assisted by Bernard Middleton, will be Secretary.

Three main work areas have been identified:

- 1 Preparation of display material for summer fairs, open days etc. This will start with the theme: "For Richer, For Poorer" at the Lambeth Archives Open Day on 25 September – more on this in the next Newsletter.
2. Regular publications, intended to promote interest in local history. The next step here will be to decide what subjects to tackle, and to what frequency. Ideas being mooted so far range from Blue Plaques to murders!
3. A member of the Society has embarked on an ambitious project to map all sources of Clapham history. The Society's main programme of meetings has many interesting historical topics, and more are planned. And next year will see the publication of the new Buildings of Clapham book. There will be regular updates in future Newsletters.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

**Left - the 'Fetch he Stick' competition! - see front page**

## A future for the Orangery?

Originally in an idyllic setting in the garden of the Thornton mansion but now stranded in the middle of the Notre Dame Estate, the Orangery is the remaining relic of a bygone age.

It has long been a cause for concern of the Society and it is gratifying to know that at last some action is proposed to secure its future. The Notre Dame Tenants and Residents' Association, under the Chairmanship of Lee Seaman, are working with the Peabody Trust to incorporate the historic structure into a Community and Arts Centre, with a landscaped area in front for holding open air events.

They have commissioned Architects Pollard, Thomas & Edwards to carry out a feasibility study and are preparing to submit a Lottery bid for funding.

There seems, at last, to be a future for the Orangery. The Society welcomes and supports the initiative. If members wish to know more they can contact Lee Seaman direct on 0171-622 5876.

Please detach and post to:

David Perkin

14 Englewood Road

London SW12 9NZ

To arrive by Saturday 26 June

### SUMMER PARTY

Saturday 3 July, at 7.30 pm

I can help set up, wash up, bar etc (tick if you can help)

I can provide a savoury/sweet dish for the party

Please send me ..... Tickets for the party (£10 each; £6 concessions)

I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope and cheque (to the Clapham Society) for £.....

Name (Capitals) .....

Address .....

.....Phone.....

# Clapham Deep South

by Michael Strong

The walk on 17th April was the second in the greatly expanded programme of walks the Society is arranging this year. Like the first (on 9th January), the turnout was just right: enough to demonstrate enthusiasm for this type of event, not so many as to be unmanageable. Unlike the first, the weather was quite benign, with just a shower as we dispersed at the end, and the meeting place was outside a pub instead of outside a church.

We met at 10:30am outside The Windmill where we were greeted by John How, Deputy Chairman of the Society, who led the walk. John informed us that Eric Smith recorded evidence of a post-mill near the site of The Windmill as early as 1629. An inn was mentioned in parish records in 1729 and the present building dates from around 1780. The Windmill enclave contained, prior to 1880, two large houses, one lived in by Florence Young of the brewing family and the other by Charles Pearson, promoter of the Metropolitan Railway.

John outlined the itinerary. We were clearly going to the southern extremities of Clapham and some observed that we would actually penetrate beyond not only the Lambeth / Wandsworth boundary but beyond even the most Claphamophile's definition of our patch. Never mind, we would be intrepid and those of us who had previously been to St Luke's Church, Battersea, assured the others that it would be well worth the trip.

As we headed towards Clapham South station, John pointed out a rather uninspiring new development of flats and houses on the Halliday Hall site. Also on the opposite side of South Side, we observed the encroachments of *Horniman's* and *Oblivion* on to the pavement. It is a difficult balance that needs to be struck between wanting Clapham to be a vibrant and enjoyable place and maintaining certain standards, including clear pavements. It was noted that a fragment of Eagle House remains on the corner of Narbonne Avenue but that the eagles have flown.

Arriving at the Gyraryory

System, John expressed great concern at the lack of pedestrian crossing lights at strategic points. The South London Women's Hospital site was naturally a subject of discussion. It seems that Tesco now propose to keep the facade and complete, after a fashion, Sir Edwin Cooper's 1935 design by building the missing south wing, but including in it a large archway through to the new development behind the facade. It was difficult to imagine how the additional traffic which would be attracted to the area would be managed, and the consensus was that the site was much more suited to a true Tesco 'Metro' without car parking.

After a look at the exteriors of Clapham South Underground Station and the ex-Odeon former cinema (now Majestic wine warehouse), we headed down Nightingale Lane, pausing to look at a number of houses which I for one had really never noticed during the many times I have driven that way. It just goes to show what can be gained by walking and taking the trouble to be aware of one's surroundings. John How's expert knowledge was of course a substantial extra benefit. Perhaps most notable were three pairs of tall semi-detached houses, extravagantly decorated with French Renaissance motifs in terracotta, near the junction with Ramsden Road, designed by TE Collcutt in 1879.

We went via Ramsden to Thurleigh Road where St Luke's Church with its Lombard Romanesque exterior was built by FW Hunt built in the 1880s. The imposing campanile was added in 1892. The interior was intended to resemble an early Christian church and thus might be expected to be rather spartan. While simple in outline, the

accoutrements, such as the pulpit and lectern, the bronze candelabra in the choir and the pendant lights in the nave, and above all the apse mosaic, make it one of the most striking churches of the era in London.

Heading back towards the Common, we passed through Walsingham Place, a rather pleasant new housing development on the site of a former school. Arriving at the Bandstand, some of us felt we were back on home territory. But if that meant being within the London Borough of Lambeth, we were wrong - it is in Wandsworth, although it has now been clarified that Lambeth are responsible for it.

The bandstand was the end point of the walk and threatening black clouds encouraged the group to disperse rather rapidly. We were all very grateful to John How for his meticulous preparation and in particular for arranging the visit to St Luke's.



John How addresses members during the walk



At the bandstand (more picture on the next page)

## Our programme 1999

**June 15** - 'Clapham - the Future'. Talk by Charlotte Evans, Town Centre Manager (see separate note)

**3 July** - the Clapham Society's Summer Party - 82 Westside (Mr and Mrs Roxburgh)

**12 August** - 'Clapham at Night' (an evening walk)

**21 September** - 'A short history of cinemas in South London'

**14 October** - Clapham Society Annual General Meeting

**November** - talk (to be confirmed)

**December** - talk (to be confirmed)

## A walk in Clapham

A cold and dull May morning found members of the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust gathering in the blustery booking hall of Clapham Common tube station.

The ensuing walk was led by Mrs Joyce Bellamy, Secretary of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association and member of the Trust committee. The group included Clapham Society members Alyson Wilson (also a member of the Trust) and Peter and Anna Jefferson Smith.

After putting the Common in its historical context, Mrs Bellamy led the group to Grafton Square where Peter's knowledge of local history added human interest to the impressive buildings and their setting. We then traversed the Common, listening to exchanges of local knowledge and historical anecdotes. At the end of the walk Alyson welcomed the group into her home, where a wide range of maps and Society publications was available.

Mrs Bellamy drew attention to the fact that Clapham Common, like the other Metropolitan Commons, was denied inclusion in the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. This means that it is not eligible for the grant aid which is available to landscapes on the registered landscapes and gardens. She felt strongly that Clapham Common with its rich history and present day value to all the community should take a lead in campaigning for recognition on the Register.

## Other events

26 June - Holy Trinity Summer Fayre (see separate note)

10 July - St Paul's Fair

4 September - Notre Dame Estate Carnival (2.00 pm)

18 September - London Houses Open Day

25 September - Minet Library (Archives of Lambeth) Open Day: theme - "Rich and Poor in Lambeth"

## 'New' Lambeth - how decisions will be made

If you are unaware of the radical changes recently agreed by Lambeth Council in its decision-making structure, you can hardly be faulted. Apart from a small ad in the *South London Press* at the end of January (which allowed 2 weeks for public comment) there was no proper publicity given and none of the amenity societies were formally notified or consulted

The changes are far-reaching and in line with the Government *White Paper Modern Local Government in Touch with the People*. The aim is to streamline policy development, consultation and decision-making in Lambeth. Objectives include greater transparency and grass-roots involvement. Few people would disagree with that although there could be some

concern as to whether these proposals will improve either, appearing as they do to centralise control.

Basically, the existing informal Leader's Group will be replaced

by a formal Leader plus Cabinet with responsibility for all policy decisions. With the exception of *Planning* and *Licensing* all of the service committees will be replaced by a single Policy Committee. All decisions will be ratified by Cabinet. Performance will be monitored by a new Scrutiny Committee which will embrace the existing Standards Committee.

Public involvement is provided for at various stages during the course of the decision-making process. The *Town Centre Forum* will play a key role and provide a major opportunity for participa-

## The Common Fayre

Saturday 26 June, 11.00a.m. to 5.00p.m.

This is Holy Trinity's annual showcase to the people of Clapham. It is held in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common Northside. It will feature the usual stalls and attractions, including Punch and Judy, donkey rides, four bands, a steam train, refreshments, children's fancy dress, a miniature garden competition, a dog show, raffle, a silent auction - and custard pies thrown at the Rector!

Please come and enjoy a day out for the whole family.

For further details contact Jill Threlfall on 0171-622 7093

tion. There is no doubt that more participation means more effort on our part if we wish to be heard and to influence events. However, that is the price of having more say and it will be up to all of us to make sure that the community at large is heard effectively in relation to other interest groups.

All the more important that you come to hear Charlotte Evans talk to the Society about plans for the future of Clapham Town Centre on June 15th. Meanwhile, try and find a copy of "*New Decision-Making Structures for the Council*" at the Town Hall or local library to understand the executive background. They will affect us all.

John Adams

**The interior of St Luke's - see 'Clapham Deep South' (pictures on this page by John How)**



**St Luke's was the first new Church to include electric lighting. This is one of the festive electroliers, of 1903, that line the nave based on a pendant by Cellini**



# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 219

July/Aug 1999

## The news from the Common

*The Management Advisory Committee met under its new Chair, Nick Bentley, for the first time on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This Society is one of 14 user groups to be represented.*

This is the news from the meeting:

### Tree planting

- 11 plane trees are to be planted along the Avenue to replace those lost in the storms
- The Traffic Director for London has offered 300 new trees for planting next season

**The shredder** A demonstration of the operational impact of shredders in use in Regents Park and Hertfordshire failed to provide useful or relevant comparisons and so the Society has formally objected to the application for planning consent.

### The Master Plan

- Nick Bentley has put forward a proposal to Lambeth Council. However, as yet Lambeth have not responded to the application for funding for the preliminary work essential to making a lottery bid (see Newsletter 217). Time is running out for using the money offered from this year's Open Spaces budget for this purpose.
- Meanwhile Nick Bentley, John How and Anna Jefferson Smith have started to draw up a Gazetteer of all buildings and artifacts on the Common, together with an outline condition survey as a prerequisite to any master plan or lottery bid.
- The proposed closure of Windmill Drive should be considered as part of the strategic master plan.
- Likewise, the sale of disused public toilets and other buildings such as the bungalow (squatted and unloved) is also on hold.
- The conservation of the Bandstand will also be best managed through inclusion in an over-arching lottery bid. It needs to be considered in relation to its context, which includes the Bandstand Café. The current lease for the café expires in September and we are promised that more care will be exercised in controlling the next contract.

**The Mount Pond** There is serious concern for the survival of the fish which are dying from lead pollution generated by traffic and building up in the silt. The cost of cleaning the silt is beyond the Council's budget.

**Events** The consultation process is to be improved to ensure that all groups are formally notified of forthcoming events.

**Historic Parks and Gardens Register** At present Clapham Common cannot be included because it is not a "designed" landscape.\*

**Ownership of the Common** The whole of Clapham Common was transferred to Lambeth ownership in 1971. However they have yet to register their ownership of that half which formerly belonged to Wandsworth! In any case Wandsworth remain the Planning Authority for the half which nevertheless still lies within their Borough.

**Other Common news** We have objected to the issuance of a licence to allow Stella Film Tours to operate until 11.45p.m. This is well outside our guideline of 11.00p.m. closing time.

\* There is hope that this anomaly may be resolved as part of the on-going inquiry into Town and Country Parks which is being conducted by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, to which this Society has submitted a request for this to be considered – Ed.

## SOUTHSIDE CRAZY

August 5, 6.30-8.00p.m.

A summer evening's stroll around down-town Clapham with Nicholas Long. We will look at (and experience) the transformation of Clapham into a centre of fun and entertainment for London's pleasure-seeking masses, and consider the impact upon environment, buildings and social structure.

Is change being managed?

Join us at 6.30p.m. at the entrance to Crescent Grove and stay for an informal discussion at an appropriate (and exemplary) venue afterwards. (NB This event was previously billed as "Clapham at Night". The date has also been changed from August 12<sup>th</sup>.)

## "For Richer, For Poorer"

This will be the theme for the open day at Lambeth Archives on Saturday 25 September. The aim is to illustrate the extremes of wealth and poverty in Lambeth, and there will be the usual series of talks and displays.

The Clapham Society will have its stand there, and we would like to put together a small display illustrating wealth and poverty in Clapham.

- Have you got material you could lend us?
- Have you anecdotes or memories which illustrate the extremes of either wealth or poverty?
- Would you like to help put the material together?
- Could you spare an hour or two to look after the Society's stall on the open day itself?

If you can do any of these things, please contact Caroline Clark on 0171 622 6547 or Peter Jefferson Smith on 0171 622 8285. But in any case, do note the day and come along - it is always interesting. Lambeth Archives are at the Minet Library, in Knatchbull Road (off Coldharbour Lane, between Brixton and Camberwell). The Open Day is from 10 am to 5 pm.

## The High Street - regeneration?

Over 40 members attended the presentation by Clapham's new Town Centre Manager, Charlotte Evans, of the plans for the regeneration of the Clapham Conservation Area.

The bidding process for funding started in 1996 in response to the Government's directives on Conservation Area Partnerships. A condition of the bid was the extension of the Clapham Conservation Area to Clapham North which happened in 1997.

Members were reminded that in July 1998 Lambeth won £270,000 funding from the National Heritage Lottery. This was matched by Lambeth providing a total of £540,000 to be spent on the regeneration of Clapham High Street and Clapham Old Town over the next three years. Leaseholders of the chosen buildings are asked to contribute a small proportion of the funding, usually about £1,000 each.

There is a schedule of the projects to be undertaken and the work has been in hand for a year. Charlotte detailed some of the buildings in the scheme with the use of slides and showed examples of the work which has already been carried out in the Brixton Conservation Area.

The Clapham Society has been involved in the process as a member of the Partnership since 1998. Wanda Pratt is the architect from our Planning and Transport Sub-Committee representing on the Partnership's Working Party which includes a Project Management Team funded by Lambeth.

A Clapham Town Centre Forum will meet in October 1999 (and quarterly after that) with members from Lambeth, local housing associations, the MAC, the police and the Clapham Society. The establishment of the Forum will start the consultation process. Its Chair will work to the highest level in the Council and the Society would have a seat on the Board to help drive through the objectives. Senior officers and members will work closely with local people and Lambeth's Area Focus Team. Clapham will move jointly with a similar project in Stockwell. The Forum will be serviced by the new Committee Division in the new Cabinet structure in Lambeth Council.

The issues already being discussed include the environmental enhancement of the open spaces around Clapham Common tube and Old Town, the diverse 24 hour society and growth of leisure in Clapham, the needs of pedestrians, the integration/review of the Red Route

proposals because of the dominance of traffic at the moment, the ventilation shaft and advertisement hoardings, the upper floors of 'Tea Time', the Pavement and the Station, telephone kiosks and CCTV.

The objective includes supervising street care schemes, using 'joined up thinking' to provide a clean and safe environment. This means very fast progress for those who have raced ahead. Clapham is setting its own standards and estate agents are using the Heritage Grant as part of their sell. Smaller businesses are being targeted now for their support. Indicative schemes happen first and then there is a reserve list for other buildings.

In the meeting Cllr Henley informed us that the toilets at Clapham Common would be reopened thus instigating a discussion reminiscent of Clochemerle. And had we all noticed that the clock on the Clock Tower was working now?!

Questions from members sometimes showed a degree of scepticism, understandable considering past experience, eg

- Why had the High Street been allowed to decline... or has it improved?
- Why did we lose Clapham's industrial infrastructure?
- Does the High Street represent what is meant by a 'mixed use area' in the Urban Development Plan?
- What will be the impact on public transport provision if the bus terminus is moved?
- Should Venn Street be pedestrianised?
- What is proposed for the Larkhall Corridor? Should the bridge remain closed to traffic?
- How are the consultants chosen and appointed?
- Could there be a shopfront for the Forum and Town Centre Manager in the High Street?
- To whom will the 'Board' be accountable and how will everything be publicised?
- How will local people be kept informed so they can be included in the consultation process?
- What will be the impact of the Red Route at the entrance to Clapham Common Underground Station?

However, we were assured that all our questions will be addressed by the Town Centre Forum.

## What's new?

The Planning Sub-Committee has looked at a number of new schemes, of which the largest was the Piano Factory site, consisting of four separate applications mainly for living/work units in parts of Northbourne Road, Clapham Park Road and Park Hill. Our representatives were shown round by one of the architects and were generally in favour of the proposals, though worried that the block behind the flats on Park Hill which presents its back to them and is far too close. We also felt that the new houses on Northbourne Road were an unconvincing pastiche of the adjoining Victorian Villas.

Another scheme we were generally in favour of was the refurbishment of the Restholme industrial building, Crescent Lane. We had feared yet another flat conversion, happily it will be offices for Johnson Banks, a much more appropriate use.

We were less convinced with proposals to develop 1-4 Victoria Mews which we believe were designed in conjunction with 33-7 and 38-42 Northside by E. M. Barry. These were unpretentious buildings, and the proposal attempts to turn them into rather grandiose dwellings, with inappropriate and fussy pediments.

We await the decision on Tesco's, and will be at the planning meeting, which looks likely to be 20 July.

### That party.....

Well – you've been there, done that, and didn't buy the T-shirt! *But* the party was a great success largely due to the warm welcome of Mr and Mrs Roxburgh to their wonderful house and garden on West Side. Well over 70 people came along to a varied choice of food and wine in delightful surroundings on a dry but rather windy evening. The garden looked lovely and the house made a very comfortable and special venue for our party.

Thank you to all the many helpers – Christine, Francis, Kath, Mrs Jamieson and Alyson to name but a few, who tackled not only serving the food but clearing away, washing up and packing. Next time more volunteers please! – the success of these parties is largely due to the backroom work of a dedicated few.

Incidentally a malacca cane-handled umbrella and a glass bowl were left behind – contact David Perkin on 0181-673 2570.

We look forward to seeing you at our Winter Party in the next millennium!  
*Joyce Luck*

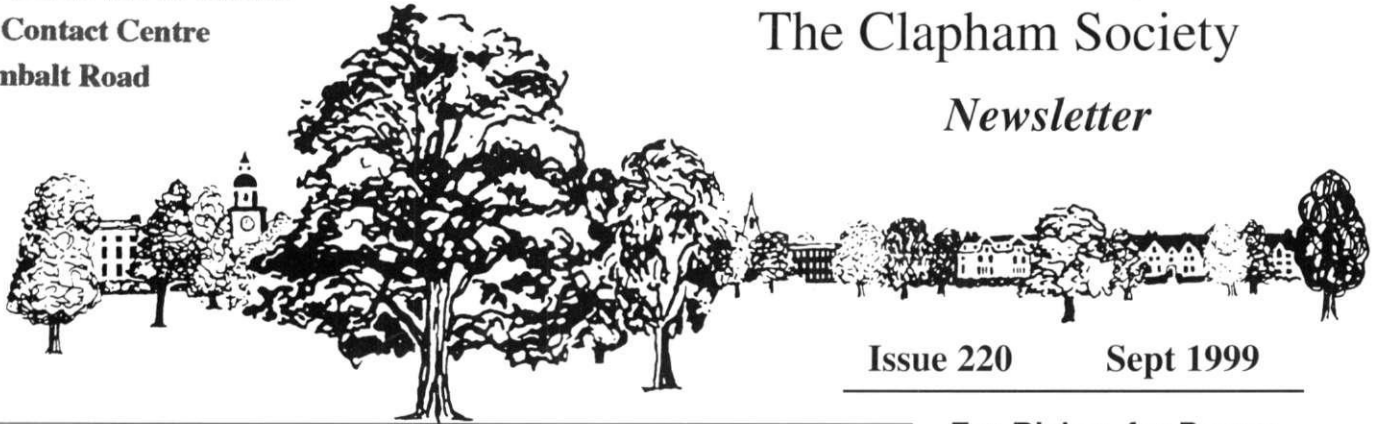
## N.B. CHANGE OF VENUE

The AGM will be held at  
the Contact Centre  
Hambalt Road

*D. Perkin*

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 220

Sept 1999

## The 1999 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on Thursday, 14th October, at St Mary's Hall, St Alphonsus Road (off Clapham Park Road), starting at 8.00pm.

### AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM (15th Oct 1998)
- 3 Adoption of the Annual Report for the year Oct 1997-Sep 1998.
- 4 Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ending 31/3/99
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee for the year 1999-2000:

Chairman	Hon Treasurer
Vice Chairman	Hon Solicitor
Hon Secretary	Hon Membership Secretary
A maximum of ten further committee members	

6. Re-appointment of Hon Independent Examiner  
*There will be an interval for refreshments following formal business*

7. **The Guest of Honour, Mr Martin Drury, Director, The National Trust, will address the Society on 'A cause for our time: the National Trust on the eve of the Millennium.'**

- 13 AOB and Announcements.

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the elections of officers and committee members shall be made to the Secretary at least two clear days before the Annual General meeting. Every nomination shall be in writing, supported by a seconder. The consent of the person nominated shall have been obtained.

David Perkin, Hon Secretary, 14 Englewood Road, London, SW12 9NZ

## Cleaning up

Lambeth's Environmental Services' "Grimebusters" will be visiting each Ward in Clapham next year for a week. We have been asked to recommend sites needing attention. If you know of any 'grotspots' please let us know so that we may specify them for further action.

Contact the Hon Secretary, David Perkin, on 0181-673 2570.



Our President, Norman Marsh QC, talking to John Adams and others at the Society's Summer Party

## For Richer, for Poorer

Don't forget the Lambeth Archives Open Day. Saturday 25 September, at the Minet Library, Knatchbull Road from 10am to 4pm!

There will be lectures all day, related to the theme "for richer, for poorer", and displays by local societies. The Clapham Society will have historical and modern material illustrating wealth and poverty in Clapham.

## Planning matters

By now most members will know that Tesco was successful in its attempt to gain planning permission for a new supermarket and flats at the old South London Hospital for Women site.

At the committee meeting we coordinated our objections with the Clapham South Neighbourhood Association and spoke against the application.

Labour members who had previously professed sympathy for our case were conspicuous by their absence and only the two Liberal members voted against. The Chair allowed no debate about the issues at all, in spite of previously saying that he would, and moved on to vote amidst many angry voices.

The CSNA has begun a campaign to get the scheme called in by the Secretary of State and we are in full support.

We were also very concerned that the 'improvements' to 1-4 Victoria Mews, mentioned in the last newsletter, received planning permission, in spite of a detailed letter of objection from the subcommittee.

We had hoped that Lambeth would wish to restore these simple unpretentious buildings, believed to be by E M Barry, to something like their original state, but the new proposals have added pediments and other gentrifying features, which are to our eyes completely out of keeping.

## Common knowledge

### News from the Playgrounds.

Lambeth Council has listened to requests from mothers and toddlers - and the society's frequent representations - and repaired the ever-popular slide in the Windmill Drive Children's Playground.

Our Common sub-Committee has recommended that the scheme for renewal of the playgrounds be included as part of the overall Lottery Bid, if Lambeth is unable to find funds from its current Playgrounds Repair Budget. As a consequence the Common sub-Committee recommends that the Diana, Princess of Wales Playground appeal be dropped from the society's programme. We would nonetheless like to thank Peter de Lorient, who initiated the scheme, and was contacted by a group of local fund-raisers who wished to take up the scheme themselves. Unfortunately, the funds did not materialise!

### Clapham Common Nature Walk

A local editor of Children's books, Catherine Headlam, has offered to take on the projected publication of the London Wildlife Trust's Clapham Common Nature Walk. This is an illustrated guide to the trees, ponds flora and fauna of the Common which the society's sub-committee would like to update and publish early next year.

This forms part of a strategy to involve the next generation in the value of our green space and in Clapham as their local community. Local schools are being contacted for their ideas.

### Parking - revisited

The Council is going to conduct a review of all existing controlled parking zones in the near future. During the review, all premises in the zones will be consulted on the way the parking controls have been operating, and suggestions invited on changes to the existing layout of parking bays.

### 'Open Day' at St Peter's Church, Clapham Manor Street/Prescott Place on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 4pm.

This is to celebrate 120 years as a parish church and will feature an historical photographic display, vestments and wedding dresses.

**Help needed!** Able to help the Society in any way at the Society's stall, etc? - contact David Perkin, 0181-673 2570

### Seating on the common

We hope you have noticed the renovated benches, particularly the Victorian-style seats near the Bandstand - many thanks to Dave Paul, Roy Selwood and Team Lambeth for this much-needed facility. Thanks, too, to Clapham Anglers who "rescued" several benches and refurbished them on their own initiative. A pleasant summer-evening leisure pursuit was watching the fish rise on Eagle and Mount Ponds from one of the benches.

### The Film on the Common (Stella Screen Tours 26-28 August)

A representative of the Clapham Society appeared at the London Borough of Lambeth Licencing Committee on 13 July to object to the proposed 11.45 pm finish for this event. Our recommended Guidelines for Events on Clapham Common states that no event should continue after 11 p.m. The Officers' view was that a licence beyond 11 pm would increase potential nuisance. The committee voted unanimously in favour of the 11 pm. close for the event. There was also a decision that films should be restricted to U or PG categories. The original programme included two "15" films but it was felt that as the site would not be enclosed it would be difficult to exclude persons under 15 from the viewing area.

*All events held on the Common this year have been closely monitored by members of the Society; a full report will be published in a later Newsletter.*

### South Western Magistrates Court - Open Day - Saturday 18 Sept 1999

The Society has been allocated tickets for the 'Open Day' event at the South Western Magistrates Court in

Lavender Hill, where there will be tours of the building, including the Cells!!, re-enactments of trials and refreshments.

Admission 10.30am-2.30pm by

ticket only. *Interested in this unique opportunity to view a Court in action?* - apply (before 9 Sept) to Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, SW4 7AH, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be on a first-come first served basis.



The Abbeville Road festival featured this waiters' race - picture by Ray Todd

### "Hands on" local history

After discussion of what members want in the area of local history, we are planning a series of practical meetings, which will either be teach-ins on how to find out about aspects of history or opportunities to share in each others' research. There will be three or four such meetings a year, and where they are teach-ins, the aim will be to issue a simple guide leaflet afterwards.

The first three meetings will be

- the history of my house - how do I find out when it was built, by whom, and who owned it or lived in it?
- local archives - where do I find written records, maps, prints, photos etc., relating to Clapham? (Answer - in three or four different places, and you have to know who holds what to avoid fruitless journeys!)
- meet Clapham people - members will talk about their researches into Clapham people of the past.

The meeting on the history of my house will be the Society's December meeting. The others will be part of the programme for the year 2000, along with other topics of historical interest. (It's not just the millennium, you know, it's also the centenary of Clapham Common Underground.)

For the meeting on the history of my house, we will need a small preparatory group of people who have done research in this area, and can talk about title deeds, building records, maps, and lists of residents. There will be one or two preparatory meetings in the autumn. If you would like to take part, please contact Peter Jefferson Smith (0171 622 8285) or Caroline Clark (0171 622 6547).

### MY LIFE AT THE PICTURES

TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

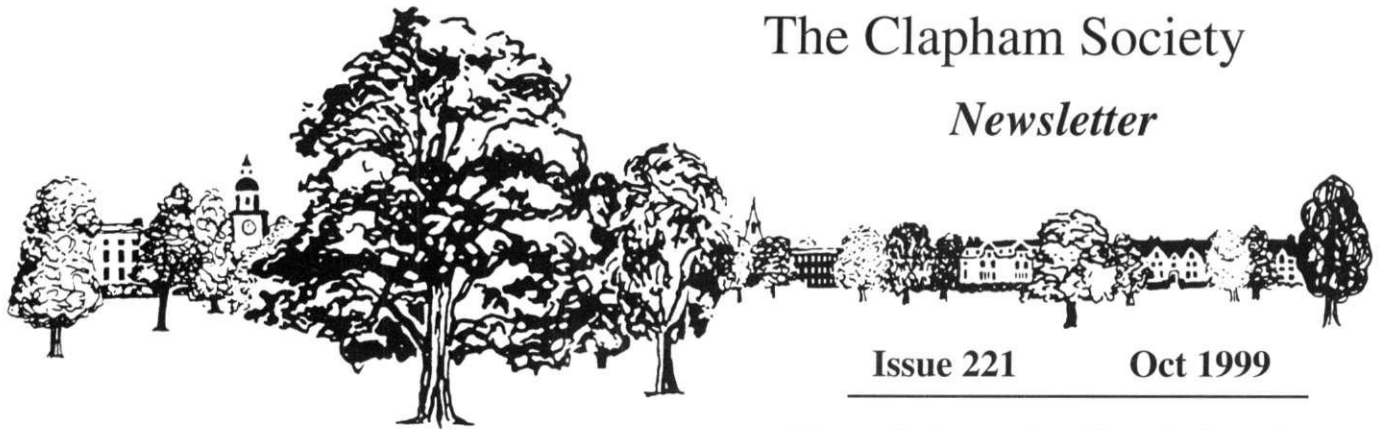
St Mary's Church Hall, St Alphonsus Road, at 8.00pm.

*Film historian and lecturer ALLEN EYLES became an addict of the moving pictures as a youngster living in Balham and Streatham in the 1950's, venturing wide in his search for old movies. He will recall with slides the cinemas he knew in Clapham, Balham, Streatham. Brixton and elsewhere and will also focus on the controversial demolition proposals for the listed Granada at Clapham Junction.*

We also hope to welcome members of the Cinema Theatre Association attending as guests of the Society.

## The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 221

Oct 1999

**The 1999 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 14 October, starting at 8.00pm.

(Guest speaker: Martin Drury, Director, The National Trust)

**Don't forget that the venue has been changed! - due to circumstances beyond our control, we are now meeting at the Contact Centre, Hambalt Road - just off Abbeville Road.**

**Clapham Gateways Project**

Clapham is one of nine areas in the borough which have been selected for consideration in Lambeth's Gateways Project. The aim is to generate projects which will upgrade the urban environment in the key locations that mark entry points to the borough. The Council will contribute about £1m over each of the next five years but the intention is to attract private sector partnerships and funding as well.

The consultants are Eric Parry Architects (who were responsible for a similar project which produced the landmark at the Southwark end of London Bridge) and Enterprise PLC. They have identified two key sites in Clapham: the two triangular islands that are the polygon/bus stand and the Clapham Common tube station - a choice we should endorse! Consultation has already commenced and John Adams and John How attended a focus meeting chaired by our town centre manager Charlotte Evans on August 26th on behalf of the Society. At present the consultants are gathering information but they were encouraged by a positive response from the locals.

Lambeth hope to prioritise at least one of these two projects so that a start can be made in this financial year. This is an important initiative which is likely to affect us all. The consultative approach should provide us with an opportunity to influence real improvement.

John Adams

enforcement action on Lambeth (who manage it). However, the collapse of the Bandstand is more likely than a court action between the two Councils!

**Travel , hopefully**

Do you know anyone who is interested, or indeed expert in transportation issues? Since Charles Williams left the area, we are short of anyone who specialises in this subject for the Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee. Contact Jeremy Hamerton, 37A Yukon Road SW12 9PY (020 8673 2090).

**Thanks are due....**

....to Christel Marsh for having been the rep for area E, but who now has had to stand down. So thank you, Ann King-Hall and Alison McNair, for taking over the area between you.. Thanks also to Mrs Spratt and Euan Kennedy for being reps to areas Y and X, and to Sally Lang and Liz Coulson respectively for taking them over.

*It was a scoop! - Now that the Millennium Wheel is now taking physical shape - don't forget that we broke the news before it was made public, in our March 1996 Newsletter*

*Congratulations to our President and his wife, Norman and Christel Marsh, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on September 3rd. Yes, they married the day war broke out! And a long-standing and active member of the Society, Arthur Tunesi, was 90 on August 26. Congratulations, Arthur!*

**Apology**

In our last Newsletter we reported "Labour members... were conspicuous by their absence" at the vote on the proposed Tesco development for the South London Hospital site.

Cllr Roland Doven was otherwise engaged on Council business in the north of the Borough that evening. He had, however, put in written objections and has since then raised similar points with the Government Office for London to try to get the application 'called in'. Sorry, Cllr Doven.

**Sir Noël Coward - A South London Celebration**

Perhaps the most versatile theatrical talent of this century spent part of his boyhood in a house (50 Southside) overlooking Clapham Common. In plays, films, poems and autobiographies he remembered his early days South of the Thames.

Members of the Clapham Society and a few invited professional guests plan to pool their knowledge, enthusiasms and musical talents in an informal evening of songs and reminiscences of times past. Comfortably in advance of the hundredth anniversary of Coward's birth in December 1899, this local tribute on the evening of November 22nd promises to be a night to remember. (Proceeds to local charities.)

**PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY AND APPLY FOR TICKETS NOW!**

£10 members and guests. Limited number of advance tickets will be available to non-members. 7.30pm start.

The venue, close to Clapham Common tube station, will be confirmed on the ticket.

**Small boats** by Derek Cross,  
Chairman, Clapham Model Yacht Club

Members may have wondered what has happened to the fleets of model yachts which were once such a feature of Sunday mornings on the Long Pond. They do still sail there, but in much reduced numbers and this is why.

Model boat sailing on the Long Pond goes back well over 100 years. For example, the Boys Own Paper of 1887 gave notice of the annual regatta to be held in September of that year, and sailing has been almost continuous since that date, apart from the war years.

While the Common was under the control of the London County Council, the Long Pond was drained and cleaned every two years, but since control passed to Lambeth Council maintenance has deteriorated. The last complete clearance was carried out in 1980. Since that date we are told that financial constraints and labour shortages have prevented maintenance.

An attempt to reinstate that programme in 1993, when responsibility for looking after the Borough's open spaces was taken over by private contractors, failed when it was found that the drain to the pond had been fractured and the attempt was abandoned.

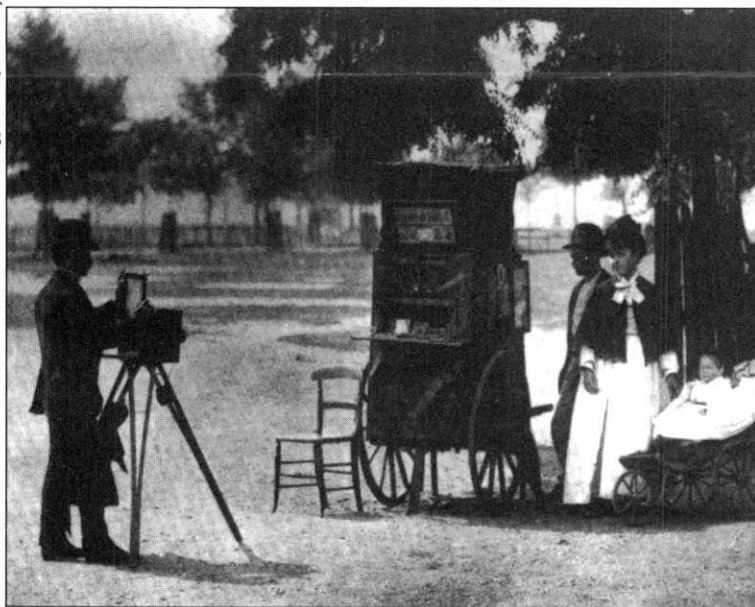
In each successive year the problem of silt and debris gets

worse and there is no regular top-up with fresh water to keep the pond at a constant level. Since the removal of fish in 1998 there has been the added problem of weed growth, but whether the two are dependent on each other is not known.

The accumulated effects of silt and debris, low water levels and weed growth have meant that many members of the once flourishing Clapham Model Yacht Club have had to sail elsewhere, and the competitions that were such a feature on the Long Pond are no longer possible. In the 1980s we could attract fleets of between 36 and 40 boats; at the end of the 90s we are lucky if we see 5 or 6, and for the past two years the Club calendar of racing events has had to be abandoned.

*If action is not taken soon by the Council to reinstate the Long Pond to its former position as the leading model yachting venue in London, the spectacle of model yacht racing on the Common may be gone forever.*

**We hope to stage an exhibition of paintings and old photographs of the Clapham area in the year 2000. If you have anything of interest, we would love to hear from you - contact John Adams, 18a Macaulay Road, SW4 0QX (020 7720 4764). Below: an itinerant photographer on Clapham Common, 1877.**



To: John How  
26 Lynette Avenue  
London SW4 9HD

Please mark the envelope "Noël Coward"

Name.....

Address.....

Please send me ..... tickets at £10 each for the Noël Coward evening on 22 November. My cheque for £..... (made out to The Clapham Society), together with a s.a.e., is enclosed.

**Planning Matters**

The Society is concerned about a proposal to gate off part of the parking area in front of 43 Clapham Common Northside with sliding gates - a proposal which would result in unacceptable disruption of the symmetry of J.T.Knowles' original design intentions.

Recent Lambeth decisions include a rejection of the latest proposal to extend 1, Park Hill, the design quality of which left much to be desired. The Sub-Committee was similarly unconvinced about a proposed development in Larkhall Lane, known as plot 139F, which sits between two Edwardian blocks and flats. We urge Lambeth to encourage a more architectural solution (we see a number of small backland housing schemes in our meetings, and it would be nice to see some better quality architecture).

The problem of missing files in the library came to a head in July, when only 30 of the 60 planning applications were available for view. Our new policy is to object on principle to any applications without documentation until the drawings can be viewed. At the September meeting, only two files were missing, so perhaps the message is finally getting through!

**Take a butchers'...**

At last the first fruits of the CAP scheme can be enjoyed by all who walk along the Pavement in Clapham Old Town, where the magnificent new frontage of M. Moen and Sons, the butchers, has been unveiled at no. 24. Moens survived in their much smaller premises at no. 19 for over 20 years, and there are not many of us who have not queued for Christmas turkey in all weathers.

Not only has the truly awful former frontage to no. 24 been replaced by a good replication of a nineteenth century shop front to match the few surviving originals nearby - but also the spacious interior combines state-of-the-art equipment with traditional decorative tiling and finishes to create a shop that is an asset to the town.

The extra cost in achieving such a high standard was made possible through the CAP funding arrangement whereby the business contribution is matched by additional funding from the local authority and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Let us hope that this success spurs more shop owners to take advantage of the scheme. And if you haven't visited the new Moen's - go there now!

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter

Issue 222

Nov 1999

### The Annual General Meeting

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 14th October, 1999 at the Contact Centre, Hambalt Road at 8.00pm. The President, Norman Marsh, CBE, QC, presided. Some 63 people were present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Celia Bibby and Moira Todd.
2. The Minutes of the previous AGM (15th Oct 98) were approved nem con.
3. The Chairman briefly outlined the Society's concerns and activities as published in the Annual Report and thanked all who had helped, especially Sinclair Johnston, Celia Bibby and Peter de Loriot Chandieu (who were not seeking re-election) to the Main Committee, the distributors of the NewsLetter which is so important to the Society and all those who helped Joyce Luck in her admirable organising of our social events. He then called on John How to report on the successful re-launching of our monthly programme of activities as listed in the Report. In reply to a question from the floor the Chairman agreed that some properties above the shops on the Pavement were in a deplorable state, especially after the recent fire, that our Planning Sub-Committee was concerned, but that desirable improvements depended on the owners. A grant could only be obtained if matching funds are forthcoming from the owners.

Considerable interest was expressed at the state of Long Pond following an article in the current (Oct) issue of the NewsLetter. Our Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee was working with the Common Management Advisory Committee to achieve improvements and the Chairman of the MAC, Nicholas Bentley, spoke from the floor concerning the intricate nature of the problems involved in restoring the Pond. The Chairman suggested that ideas

and offers of help should be directed to Nicholas Bentley for consideration by the MAC, on which the Society was represented. There was clearly enthusiasm to generate action on this issue. The Annual Report was adopted nem con.

4. The Treasurer outlined the Financial Report and Accounts, noting an improvement since the last AGM, due largely to the good response to the request for payment of the recently increased subscriptions and overdue subscriptions, and a significant increase in donations.

The Financial Report and Accounts were then adopted nem con.

5. The following were elected nem con as Officers in the coming year.
- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman             | John Adams        |
| Hon Solicitor        | Neil Acheson-Gray |
| Vice Chairman        | John How          |
| Membership Secretary | Joyce Luck        |
| Hon Treasurer        | Michael Strong    |
| Hon Secretary        | David Perkin      |

The following were elected to serve as Committee members for the following year

- Bill Emmett; John Smith; Jeremy Hamerton; Anna Jefferson-Smith; Alyson Wilson; Nicholas Bentley
6. Euan Kennedy FCA was re-appointed as Hon Independent Examiner nem con. Nicholas Long proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for its work during the year. This was agreed with general applause.

7. After an interval for refreshments the President introduced the Guest of

Honour, Martin Drury, Director of the National Trust, whose illustrated talk on "A Cause for Our Time: the National Trust on the Eve of the Millennium" was much appreciated (see review overleaf).

8. After announcements, etc, the meeting closed at 10.20pm.

#### The History of My House

This will now be the subject of the Society's January meeting. (It has been postponed from the previously announced date of December because that is an already overcrowded month).

The meeting will be on **18 January, at 8.00pm**. The venue which we hope will be our meeting place for the year 2000, will be the **United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square**.

#### Green Waste Collection Area, Windmill Drive

A planning application was submitted by Team Lambeth in August 1998 for a change of use for 'the dump' on Clapham Common. The area was to be used for shredding and composting of green waste from all the open spaces in the borough. This caused great concern because this was a small site close to the children's playground and the implication of noise, extra traffic, smell etc. were considerable. After research and discussion with those involved, as well as our local councillors, the Society lodged a formal objection.

**We were very pleased to hear in late September 1999 that this application had been withdrawn.**

#### Reminder - apply now for:

#### Sir Noël Coward - A South London Celebration

Tickets are still available for an informal evening of songs and reminiscences of times past, organised by and for the Clapham Society. Celebrating the hundredth anniversary of Coward's birth, this local tribute on the evening of November 22<sup>nd</sup> promises to be a convivial night to remember. - refreshments will be available! £10 members and guests. Limited number of advance tickets will be available to non-members. 7.30pm start. Ticket application form overleaf. The venue, close to Clapham Common tube station, will be confirmed on the ticket.

**"A Cause for our Time - the National Trust on the eve of the Millennium"**

The President welcomed Martin Drury, Director of the National Trust, who treated his audience to a truly absorbing account of the work of the Trust today as compared to the past.

Most of us probably thought that we knew pretty well what the Trust stands for and what it does but few could have been aware of the sheer depth and breadth of the business that is carried out in order to protect and conserve so much of our cultural heritage. There was a time when one could safely predict the approach to the interpretation and presentation of most NT properties because their method was so consistent. However Mr Drury started his talk with the example of Uppark in order to make the important point that, ever since that disastrous fire in 1989, it was found that visitors are often just as interested in the techniques and processes of repair and conservation as they are in the final presentation. Today the Trust celebrates all that it does behind the scenes rather than hide it.

The Uppark restoration was not only a triumph for the NT; it provided a very public demonstration of the fact that traditional skills are very much alive and that where forgotten, they can usually be revived. The keen interest in all of us to distinguish the difference between authentic original fabric and replacement is satisfied through the interpretation to the public. Curiosity in the conservation process was also recognised at Ightam Mote where it became a primary visitor attraction over a long period of repair. The business of looking after a great house still involves many of the activities and skills that it always did. The lives of the housekeepers and below stairs staff are as important to a presentation as are the portraits of the families that owned them. Sometimes the housekeepers' images survive in paintings. Some of their routines have been usefully

revived, and "putting the house to bed" for winter (the covering of the furniture) is an important conservation aid. The cost of caring for such an enormous and valuable collection of artefacts, furniture and painting is hard to imagine. The responsibility entailed in taking on the repair of such priceless things as the tapestries at Hardwick Hall is awesome.

In more recent times the common assumption that the NT's effort is only directed towards the preservation of great and old houses and landscapes has been up-ended by recent acquisitions of much humbler properties and examples of more recent architecture. Erno Goldfinger's house at Willow Road in Hampstead was acquired for the importance of the family's collection of pre-war modern artwork that is integral to the character of the house itself, built in 1939. Paul McCartney's house in Liverpool is interesting for its associations but must also be the only example of that period to be so carefully preserved. The relatively recent lifestyle of ordinary folk is something that is not generally considered and important enough to preserve, and furniture for the consumer society has obsolescence built in. The acquisition of a Victorian Workhouse brought the Trust into direct contact with other groups on a world-wide basis, similarly involved in opening up that underside of our past which we had hitherto preferred to brush under the carpet - places connected with slavery, poverty and industrial misery.

Add to all this the management of a vast estate with all the issues that confront farmers and landowners generally; add to that the high ethical values of the Trust which put conservation

above profit; and the picture continues to grow. Perhaps we should not be surprised to learn that farming on NT land is organic. An ecologically sound policy also governs the management of the vast tracts of unspoilt coastline that have been gathered in under the protection of Operation Neptune - surely one of their finest and greatest endeavours so far? Sustainability is also to the fore at Brancaster Staithe in Norfolk, where cottages have been adapted for use as a field study centre using the most modern ideas in environmental technology to transfer energy from the sea to heat the building. Their educational programmes and facilities should ensure that future generations find learning from the past equally exciting.

The Trust led in teaching the rest of the world how to save and protect our heritage. As we go into the next century it is clear that they are still in front. Thank you Martin Drury for a stimulating evening supported by beautiful photography.

Roger Varrow e-mailed the Editor to ask: *"I am a distant member of the society (Cornwall) but I still have a great affection for Clapham having been born in Rectory Grove in 1947. I would like to ask if you know of any member who attended Clapham Manor Junior School in Stonhouse Street from 1952-58 as I did. Any help with this matter would be appreciated."* - if so contact the editor on 020-7622 9234..

**NEW from The Clapham Society. The perfect gift for someone living in Clapham.**

A coloured reproduction of a lithograph of **The Mount, Clapham Common**. Originally published in 1827 by H N Batten of Clapham, this attractive picture has been reproduced to a very high standard by Battley Brothers, with a commentary by Nicholas Long. It is approximately 16 x 32 cms (6.3 x 9.1 ins) and is available unframed at **£1.50** or framed, either in plain wood or in a soft greeny-blue to tone with the colours of the print, at **£8.50**. Delivery free within the Clapham area.

This lithograph is in the Battley collection, and Battley Brothers have generously donated the prints to be sold for the benefit of The Clapham Society.

Orders to Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH, where the framed print may be seen on request, but please telephone first - 0171 622 6360.



THE MOUNT, CLAPHAM COMMON  
Published by H. N. Batten, Clapham Common, 1827

<p>To: John How 26 Lynette Avenue London SW4 9HD Please mark the envelope "Noël Coward"</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Address.....</p>	<p>Please send me ..... tickets at £10 each for the Noël Coward evening on 22 November. My cheque for £..... (made out to The Clapham Society), together with a s.a.e., is enclosed.</p>
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## What we're up to in 2000

A comprehensive programme of events is planned for the Year 2000. In order for members to keep a regular date in their diaries we shall hold our meetings on the **third Tuesday** of each month. There will be no meeting in August or December. All meetings will be held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square at 8.00pm. The Hall is located in the road leading into Grafton Square from Old Town, beside the Sun PH.

The dates and subjects of the meetings are as follows - more details of each one will be given in the Newsletter nearer to the event :

January 18	The History of My House
February 15	Lambeth Gateway Projects
March 21	Roman & Saxon London
April 18	How to use Archives
May 16	Gardens in Clapham
June 20	The History and Future of the Northern Line
July 18	Clapham Common
September 19	Six Clapham Characters
October 17	Annual General Meeting
November 21	London Suburbs

The Centenary of the extension of the Underground to Clapham falls on 3 June 2000 and we hope to arrange some special events to celebrate the occasion. Appropriate ideas from Members would be appreciated.

In addition to the regular meetings there will also be walks, slotted in at weekends. Members' views on timing would be welcome - preferred options appear to be Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon. In the summer an evening walk is also possible.

Of course, we shall continue to hold our Winter and Summer Parties. Ideas for suitable venues are always welcome. The Winter Party, as mentioned elsewhere, will be held at the newly refurbished offices of QAS on Northside, on Saturday 4 March at 7.30pm.

*The next edition of the Newsletter will be February 2000 - and a Happy Christmas and new Millennium to our readers!*

**'Can't think of a Christmas present for a friend ?** - what about our new coloured lithograph of **The Mount, Clapham Common**. Originally published in 1827 by H N Batten (of Clapham), this attractive picture - see illustration - has been reproduced to a very high standard

Don't miss **Trinity Hospice** Carol Service on Thursday 16 December at 7 pm at Holy Trinity Church, followed by a Candlelight Procession to the Hospice to officially 'light up' the Christmas Tree. Each light represents a donation in celebration of a particular life - perhaps you would like to contribute a light ?

## The Society's January Meeting

### The History of My House

The first of a series of "hands on" local history meetings. There will be short presentations, with discussion, on the ways you can trace the history of your house and who lived in it. Topics will include:

- what local authority building records can tell you
- interpreting your title deeds
- using old maps
- where to find lists of residents
- local memories

At the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4  
**Tuesday 18 January at 8 pm.**  
*Get that 2000 diary into use now!*

There was some alarm when Team Lambeth were seen digging up the Common between Holy Trinity Church and the Library. However the locals were reassured when told that the plots were to be filled with daffodil and crocus bulbs, a donation from QAS, the software firm now moving in on Northside. The labour was provided free by Team Lambeth.



by Battley Brothers, with a commentary by Nicholas Long. About 16 x 32 cms (6.3 x 9.1 ins), it is available unframed at **£1.50** or framed, either in plain wood or in a soft greeny-blue to tone with the colours of the print, at **£8.50**. Delivery free

within the Clapham area.

Orders to Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH, where the framed print may be seen on request, but please telephone first - 0171 622 6360.

# Clapham's Noël Coward celebration

About 130 members packed in to a warm and welcoming St Anne's Hall on a chilly November evening for a lively cabaret style entertainment to celebrate the centenary of Noël Coward's birth. John How and Maurice Stewart devised a fascinating programme performed by a group of artists, amateurs and professionals, and mostly South Londoners, which delighted the packed audience seated around tables with their glasses of wine, and had them singing-along with the familiar numbers.

The excuse for the celebration was Coward's Clapham connections, which were outlined early in the first half of the programme entitled 'Story of a Life', a biographical sketch in words and music, with many quotes from his autobiography *Present Indicative*.

Although he was born in Teddington, the family moved to Prince of Wales Drive, Battersea and the young Coward attended, albeit briefly, the Chapel Royal Choir School in Park Hill. He travelled by tram, alighting at The Plough (The Goose and Granite to newer Clapham residents) from where he walked to school 'in anguish in the mornings and on wings of song in the afternoons'. They later moved to a house, then called Ben Lomond, at 50 South Side, Clapham Common. His recollections struck a familiar note with today's Clapham residents - his father sailing a boat on the pond opposite, travelling on the 88 bus to the West End and on the City and South London Line (the Northern Line to us) which he described in 1913 as 'unique in uncomfortable charm' and 'with a peculiar pungent stink'. Nothing changes!

The four readers, Tim Heath, Virginia Lester, Hannah Mahomed and Miles Richardson, with musical contributions by Catherine Johnston, took us adroitly through his life from his South London youth, via 'the rounds of dingy agents' dingy offices' and meals at Lyon's Corner House to his success as 'the darling of the supper club set... the real pro who knew how to play the part of a playboy', and on to the internationally acclaimed performer and writer. Maurice Stewart's script deftly interwove Coward's own words with shrewd observations about his wit and wisdom. How many of us knew before that Coward starting writing when his childhood friend, Esmé Wynn arrived on his door step on her bicycle from Stockwell announcing her intention to write and he determined not to be outdone by her? And did you know that the melody of London Pride was a version of a London street cry, which had been adapted as 'Deutschland über alles' and was retrieved for England by Coward?

After an interval - during which our glasses were recharged by proficient barmen, Bill Emmett and Ray Todd - came 'Songs around the Piano'. William Blezard, perhaps best

known as the accompanist to the late Joyce Grenfell, but who had also worked with Coward, started with a medley before accompanying both Tim Heath and the exuberant Miles Richardson in their lively renditions of classic Coward numbers, including 'Someday I'll find you', and 'I Like America'. Jo Sayer, accompanied by Catherine Johnston, gave us a moving 'I'll see you again' and 'A Room with a View' while Marie Evans and her accompanist, Christina Burstin, soon had us singing-along with 'The Stately Homes of England' and 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen'. Their songs were interspersed with fascinating snippets of information, such as the fact that in a discussion between Churchill and Roosevelt about which verse came first in the latter number, Roosevelt proved to be correct. Virginia Lester read the letter advising Mrs Worthington not to put her daughter on the stage - throwing an entirely new light on it. Ruth Silvestre accompanied by Ena Stilwell stopped the show with her beguiling 'Mad about the Boy' before bringing the evening to a stirring and emotional climax with three London songs. By this time there were a few damp eyes in the house. We had learnt a lot about Noel Coward whilst having a thoroughly enjoyable, convivial evening unlike any Clapham Society event I have ever known. It certainly brought home to me just how many of Coward's songs have, as one of the performers pointed out, become part of our heritage, and it was a fitting celebration of a life which has had a lasting influence on the twentieth century.

We must pay tribute to the enthusiasm and skill of all the performers, and particularly to John How and Maurice Stewart who put so much time and effort into the organisation of this brilliantly successful evening. *Very many thanks to them all.*  
A.W.

## New Year's Day

At mid-day on New Year's Day church bells all over the country will be rung to celebrate the new millennium. Teams of bellringers, including our local Clapham ones, are gearing up for this nationwide event. Don't forget to listen out for Holy Trinity and St. Mary's - and one or other of them will also be ringing in the New Year. And a **time for reflection**.... on New Year's Day at 4 pm there will be a special service at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Narbonne Avenue.

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*We regret to announce the untimely death of John Kay, a pillar of the Clapham Society over many years. A full appreciation by Nicholas Long will be published in the next Newsletter.*

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## Lots and lots of thanks to Area Representatives....

to Mr and Mrs Baldock for looking after Area A for many years and to Michael Strong for taking over; to Deborah Rhodes for handling Area H and to Ann Dunkley who has taken this over; to Kiki Croft for her many years looking after Area Z and to Joan Sinclair who has taken this over; and to John Lamb who is taking over some of Joan Hodge's calls in Area W.



Ruth Silvestre gives "Mad about the Boy" the works!



Ian Richardson watches son Miles. "Am I enjoying the show? You may think so; I couldn't possibly comment!"

# The Big Cake

Christmas in Clapham would not be Christmas without the traditional queue stretching along The Pavement from Moens. Between the World Wars, there was another annual tradition - the monster cake baked by Stevens Bakeries, at 20 The Pavement.

Samuel Stevens had started his own small bakers' business around 1870, near Clapham North. He made his bread at night and delivered it on a barrow in the daytime. Business grew, and after two moves, he came to premises at The Pavement. This expanded to form a large bakery behind the shop, with an outlet on to Bromells Road, employing over 100 people.

Stevens was so well known for his monster Christmas cakes that the business became known as the "Big Cake" Bakeries. The cakes were indeed big, going up in tiers almost to the shop ceiling. Pictures of them being decorated show the staff standing on step ladders. In the mid-1920s, the firm advertised two cakes. One weighed a ton and was at Clapham, and a lesser one - a modest half ton, at another shop in Garratt Lane. Pieces of the cake were advertised for sale at 1s.4d. (about 7p.) a pound.

Samuel Stevens' son set up a new bakery in Camberwell. I have not traced what happened to the Clapham bakery, but it seems to have disappeared, at least by the end of the Second World War. 20 The Pavement was later rebuilt, and is now Bells the estate agents.

Further along the Pavement, on the site now occupied by Iceland, was Carpenters, a bakers with a restaurant much frequented by the respectable of Clapham. Carpenters too had their speciality Christmas cakes, but they took the form of models of buildings such as the Houses of Parliament or Tower Bridge.

Most of my information about the Stevens family comes from one of their descendants, a friend of a member of the Society. Memories of older people are also a source of fascinating facts and impressions about how they lived. Very sadly, I missed one: someone I had known for years had worked for Stevens Bakeries - and I learned this only at her

funeral. But while I was writing this article, I was shown some notes written by Bob Pethurst, who was a boy in Clapham around the First World War. He remembers Mr Stevens as a bearded man who would spend hours decorating his cake. According to Mr Pethurst, it was cut up and distributed among hospitals, workhouses and almshouses. I hope we will be able to collect more memories like these, and share them with members in our newsletters.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

## History real and imagined

Lambeth Archives Open Day on 25 September was its usual crowded success, with good lectures and interesting displays.

Clapham's Nicholas Long spoke on the history of the Metropolitan Police in this area, its organisation and the local police stations. The Society had a small display on the theme "for richer, for poorer" in Clapham.



**Alyson Wilson at the Society's stand**

The open day was, as ever, an opportunity to learn from visitors who approached the Society's stand. One was researching the Yorkshire roots of the Revd. William Dealtry, who was Rector of Clapham from 1813 to 1847. She told us of his father's Methodist background, which the son as an Anglican parson appears to have played down. Another visitor recalled her father organising

concerts on Sunday afternoons at the bandstand.

Two people came to make enquiries about their grandmother, who was born in the early years of this century and given away at birth for adoption. The mother of the child was then living at an address off Battersea Rise, and the birth was in Jeffreys Road, at the maternity home run by the pioneering Dr Annie McCall. But her real home was in

Cambridge, so she probably came to London for the anonymity of an illegitimate birth. Our visitors wanted to know more about Annie McCall, and we were able to put them in touch with the retired Lambeth librarian who is the expert on her.

Meanwhile, back in Clapham . . . A newspaper article on the controversy over grants for restoring a house in Old Town said that Captain Cook's mother owned it. And an estate agent's blurb for a former Clapham school now being sold as a luxury house said that Charlie Chaplin went to it. Nice tries, folks, but not so.

But we do have a sort of Charlie Chaplin connection, as Allen Eyles, the speaker at our September meeting reminded us. Castleton Knight, the manager of the Majestic Cinema in the High Street between the wars, once pulled off a publicity stunt, by which he claimed to have kidnapped Chaplin at an airport and brought him to Clapham. Mr Eyles had a photo of Knight with Chaplin, and the

story is backed up by the reminiscences of Frank Byford, which are held by Battley Brothers, and parts of which we serialised some years ago. But did it really happen? Another local expert on Chaplin thinks that Knight was more likely to have been using a Chaplin lookalike. We'll never know.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

## Your views are needed

In February 1999 the Clapham Society produced its **Recommended Guidelines for Events on Clapham Common**. The Common and Open Spaces Subcommittee proposed that the Guidelines be reviewed at the end of the year.

We would very much value the opinions of members on any or all of the events held on Clapham Common during 1999, particularly those related to noise, litter and damage. Favourable comments will also be welcome.

We would like all comments to be in writing as it is not possible to refer back to a telephone call in discussion. **Please contact Anna Jefferson Smith, 22 Ivey Road, SW4 0EW or fax 0171 622 8285 before the end of January 2000.**



## Planning Matters

### The Tesco saga continues.....

Following Lambeth Council's approval of Tesco's plans for the South London hospital, the plan has been 'called in' by the Secretary of State, which means that there will now be a Public Local Inquiry. In particular, this will consider the appropriateness of a large store on this site, its impact on neighbouring Clapham High Street and Balham High Road and traffic and parking issues.

**Other plans** ....The Society has lodged an objection to a proposal to convert Lynton House, 54 Clapham Common South Side from offices into flats, with a new dormer roof and internal changes which would adversely affect the superb hallway and stairwell.

An application has been made to erect a disappointing four-storey building with flats and shops on the key site of the former Forrester's garage next to The Prince of Wales in Old Town. However, we are more hopeful for an interesting proposal to convert the former Budgen's supermarket into a gym with a new frontage to the High Street.

Finally, there are plans to turn the old Clapham Station building in Voltaire Road into (yet more) flats. This seems an inappropriate use - there is no outside space and it would be difficult effectively to reduce the noise from the trains. It would be nice if a better use could be found for this delightful example of Victorian railway architecture.

*If you want to know more about these, or any other planning applications, they are available on request, at Clapham Library on North Side.*

J.H.

## QAS Systems Ltd

No-one in Clapham can have failed to notice the activity on the large building next to the library on Northside. But how many know what is going on and who is moving in? The building is being renovated as the new home of one Clapham's business success stories of the 1990s.

Have you ever telephoned a company and needed to give your address? The first thing you have been asked for is your post code and house number and then you are told your address in full !! It may seem like magic, but it probably means that they are using QAS software.

QAS Systems was founded in 1990 by the present Chairman, Tony

Bickford, who saw the potential for using the postcode to collect addresses of people ordering goods and services over the 'phone. The following year Simon Worth joined him as Managing Director. QAS develops and sells the QuickAddress range of software products. Over 20% of the company's turnover is spent on Research and Development for new products, which are easy to use and provide immediate business benefits. This, together with a highly motivated sales force, has contributed to the growth of the company. Over the past five years, QAS has grown at a rate of 45% per year. They now employ about 150 people in the Clapham office and are still actively recruiting additional sales and technical staff.

QAS have always been based in the Clapham area, which they find an ideal location since it is near the centre of London, with good public transport and road infrastructure. Above all they find there is a ready pool of high quality people who are keen, committed and have the required skills to contribute to their growth. Other specialists they recruit are happy to relocate to the area, especially young graduates who are attracted by the range of pubs, bars and restaurants. Last year QAS opened offices in Australia, in Sydney and Melbourne, and next year they plan to open in the Netherlands and Germany.

QAS are strong supporters of the local regeneration plans and active members of the Clapham Society. The exciting news is that they have invited us to hold our **Winter Party** in their new building. More news about the party and the refurbishment of George West House in the February newsletter.

A.W.

## Of Palaces and Fleapits

The September event, the talk by Allen Eyles entitled 'My life at the Pictures' must not remain un-recorded in the newsletter. It was not just a trip down memory lane - it was a revelation - delivered by a real buff whose infectious enthusiasm for the subject was developed during his youth spent in the picture houses of South London.

Did you know that the Balham *Empire* (previously a public baths) was the first full-time cinema in London, and possibly in England? Or that the *Majestic* (now *Southside* club) in Clapham High Street once had a sliding roof which opened in hot weather? The cinema, designed by J Stanley Beard, was the leading Clapham cinema in 1914. Further along the street on the site now occupied by Burger King stood the *Clapham Pavilion*, built by Israel Davis in 1910, and sister to the *Brixton Pavilion* (now the *Ritz*). It was owned by the Dobbin family from 1919 until it closed in 1957, by which time it had declined to full flea-pit status. It is also interesting to know that on the site of the Clapham Picture House in Venn Street a cinema, the Electric Palace, opened in 1910. In 1919 plans were drawn up for an elaborate new cinema, to be called the Coliseum, with a frontage on the High Street. This never opened, because the company got into financial difficulties, but some of the frontage can still be seen above the 'b2' shop on the corner of Venn Street and the High Street.

The 1,700-seat Balham *Odeon* was one of the best in that distinguished line, designed by George Coles. *Majestic*

*Wine Warehouse* have retained the streetfront building which was originally outlined with neon lights. However, the golden age of the Picture Palace proper is marked by the survival locally of two of the most famous 'atmospheric'



Clapham Junction Granada:  
exterior

cinemas of the pre-war period at Tooting and Clapham Junction. The former is listed Grade II, a Moorish extravaganza with an interior by Theodore Komisarjevsky (you must see it if you haven't) which has survived its translation into a bingo hall. The Clapham Junction *Granada* has a grand classical interior, also by Komisarjevsky and is listed Grade II, but is threatened by redevelopment and its future is not at all secure. A preservation initiative by the 'Carry on Granada Group', headed by Robert Bloomer, would welcome your support. (Contact via CS Chairman)

Thank you, Allen, for a most enjoyable talk.

J.A.

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 224

Feb 2000

## A Plan for Clapham Common

At last we have some good news to report on progress towards the preparation of a Strategy and Master Plan for the conservation and regeneration of the landscape of the Common and its buildings (see Newsletters 217 & 219). Nick Bentley as chairman of the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) for Clapham Common has succeeded in winning funding from Lambeth to pay for the preparation of a bid for lottery or other funding. This is the only way that we can see of raising the sort of money necessary to repair and restore the Common. It is clear that Lambeth cannot resource work on the scale that is now necessary without external funding. However, at this stage the money is to be spent on a consultancy which will establish the scope of the work and prepare the lottery bid. £10,000 will come from Lambeth Council Parks Investment Fund and, because this is unlikely to be enough, Charlotte Evans (Clapham Town Centre Manager) has agreed to provide up to the same amount from the Environment Task Force budget.

The MAC is therefore in an influential position at the preliminary stage of what could develop into a most exciting project. This Society is well represented on the MAC and last year we were instrumental in promoting the need for a properly adopted plan based on a better understanding of the history of the landscape. The work will require a proper topographical survey, condition surveys of the trees, soft and hard landscapes, ponds, artefacts and buildings. It will also need a conservation plan based upon a more accurate history of the landscape, which is already being prepared by Anna Jefferson Smith, and will be submitted to English Heritage shortly, in the hope that the Common will qualify for inclusion in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

Because the constitution of the MAC does not allow it to manage money, it has been agreed that the Clapham Society will act as Banker so that Lambeth Council can release the money in this financial year. Involvement through enablement is a most appropriate role for an amenity society such as ours to play. **Action is likely at last.**

## The Bandstand

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Society recently met Cllr. Chris Henley, the Lambeth Councillor with responsibility for the Environment, to discuss the Bandstand. He told us that Lambeth cannot alone find the money required to repair the bandstand (estimated at around £200,000).

Members will remember Euan Kennedy's suggestion at the AGM that the Society do something to mark the millennium and it is hard to imagine a more appropriate cause than this. However, if it is too big for Lambeth it is certainly too big for the Clapham Society. But we could catalyse and organise action. To start with we have agreed to explore the possibilities of partnership funding. The Society would certainly

wish to be part of any partnership and to take the initiative on a project steering group. The Main Committee has therefore agreed that we will consider setting up a fundraising Trust. We hope to have more to report soon, but this is by way of an announcement that the year 2000 will, depending on co-operation from the Council, hopefully see the Clapham Society actively engaged in the rescue of one of our landmarks.

## Winter - or is it Spring party ?

Due to a delay in moving to their new premises - George West House, 2-3 Clapham Common North Side - at which QAS have kindly agreed to host our Winter Party, it has had to be rescheduled. The new date is **Saturday, 15 April**. More details and a ticket application form will be given in the next Newsletter.

## Next meetings

All meetings are at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

**February** - Members of the Committee will be briefing the Society on **current issues** at the meeting on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February**. Amongst topics to be discussed are the forthcoming publication *The Buildings of Clapham*, the role of the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee, the future of the Bandstand and the Tesco proposal for the South London Hospital site.

This is an opportunity, outside the AGM, for members to be more closely involved with the strategy of the Society. *Come and let us hear your views.*

**March** - The March meeting is on Tuesday 21st March - A talk by **Robin Densem**, recently retired from the Museum of London Archeological Unit, on **Roman and Saxon London**.

**April** - The Clapham Gateway Projects will now be the subject of the meeting on Tuesday 18th April, postponed from February. The Gateway Projects are proposals by Consultants, Enterprise plc and Eric Parry Architects, commissioned by Lambeth to revitalize the areas around Clapham Common Underground Station and the Old Town.

The escalator at **Clapham South Station**, out of service for several months, is being treated as 'Urgent', and will be back in service by the end of February. However, the news is not so good for Clapham North Station. This escalator is not 'urgent' so travellers will have to continue to use the stairs until the end of June!

Alan, landlord of the **Tim Bobbin** in Lillieshall Road, and his wife Julie, will be retiring at the end of January after twenty years. The brewery will put in a manager and so the personal touch is unlikely to survive. Let us hope that they will not try and change the name to the Goose and Pimple or some such. Where does the name Tim Bobbin come from?

# John Kay

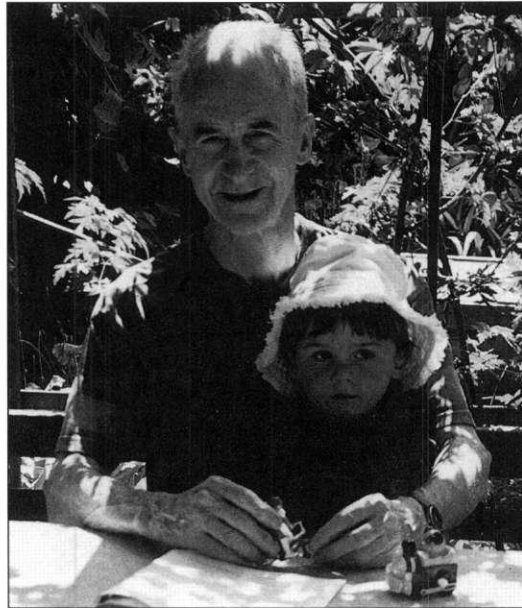
## A personal appreciation

News of John's untimely death came as a shock to me. John always seemed so strong and youthful and it was only a few weeks ago that we met by chance on a bus and enjoyed robust conversation. My thoughts are with his wife Ann and their children, Matthew, Oliver and Josephine.

I first had contact with John in the early 1970s when he was both inspiring and leading efforts to introduce traffic calming measures in the Clapham Park area. I joined the Clapham Society as a result of hearing John speaking fluently and persuasively at a public meeting, in command of all the facts, totally sure of his case and able to counter - always courteously but firmly - opposing views. He was an able communicator, both in speech and on paper (his drawings were always clear and concise), and one of the most fair-minded men I have ever met; he was the epitome of a modern democrat. In short, John provided the model I aspired to, particularly when I succeeded him - a pale shadow as Hon Secretary of the Society.

What I did not know then was

how our interests would coincide in later years. As the Listing of post-war buildings became a compelling issue, my involvement with the Twentieth Century Society caused me to refer to John on



numerous occasions about educational buildings (he had been Chief Architect at the Department of Education) and I learnt in some detail of his considerable contribution. A long-running case of that Society is the Brynmawr Rubber Factory

in South Wales and it was John who contacted me with a generous offer of assistance with the campaign. Other mutual interests included the William Morris Society and the promotion of Local Agenda 21 issues in Lambeth.

For me, John was a modest giant. He achieved a great deal in his own quiet way, always more interested in how the quality of life for the majority could be improved. Locally, his interest in and contribution to debates about roads and public transport, the environment of Clapham Common and improvements to townscape and design will be remembered. He was active and influential in several (now long forgotten) campaigns during the late 60s and early 70s, including the Ringway scheme, a proposal that would have shattered Clapham with a motorway running close to its heart.

In the closing years of the century British society has become extremely selfish, choosing to put self interest before common good. Therefore, it is unfashionable, yet highly proper, to celebrate a life that was dedicated to ensuring that society improved for the benefit of future generations.

*Nicholas Long*

**Studio Voltaire** is a group of about 30 artists and craftspeople living in the Clapham area. They have recently acquired two former warehouses and a Mission Hall in Nelson's Row, just behind the Methodist Church in Clapham High Street. One warehouse has already been turned into twenty affordable artists' studios, the second is to be used for exhibitions and performances; the Mission Hall will later become a gallery.

They hope to hold an annual **Clapham Arts Festival**, which this year will be a one-day event on **Saturday 25 March**. The Clapham Society will be taking part in this exciting new venture. More details in the next Newsletter.

## The Society's January meeting

More than fifty members were present at our January meeting, when the subject was **The History of my House**. Four speakers introduced different investigative approaches and showed relevant slides. Alyson Wilson discussed maps, from Rocque (1760) and Bland (1849), to the Ordnance Surveys of 1870, 1894, 1913 and 1935 and war damage maps. Peter Jefferson Smith considered title deeds, explaining what can be gleaned from

## Planning matters

The date for the Public Enquiry into the Tesco proposals has been set for 11th April at Lambeth Town Hall, and it is expected to continue for six days. The Society intends to make a representation, and we are currently updating our original letter of objection to take account of further information gathered since planning approval was granted.

Applications have been received from McDonald's and from Nationwide to modify their shopfronts on the High Street to conform to their latest corporate identity. It would be nice if these could

documents such as the Land Register certificate, builder's lease, title deeds and other documents. Roger Armstrong's subject was local authority records. He outlined the value of the District Board of Works' Minute Books, Vestry Minutes, Borough Council and drainage records and rate books.

Eleanor Gray dealt with the information about residents to be obtained from population censuses, street directories and electoral registers, pointing out their importance since title

be integrated into Lambeth's CCAP Master Plan for the area and we are encouraging Lambeth Council to exert some influence.

We have objected to an outline application to convert factory buildings adjoining the railway at 34-36 Bedford Road for residential use, on the grounds of loss of employment.

The Planning and Transportation Subcommittee has only been dealing with planning issues since Charles Williams, who dealt with transport issues, moved out of the area. John Smith has now filled this void, and we intend to compile a policy document on transport, after canvassing members' views.

deeds indicate ownership, but not who lived in a house. We were reminded that all these records can be consulted either at Lambeth Archive Department or Battersea Local History Library.

After a short break to look at maps and documents on display, there was a lively discussion with interesting questions from the audience. Finally, John How announced that a talk on typical builders' features and fittings of Clapham houses, was planned for January 2001.

*D Perkin*  
The Clapham Society

Newsletter

Issue 225

March 2000

## The Spring Party - apply now!

The delayed Winter Party will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm at the new premises of QAS, George West House, 2-3 North Side, Clapham Common. Numbers are strictly limited, so send in your application form for tickets without delay. You'll find this on the back page.

George West House was built in 1915-16 for Ross Ensign Limited, manufacturers of optical lenses and equipment.

This modern steel framed factory building replaced their old works on the site, and was an attempt during the First World War to extend in Britain key industries which had hitherto been dominated by Germany. After the closure

of the factory the building became offices for the Willetts Building Group in the 1970s and then Lambeth Council offices. It is from this time that the name, that of a local councillor, dates.

In 1998 QAS, who were already established in Clapham Old Town, purchased the building and undertook a major refurbishment, designed to restore the appearance of the original building whilst modifying the interior for its new use. The entrance has been returned to its original position, a new stone dressed ramp added and the existing railings, iron gates and stone posts restored. A new room with full height glazing has been added at roof level to each of the two wings of the building.



George West House in 1998 before refurbishment

## Next Meetings

All meetings are at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Roman and Saxon London. Robin Densem, who has recently retired from the Museum of London Archaeological Unit will give an illustrated talk on Roman and Saxon London, with special reference to several 'digs' undertaken by the Unit in Clapham.

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

The Clapham Gateways Project. Details of the proposals by consultants, Enterprise plc and Eric Parry Architects, to revitalise the areas around Clapham Common Underground Station and Old Town.

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May

And something completely different! Local garden designer, Carole Kinross, will give ideas and demonstrate how to brighten up your pots, containers and hanging baskets with a variety of seasonal and year-round plants.

## Clapham Arts Festival

The first Clapham Arts Festival is to take place on Saturday 25 March from 10am to 6pm at Studio Voltaire, 1a Nelson's Row, which is just behind the Methodist Church in Clapham High Street.

There will be a number of workshops including:

- pavement painting
- charcoal drawings using natural materials as inspiration
- build your own mosaic
- computer generated art - a hands on demonstration of the latest software
- design costumes for checkout operators at Sainsburys
- drama workshop based on the Clapham Society's exhibition

The Clapham Society's contribution to the festival will be an exhibition on the subject of the growth and development of Clapham. This will consist of a series of maps of different dates with photographs illustrating local scenes and buildings.

The exhibition will be closely related to our forthcoming book, *The Buildings of Clapham*, which is to be published at the end of April.

## Local events ...

If you are organising any event which you would like us to publicise we will be happy to do so if we have space available. Send as much information as possible in good time before the event, preferably by e-mail, to [alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net](mailto:alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net) or by fax to 020 7622 7899 or by post to Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH. Appropriate illustrations are useful.

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*Following on from Peter Jefferson-Smith's article (Dec/Jan) about Stevens Bakery and the response to it from Arthur Tunesi in this newsletter we would like to print other reminiscences of Clapham in the past. Did you work at the Ross Optical factory on North Side, at the NECO factory or at the old Sycamore Laundry? Or do you have memories of war-time Clapham, former cinemas, entertainments or shops in Clapham. Today's Clapham residents would find these fascinating.*

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**Crescent Works** in Crescent Lane, which was the Barry family leather works for nearly 70 years, has recently been beautifully refurbished and converted into a design studio by **Johnson Banks Design Limited**. It was built in 1922 as an Evangelical Advent Church by Mrs Mack of 31 South Side - in her back garden. On the upper floor she established a maternity nursing home, known as 'Restholme'. The pool for total immersion baptisms survived until 1998, as did the name 'Restholme'.

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### *Are London's Open Spaces safe in the Mayor's hands ?*

The Greater London Authority Bill pays scant attention to London's Open Spaces. A public meeting, convened jointly by the London Forum, the Open Spaces Society and the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) will be held on **14<sup>th</sup> March at 6 pm** at 77 Cowcross Street, EC1, to consider the issues.

The speakers will be Giles Dolphin - Assistant Chief Planner of LPAC, Dr Hazel Conway - Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Garden History Society and David Lambert - Adviser to the recent House of Commons Environment Committee Enquiry into Town and Country Parks.

Tickets £5 including refreshments (Non-members £7). For further details contact Moira Todd 020-8673 3759.

## EDWARD HOLLAMBY (1921-1999)

Ted Hollamby, who died suddenly just after Christmas, was the first Borough Architect of Lambeth. In 1963 he came from the LCC, in the heady days before it became the Greater London Council, to be Borough Architect. By the time he left in 1981 he was the head of a large Planning and Development Directorate.

During the early years, when the national policy was for comprehensive development with Compulsory Purchase powers, Ted was seen as the 'scourge' of the Borough and there was even a 'Rid us of Hollamby' campaign. His grandest proposals for the high-rise redevelopment of the centre of Brixton were not realised, apart from the Recreation Centre and an office block. Working with him on the Recreation Centre gave me the opportunity to get to know Ted and discover that he was approachable and genuinely concerned for the best interests of Lambeth. He later 'became a champion of low-level

estates responsive to topography and local conditions' (Jonathan Glancey) as at Myatts Field and Central Hill.

In Clapham, projects that he nurtured include Clapham Manor Estate, Bowland Road Estate (with Darbourne & Darke) and the tower blocks in Clarence Avenue and Bedford Road, designed by Bill Jacoby, who succeeded Ted as Borough Architect when he became Director of Architecture, Planning and Development in 1969.

From Lambeth Ted went on to become Chief Architect and Planner to the London Docklands Development Commission, setting down the design parameters for Britain's most comprehensive redevelopment project. In 1985 he retired to his home in Bexley, the Red House built by Philip Webb for William Morris, which he had lovingly restored. In his monograph on the house he described it as modest, direct in expression and having humanity. These virtues reflect Ted's approach to architecture: his contribution to the post-war environment of London is significant.

*John How*

## Planning matters

The receipt of our objection to Tesco's proposal for the old South London Hospital for Women site has been acknowledged by the DOE. We understand that Wandsworth Council has instructed a barrister to represent them in their opposition, but that they will be playing a smaller role in the proceedings than had been hoped. Tesco's Statement of Case is apparently well argued, but Lambeth Council, who, having granted planning permission must submit a defence of their decision, have not yet done so. We are pleased that three Lambeth councillors, Roland Doven, Ruth Ling and Martin McEwan have sent in their own individual objections.

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We feel the revised proposals by architects, Lipinski Pates, for the site next to the Prince of Wales in Old Town are still insensitive to such an important site.

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There is an interesting proposal by Duncan Thomas, for seven residential units at 3A Bedford Road and 4 Fenwick Place, which makes intensive use of the rear of the site but generates an interesting architectural solution.

On the Transportation front, we are now on the DETR's consultation list. Proposed changes to the preferential use of Heathrow's runways will either suspend westerly flying (ie. over us) at night, or rotate westerly and easterly flight routes, subject to weather conditions. This may give us all more sleep. We will be keeping a close check on developments.

### ***It's time to pay !***

Our subscription year commences on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not pay your subscription by Standing Order would you please complete the membership form on the last page and return it to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible. Some members are very slow to pay their annual subscription and we urgently need the money to finance our monthly meetings, our monthly Newsletter, publications and other activities. It puts added pressure on the hard-working Membership Secretary and Treasurer if they constantly have to chase those who are slow to pay. Please consider completing a Standing Order Mandate for your subscription. This saves both you and the Society time and effort.

## The Society's February meeting

Nearly forty members turned out on a wet and windy evening to hear members of the Committee report on **Current Issues**.

Alyson Wilson gave a brief summary of the purpose and contents of the Society's new book, *The Buildings of Clapham*, which will be published at the end of April. Full details of this will appear in the April Newsletter with an order form.

Nick Bentley, Chair of the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee, outlined the role of the Committee (usually known as the MAC) in developing a management plan for the Common, in conjunction with Lambeth Council. He mentioned the many frustrations, the problem of balancing the interests of the twenty different user groups involved with the Common and the controversial question of its use for 'events'. However, lottery funds are available for landscape regeneration - Battersea Park has recently received £10 million - and the MAC is commissioning a study by landscape consultants in preparation for a lottery bid. In reply to a question about the lamentable state of the play areas, Nick said that he understood money has been allocated for use before the end of this financial year. Councillor English suggested that the MAC should ensure that its own views were known to the consultants.

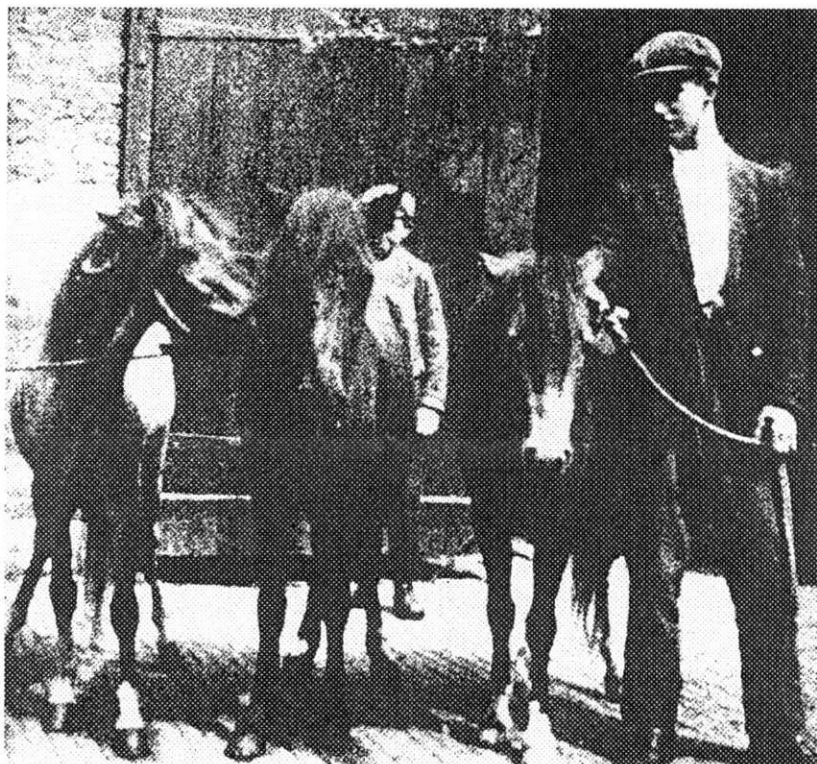
John Adams then talked about the Bandstand. Within the last week new research by Anna and Peter Jefferson Smith has revealed that the Bandstand is not, as was previously believed, one of the bandstands made in 1861 for South Kensington and moved to Clapham in 1890. It was newly built in 1890 to designs by an LCC architect, in the style of those bandstands. A full article about this discovery will appear in a later Newsletter. John discussed the sad neglect and deterioration of Clapham's bandstand, the huge cost of repairs and its future use and maintenance. This prompted several questions about the bandstand area, the café and other matters which all relate to the wider Common regeneration scheme.

Finally, Jeremy Hamerton, gave an up-date on the long-running saga of the **Tesco proposals** for development of the South London Hospital site. He showed the current plans and explained the three grounds on which the Society objected to these: non-compliance with regulations concerning large retail developments likely to affect nearby shopping areas

(Clapham and Balham), architectural inadequacy and traffic problems.

After further lively discussion of the issues, the meeting was drawn to a close.

difficulty of them being shod by the farrier, they were replaced by three Shetland ponies, Bob, Peter and Call Boy. When they started they would not pass my mother's door until she gave



Arthur Tunesi, aged about 15, with the ponies outside the stables at Downers Cottages

## Big cakes and memories

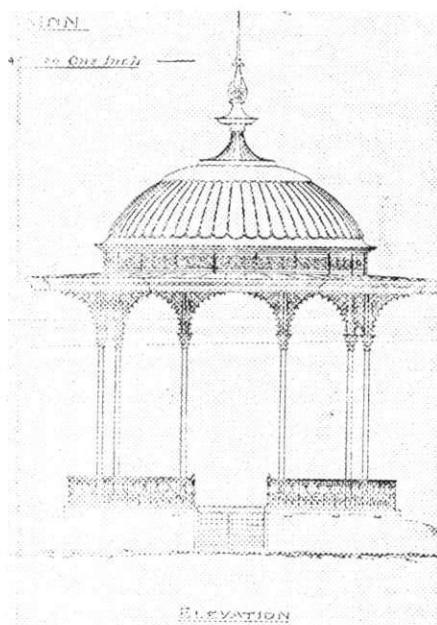
Following the article in the December/January newsletter about Stevens Bros "Big Cake" Bakery, our member Arthur Tunesi writes:

"Stevens Bros got rid of their barrows, and had horse drawn vans built by Stanfords in North Street. My father supplied two donkeys and harness to draw them - Daisy and Jenny. They were used for a time, but owing to the

them carrots etc. Peter and Call Boy one Christmas drew the coach in Cinderella at the Balham Hippodrome, at the bottom of Balham Hill. The ponies won eight merit medals at the annual horse show at Regents Park."

The Tunesis' stables were at Downers Cottages, next to the Cock PH, now the Frog and Forget-me-not. They were demolished by a land-mine in the Second World War.

Arthur Tunesi also has many memories of Clapham Common: "The Mount Pond was used for swimming: I learnt there to swim and then won the school championship at Stonhouse Street School. A fair was staged every holiday at Long Pond, and we saddled a horse @ 3d. a ride. The stalls were numerous and varied, and youth danced around the bandstand." The Tunesi family has lived in Clapham since 1854, and Arthur Tunesi himself is now in his ninetieth year. He has written two full accounts, one of his working life and the other of Clapham between the wars. An abridged version of the latter appeared in the Society's Annual Report for 1991. Memoirs like these, of working lives in the greater part of the twentieth century, are a real contribution to our history, and we must be grateful to all who record them.



Bandstand - the Plan

# Subscriptions are due on 1st April!

**Are you already paying your annual subscription by standing order?** If so, please just check that you are paying the correct amount - see below. Otherwise you can ignore everything else.

**Not paying by standing order?** Sorry, you need to read what follows. Why not make just a little effort now, complete a standing order mandate and let your bank take care of paying your subscriptions each year?

**Cheques** are of course accepted. Please make them payable to **The Clapham Society**.

**Donations.** The Society is constantly in need of increasing its income. Any additional amount you feel able to pay will be greatly appreciated, whether it is a once-off payment by cheque or is included in an annual standing order payment.

## Membership and subscription details

*Please complete the following: Amount due (please circle as applicable)*

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Whichever method of payment you choose, please enter your full address and telephone number in the space provided on the standing order mandate form. Then please send this complete page, and cheque where applicable, to

Mrs Joyce Luck  
15 Cavendish Road  
London SW12 0BH

*Standing order mandates should be sent by 18 March. Please do not send them direct to your bank!*

## The Clapham Society Standing Order Mandate

To: ..... Bank

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Please pay the sum of £.....\* on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000 or as soon as possible thereafter and then annually on 1<sup>st</sup> April, until this order is cancelled in writing, to:

National Westminster Bank PLC  
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for the credit of the Clapham Society, account number 22217045

Please cancel any previous Standing Order in favour of the Clapham Society.

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Signature .....

Date .....

To: Joyce Luck  
15 Cavendish Road  
London  
SW12 0BH

Please send me ..... tickets for the Clapham Society's Spring Party at QAS. Ticket prices are £10 each, £7 for concessions. My cheque for £..... made out to The Clapham Society is enclosed, together with a stamped return envelope.

From: .....



## Clapham Society Visit to the BA London Eye

By now most people living in Clapham will know that the designers of the British Airways London Eye Millennium Wheel are Clapham architects, Julia Barfield and David Marks. Just before the wheel officially opened to the public they generously arranged for The Clapham Society to have two capsules for a trip on Friday 25 February. With only a few days' notice of the event, the Chairman decided to announce the visit at the Society's meeting earlier in the week, inviting those present to join committee members on the outing.

We were fortunate that it was a dry and fairly clear afternoon, and commencing at 4.30 pm we had the beginning of the sunset to enliven the London skyline. The wheel turns so slowly for the 35 minutes of its revolution, that the movement is barely discernible. Surely nobody can resist the temptation to see over London from the comfort and security of a glass capsule. Whichever way one looks there are landmarks to spot and identifying well-known buildings from a novel viewpoint is a fascinating occupation. Apparently on a very clear day you can see 25 miles but for most Londoners the middle distance is far more interesting. This is certainly a trip to be repeated at different times of the day and different seasons.

Our thanks to Julia Barfield and David Marks for arranging for us to be

amongst the first to experience this exciting ride - or flight as British Airways term it. The wheel is now open to the public and a visit is strongly recommended.

Book in advance as it is proving justifiably popular - telephone 0870 5000 600 - and take your camera and binoculars.



Look at us looking at you - members get a unique view of the London skyline

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## STOP PRESS

### The Arts in Clapham

On **Thursday 30 March at 7.30 pm** at Studio Voltaire, 1a Nelson's Row, there will be a forum, chaired by Caroline Jenkinson, Arts Development Officer of Lambeth Council, to discuss the future of the arts in Clapham. This will be an opportunity for you to air your views and say what you would like from our Annual Arts Festival.

All welcome, admission free, refreshments available. Further details from Nigel Winborne at Studio Voltaire 020 7622 1294.

## Next meetings

All meetings are at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 18 April

**The Clapham Gateway Projects**  
Lambeth Council are preparing schemes for improvements to the area around Clapham Common Underground Station and Old Town. Charlotte Evans, the Town Centre Manager, and her team, including Enterprise plc and Eric Parry Architects, will present their proposals to the Society.

This is an important part of the consultation process and gives members the rare opportunity to have a say in the decision making.

### Tuesday 16 May

**Local garden designer, Carole Kinross**, will give ideas and demonstrate how to brighten up your pots, containers and hanging baskets with a variety of seasonal and year-round plants.

### Tuesday 20 June

The Centenary of the extension of the City & South London Railway (now the Northern Line) from Stockwell to Clapham North (originally called Clapham Road) and Clapham Common, falls on 3 June this year. This meeting will celebrate the event, with speakers on the history and future of the Northern Line.

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## The Bandstand - again

The Society's concerns about the **Bandstand** are at last leading to some action - Lambeth Council has recently conducted a full structural survey in order to confirm our findings and estimates. Further developments will be reported in due course.

# The Buildings of Clapham

The Clapham Society's publication to mark the millennium is due to be published on 28 April. Members will have heard regular reports on the progress of the book at our meetings - it is now finally at the printers. *The Buildings of Clapham* is a revised and much extended version of a book first published by the Clapham Society in 1977 and reprinted in 1978.

It starts with an introduction to the history of the growth and development of the area. Clapham is then divided into nine areas, and a building history of each area is followed by a street-by-street gazetteer, which lists and dates almost every house. Interesting architectural features are highlighted and there is some information about former buildings and residents. There are 236 pages packed with information, in a format designed to fit in your pocket when out for a walk, but equally useful to dip into while sitting comfortably at home. Each chapter has a specially drawn map, older maps for cross-reference and there are over 100 black and white illustrations of buildings - many now demolished - several published for the first time. In addition, local artist Christina Bonnett has drawn about 70 architectural details to look for on the buildings described. An illustrated glossary and index are also provided as well as suggestions if you are interested in further research.

Order your copy now by completing the form below, and returning it with your cheque to Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH. *The Buildings of Clapham* will be sent to you as soon as possible after 28 April.

## The Tim Bobbin

In response to the query in the February Newsletter about the origin of the name of the Tim Bobbin, David Holt wrote from Findon, West Sussex: 'Tim Bobbin was the pen name of an eighteenth century Lancashire dialect writer and poet who worked in the cotton industry in Milnrow, near Rochdale. He died in the 1790s. His grave can be seen in a prominent position in Rochdale Parish Church graveyard. He is, I believe, recognised as a pre-eminent dialect poet, and something of an early cotton industry bard. He was a contemporary of Burns, but Robbie's offerings are more comprehensible than Tim's! I can say that because years ago I was given some of his work to read and found it hard work.'

Mr Holt went on to say that he did not know why Tim Bobbin should be commemorated in Clapham. Your editor duly put the question to Rochdale Local

Studies Library, and received plenty of information about Tim Bobbin (real name John Collier) but no clue about the Clapham connection. In fact, it is thought that he never visited London since he wrote: 'I do not like London, or anything that is in it: for it's a place where neither me or mine shall ever come, if I can hinder it.'

Perhaps whoever named the Tim Bobbin was a fan of the poet, or maybe an exile from Lancashire? Our question is only partly answered.

### Spring is here!

The bulbs donated by QAS are now in full glorious flower on the Common opposite the Library and the QAS building. Don't miss them - they are a splendid addition to this corner of Clapham.

## May Day Celebration!

On 1 May Hamish Johnston, Clapham's delightful *fromagerie*, celebrates the second anniversary of the opening of the Abbeville Road branch. Angus Wood, Hamish's partner who runs the Abbeville Road store, has just moved house from one side of the Common to the other, to be even nearer the shop!

From a specialist cheese shop, the business has expanded to provide a large range of tempting delicatessen foods, including wonderful breads, oils, coffee, ham, chocolates and so on.

On 1 May you will be able to sample some of the very fine foods, including cheeses from a wide variety of farm-produced cheeses. These include Pont l'Eveque, Ducketts splendid Caerphilly, the Scottish cheese, Bishop Kennedy - named after the founder of St. Andrews University - as well as the delicious Ticklemere goat's cheese from Totnes.

Angus is a dedicated supporter of the growing movement around Britain to encourage a better appreciation of our home produced specialities and he has strong links with the cottage industries of his native Suffolk. Ninety per cent of the cheeses on sale are "artisan" - that is, not industrially produced. Until recently such cheeses were a treat reserved for Channel-hopping expeditions to our favourite French *fromagerie*.

**Do you recognise this building? The answer is on page 131 of *The Buildings of Clapham*, available at the end of April. Order your copy now! Order form below left.**



Please send me .....copies of *The Buildings of Clapham* @ £10.00 (Clapham Society members) or £11.95 (non-members) plus £1 post and packing. Cheques payable to **The Clapham Society**.

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....Tel.....

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter

Issue 227

May 2000

### The Tesco Enquiry

As reported in the February Newsletter, the **Tesco** Public Enquiry starts on 11 April. It is expected to last about ten days and the Clapham Society will be represented by the Chairman and Philip Ashford. The three main planks in our objection are that :

1. The need for yet another large supermarket with extensive car parking has not been established. PPG6 argues against such developments outside existing town centres unless need and viability can be demonstrated. Clapham South is a neighbourhood centre. There is more than enough similar provision in existing centres within the requisite distance.

2. The design of the additional wing to Sir Edwin Cooper's uncompleted frontage building does not provide a literate and dignified conclusion to the landmark original. Therefore, it is not an enhancement to the conservation area and neither are the proposed new buildings to the north, south and rear of the Cooper building - they are very boring, to say the least. The design shortcomings are entirely an outcome of the inappropriate scale and greed of the commercial enterprise proposed for this site.

3. The likely increase in traffic congestion is undeniable, as is the increased risk to pedestrian safety which will be caused by the loss of definition to the pavement line across the vehicular cross-overs.

We also support all the arguments that the Clapham South Neighbourhood Association are putting with regard to the loss of amenity that will result for all those houses (including Minnie Kidd nursing home) which back onto the car park and the depressing rear elevation. Nicholas Long and the Twentieth Century Society will also be prominent in their objections.

### Clapham Town Centre

Since the appointment of Charlotte Evans as Town Centre Manager a year ago initiatives on the way forward to improve our local environment have been slowly developing. There was a Community meeting on 6 April at which Cllr. Jim Dickson, leader of the Lambeth Council, outlined their proposals to set up 'Shadow' partnership Boards for each Town Centre.

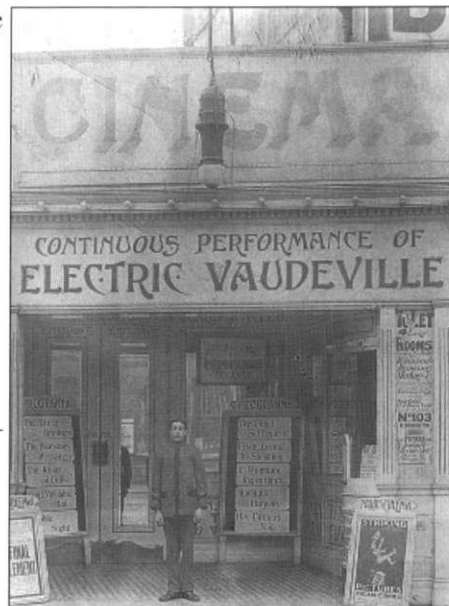
The purpose of these Boards would be:

- to promote regeneration
  - to act as an important voice for the local community
  - to scrutinise the Council's policies in operation in the area and to influence and shape the Council's overall activities
- The 'Shadow' Board for Clapham and Stockwell will have three members each from Clapham Park, Clapham Town and Stockwell plus three business members. The three representatives for Clapham Town were chosen at the meeting: Demi Akerwusi, Nigel Haseldon and John How

(Vice Chairman of the Clapham Society).

Having a representative on the Board will enable members of the Society to be more closely involved in local affairs. Regular items will appear in the Newsletter.

Clapham's first picture palace, The Electric Vaudeville opened in 1910 and closed three years later. But where was it? The answer is on page 76 of *The Buildings of Clapham*.



### Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

#### Tuesday 16 May

As summer approaches we have a completely different meeting! **Local garden designer, Carole Kinross**, will bring along plants and pots, hanging baskets and compost to demonstrate how to liven up your garden, patio or window sill this summer. Suggestions will include year-round planting as well as seasonal colour. So don't be tempted to fill every container with the same old bedding plants again - wait to get some new ideas this year. Among the local gardens Carole has designed is the beautiful garden at 82 Clapham Common West Side, which many members will remember from last year's summer party.

#### Tuesday 20 June

**The Centenary of the extension of the City & South London Railway** (now the Northern Line) from Stockwell to Clapham North (originally called Clapham Road) and Clapham Common falls on 3 June this year. Our June meeting will celebrate the event with speakers on the history and the future of the Northern Line.

#### Tuesday 18 July

**Clapham Common - Past, Present and Future.** Anna Jefferson Smith will give an illustrated talk on the history of Clapham Common. This will be followed by an update on the development plan.

**If any members have memorabilia, photographs etc. related to the Common, which might be of interest to other members, could they please bring them to the meeting.**

## The arts in Clapham

Studio Voltaire in Nelson's Row hosted a one day Arts Festival on 25 March to which the Society contributed. The event was a lively affair with local artists encouraging participation in many different crafts, from painting a large mural of Clapham landmarks to mosaic design and photography. There was a good attendance and a lot of interest was shown in the Society's exhibition on the History of Clapham from 1700 using maps and photographs. Members will have the opportunity to see this exhibition at events during the summer.

Following this event there was an open meeting on 30 March to discuss the Festival and to plan future Arts events for Clapham. It is hoped that there will be greater involvement within the local community and that the Festival can become an annual event of significance. The Society will probably host an event in the future.

## Forrester's Garage

Proposals for the development of the site of **Forrester's Garage**, 40/42 Old Town, went before Lambeth Council planning committee on 21 March. This dreary scheme was recommended for approval, but the Society made a vigorous argument for the need to promote a building of substance, integrity and interest on this key site which also faces the location of one of Lambeth's Gateway projects. There followed an encouraging debate among the elected members, along the lines that it is time the Council made a stand for better standards in architectural design, even if that does carry the risk of being taken to appeal.

As a result permission was refused on the principle that it will be worth putting up with the existing eyesore for longer whilst seeking a better design. We do, after all, want a building that will give cause for satisfaction, not regret, over the next fifty years.

## The March meeting

At the Society's March meeting Robin Densem, archaeologist, formerly of the London Museum, gave us a lively and fascinating illustrated tour of various London 'digs' and the artefacts found.

From a site near Heathrow - always with an aircraft in shot - to pictures of the queue waiting to see the Temple of Mithras when it was found in 1954, his wide selection of slides complemented his enthusiasm for the subject. Maps of Roman London showed the riverside wall,

and the location of the amphitheatre, bath house and forum. Robin explained how these fell into disuse and the prosperity of London declined early in the 4<sup>th</sup> century when taxes ceased to be payable only in gold and silver so that people no longer needed to come into the city.

Moving to Clapham we learnt that the name means 'settlement on the high ground'. Robin had been on the dig in Rectory Grove - the site now covered by Charles Barry Close, and showed slides of pots found there. The attentive audience had several questions ready to fire at our speaker. He confirmed that the route of Stane Street, the Roman road from London to Chichester, which certainly passed through Clapham, has never been clearly established. In response to a request he recommended two books for further research: *Prehistoric London* by Nick Merriman and *Roman London* by Jenny Hall and Ralph Merrifield.

Our thanks to Robin Densem for a stimulating evening and to John How for organising it.

## Our family stationers

The story of Flynn's Stationers of Clapham High Street, as told to me by Pat, daughter of the original owner, Donald Flynn, is one of family pride, hard work and genuine customer care.

Donald, a planning engineer, came to Clapham in 1971 and set up shop as a newsagent at 122 Clapham High Street. Conditions there were hard; no heating, no toilet and a twelve hour day to work. He received particular support from the Irish community in Clapham, for whom he supplied newspapers from every part of Ireland. Soon his son, Tim, joined him at the shop. In 1979 when their lease was not renewed, they moved to new premises at 174 Clapham High Street - where the new development is now in progress. The shop remained a newsagent but on a much larger scale, carrying a wider selection of magazines than WH Smith's, and offering a personal service to



Donald Flynn

customers. Desmond Flynn began working in the shop in the evenings and on Saturday while he was still at school, and in 1982 he too decided to join the firm. Flynn's had always stocked stationery and by the mid-1980s, after Donald's triple by-pass operation, Tim began to expand the stationery side until in 1986 they closed the shop down, completely refurbished and re-opened as stationers.

In 1987 when Donald was in Westminster Hospital having both legs amputated, Pat sensed that the whole community was supporting the family with their prayers. Meanwhile, Pat, her sister and her mother were all working at the shop and Desmond was handling deliveries in his Ford Escort, soon to be replaced by a van. By the early 1990s the business was flourishing, but again the lease was due to expire. Although they had doubts about moving further down the High Street, the Flynns wanted to stay in Clapham, so they took the plunge in January 1993 and bought the freehold of number 72. The premises were larger, on three floors, giving them the advantage of a warehouse and office, though the shop itself was smaller. All their customers have stayed with them. There are local artists, writers, designers, publishers and photographers - many running businesses from home. But Flynn's also serve a

wider area, with customers as far afield as Banstead, Welwyn Garden City and Milton Keynes. They carry a huge range of goods, and just about anything can be ordered and delivered.

Pat feels the strength of the business lies in the personal approach combined with customer satisfaction. She says 'There's nothing like working with your family: not one of us hates Monday mornings!'

Virginia Lester

*The Buildings of Clapham*, the Clapham Society's Millennium publication is due out on 28 April. **Order your copy now** on the order form below. Books will be despatched as soon as possible after publication.

Please send me ....copies of *The Buildings of Clapham* @ £10.00 (Clapham Society members) or £11.95 (non-members) plus £1 post and packing. Cheques, payable to **The Clapham Society, to Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, SW4 7AH.**

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....Tel.....

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 228

June 2000

### Christel Marsh

We are sad to record the death of Christel, wife of our President, Norman Marsh, on 27 April. Christel was a familiar and well-loved figure in Clapham for nearly forty years. On several occasions members of The Clapham Society have enjoyed the hospitality of the Marshes at their beautiful home on North Side and Christel always took a keen and lively interest in Society matters, including most recently the progress of *The Buildings of Clapham*.

At her funeral service at Holy Trinity Church members of her family paid touching tribute to a remarkable lady, who as a teenager defied the Nazi regime in Germany, and finally left the country in 1939, marrying her English husband on the very day their two countries went to war. As a result of her youthful experiences, both Christel and Norman became founder members of Amnesty International, and for many years she worked tirelessly for the organisation.



### Next meetings

#### Tuesday 20 June

To celebrate the centenary of the opening of **Clapham Common Underground Station** on 3 June 1900, Nicholas Long will talk on the History of the Northern Line and its impact on South London. We hope to have at least one other speaker, possibly with London Transport connections. There will also be an opportunity to start a discussion on the Society's transport policy, which will be the main topic for the November meeting.

#### Tuesday 18 July

**Clapham Common - Past, Present and Future.** Anna Jefferson Smith will give an illustrated talk on the history of Clapham Common. This will be followed by an update on the development plan. If any members have memorabilia, photographs etc. related to the Common, which might be of interest to other members, could they please bring them to the meeting.

**There will be no meeting in August**, but on **Tuesday 15 August** Peter Jefferson Smith will lead an evening walk to see some of the older historic buildings of Clapham. Meet at the Clock Tower, Clapham Common Underground Station at 6.45 for 7 pm. Duration of walk approximately 2 hours.

#### Tuesday 19 September

**Clapham Characters.** Members of the Society will introduce brief biographies of some famous and infamous, former residents of Clapham. More details in the next Newsletter.

#### Tuesday 10 October

**Annual General Meeting** (note change of date from original programme). The guest speaker at the meeting will be **Bridget Cherry**, Editor of *The Buildings of England*.



This is Holy Trinity Church's major annual fund-raising event and a great family occasion. Stalls will sell goods ranging from silk cushions to jam. Among the numerous attractions will be a Punch & Judy show, donkey rides, circus tricks by Albert and Friends, four bands, a steam train and a dog show. Raffle prizes include two nights in Paris by Eurostar and a DVD player and there will be a silent auction, with promises including a couture dress made to the highest bidder's wishes by Elizabeth Johnston, an 18th century print of a local scene and a set of 20 'Mr. Punch' books. The Clapham Society's stall, with a new exhibition, will sell all the Society's current publications. Please come and

bring your family, friends and dogs and enjoy a fun day out for all the family. For more details please contact Jill Threlfall 020 7622 7093.

*The Buildings of Clapham* is now available. You may still order it to be delivered to you (full details in previous newsletters or telephone Alyson Wilson on 020 7622 6360) and it will be on sale at all meetings and at events, such as The Common Fayre, where the Society has a stall. It is also available now at Wordsworth Bookshop in Clapham High Street, at Ottakers, Clapham Junction, at Outlines, 22 The Pavement and at all Lambeth and Wandsworth Libraries. The special members' price of £10 is, of course, only applicable when bought direct from the Society.

We are happy to include details of **local events** in the Newsletter, if space is available. Send full details, preferably by email, to [alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net](mailto:alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net) or fax 020 7622 7899.

## April Meeting - The Clapham Gateway Project

There was a good turnout of members on 18 April for what turned out to be a rather inconclusive meeting at which we had hoped to be shown the ideas being developed for the Clapham part of Lambeth's Gateway project.

Charlotte Evans, Clapham Town Centre Manager, introduced John Roseveare, manager of the project and Brian Fitzpatrick, Lambeth Head of Transport and Infrastructure, but sadly the architects of the scheme were unable to attend. The result was that although we heard about strategic plans, consultative documents, the problems associated with closing roads and re-directing traffic, and the complex network of responsibility for roads, red routes and junction improvements, in the absence of any knowledge and explanation of the basic concepts, the audience was left somewhat confused and none the wiser.

We did learn that one option proposed partial pedestrianisation of Old Town, with a piazza or market square and removal of the bus stand. After discussion of various wide-ranging traffic issues, it was agreed that there should be a further meeting in a few months' time, before which members would receive full details of the proposals.

There is clearly great interest in these projects - members really want to know what is happening - and we shall continue to keep you as fully informed as possible in the Newsletter.

## Re-opening of Larkhall Rise Railway Bridge ?

The bridge over the railway at Larkhall Rise has been closed for 18 months, due to structural weaknesses advised to Lambeth Council by Railtrack. Railtrack are now recommending to Lambeth that the bridge be reopened - probably in November - with a new weight limit of 3 tonnes, which means that most traffic will be able to use the bridge..

Prior to re-opening, Lambeth Council is carrying out a survey of traffic in the area and is asking for views of local residents. Clearly many members have strong feelings on this subject. If you wish your views to be taken into consideration, please write to your local councillors at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RW.

## Planning Matters

As reported in the last Newsletter **The Tesco Enquiry** commenced on 11 April and was set to run for ten days. However, it took that long to hear the Tesco submission alone. The enquiry was adjourned for the inspector to consider the large quantity of correspondence which had been received. The date set for the enquiry to reconvene is 24 July. Further developments will be reported in the Newsletter in due course. Any members wishing to obtain a copy of the Society's proof of evidence, should contact the Chairman, John Adams. (Tel. 020 7720 4764)

It is proposed to demolish the existing **St Andrew's Church, Battersea Rise** and build a new church and four houses with off-street parking on the site. The Society objected because the planning sub-committee does not feel that the design is good enough for such a prominent site, but it would appear that permission will be granted since Wandsworth planners and other organisations who have been consulted do not share our view.



St Andrew's Church, Battersea Rise, before the spire was destroyed by fire in 1977

**Information about The Clapham Society** can now be found on the Lambeth Council website, at [www.lambeth.co.uk](http://www.lambeth.co.uk). Select Clapham Town Centre. Half way down the information on Clapham Town Centre you will find a short description of The Clapham Society, and '[click here](#)' for further information. This is the same information about the Society as on our membership application form, and the details and order form for our new publication *The Buildings of Clapham*. We are considering adding more information - all our publications, cards etc. and possibly the Newsletter each month. We are also investigating the possibility of having our own website.

## The QAS party

Our delayed winter party at the new QAS building, George West House, was a great success and members were delighted to be given comprehensive tours of the building by Richard Mason, the Commercial Director.

The architects, Allies & Morrison, have made a really splendid job of the conversion, and we were particularly fortunate to have a fine evening so that we could make full use of the rooftop terrace to get a novel view of Clapham. We are most grateful to the Directors of QAS for inviting us to their new home.

Unfortunately, many members were disappointed at being unable to obtain tickets for the party as demand far exceeded the number that could be comfortably accommodated for a supper party. However, QAS have generously agreed to allow us to hold an early evening drinks party with tours of the building, at George West House on Saturday 9 September. If you are interested in coming please make a note of the date in your diary - full details and an application form for tickets will be given in the next Newsletter.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CLAIRE STRATTON** who celebrated the fourth anniversary of setting up her jewellery studio at 40 North Street, this May. Many of us will already be wearing one of her bold yet beautifully crafted rings, since a large number of Claire's customers live within a three or four mile radius of her Clapham studio. After graduating in Fine Arts from Goldsmiths College, and obtaining the diploma of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, Claire held her first exhibition in 1994 - in rural Andalucia! Already selling to Harvey Nichols and Selfridges, Claire set up her studio in North Street in 1996. Many clients who commissioned rings for engagements and weddings now come back for other special occasion jewellery - for the birth of their children or wedding anniversaries. Her very distinctive combinations of gemstones and precious metals are real works of art: gem dealers from as far away as Afghanistan and Mali supply many unusual stones, such as the brilliant green garnet. Claire's prices, which range from £20 to £2,000, mean that many people can afford to have a one-off piece of individually-designed jewellery. Her summer sale is an excellent opportunity to visit her studio. (For details telephone 020 7207 2941) *Celia Bibby*



## The future of Windmill Drive - Public Consultation

It has long been the Society's policy to strive for the closure of Windmill Drive as a through traffic route. With the creation of the cycle path we thought that a *quid pro quo* agreement had been reached to gain at least part of Windmill Drive for the Common to compensate for the lost space. This was never realised but now there is to be Public Consultation about the future of this road. A number of options have been drawn up jointly by Lambeth and Wandsworth Councils, which we understand are:

- + Total closure
- + Closure of the centre section
- + Traffic calming
- + Do nothing

We understand that the Consultation will be between 6 and 9 July with a display in a mobile vehicle to be located near The Windmill on the Common. This will give members the opportunity to express their views on the proposals, or indeed to suggest alternatives if none of the existing proposals seem appropriate.

There is an obvious need for local residents, particularly those less able to walk long distances, to park close to the Common and enjoy its wonderful amenities but this privilege has often been abused by long term parking. However the main committee of the Society is still of the view that no change should be made unless and until it forms part of the strategic master plan for the Common which is to be developed shortly. Please try to get to the exhibition and give your views.

## The Clapham and Stockwell Town Centre 'Shadow Board'

The Board, which will have an advisory and monitoring role but no executive decision making powers, has been set up by Lambeth Council to encourage fuller public involvement.

Membership of the Board consists of three representatives each from Stockwell, Clapham Park and Clapham Centre, four from local businesses and one from the Metropolitan Police. There are link members from each of the main political parties.

The inaugural meeting of the Board was held on 6 June, with Cllr. English in the chair.

Charlotte Evans, Town Centre Manager, detailed the progress on initiatives that are already in the pipeline.



Windmill Drive - what can be seen of it!

These include the Gateway projects, part of which will examine the possible relocation of the Old Town bus stand, and provision of CCTV in the town centre during the summer. As this was the first meeting discussion was rather limited but I am sure that as it develops the Board, which will meet monthly, except in August, will prove a lively forum and contribute to the improvement of our local amenities and environment.

*John How, Clapham Society representative on the Board*

## Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 18 July

**Clapham Common - Past, Present and Future.** Anna Jefferson Smith will give an illustrated talk on the history of Clapham Common. This will be followed by an update on the development plan. If any members have memorabilia, photographs etc. related to the Common, which might be of interest to other members, could they please bring them to the meeting.

**There will be no meeting in August**, but on **Tuesday 15 August** Peter Jefferson Smith will lead **an evening walk** to see some of the older historic buildings of Clapham. Meet at the Clock Tower, Clapham Common Underground Station at 6.45 for 7 pm. Duration of walk approximately 2 hours.

### Tuesday 19 September

**Clapham Characters.** Members of the Society will introduce brief biographies of the following famous and infamous, former residents of Clapham: *John Burns* (1858-1943). MP for Battersea, Labour politician, trade unionist and statesman. *Jane Marcet* (1769-1858) writer of scientific books for young people. *Thomas Crapper* (1836-1910), plumber, inventor and patentee of the valveless lavatory cistern. *John Hatchard* (1769-1849) publisher, bookseller and founder of the Piccadilly bookshop. *Adam Worth* (c1840-1902) master-criminal, bank-robber and forger, who lived on Clapham Common West Side under the alias of Henry Raymond.

### Tuesday 10 October

**Annual General Meeting** (note change of date from original programme). The guest speaker at the meeting will be **Bridget Cherry**, Editor of *The Buildings of England*.

## Board X Urban Games

The Society has registered an objection with Lambeth Regulatory Services to the Board X Urban Games event proposed for Clapham Common on 3 - 6 August 2000 from 10 am until 9 pm each day.

The first Urban Games were held last year over three days on what was probably the warmest weekend of the summer. To quote the organisers "The idea was to unite skateboarding, BMX, basketball with breakdancing, electronic games, D'Jing and graffiti. A combination of all true urban pursuits."

This year's event will also include tattoo exhibitions, a scratch tent (sorry, don't know), retail village and live music. Each day will finish off with a live gig.

The Society has objected on three grounds:

**Noise.** Control of noise at last year's event was very variable. It was easily heard all over the Common and in many streets beyond. This year it will total 44 hours.

**Damage to the environment.** The Licensing Committee may say that this is an issue for Environmental Services, not Regulatory Services. We would, however, wish to draw the Council's attention to the fact that the damage to the area last year where "numerous lorries deposited 450 tonnes of dirt" (quoted from organisers' website) is still clearly visible.

**Control of the event.** It is difficult to imagine that the combination of live music, alcohol, solvent from the graffiti paint, and a gig to round off the event will result in the planned 9 pm closure. This may well lead to problems with enforcement.

It is a matter of some concern that the application has been made so late that it will not be heard by the quasi judicial Licensing Committee until 11 July 2000. This is less than three weeks before a start on setting up this large event would be scheduled. Meanwhile the promoters are already advertising ticket sales.

## The May Meeting

At the Society's May meeting local garden designer, Carole Kinross, entertained and informed us with her lively presentation of ideas for the patio and window box. Her first message was that it is possible to grow almost *anything* in containers, especially in London where we enjoy a mild climate - box, olive trees, agave and palms are all possible.

Carole brought examples of some unusual, as well as some more familiar plantings to show us. She discussed the benefits of various types of containers, wooden, plastic, fibreglass, terracotta, and the drainage and compost to put in them before she came to the plants themselves.

One useful tip was to substitute polystyrene for broken crocks as drainage, thus greatly reducing the weight of the container - particularly important on a balcony. She stressed the importance of putting the right plant in the right position - beware the hot patio which may suit Mediterranean plants but tender plants will quickly die and only really tough plants will flourish in a roof garden.

But the most important advice of all was to water thoroughly and frequently; in hot weather immerse hanging baskets at least once a day and feed containers at least once a week.

Carole answered questions and addressed members' specific problems before giving a demonstration of planting up a hanging basket, and recommending a helpful and reliable local garden centre - Patio in Tooting. It was altogether a thoroughly successful and inspiring evening.

## Late summer party! - 9 September 2000

Our party in April at the new QAS building was so popular and successful that many members were unable to obtain tickets. QAS have therefore generously agreed to allow us to hold another party at their spectacular new building.

In order to give as many people as possible the chance to see the splendid refurbishment of this landmark Clapham building, this will be an early evening drinks party on Saturday 9 September from 6 to 8 pm. Richard Mason, the commercial director, will conduct small groups around the building and explain the conversion of the building and how it is now used from the basement strong room to the rooftop terrace.

You are strongly urged to take advantage of this opportunity to view Clapham from the novel perspective of this beautiful terrace. A ticket application form is on the bottom of page 3 of this Newsletter. Please get your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

**Summer Music 2000 at Holy Trinity Church, in aid of Trinity Hospice** On Saturday 15 July 7.30 pm the last in this series of splendid concerts will take place. The

distinguished String Quartet, **Quartet 2000**, will play music by Haydn, Schubert and Mendelssohn. Entrance Fee £6.00, payable on the door, includes a glass of wine.

## Bridge Players needed!

The Clapham, Battersea and Wandsworth Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution is holding a Bridge Afternoon in the Debenture Holders' Lounge at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon on Wednesday 8th November. Tickets will be £10 per player. (We would ask you to make up a table of 4.) If you would like more information please contact Jill Threlfall on 020-7622 7093.

## The Clapham Society on the Web.

Apologies for the fact that the instructions for how to find the Society on the web were incorrect.

First of all, Lambeth Council's site is [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk). You should then search for Clapham Town Centre, when that comes up click on the pale blue 'Clapham Town Centre' hypertext link, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on 'click here', then scroll down the page to the Clapham Society, and click on 'click here' to pull down the .pdf page. Thanks to Dominic Pinto for providing the accurate information.

**Trinity Hospice garden** - is open for two more weekends this summer - on 29 and 30 July and 2 and 3 September, from 2-5 pm each day.

Make sure you visit it if you don't already know it.

## Forrester's Garage site

The developers of this site at 40/42 Old Town have appealed against the refusal of planning permission (reported in Newsletter 227, May 2000).

Members of the Society's planning committee have met the developers to discuss the proposals and to find a way to reach agreement on the plans.

## Next newsletter

The next Newsletter is the **September** issue, which will be available immediately after the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The final date for copy is 14 August. If you wish to make any contribution, please send it before that date to Alyson Wilson, preferably by email: [alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net](mailto:alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net) or by fax : 020 7622 7899

## Subscriptions and donations: a message from the Treasurer

Thanks to all of you who have paid your 2000/01 subscriptions (but have you paid the right amount?) and to those who have made donations. Do you know that you can now enable us to recover tax on your donation ?

**Bad news for those who have not paid their subscriptions or have paid too little.** The Society's constitution says: 'The committee may delete a person from membership if the subscription remains unpaid six months after it is due.....'. Subscriptions were due on 1 April. Those who have not paid by October will not receive the November and subsequent Newsletters unless they rejoin the Society and pay the full annual subscription.

Far too many people have continued to pay at old subscription rates. The minimum subscription rate since 1 April 1998 has been £3. It is therefore obvious that payments of £1.50, £2.00 and £2.50 cannot possibly be correct. Neither can £4 for the head of a household below state retirement age. And there are also many cases where members are receiving the Newsletter by post without paying the £3 extra charge. Some amounts are less obviously wrong but it's very likely that those who started paying by standing order before the 1 April 1998 rates were announced, and have not completed new standing order mandates, are paying too little. From November under-payers will progressively be suspended from membership until they have made up their subscriptions to the right amount.

To avoid suspension from membership, please complete the form alongside and send it to Mrs Joyce Luck.

### Good news from Gordon Brown for charities and donors

Many members are now making donations as well as paying their subscriptions, a very welcome addition to the Society's income. The Chancellor has, with effect from 6 April 2000, made it possible for charities to recover tax, currently 28p for every £1 given, on all donations made by individual UK tax payers, whether once-off or regular and of whatever amount. To make this possible, donors need to complete and sign a simple declaration.

**Please complete the Charitable Giving declaration below and send it to Joyce Luck.** You can do so now even if you have not made a donation since 6 April and do not intend to make one in the near future. The new rules also benefit higher rate taxpayers as they will be able to claim higher rate tax relief on donations covered by declarations. They should therefore keep records of their charitable donations. Declarations are not required for company donations: companies should claim tax relief on donations when calculating their profits for corporation tax.

### Charitable Giving Declaration

**This declaration confirms my wish that The Clapham Society (Registered Charity Number 27959) should treat as Gift Aid donations all donations made by me from 6th April 2000 until I notify you otherwise. I acknowledge that I must pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax in the relevant tax year equal to any tax reclaimed by The Clapham Society. I will notify you if my tax status or address details change.**

Title ..... Forename(s).....Surname .....

Address.....Postcode.....

To David Perkin 14 Englewood Road London SW12 9NZ	<b>Late summer party at QAS - 9 September 2000.</b> Please send me ..... tickets @ £5 per ticket (includes drinks, snacks and a tour of the building). I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to The Clapham Society, and a s.a.e.
Name .....	
Address .....	
Postcode .....	Tel No .....

## Subscriptions were due on 1st April!

### Not yet paid your annual subscription?

Avoid being suspended by completing the membership and subscription details – see below – and, preferably, a standing order mandate. If paying by cheque please make it payable to the Clapham Society.

### Paid at a pre April 1998 rate?

**Receiving the newsletter by post but not paying the extra £3?** You too could be suspended if you don't pay the balance due for this year. Complete the membership and subscription details and deduct what you have already paid. Then write a cheque for the balance due and, preferably, complete a standing order mandate (overleaf) for the correct amount to be paid from 1 April 2001.

### Membership and subscription details

**Please complete the following:**

**Amount due**

*(please circle as applicable)*

#### Private members

First member in household:

Title and first name (or initials):

.....

Surname:.....

If under 65 (male) or 60 (female) £6.00

If over 65 (male) or 60 (female) £3.00

Additional members in household:

Name:..... £3.00

Name:..... £3.00

Name:..... £3.00

#### Business members

Name:..... £15.00

Additional due from members who receive the Newsletter by post £3.00

Total subscription £ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation £ \_\_\_\_\_

Total due £ \_\_\_\_\_

Less: already paid £ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance due £ \_\_\_\_\_

Whichever method of payment you choose, please enter your full address and telephone number in the space provided on the standing order mandate form. Then please send this complete page, and cheque where applicable, to:

Mrs Joyce Luck  
15 Cavendish Road  
London SW12 0BH

Please do not send the mandate form direct to your bank!

**The Clapham Society  
Standing Order Mandate**

To ..... Bank  
 ..... Branch  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Postcode.....Sortcode.....

Please pay the sum of £.....  
 immediately / on 1 April 2001\* and then  
 annually on 1 April, until this order is  
 cancelled in writing, to:

National Westminster Bank PLC  
 Clapham Common Branch  
 PO Box 3059  
 London SW4 7SN  
 (Sort code 60-05-34)

for the credit of the Clapham Society,  
 account number 22217045

Please cancel any previous Standing  
 Order in favour of the Clapham Society.

\* Delete as applicable

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 .....Postcode.....  
 Telephone number.....

**Account to be debited:**

Account name (if not as above)

.....  
 Account number

Signature.....

Date.....

**Charitable Giving Declaration**

Please complete the declaration overleaf  
 if you have made a donation to the  
 Clapham Society since 6 April 2000 or  
 may make one in the future.

**Celebration of the publication of  
The Buildings of Clapham**

On 23 May at Clapham Library a party was held at Clapham Library to launch our new book, *The Buildings of Clapham*. The many members of the Society who had contributed in various ways to the book joined invited guests from the press, bookshops, libraries, archives, councillors and several Lambeth officers to celebrate the enthusiastic reception the book has received. The Chairman, John Adams, thanked all those involved for their sustained interest in the project, and presented a splendid bouquet of flowers to Alyson Wilson in recognition of her work as editor.

Several members have written with childhood memories of Clapham prompted by reading *The Buildings of Clapham*. **Mrs Lewzey** recalls living in Clapham Manor Street during the war and the family's narrow escape when nearby houses were destroyed by bombing. Her father's family ran the dairy, which adjoined the school in Stonhouse Street, and she remembers walking across the Common to the Girls' Grammar School in Broomwood Road and catching sticklebacks in Mount Pond. She was married at Holy Trinity Church in 1949. **Mr Pearce** recognised one of the photographs on the front cover as the house in Thurleigh Road where he would get off his bicycle as a school boy in the 1920s to admire a splendid Bentley open tourer which was frequently parked outside.

**Clapham Park**

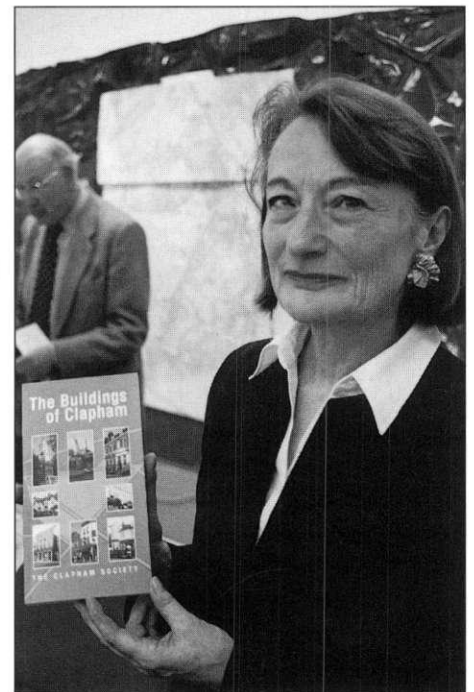
*Extracted (by Sylvia Foster) from "Surrey Within Living Memory", by kind permission of Countryside Books*

'Clapham Park, in the County of Surrey'. Thus ran the wording on the deeds of my father's house in Clapham, which he bought in 1920 after his return from service in the First World War. The house had been built in 1890 on what our milkman remembered as being orchards from which he had "scrumped" apples as a boy. In their place was an estate of late Victorian houses.

By the time I was born in November 1928, London County Council boundaries had long since enclosed Clapham Park, and the last vestiges of a previously semi-rural environment had all but vanished, save for the farm in nearby Clarence Avenue. This farm had six Jersey cows, and from it my mother still bought her potatoes by the sack until the mid 1930s. On Sunday afternoons we would take our dogs for a walk to watch the cows going in to be milked. The area surrounding the farm still retained the very large "country" houses which City merchants had built during the previous hundred years or so. Their grounds contained tennis courts and wooded areas where snowdrops grew in spring; while the outbuildings which had originally housed coachmen and carriages had largely been transformed into chauffeurs' flats and garages as the motor car replaced the horse as a means of transport for the wealthy.

Up to the 1920s a "Gentlemen's Bus" (horse-drawn) ran at 8.15am along Abbeville Road to take the local gentlemen to their City offices, but this service had ceased by the General Strike in 1926, and my father used the omnibus to reach his office in Whitehall. Always a late riser, he was usually alerted to the urgency of departure by the second school bell which rang at 8.55 am (the first rang at 8.50 am!) to summon pupils to the LCC school in Bonneville Road. This was the next road to ours, and the playgrounds lay behind our rear gardens. The roads and avenues of our estate had been named after French towns to mark the settlement of followers of Empress Eugenie in Clapham after 1828. The freehold of our house was held by the Comte de la Bedoyaire.

On royal occasions, such as the Jubilee of George V, and the Coronation of George VI, we were marched up to the south side of Clapham Common in order to line the route of the royal visitors when they made their traditional "progress" to the four compass points of London. We waved our Union Jacks and cheered everything, especially the Council dustcarts which cleared the roads in front of the Royal party!



Alyson Wilson with the new publication



## The 2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on Tuesday, 10 October 2000, at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham, SW4, starting at 8.00 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (14 October 1999)
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year Oct 1999-September 2000
4. Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2000
5. Election of Officers and Committee for the year 2000-2001:

Chairman	Hon Treasurer
Vice Chairman	Hon Solicitor
Hon Secretary	Hon Membership Secretary
A maximum of ten further Committee members	

6. Re-appointment of the Hon Independent Examiner

*There will be an interval for refreshments following the formal business*

7. **The Guest of Honour. Bridget Cherry, Editor, Pevsner Architectural Guides, will address the Society on 'Revising Pevsner: 50 years of change in London'.**
8. Any Other Business and Announcements.

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the elections of Officers and Committee members shall be made to the Secretary at least two clear days before the Annual General Meeting. Every nomination shall be in writing, supported by a seconder. The consent of the person nominated shall have been obtained.

*David Perkin, Hon Secretary, 14 Englewood Road, London SW12 9NZ.*

## Carnival time!

The Notre Dame Carnival takes place on Saturday 2 September. The theme this year is 'World Unity' and the participants have been busy for many weeks making what promises to be a colourful array of costumes. The parade will leave at 2 pm from The Orangery

(just off Worsopp Drive) to travel along Abbeville Road to Cavendish Road and back along South Side. As in previous years, it is hoped to have a steel band, and there will be a tombola, food stalls and other attractions. For further details contact Piers or Brian at Notre Dame Community Hall (020 7787 0432).

## Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 19 September

**Clapham Characters.** Members of the Society will introduce brief biographies of the following famous and infamous former residents of Clapham:

*John Burns* (1858-1943). MP for Battersea, Labour politician, trade unionist and statesman. *Jane Marcet* (1769-1858) writer of scientific books for young people. *Thomas Crapper* (1836-1910), plumber, inventor and patentee of the valveless lavatory cistern. *John Hatchard* (1769-1849) publisher, bookseller and founder of the Piccadilly bookshop. *Adam Worth* (c1840-1902) master-criminal, bank-robber and forger, who lived in Clapham under the alias of Henry Raymond.

### Tuesday 10 October Annual General Meeting

### Tuesday 21 November

This meeting will be devoted to **transport** and will give members the opportunity to raise issues of concern. At present transport issues are aired through the Planning Sub-Committee, but with the increasing numbers of Planning Applications which have to be considered we would like to set up a separate group. Initially the Society needs to develop a Transport Policy covering all areas of concern - cars, buses, underground, trains, pedestrians and aircraft. Following this meeting we hope that a group of interested members will be identified to develop and monitor the Society's policies.

## The closure of Windmill Drive?

The display and consultation about the closure of Windmill Drive, which we announced in the July Newsletter would take place in a mobile display vehicle near The Windmill on the Common early in July, was cancelled without prior notice. We apologise to members who may have made a fruitless journey in search of the display and we are grateful to Chris Hardy who immediately alerted us to its absence, so that we could query the matter with the organisers without delay.

No explanation was given for the cancellation, but we are advised that the mobile display vehicle will definitely be in position from **14 to 17 September**. **Please visit it and make your views known on this important matter.**

## Lambeth Archives Open Day

will be held on **Saturday 30 September** at the Minet Library, Knatchbull Road, London SE5. The topic this year is 'Pastimes and Pleasures in historic Lambeth'.

As usual the Clapham Society will have a stand and we are preparing a new display featuring leisure activities in Clapham. The Archives Department will put on an exhibition of documents from the archive store, experts will be on hand to explain how to use the library and many local amenity societies will have stands. In addition there will be talks throughout the day given by local historians. Subjects covered range from the history of the Oval Cricket Ground, to Norwood Cemetery, Vauxhall Gardens and the 1951 Festival of Britain.

This will be a really interesting day - and well worth the hassle of making one's way to the Brixton-Camberwell borders.

The full programme for the day will be available at our September meeting or from the Minet Library - telephone 020 7926 6076.

## Larkhall Bridge

The bridge over the railway was closed to vehicular traffic nearly two years ago, as it was considered unsafe. During this period no work has been carried out to strengthen the structure. Now Railtrack has advised that by introducing a weight limit, the bridge could be re-opened to traffic.

The impact of the closure has been felt in many parts of Clapham; some neighbourhoods have benefited while

others have suffered. To bring all the concerns into the open the Clapham Forum promoted a Traffic Workshop on 2 August at St Anne's Hall. Charlotte Evans, the Town Centre Manager, and her team managed to round up a good cross section of the community with an attendance of about 100.

The Workshop was organised in a most interesting way. It was broken into groups of eight, each of which was asked to identify the key issues. This resulted in a positive and constructive response to the problems. Lambeth's consultants on traffic, Oscar Faber, introduced some options for discussion which were widely debated.

The meeting was not conclusive but showed the strength of feeling for, in the long term, restricting through traffic to the High Street, Cedars Road and Wandsworth Road, the local roads being just for local traffic.

A further meeting will probably be held before a final decision is made about Larkhall Bridge and we will keep you informed of developments.

## Long Pond

The Society has been lobbying hard for urgent action, from Lambeth, to drain Long Pond and clear out the stifling weed that is preventing the traditional model boat activity. There is serious concern that the future of the 120-year-old Model Yacht Club is at jeopardy due to lack of action by Lambeth. Nick Bentley, chair of the MAC, has also been pressing the Council to resolve the matter.



Long Pond - as it was....

## Clapham Park - Park Hill Traffic Management Scheme

In response to the high level of traffic congestion in Park Hill, Lambeth quietly announced details early this year of a scheme to cut out through traffic. It involves closing Park Hill between its junction with Crescent Lane and Rodenhurst Road, and closing West Road

near its junction with Kings Avenue. The closure would initially be on an experimental basis while its effect is monitored.

Public consultation was minimal; neither the Society nor residents in adjacent streets were consulted. No information was made available on the effects of the scheme on Clapham Park generally. The Society objected to the lack of consultation and also notified local members of the scheme. Many people feel that whilst the traffic problems in Park Hill need solving, there is little point in doing so if the effect is simply to move the traffic to other residential streets.

Further research has been asked for on the wider effects of the scheme and measures taken to improve traffic flows in the already congested main roads, such as Kings Avenue. At present Lambeth Council still plan to implement the scheme on an experimental basis, but seem to be looking more carefully at the effect.

In a letter to a local resident Brian Fitzpatrick, Head of Lambeth's Highways and Transportation Group, says '... there would be a reassignment initially on local roads but this would abate'. However if after monitoring the experimental scheme the '... traffic were to significantly reassign over local roads, the borough would revoke the closure; it is not in anybody's interests to reassign traffic from one road to another.'

If you have any comments write to your local councillors at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RW. Clapham Park Ward Councillor Roland Doven takes a particular interest in traffic matters.

## Lambeth's Planning Scrutiny Commission.

Three members of the Planning Sub-Committee attended a public meeting at the Town Hall on 25 July. The Commission has been set up by the Environment Scrutiny Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor Leslie Boodram to review how planning applications are being dealt with by the Council and to consider scope for improvement.

The Society put forward ten points for consideration. Some concern straightforward improvements in information and communication systems, such as making sure that the relevant information about planning applications is actually available in the library when it is supposed to be. In the future it

should also be available on the Internet (as in Wandsworth). We raised our desire to see the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee (CAAC) reconstituted (again - as in Wandsworth and most other London boroughs) and our concern about the lack of value and understanding that Lambeth appear to attach to conservation generally.

The conspicuous lack of enforcement when infringements do take place was also raised; this is largely due, it was claimed, to lack of resources. There should be three Conservation Officers but they inappropriately report to the Director of Regeneration rather than Planning. Recent appointments have not lasted long - apparently because the officers became disillusioned and left.

We also raised the need for clearer guidelines for new buildings and for alterations in conservation areas and other places where continuity and architectural character are at stake. Such guidelines would need to be based upon a proper analysis of the variety of styles and streetscapes that define the differing character of the various parts of Clapham and Lambeth. A measure of common agreement in this area would help establish a few ground rules early in the design process. On key sites a development brief should be prepared.

Several of these points were also put by others. A common concern was that those councillors who sit on the Planning Committee are not sufficiently equipped in the basics to be able to make qualitative judgements over design matters. Too many decisions are subject to political pressure and 'whipping' (eg Tesco at Clapham South) and there is a common perception that Lambeth Council will shy away from refusing consent to a thoroughly bad scheme if their officers advise that it is likely to involve them in a costly enquiry (Tesco's again). However the recent rejection by members of the proposals for 40/42 Old Town (see Issue 227) and the setting-up of the Scrutiny Commission may indicate an awareness, on the part of the politicians at least, that things must change.

## More Planning matters

The developers of the site at **10/16 The Polygon** presented their scheme to the Planning Sub-Committee. They are proposing a new building containing flats and a restaurant, intended to 'complete an incomplete building' as their architect described The Polygon. The sub-committee had slightly mixed views, but all felt that a number of issues need

addressing, such as the necessity for the corner tower and the massing which in our opinion relates uncomfortably to the adjoining buildings.

There have been a number of planning applications for new **illuminated signs** in the area, and many of these have been refused, including some proposed for London Bus Services' bus shelters.

The sub-committee has been concerned for some time about the proliferation of visual clutter in Clapham - the sheer number of ugly signs around the Common is very depressing. Could Lambeth be listening to us at last?

## The June Meeting - the Northern Line

To celebrate the centenary of the extension of the tube to Clapham Common, the subject of the June meeting was '**The History and Future of the Northern Line**'.

The first speaker, **Cyril Maidment**, from the Wimbledon Society, gave a biographical outline of John Hopkinson (1849-98), a Wimbledon engineer, whose many achievements included pioneering work on the deep tube.

Next **Nicholas Long** gave an illustrated survey of the development of transport to South London. He showed slides of the original domed stations - only Kennington's dome survives - and quoted the amazing statistic that 10,000 people went through the turnstiles at Stockwell Station on the day it opened in 1890! The early underground coaches resembled padded cells with high seats the length of the coach, and slits for windows - it was thought that passengers did not need to see out as the conductor called out the name of the station!

**Ian Duff** showed some slides of a sign for the City and South London Railway he spotted in 1990 at King's Cross Station, before **Allan Gardner**, Station Duty Manager for the southern end of the Northern Line, gave us a detailed description of the extensive work now being undertaken and outlined plans for the future.

The work includes the cure of water penetration, upgrading of wiring and removal of surplus cabling (there is 250% more than is needed) and provision of security, fire safety, first aid and staff accommodation to comply with current standards.

All the stations are listed buildings, so that English Heritage has to agree any alterations and the service must be maintained, which means that work is restricted to about 3-4 hours in the middle

of the night. New rolling stock is being introduced (106 new trains), some new track and tunnel rings.

By January 2001 there will be 30 trains per hour instead of the present 24, and in the long term tickets will be replaced by Smartcards. Mr Gardner gave a very clear and informative presentation, which explained many of the frustrations endured by Northern Line passengers.

It is only unfortunate that London Underground cannot make more passengers aware of the huge problem of adapting a 19th century system to 21st century standards.

## Board X Urban Games

In our last Newsletter we recorded that the Society had registered an objection to the granting of an entertainment licence to this event planned for 3-6 August on Clapham Common. Lambeth Licensing Committee turned down the application but the organisers appealed. The Society, Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee and Trinity Hospice appeared at the South Western Magistrates Court in support of Lambeth but the appeal was upheld with costs being awarded against Lambeth.

The event went ahead over three days instead of the advertised four. This year the level of noise was more effectively controlled. In spite of this, distress was caused to some local people - in particular some residents in sheltered housing on South Side.

There has been little physical damage to the Common. The quantity of 'dirt' deposited was appreciably less than the 450 tonnes of last year. The entry to the path on Long Road used for access to the site could perhaps have been protected in some way in view of the heavy vehicles passing over it.

For us as a civic amenity society there is one aspect of this type of event on which we need to reflect. Skateboarding, BMX riding, loud music, fashion, tattooing, body piercing etc. may all provide challenge and a lot of enjoyment to many young people. However the inclusion of graffiti as a 'true urban pursuit' (organisers' web site) does not bode well. Already on the Common a few trees have been daubed, something not seen here previously. If anyone would like to contribute thoughts on this issue or to express a view on the Urban Games, for or against, please contact the Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee Convenor, Anna Jefferson Smith at 22 Ivey Road SW4 OEW, or fax 020 7622 8285.

## Allan Rigden (1917-2000)

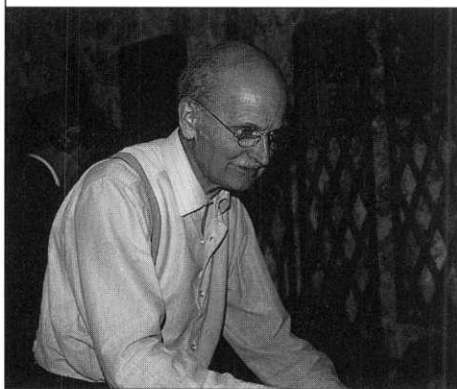
At the end of June a warm Service of Thanksgiving was held at Broomwood Methodist Church for the life of Allan, who died after a long illness on 16 June.

Allan was a remarkable man of true humility, and a well known figure as he rode his bicycle around Clapham and Battersea. He applied his skills and talents to many projects - from helping in the restoration of Broomwood Church, where he made a fine fitted kitchen and carved a wooden cross, to the painting of the ceiling of Holy Trinity Church. He even persuaded his brother on a visit to London to help him on the scaffold!

Perhaps one of Allan's greatest talents was to fire the enthusiasm of young and old alike either in his role as a teacher at Macaulay School, or sharing a task at Broomwood or Holy Trinity Church. This caused certain problems at the school with children clamouring at the gate at 8.20 am to be let in 'to get on with what Sir did with us yesterday'! This included many fascinating working mechanical and electrical models, and of course, the famous Macaulay puppets which appeared on BBC TV.

Allan was a Clapham Society member of long standing and for many years he was Vice-President of the Clapham Antiquarian Society, assisting the late Eric Smith with his photographic projects. Together they produced a beautiful colour film of local life, using the voices of many Clapham friends. He was also a useful tenor in the choir of both churches.

Allan was most generous with time, friendship and money including his membership as a friend of Battersea Churches Housing Trust. His life may perhaps best be reflected in Leigh Hunt's poem *About Ben Adhem and the Angel*. To the Angel writing in a book of gold 'The names of those who love the Lord'. Ben Adhem said: 'I pray thee then, Write me as one that loves his fellow-men.' And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.



Allan Rigden in 1981

John Lamb

## Tesco and the former South London Women's Hospital site.

Following the granting of consent by Lambeth Council and the decision by the Secretary of State to call it in and decide the application himself, the public inquiry (which started and was adjourned in April) resumed on 24 July. In addition to the Clapham Society objectors included Wandsworth Borough Council, three local ward councillors, the Clapham South Neighbourhood Association, the Balham Society and the Twentieth Century Society. The Clapham Society was represented by the Chairman and Philip Ashford.

Our main points of objection were printed in the May newsletter and, to judge by the manner of the cross-examination by the Tesco's barrister, they hit a sore spot. This time the proceedings were concluded and we now await the inspector's decision in about three months time.

## A vote of thanks

Nicholas Long has been compelled by the pressure of his other commitments to stand down after more than thirty years as a member of the Society's Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee. During that time he has applied his extensive knowledge of the history of Clapham - not to mention his accumulated experience of social and political change in Lambeth and his special enthusiasm for 19th and 20th century architecture - to the judgement and advice which he has so freely given.

He will be greatly missed by the sub-committee but we are happy to know that he will still be there as a member of the Society, to be called upon if needed.

We wish him well in his new role as a member of the Metropolitan Police Authority.

John Adams

## Je regrette...

I am afraid there is no direct evidence for the view that Abbeville Road and the other roads off it with French names are connected with followers of the Empress Eugénie (*see* memories of Clapham Park quoted in July/August newsletter).

The streets at the southern end of Abbeville Road were all laid out for building in 1878 and, following the normal requirements, the developer sought approval for their names from the Metropolitan Board of Works.

The land was called the Cavendish Grove estate, and the developer was a local builder, W Elsdon, acting for the owner, a Mr Coaks of Norwich. Elsdon first sought to call the roads Cavendish Grove, North, East, South and West. When the MBW turned these down, Coaks suggested Trouville for one of them, which was accepted. He then followed this with a package consisting of Beauville, Clairville, Deauville and Trouville.

Clairville was rejected by the MBW as being already in use, so Bonneville was substituted. Coaks amended Beauville to Belleville (did someone correct his French grammar?). This drew from the MBW a letter which just said: "The name Belleville proposed by you is frequently used in the Metropolis. Will Abbeville suit you?". As we know, it did.

Deauville Road later became part of Elms Crescent. The only other French name, Narbonne Avenue, was approved in 1891, but I have not so far found any local authority records which explain it. Coaks never explained why he chose Trouville and then the other French names. But if there was a connection with followers of the Empress Eugénie, it is not at all obvious.

Peter Jefferson Smith



The Clapham Society stand at the Common Fayre

D. Perkin

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 231

October 2000

### Traffic Options for Windmill Drive

A leaflet setting out the options, accompanied by a reply-paid card on which to indicate your preferred option, has been distributed to about 8,000 houses in the area around the Common. The public exhibition took place, in a vehicle in Windmill Drive from 14 - 17 September, when Council officials were on hand to explain the proposals.

The leaflet clearly sets out the four options with diagrams and a full explanation of each of them. Briefly they are :

1. Traffic calming, but no change in parking or through traffic
2. Gated closure of a short stretch of road with turning areas - no through traffic, slight reduction in parking
3. Closure of a longer stretch and removal of road - no through traffic, formalised parking at western end of road
4. Do nothing

The Society has long been in favour of the closure of Windmill Drive - Option 3 - and our reasons were summarised in Newsletter 229 (July/August). A copy of these reasons in full is available from either John Adams (020 7720 4764) or John How (020 8673 3945). Lambeth and Wandsworth Councils are now jointly addressing this issue after many years of delay and **we would strongly urge you to respond to this opportunity to put your views forward.** If you have not received a leaflet and card you may collect them at our AGM on 10 October or telephone Michael Bridgeland, Lambeth Transport & Highways Group on 020 7926 1236. **Completed cards must be returned by Friday 13 October 2000.**

### Lytton Strachey

Lytton Strachey was born at Stowey House on Clapham Common South Side in 1880. To celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event Tim Heath will be performing his *Ermynrude and Esmeralda* at Battersea Arts Centre (Studio 2) on Sunday 19 November at 4.00pm, as part of the Wandsworth Festival. Clapham Society members are offered a special rate for this performance. The bearded doyen of the Bloomsbury Group, immortalised by Jonathan Pryce in the film *Carrington*, devised this delightful entertainment for Christmas 1914. The racy tale of two seventeen-year-old girls and their sexual adventures displays all the wit and charm of Strachey's masterpiece, *Eminent Victorians*.

Tim Heath, who was a guest performer at the Society's Noel Coward celebration last November, has performed the work to great acclaim at the Tate Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and



Portrait of Lytton Strachey by Carrington

outside London. His production of Noel Coward's *Not Yet The Dodo* was one of the highlights of last year's Wandsworth Festival.

Tickets, bookable in advance only, are offered to members at the special price of £4.00. They may be obtained by sending money and a S.A.E. to John How, 26 Lynette Avenue, SW4 9HD before 28 October. Tickets will be sent out in early November.

### Next Meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

#### Tuesday 10 October

**Annual General Meeting.** After the formal business of the meeting the guest speaker, Bridget Cherry, Editor of *Pevsner Architectural Guides*, will speak on 'Revising Pevsner: 50 years of change in London'.

#### Tuesday 21 November

This meeting will be devoted to **transport** and will give members the opportunity to raise issues of concern. At present transport issues are aired through the Planning Sub-Committee, but with the increasing numbers of Planning Applications which have to be considered we would like to set up a separate group. Initially the Society needs to develop a Transport Policy covering all areas of concern - cars, buses, underground, trains, pedestrians and aircraft. Following this meeting we hope that a group of interested members will be identified to develop and monitor the Society's policies.

**There will be no meeting in December.**

### Sainsbury's car park

We have written to Lambeth Planning Department to express our concern at Sainsbury's application to build a two-level car park to compensate for the loss of 43 parking places when the sales area is extended. The fact that this was not submitted at the same time as the application to extend the store in April 1998 suggests development by stealth.

The present car park is rarely full and the new scheme would destroy the pleasant tree-lined pedestrian route from the High Street to Triangle Place, which was one of the beneficial features fundamental to the grant of the original planning consent in 1996.

## Clapham Walk

In place of our usual monthly meeting in August a group of members were joined by several guests for a pleasant evening walk round historic Clapham. Peter Jefferson Smith and David Perkin, who had jointly devised and researched the route, each led a group of about 20 people. From Clapham Common Underground Station we moved to the Drinking Fountain on the Common for some general background, before walking down Old Town, into Grafton Square, out of the far side of the square and through Clapham Manor Estate into Clapham Manor Street. We had frequent stops to observe interesting features and to learn some of the history of the buildings and the area.

The walk continued along Larkhall Rise to St Paul's Church, where from the churchyard we had a striking view of the London Eye illuminated by the setting sun. Our route then led us back to the Common to see Holy Trinity Church, Church Buildings and Trinity Hospice on North Side before turning towards South Side to conclude the tour with Crescent Grove. It was a stimulating evening, especially since the historical information given by Peter and David was amplified by some fascinating input from 'walkers'.

A small leaflet, with a map and historical details, was prepared by Peter Jefferson Smith to accompany the walk. This leaflet is to be adapted and refined within the next few months and will soon be on sale as the first of our proposed series of self-guided walks leaflets. Full details will be given in a future Newsletter.

## Late Summer Party

We were fortunate that the Saturday evening chosen for our party, 9 September, was one of the warmest and most pleasant of this elusive summer. Members and their guests enjoyed identifying buildings in Clapham and far beyond whilst sipping drinks in the elegant roof garden surroundings of George West House, the newly refurbished headquarters of QAS on North Side. The more provident had brought binoculars! We were quite astonished how difficult it is to recognise even well-known landmarks from an unfamiliar viewpoint. Richard Mason, Commercial Director of QAS gave tours of the building and explained and demonstrated the company's software. We are very grateful to him and to the

other directors for yet again extending hospitality to the Society and allowing more of us the opportunity to see their splendid building.

## Art in Clapham

Studio Voltaire in Nelson's Row has just been granted charitable status, and several exciting projects are planned for the coming months. Johannes Phokela from the Gasworks Studio, Oval is the present visiting artist, who is preparing work for an international touring exhibition. Action Space, a group teaching art to adults with learning disabilities has weekly meetings and the paintings of Studio Voltaire member, Richard Davidson, are on show now at the Clapham Art Gallery in Venn Street.

Later in the year in a novel scheme entitled *Everybody is an Artist* slides of artworks will be projected on to Mary Seacole House. More about that next month.

## July Meeting

The July meeting was devoted to Clapham Common. Aided by fifty slides, which included maps, prints, documents and photographs old and new, Anna Jefferson Smith told the story of the Common from the time when it was two adjacent areas of common land owned by the manors of Clapham and of Battersea and Wandsworth, overgrown and uneven with assorted ponds and ditches, through to the present day.

We heard about early landscaping by the rich men who had built their houses around the Common from the mid eighteenth century. A visitor to one such house was Benjamin Franklin, the American statesman and scientist, who did his oil on water experiment on a Clapham pond, thought to be the Mount Pond.

The first committee for the 'Regulation and Improvement of the Common' was set up by the Clapham Vestry in 1796, the treasurer being the Rev John Venn, Rector of Holy Trinity Church and a leading member of the Clapham Sect.

Few people knew that Clapham Rovers were one of the fifteen original entrants to play for the FA Cup in 1871. They won it in 1880 but by then they had moved to Wandsworth Common.

It was boom time for Clapham Common when it was bought from the Lords of the manors by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1877. Starting with the Horse Ride adjacent to the Avenue and

a Donkey Stand they, and subsequently the LCC, continued to improve and develop the Common.

Anna read a letter from residents of Clapham asking the LCC for a bandstand in 1889 and showed slides from Patrick Loobey's old postcards illustrating it in its heyday. She referred briefly to the discovery last year that the bandstand was not, as had previously been thought, one of the two from the Royal Horticultural Society erected in their South Kensington Garden in 1861, but a replica constructed in 1890.

We heard about the early days of Speakers' Corner from an account written in the 1920s and referring back to before the First World War which illustrated what a lively place it must have been.

The Common played its part in two World Wars but generally the twentieth century, particularly the latter half had produced little to its advantage. The listed surface buildings of the deep shelter at Clapham South, however interesting, adds little, particularly in their present state.

Having brought the story of the Common up to date Anna handed over to Nick Bentley, Chair of the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee, who gave an update on progress towards the development of an integrated plan for the restoration and improvement of the Common. Lambeth Borough Council have made £20,000 available for the initial stages of this.

The meeting finished with a question and answer session. Our thanks to both Anna and Nick.

## Rapid response

A few weeks ago some local residents concerned at the appearance on South Side of a large hole, which the workmen said was for a CCTV camera, contacted the Town Centre Manager, Charlotte Evans to query its position directly outside one of Clapham's Grade II listed buildings.

Work was immediately halted, and within a few days a site meeting arranged at which the residents, contractors, Lambeth conservation officer and the CCTV co-ordinator together with Charlotte were able to reach agreement to replace an existing lamp-post with a combined lamp-post and CCTV camera in a more appropriate position.

You really can affect what happens in our area, **so do make your views known**. Charlotte Evans can be contacted on 020 7926 0765.

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 232      November 2000

## The Annual General Meeting

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 10 October 2000 in the Hall of the United Reformed Church, Grafton Square at 8.00pm. The President, Norman Marsh, QC, CBE, presided and some 70 members were present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Celia Bibby, Mr and Mrs Davies, Ann Dunkley and John Lamb.
2. The Minutes of the previous AGM were approved nem con.
3. The Chairman outlined the main features of the Annual Report, drawing attention to the successful and highly praised publication of *The Buildings of Clapham*. This had not only raised the profile of the Society but also its authority as it contributed to the planning process in Lambeth. Having edited the book, Alyson Wilson had now undertaken the editorship of the Newsletter and, together with Bill Emmett, was now able to give precise dates for delivery to our Area Representatives. Thanks to our Vice Chairman we now had also a regular programme of monthly meetings attracting an average of over 50 members. A notable success had been the Noel Coward evening which had enabled the Society to donate a substantial sum to local charities. A Local History group had been formed, which was now contributing to the programme of monthly meetings as well as preparing printed guides for walks in Clapham. Our Sub-Committees had worked hard in a busy year. The Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee was concentrating on the more important applications and the opportunity to have dialogue with architects at an early stage of

planning was much welcomed, as was the work of the Clapham Town Centre under Charlotte Evans. The Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee, having produced its guidelines for events on the Common, was taking a full part with the Management Advisory Committee in its Development Plan. Following questions the Annual Report was adopted nem con.

4. The Treasurer outlined the Financial Report and Accounts, noting that a growing new membership, coupled to the removal of members in arrears of subscription, had resulted in a stable membership total. He reminded members of the Chancellor's new arrangements for tax relief on charitable donations. Following questions, the Financial Report and Accounts were adopted nem con.
5. The following were elected nem con as Officers for the coming year: Chairman, John Adams; Vice Chairman, John How; Hon Solicitor, Neil Acheson-Grey; Hon Treasurer, Michael Strong; Hon Membership Secretary, Joyce Luck; Hon Secretary, David Perkin. Also elected nem con as Committee Members: Bill Emmett, Jeremy Hamerton, Anna Jefferson Smith, Alyson Wilson, Nicholas Bentley.
6. Euan Kennedy FCA was reappointed Hon Independent Examiner nem con.
7. With the President's permission, the Chairman addressed the meeting. The Committee felt that Peter Jefferson Smith's outstanding and continuous service to the Society dating from the 60s and including his Chairmanship in the 70s and recent forming of our Local History group should be acknowledged and he therefore

recommended he should be made Vice President of the Society. The President called a vote which was approved unanimously and to applause.

8. After refreshments the meeting was addressed by the Guest of Honour, Bridget Cherry. A report of this talk will be given in the next Newsletter.

## Next Meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 21 November

This meeting will be about **local transport**. Most of us need to make journeys in our local area or beyond, whether on foot or by car, bus, train, bicycle or other means. With increasing congestion and the many changes proposed at all levels of government, transport is becoming a key item. The main Committee considers that a new sub-committee, to guide the Society on transport issues, should be set up.

We have invited Ian Plowright, Strategic Transport Planner and Abu Barkatoolah, Area Traffic Engineer, both from Lambeth Council, and John Stewart of the Lambeth Public Transport Campaign to address the meeting and to give an overall view of local transport issues and an up-date on future proposals. Following their presentation there will be a discussion on the issues raised and we hope to set up a group to develop the Society's policies and monitor transport proposals.

Any members who have knowledge or experience in this field, and who would be interested in helping to form the Transport Sub-Committee, should contact John How (020 8673 3945) prior to the meeting.

• **There will be no meeting in December.**

## September Meeting

At our September meeting five members each gave a short illustrated talk on a 'Clapham Character'.

**Anna Jefferson Smith** started the proceedings with the politician **John Burns (1858-1943)** who was born in Lambeth into a poor family with 18 children and rose to be a Cabinet Minister. Leaving school at the age of ten since the family could not afford the one penny a week to keep him there, in a series of short term jobs he saved enough to become an apprentice engineer. He became interested in politics and was soon an experienced orator and politically active.

In 1889 Burns was elected as the only Labour member of the LCC. He tirelessly championed the cause of the workers and in 1892 became Member of Parliament for Battersea, in 1905 a Cabinet Minister and in 1914 President of the Board of Trade. However, in that year he resigned as a Minister in protest at the Cabinet's decision to go to war. In that year too he moved to the house at 110 North Side, Clapham Common which was his home for the rest of his life. He stood down from Parliament in 1918 and devoted the rest of his life to his main interests - books, the history of London and cricket.

**Bernard Middleton** outlined the life of bookseller **John Hatchard (1769-1849)**, another former resident of North Side and founder of the Piccadilly bookshop. Born in Westminster, Hatchard worked first for an antiquarian bookseller and at the age of 28, in 1797, set up his own business in Piccadilly, moving four years later to larger premises at 190 Piccadilly, where the bookshop can still be found, but in a building of 1912. The bookshop soon became the best-known in London and received several royal warrants. John Hatchard was also a publisher, a devout Christian and a philanthropist, whose good deeds were legion. In 1821 he moved to Stoneley House (now demolished) on North Side, where he lived until his death. He left £100,000, with legacies to 37 benevolent institutions.

**Peter Jefferson Smith's** subject was the writer of scientific books for young people, **Jane Marcet (1769-1858)**. She was the daughter of Anthony Haldimand, merchant and banker of Swiss origin, who lived on the western end of Clapham Common, roughly where Leathwaite Road now is. With her siblings she was taught mathematics and

sciences by the best private tutors, and married a Swiss doctor, Alexander Marcet whose research papers she edited. In 1806 she published *Conversations on Chemistry*, which in 50 years ran to 16 British editions, as well as several in France and America. One young reader, with no formal education, who was fired with enthusiasm to pursue scientific study was Michael Faraday. After Alexander Marcet's sudden death in 1822, Jane divided her time between London and Geneva, publishing regularly, encouraging and influencing several other important women scholars, including Mary Somerville and Harriet Martineau.

**Roger Armstrong** told us about sanitary engineer, **Thomas Crapper (1836-1910)**. Crapper was born in Yorkshire, probably began work at 8 or 9 years old, and with local industries in decline, walked to London at the age of 12 to find a job. He worked for a master plumber in Chelsea, and at the age of 25 set up his own sanitary engineering business, which quickly flourished at a time when the struggle to control typhoid and cholera was predominant. He married in 1867 and moved to Middleton Road (now renamed Buckmaster Road) Clapham Junction.

Crapper's most important invention (c1873), the Valveless Waste Water Preventer, of which Roger showed interesting pictures, is essentially the modern syphonic action cistern. In 1886 he rebuilt the drainage system at Sandringham for Queen Victoria, and later patented an automatic flushing water closet. The family moved to Beckenham and the business, originally left to an assistant, was bought by John Bolding & Co in 1966. It has recently been de-merged and re-established as Thomas Crapper & Co.

The evening ended on a more frivolous note with **Alyson Wilson** outlining the colourful life of master criminal, **Adam Worth (1844-1902)**, who lived at West Lodge (now demolished) on North Side for several years under the alias of Henry Raymond. The poor German Jewish family emigrated to Cambridge, Mass when Adam was five years old. He ran away from home at 14, joined the Union Army during the Civil War and embarked on his life of crime first by faking death, re-joining under a false name to claim the bounty, deserting and repeating the procedure. He was forced to leave America after a particularly daring bank robbery of which he was suspected, and transferred his

criminal activities to Europe.

His most ambitious theft was that of Gainsborough's portrait of *The Duchess of Devonshire*, from Agnews in 1871. For years he master-minded daring robberies whilst managing to avoid arrest, but was finally caught after a bank robbery in Belgium and served 7 years hard labour. His Clapham-based wife and family only learnt of his true career from the newspapers!

In due course we hope to publish these and other 'Clapham Lives' as a small booklet.

## Clapham South Neighbourhood Association

Lack of space in last month's Newsletter prevented us from acknowledging more fully the vital role played by the Clapham South Neighbourhood Association in the long-running battle over Tesco's proposals for the South London Hospital site. The CSNA has worked tirelessly on the project and we have been glad to receive from and share with them details which have been mutually helpful in preparing our separate cases. In the later stages, due to the withdrawal of free legal advice, they incurred heavy expenses and would welcome contributions from those supporting their work. These should be sent to CSNA, c/o Mrs M Ross-Bell, 10 Anchor Mews, Hazelbourne Road, London SW12 9PQ.

## Winter Wonderland Fayre Saturday 2 December 10.30-3.30

At this event at St Peter's Church Hall in Clapham Manor Street/Prescott Place there will be a Puppet Theatre, Santa's Grotto, Christmas gifts, Charlie's Jams, delicious homemade lunches, Mega Bottle Tombola, Kiddies' Tombola and a Grand Raffle with prizes including a DVD player, mountain bike, Wimbledon Panto tickets and BA London Eye tickets. Clapham Manor School Choir and St Peter's Choir will be performing and the Clapham Society will have a stall.

## Lambeth Archives Open Day

The Society exhibited an interesting selection of pictures of the varied activities on Clapham Common to illustrate this year's Open Day theme 'Pleasures and Pastimes in Historic Lambeth'. As always at this event we had a busy day, with plenty of visitors to our stand from whom we gleaned useful information about Clapham in former times.

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 233

December 2000

## 2001 - A SPACE ODYSSEY?

We cannot promise you a trip to Mars during 2001 but the Events Sub-group has come up with an interesting and varied programme for the year ahead. All meetings will be held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and will be on the **third Tuesday** of the month, except in May (22 is the fourth Tuesday). There will be no meeting in August or December.

The dates and subjects of the meetings are as follows - more details of each one will be given in the Newsletter nearer the event:

January 16	The Clapham House - Then and Now
February 20	Clapham Scientists
March 20	London Government
April 17	Lambeth Archives
May 22	The Festival of Britain - 1951
June 19	Society Forum
July 17	Norwood Cemetery
September 18	Black History
October 16	Annual General Meeting
November 20	More Clapham Characters

The Society is developing a series of published walks over the next few years and two of these are planned in 2001: starting from Clapham North underground station on Sunday afternoon 15 July and from Clapham South on Tuesday evening 21 August. There will also be some Planning walks slotted into the programme.

The Winter Party at St Barnabas' Church will be on Saturday 27 January - details are given elsewhere in the Newsletter. The venue for the Summer Party is still undecided. If any members have suggestions we would be very grateful.

## Clapham Traffic Management

Following public meetings in August and October Lambeth Council have reacted with unusual speed to respond to concerns raised.

**The permanent closure of Larkhall Rise bridge is now confirmed** and this has had a serious effect on other routes locally. Other trial proposals which endeavour to offset some of the problems include local road closures to deter through traffic. Traffic calming measures are to be introduced on North Street and St Alphonsus Road.

One proposal being considered is the gated closure of Old Town to through traffic at peak times, though such major

changes are subject to approval by the new Traffic Directorate of the GLA.

No proposal is going to satisfy everyone, but we hope that by setting up our own Transport Sub-committee we can develop a Society policy and we will then have the opportunity to contribute positively in order to achieve the best results.

## Common News

The good news is that £250,000 has been allocated for capital expenditure this year, to be divided between the **play areas** in Brockwell Park and Clapham Common. We hope to have further details soon - but this looks like a step in the right direction at long last.

## Next Meeting

**Tuesday 16 January 2001** at 8.00pm at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4

### **The Clapham House - Then & Now**

This is an opportunity to look at the changes to the character and appearance of houses in Clapham in a slide show by members of the Planning Sub-committee, who will take typical streets from different periods as examples.

They will start by showing the street as built, usually before the advent of the motor car, looking at frontages, railings (mostly removed in the Second World War) front doors, and the effect of inserting modern windows and proprietary doors.

They will then consider the interiors and how our living patterns have resulted in change. The evening will be interspersed with a light-hearted quiz to identify details from familiar Clapham buildings.

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Not such good news is that we have heard that Lambeth Council have plans to sub-contract the **letting of the Common** to a commercial organisation, who may take up to 50% of the proceeds. We shall endeavour to find out more about this alarming rumour - and will keep you posted.

Tenders have now been received by the Management Advisory Committee for the initial stages of the proposed **development plan for Clapham Common**. The selected firms will have been interviewed by the time this Newsletter appears and we shall report on the outcome in the next Newsletter.

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*A Happy Christmas to our readers and all good wishes for 2001. The next Newsletter will be the February 2001 issue, available from 27 January.*

## Lambeth's One o'clock Clubs

Over the last month or two there have been several articles in the press and rumours circulating that Lambeth is closing its One o'clock Clubs. We asked Lambeth Council to tell us what is going on. Mike Peters, Lambeth's Executive Director of Education, has given us the following explanation:

Lambeth Education has 14 One o'clock Clubs around the borough which are funded and run by the authority and one which is given a grant to run the service. Over the last few months all council departments have been looking at their expenditure and finances to ensure value for money, that services meet needs, and to make savings where appropriate. One o'clock Clubs are part of our expenditure and they have naturally been looked at. However, Lambeth Education has not put forward proposals to cut One o'clock clubs.

Quite separate is the *Best Value* review being undertaken around the Early Years Service. This review is looking at a range of issues about the service such as the levels of provision, the needs of customers, the location of services, funding, costs, staffing and training - One o'clock Clubs are being examined as they are part of the Early Years Service. An integral part of the review is consultation with staff, users and non-users.

Following completion of the review, in December 2000, recommendations on the Service will be made. The review is meant to be rigorous, for example in "benchmarking" services to other boroughs and providers. It may recommend radical change or it may conclude that the service is good value and needs are met. However, the outcomes are not yet known.

If you would like to find out more about One o'clock Clubs call Lambeth's Children's Information Service on 020 7926 9996 for full details. If you are interested in the *Best Value* review contact Paul McAdam, Acting Head of Early Years, on 020 7926 9567, by email [pmcadam@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:pmcadam@lambeth.gov.uk) or write to him at Lambeth Education, International House, Canterbury Crescent, London, SW9 7QE.

*About Best Value* - The *Best Value* process is part of the government's new agenda, which requires all public services to be reviewed every five years. The process is not secretive, but is about involving residents in improving services and making sure that they are value for

money and do meet needs. Services are assessed and rigorously examined. Each review uses the "four Cs" to underpin its work. The purpose of the service is **challenged**, the authority's performance is **compared** to others, the community is **consulted**, and we look at how the service **competes** - are we the right people to provide the service? Lambeth has a fifth "C" which is **collaborate**, where we assess how we work with others.

## Revising Pevsner: 50 years of change in London.

In introducing Bridget Cherry as guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting the President allowed modest paternal pride to surface. And why not? She has a formidable reputation as an architectural historian and as editor of the Pevsner Architectural Guides, the series (originally *The Buildings of England*) founded by Nikolaus Pevsner in the 1950s. The dedication at the front of *London 2: South*, which was published in the year of Pevsner's death (1983), reads "To the Marshes of Clapham, Balham and Tooting". Her talk described the role that Pevsner played in widening our awareness of architecture over a half-century and in developing an appreciation of our architectural heritage. She illustrated how and why the aims, values and concerns expressed in those earlier editions have changed, using examples taken mostly from the London volumes - often familiar friends from South London.

When he settled here in 1934, Pevsner was surprised to find that the English lacked any thorough or consistent gazetteer of their national building stock. He saw that it was first necessary to address the problem of a public which lacked architectural awareness and was particularly unreceptive to the new ideas in design then emerging from the continent. The Royal Commission of Historic Monuments was at that time not interested in architecture post-1714 and there was little appreciation of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural development, let alone the debt it owed to the industrial revolution. Pevsner's aim was always to promote differing and opposing

positions of criticism and judgement to a public unaware of architectural debate.

The early guidebooks were quite selective but covered new ground in including 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings. It was unusual then to show interest in the wider European context of the Greek revival and to compare the British Museum and the Altes Museum in Berlin. However, by the 1960s the Euston Arch had become a symbol of the conservation battle that raged against comprehensive post-war redevelopment schemes and by 1967 Gilbert Scott's Gothic St Pancras Hotel, unappreciated and reviled by the early modernists, had been listed Grade I and the importance and appreciation of the Victorian era had become a recognised fact.

Pevsner had an important effect in popularising an appreciation of the ordinary house. He drew attention to modest Georgian, such as 1-6 Wandsworth Plain, as well as the more celebrated Nash terraces in Regents Park. He believed in an egalitarian post-war society, certain of whose buildings should more appropriately express their use in their appearance. Initially he described buildings only according to a straight-forward and stylistic viewpoint, remaining little concerned with their use or reason. But as post-war London began to take shape in the 1950s, discussion on the relationship between form and function led to a more progressive and free-thinking analysis. *London 2: South* included his own account of the South Bank, in which he admired the National Theatre for its layering and horizontal line, though not the aggressive appearance and multi-level access of the rest.

The evening concluded with some interesting questions from the audience, prompted by Bridget Cherry's stimulating and informative talk.



Roving days over - this classic Rover coupe in a Clapham front garden is being turned by nature into a flowerpot!

*Patrick Spencer from Dulwich joined the Society's Clapham walk in August because he had a special interest in one particular part of Clapham. He kindly agreed to write about it for us:*

**Matrimony Place**, which runs from Rectory Grove down to Wandsworth Road alongside St Paul's Church, is the setting of a picture painted in about 1900 by CL Floris. It is now an unattractive footpath, far different from the scene painted in the picture, which depicts a newly married couple coming down the footpath welcomed by a happy band of onlookers. The cottages in the picture did actually exist then, but have since been demolished. The whereabouts of the original picture is unknown but engravings - of which I have one - sometimes come to light, and have been included in books on local history. My particular interest lies in the fact that my uncle, Alfred James Spencer (1877-1914), was the model for the bridegroom. No doubt this came about because the artist lived at 7 Fitzwilliam Road and my family at no 3.

Amongst the family archives are letters of 1869-70 by my grandfather in his courtship of his future wife. They are largely written on his employer's notepaper and during the working day (did the boss know this?); the romance is further curtailed by the cold and sombre name of the company: 'The British & Foreign Marble Galleries'.

The early letters end 'Faithfully yours' but the final one 'Yours, that is to be'. There are many examples of the efficiency of the post: writing at 1 am 'I can't write much as my ink is low & the candle is going out. I have also to go & search for a letters pillar box so that your ladyship shall have this at breakfast time'.

They married in April 1897, and my grandfather's meticulously kept cash book records that he married on a wage of £1.10s.0d (£1.50p) per week; the wedding



**Matrimony Place**

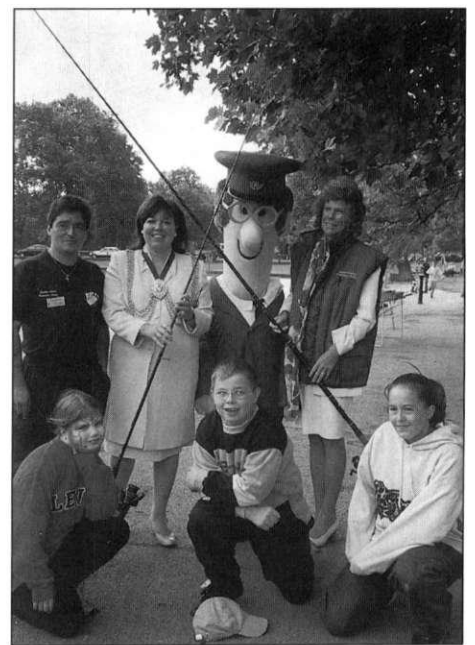
ring cost 14s.6d (72.5p), the marriage fee 10/6d (52.5p) and 9 days honeymoon at Hastings £2.7s.6d (£2.37.5p). The time was well spent: 9 months and 3 days after the wedding the first of five children was born!

*Editor's note:* The commentary to this illustration in Eric Smith's *Clapham*, mentions a pencilled note which suggests another candidate, also a resident of Fitzwilliam Road, for the bridegroom. The pencilled note is lost - the Spencer family survives!

## Fishermen's friends

Clapham Angling Preservation Society held a very successful Open Day on Mount Pond on Saturday 2 September, thanks to a Lottery Grant of £3,143 from "Awards for All-Sport England". The award was mainly to finance the open day, to buy junior fishing gear, and to train children in the art of fishing using trained coaches from the National Federation of Anglers as well as local fishermen.

Kate Hoey MP and Lambeth's Mayor Clare Whelan were there to present awards. First prize went to Lee Hart (12), second to Charlie Swallow (14) and third to Lewis Spenser (12). All children competing received a "goodie bag" of fishing accessories.



Kate Hoey (well wrapped up!) and some of the fishing group

## Banish mid-winter blues - by coming to our party!

Our winter party for 2001 will be held on **Saturday 27 January** at 7.30 pm at St Barnabas' Church, North Side Clapham Common. The church is at the extreme west end of North Side, on the corner of Lavender Gardens. St Barnabas' is Grade II listed and was built in 1898 directly in front of the beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion, The Shrubbery, which still survives in Lavender Gardens, and is now converted to flats. The architect of the church, W Bassett Smith, was a Clapham resident. The church has recently been restored and the interior re-ordered to provide a community space in the first two bays of the nave. The Rev. David Page has kindly allowed us to use this splendid venue for our party, and he will be on hand to tell us about the church and the adaptation.

Our parties have become renowned for the lavish two-course buffet supper provided by Joyce Luck and her stalwart team of helpers. **She would be very grateful for new offers of help.** If you would be prepared to make a dish - sweet or savoury - or to help with general arrangements like the bar, setting up and so on, please contact Joyce on 020 8673 2616.

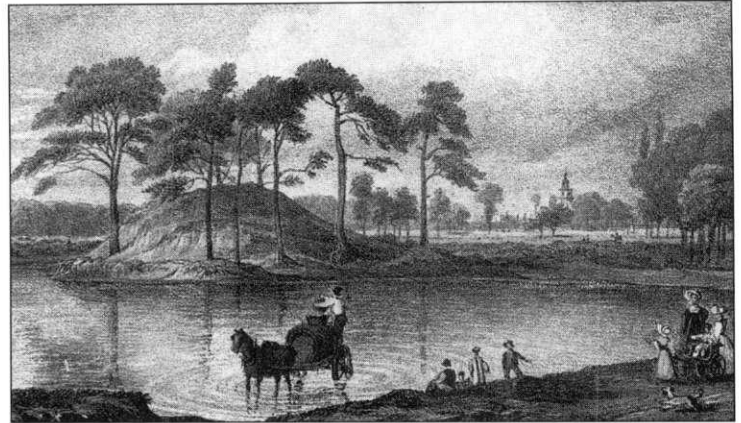
**Note:** There is no parking at the church and parking in the area, particularly on a Saturday evening is very difficult. Car-sharing and offers of lifts for those unable to walk there are strongly recommended.

Tickets are limited, so complete the ticket application form on the back of this Newsletter without delay, and send with your remittance to the Secretary.

# Christmas is coming

The Society has several items which would make particularly good Christmas gifts for Clapham residents - past and present. Our new book, *The Buildings of Clapham* (£10), the ever popular *The Story of Clapham Common* (£5), and an attractive early 19<sup>th</sup> century coloured print of Mount Pond (see illustration), framed (£8.50) or unframed (£1.50), are some of our gift suggestions. In addition we have maps, postcards and greetings cards.

Full details and prices appear on page 20 of the Annual Report, which was distributed with the October Newsletter. All items are available from Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, SW4 7AH (tel 020 7622 6360). Please telephone before calling at the house.



## Help your friends!

Are your Clapham friends and neighbours already members of the Clapham Society? If not, please let them know that they could become members with effect from 1 January 2001 without paying until 1 April. That means that if they join by mid January, they would receive the February, March and April newsletters free.

Anyone interested should contact Joyce Luck on 020-8673 2616 or Michael Strong on 020-7622 6159 and ask for an application form. A completed standing order mandate or cheque must be sent to Joyce Luck with each completed application form but should be dated for payment on 1 April 2001.

## New Sound system

We have become increasingly concerned that some members have difficulty in hearing the speakers at our regular meetings at the United Reformed Church Hall.

The Committee has therefore sanctioned the purchase of a very neat, compact sound system, which can be brought to each meeting in the same way as our projector and screen.

This expenditure is outside the normal remit of the Society, and if any members would like to make donations towards it, they would be most welcome. Cheques payable to The Clapham Society should be sent to the Treasurer, Michael Strong at 18 Sibella Road, London SW4 6HX.

## New book

Our good friend, **Patrick Loobey**, who generously allowed us to use many photographs from his extensive collection for *The Buildings of Clapham* has a new book out this month himself.

***Battersea and Clapham: A further selection***, published by Tempus, price £9.99, has over 230 pictures of the Clapham and Battersea area - all different from those in his earlier book on this area, which was published in 1994. Each picture is accompanied by a brief historical commentary. The book will be available at local bookshops from early December and is well worth looking for.

## Shopping in Clapham

Shopping possibilities in Clapham High Street have recently been extended with the opening of **Woolworths** (at last one can now buy a reel of cotton locally) and next door to it **MFI**, perhaps of less use day to day, but nonetheless welcome.

For a new and stylish furniture shop look at **New Heights**, which opened at the end of October at 1-3 Lavender Hill, the junction of Cedars Road and Lavender Hill. The shop can be glimpsed while stopped at the traffic lights, but it is well worth a special expedition to look at the simple, solid wood furniture -

beautiful designs and good value for money. New Heights is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm and on Sundays from 11am to 5pm.

*In the September Newsletter (230) we published a report on the meeting of Lambeth Council's Planning Scrutiny Commission. We would like to make clear that the suggestion that the Council's Planning Committee had been subject to whipping was not made by the Society, and in the absence of firm evidence we dissociate ourselves from the suggestion.*

On the opposite corner, at 646-650 Wandsworth Road, a **Sainsbury's Local** has opened. This is a really useful store, with exceptionally long opening hours - 7am to 11pm seven days a week - and the added bonus of a cash machine in the wall outside.

Another new shop which opened in October at 305-311 Lavender Hill, close to Arding & Hobbs is **Fresh & Wild**, which claims to be London's largest organic store. It has a juice bar, stocks a wide range of organic foods, including fruit and vegetables, breads and natural remedies and is open from 7am to 9pm during the week, slightly shorter hours at weekends.

## Tunesi Stables

In the March Newsletter (225) we published some extracts from a letter from our member, Arthur Tunesi, about the stables which his family owned at Downers Cottages. A report in the *Wandsworth Borough News* of 20 March 1925 provides an amusing follow-up: "James Bevan Jnr., of Point Pleasant, Wandsworth and Frederick Tunesi of The Polygon, Clapham, were summoned by the police at South Western Police Court, for allowing two goats to stray. Sergeant Molture said the two goats strayed in Wincanton Road and entered St Michael's Church.

Magistrate: Was there a service in progress?

Witness: Yes. They went to church but were turned out by the verger.

The Magistrate said such unruly goats which broke the peace and went to church must be controlled. He fined each of the defendants 2s 6d."

cut here

To David Perkin  
14 Englewood Road  
London SW12 9NZ

Please send me ..... tickets at £10 each (£7 concessions) for the Society's Winter Party on Saturday 27 January at St Barnabas' Church, Northside. My cheque for £..... made out to The Clapham Society, is enclosed with a stamped return envelope.

From.....  
.....  
.....

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 234

February 2001

### Clapham Honours

We congratulate two of our members whose achievements were recognised in the New Year Honours list.

**Martin Drury**, who recently retired as Director-General of the National Trust, was appointed CBE for services to Conservation. **Nicholas Long**, whose long and dedicated service to the Clapham Society was mentioned in last September's Newsletter (230), has been appointed MBE for services to the community and to the Police in Lambeth.

### Next Meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

#### Tuesday 20 February

**David Singmaster** will talk about **Scientists of Clapham**.

David, a retired Professor of Mathematics at South Bank University, has a long-standing interest in the history of science and mathematics. He writes: 'As a small village on the outskirts of London, Clapham was not an obvious location for scientists to congregate. But several major scientists have lived or visited here. I will describe the weighing of the earth, the discovery of the composition of water, the origin of the Cavendish Laboratory, the first evidence for molecules, the invention of organic chemistry by the man on the Clapham omnibus, the man who authorised the publication of Newton and the discovery of dinosaurs, all of which have direct Clapham connections. Going a bit further afield to Putney, but into my own field of mathematics, I will elucidate the mystery of taxi 1729 and the dying Indian.'

#### Tuesday 20 March

With the establishment of the Greater London Authority and a Cabinet system in the borough councils, **Marion Harvey**, Chairman of the London Forum will tell us about the changes of structure and influence in **London local government**.

#### Tuesday 17 April

**Graham Gower** of **Lambeth Archives** will give an introduction to the material held by the department, and how to use it. He will cover books, maps, microfilm, and newspaper cuttings - with special reference to Clapham.

### November meeting: Roads and Transport - and where next

John How opened the meeting by expressing the hope that, as a result of this meeting, the Society might be able to set up a separate Roads and Transport Sub-Committee. He then introduced the speakers: Ian Plowright, Strategic Transport Planner, and Abu Barktoolah, Area Traffic Engineer, both from Lambeth Council and John Stewart of Lambeth Public Transport Campaign.

Ian Plowright explained that each local authority is required by law to produce an annual transport plan. He then talked us through Lambeth Council's plan for 2001-2002, (copies of which had been distributed) drawing particular attention to the borough's commitment to discourage the use of private cars in favour of walking, cycling and public transport and to increase the provision and reduce the cost of the latter. He failed, however, to give any details of specific plans for our particular area, which is what members would have liked to hear.

John Stewart's talk concentrated on Ken Livingstone's proposed 'congestion' charge - the fact that Livingstone's success depends on it because the money raised will be the GLA's **only** independent source of income, that it **must** be put back into public transport and the possible impact of the charge on Clapham. Traffic experts have suggested the charge will result in **less** traffic passing through Clapham. A member of the audience, however, later pointed out that the route to Chelsea Bridge, the first bridge outside the restricted area, lies directly through Clapham so that an **increase** rather than a **decrease** in traffic is likely.

Mr Stewart also drew attention to the greatly increased air traffic over Clapham, now that flights are held at lower levels all over South London, rather than as before only further west.

There was a lively question session, when many members voiced their disquiet about traffic problems and the solutions adopted by Lambeth Council, often after consultation held at very short notice. The speakers answered questions about cycle routes, cycling on pavements, road closures and traffic calming measures, before John How drew the meeting to a close by asking for volunteers to serve on the Roads and Transport Sub-Committee. The following members expressed an interest: John Adams, John How, Christine Benson, Owen Davies, Rosemary Glanville, Stephen Goddard, Teresa Israel, Mark McLaren, Tim Villiers and Graham Young.

At a subsequent meeting the committee was duly formed and the first full meeting will be held early in February. A report of this will appear in the next Newsletter.

## All change at Clapham Junction?

It is reported that Allders, the owners of **Arding & Hobbs**, are negotiating to sell the store to a major property developer.

If the deal goes ahead the site will be redeveloped to include a modern department store, to be leased to Allders, as the centrepiece of a new shopping, leisure and residential development. The plan seems to be to retain the façade of 1910, but there is some doubt as to whether the historic name will be lost.



Arding & Hobbs - circa 1917

## Fly posting

Last September there was a particularly bad outbreak of fly posting in Clapham. One company decorated parking meters, rubbish bins, bus shelters, post boxes, empty shops and other advertisements with their posters. A Society member removed a poster from one of the new CCTV lamp posts and this was sent along with a letter from the Society expressing concern to the Town Centre Manager with a copy to the Director of Environmental Services. The letter was acknowledged immediately by telephone. We were delighted to hear that our action led to a pay out by the company of £700 for a clear up operation.

Recently, we have even seen fly posting over the 'Walk' signs on pedestrian crossings, which is not only anti-social, but positively dangerous.

## Party for new members

On 7 December new corporate member Hamptons International hosted our reception for new members at their recently refurbished offices on The Pavement.

Despite the inevitable torrential rain there was a good turn out and the committee welcomed the opportunity to meet many of those who have joined the Society within the last two years

## Reference Library

*Some members have expressed concern about rumours of changes to Reference Library facilities in Lambeth, so we asked David Jones, Head of Libraries to let us know what is happening. He writes:*

'We have a large and important investment in Brixton Library planned, with £600,000 to improve the facilities. Understandably, there have been concerns raised as to some of the ideas impacting

on physical alterations, particularly as they affect the reference area. The refurbishment is still in the planning stage and a number of ideas are under discussion, but as we need listed building consent for major internal alterations and we need to collect accurate costings, no firm decisions have yet been made.

The concerns expressed are, I assume, linked to the idea of facilitating access to the Reference Stack which will involve a reduction in space, and it is clear that a careful and comprehensive evaluation of the materials in the stack will need to be conducted. Officers from Lambeth Archives will be involved in this discussion and due care will be taken should the need to dispose of these materials arise. I am aware that some of the staff in the Reference Library have concerns as to the disposal of stock and these will be respected.

A whole range of issues needs to be considered as we seek to improve the Reference and Information services at Brixton. Lambeth Archives, for example, became part of the Library service in 1958. At no point since has there been a consideration of the extent of duplication of service or resources between the Archives and the Reference Library.

A review of their respective services is clearly needed. Much material in the Reference Library is valuable, but may have limited relevance for most customers. The majority of the stock is un-catalogued, inaccessible by Lambeth residents, and under-used.

The proposed changes will promote the materials that are needed and ensure that the services at Brixton

Reference Library relate to the needs of Lambeth customers.

Library staff will be happy to meet and discuss specific concerns.'

## Planning matters

The proposal by St Mungo's Community Housing Association to build new residential units on Wix's Lane (to the rear of their hostel in Cedars Road) met with considerable local opposition, was refused consent and has gone to appeal. The building comprises small single person flats for people who are well on the way to rehabilitation and capable of a fairly independent existence. Nevertheless, apart from design considerations, the location of such a unit opposite the entrance to a primary school is not ideal.

A revised scheme was approved by the council on 9 January but the Planning Inspector is still considering the original appeal. If the appeal is successful, St Mungo's can choose whichever they prefer. The difference between the two schemes appears to be more to do with management conditions than with the actual design.

Among other applications discussed by the Planning Sub-Committee was a proposal for a mixed development by Moxley Architects (a local firm) on the site of the former Savoy Hotel Laundry on the corner of Union Road and Clapham Road. This is an opportunity to address the need for sensitive regeneration of that side of the main road and Moxley's are keen to consult with the Society. Meanwhile, the Society has alerted both the architects and the Lambeth Conservation Officer to the vulnerability of the parish boundary marker stone in the front wall of the property, which will presumably soon be demolished.

There is, as yet, nothing to report on the outcome of the Public Enquiry into Tesco's plans for the South London Hospital site.

## The Conservation Area Partnership Scheme

is now focusing mainly on the High Street and non-domestic projects. Grant approval has so far been given to 32 properties.

**Clapham Arts Festival**, which was inaugurated last year at Studio Voltaire in Nelson's Row, will be extended to two days this year - Saturday and Sunday, 24 and 25 March.

Full details will be given in the March Newsletter.

## Subscriptions are due on 1 April!

This reminder is an annual event but it usually appears in the March Newsletter. It is appearing now so that you have plenty of warning and to reduce the likelihood of new standing order mandates not being processed in time to cancel and replace old ones.

It would save an enormous amount of administrative time and effort if all members could ensure they pay their subscriptions in April and for the correct amount. So please check what you should pay by referring to the Membership and Subscription Details form and compare that amount with what you paid in the current financial year. If you are in any doubt please contact the Treasurer, Michael Strong, on 020 7622 6159 or Membership Secretary, Joyce Luck, on 020 8673 2616.

Members who persist in paying subscriptions below the current levels will be targeted early in the next financial year. Far too many people have continued to pay at old subscription rates. The minimum subscription rate since 1 April 1998 has been £3. It is therefore obvious that **payments of £1.50, £2.00 and £2.50 cannot possibly be correct. Neither can £4 for the head of a household below state retirement age.** And there are also many cases where members are receiving the Newsletter by post without paying the £3 extra charge. Some amounts are less obviously wrong but it is very likely that those who started paying by standing order before the 1 April 1998 rates were announced, and have not completed new mandates, are paying too little.

## Charitable Giving Declaration

Many members have made donations since 6 April 2000, providing a most welcome boost to the Society's income. However a much lower number have completed a Charitable Giving Declaration. Completing this simple declaration enables us to recover 28p for every £1 you have given or may give in the future. So please complete the Declaration at the bottom of the Membership and Subscription Details form on the right here and send it to Joyce Luck.

## Common Affairs

A significant step forward for the plan to restore and improve Clapham Common was taken in early January. The Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee appointed Hyder Consulting to undertake preliminary work towards this project. The work will include data collection, a report into the history, condition and current use of the Common, plans for improvement and suggestions of major funding avenues. The report should be complete by the middle of May.

**Footnote -** *We were promised by Lambeth Council that the Long Pond would be drained and cleaned before the end of last year. At the time of going to press there is as yet no sign of action.*

## Two fishy stories

The poaching of carp from Mount and Eagle Ponds during the night attracted the attention of the media in January this year. The Clapham Angling Preservation Society told of their mounting anxiety at the decrease in numbers of the fish. While the anglers replace the fish alive, the poachers catch them to eat or, as has been thought recently, to sell on to other waters. The job of catching the poachers is the responsibility of the police, prosecution that of Lambeth Council. However much sympathy there may be with the anglers it is unlikely that the task of catching the poachers will be assessed as top priority by either body.

An optimistic heron was seen recently on the Common. It stood in the shallows of a puddle turned pond in Battersea Woods. No doubt there was more on the menu in the Mount Pond.



During this year we hope to report in the Newsletter on any particularly interesting or unusual sightings on the Common. Contributions from members would be very welcome. Please write to Anna Jefferson Smith, 22 Ivey Road SW4 OEW or fax to 020 7622 8285.

## Strange but true...

One of the 'Clapham characters' we heard about at last September's meeting has recently been celebrated in a Yorkshire village near his birthplace. A Millennium stained glass window in the church of St Lawrence, Hatfield, shows local achievements including coal mining, a school and an airfield. A lavatory - discreetly shown in dark silhouette - commemorates the invention of the valveless water closet by Thomas Crapper.

## Membership and subscription details

**Please complete the following:**  
**Amount due**  
*(please circle as applicable)*

### Private members

First member in household:

Title and first name (or initials):

.....

Surname:.....

If under 65 (male) or 60 (female) £6.00

If over 65 (male) or 60 (female) £3.00

Additional members in household:

Name:..... £3.00

Name:..... £3.00

Name:..... £3.00

### Business members

Name:..... £15.00

Additional due from members who receive the Newsletter by post £3.00

Total subscription £ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation £ \_\_\_\_\_

Total due £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enter your full address and telephone number in the space provided on the standing order form.**

Then please send this complete page, and cheque if applicable, to:

Mrs Joyce Luck  
 15 Cavendish Road  
 London SW12 0BH

Please do not send the mandate form direct to your bank!

## Charitable Giving Declaration

This declaration confirms my wish that The Clapham Society should treat as Gift Aid all donations made by me since 6 April 2000 until notified otherwise. I acknowledge I must pay an amount of income or capital gains tax in the relevant year at least equal to any tax reclaimed by The Clapham Society. I will notify you if my tax status or address changes.

Title & forenames. ....

Surname .....

Signature .....

Date .....

## The Clapham Society Standing Order Mandate

To ..... Bank  
 ..... Branch  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Postcode.....Sortcode.....

Please pay the sum of £..... on  
 1 April 2001 and then annually on 1 April,  
 until this order is cancelled in writing, to:

National Westminster Bank PLC  
 Clapham Common Branch  
 PO Box 3059  
 London SW4 7SN  
 (Sort code 60-05-34)

for the credit of the Clapham Society,  
 account number 22217045

Please cancel any previous Standing  
 Order in favour of the Clapham Society.

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 .....Postcode.....  
 Telephone no .....

### Account to be debited:

Account name (if not as above)

.....  
 Account number

Date.....

### Charitable Giving Declaration

Please complete the declaration overleaf  
 if you have made a donation to the  
 Clapham Society since 6 April 2000 or  
 may make one in the future. Please enter  
 your address in the space above. If you  
 are not sure whether you have made a  
 declaration, please make one now.

## Changes - for the good

by Tony Crowther

Gauden Road was built around 1875. The imposing terraces and double-fronted cheek-by-jowl detached villas possess a remarkably consistent high Victorian scale and style, but nevertheless seem to loosen-up from solidly south London stock brick to flamboyant near-Kensington stucco, with a solitary Arts and Crafts jewel before the hiatus of 1960s housing. In the midst is a 'large detached house, all original windows replaced', as recently tersely described. It then had aluminium frames with ludicrous little opening lights, a crazy-paved garden with terrazzo steps, 'art' stone gateposts, and titchy garden centre railings. But worst of all, the whole front was painted red.. It looked not so much down-at-heel as terminal.

But four changes have been made. The brickwork has been cleaned and pointed, uncovering good London stock bricks throughout, even the window arches, piers and bold semi-circle of the porch. There is not a red brick in sight, and scarcely any decorative twiddles; just an austere but subtly proportioned elevation, a three-storey near-square plane of brickwork relieved by a single bay with a triple window over, and the porch. Almost a scaled-up Georgian dolls' house. So was it an old-fashioned design, was it built earlier, was it altered, or what?

Secondly the windows have been replaced with proper timber double-hung sashes. Twelve-pane sashes have been adopted, except for the bay which is quartered. This may or may not be accurate, but it plays up the ambiguities, underlines its individuality, and looks great.

The front garden muddle has been replaced with York stone paving, to be followed by brick piers and railings; neat, practical and appropriate. And finally the characteristically elaborate, weighty Victorian bolection mouldings of the front door have been impeccably restored.

This is a great leap from ugly duckling to local hero by dint of doing the right things at the right time. So right - in retrospect, and if we care about townscape and urban regeneration, so important.



### "Plough Clock Tower (officially it's a chimney) to tick on

The clock at The Plough (*now The Goose and Granite*), Clapham, out of action for a long time now, is to tick again, thanks to the council, and the clock tower that never was, a landmark of the area, will be held in better regard. The clock, which rises over 30 feet outside the entrance to Clapham Common Tube Station, is not officially there at all. Despite what passers may think, the dirty-white stonework is a chimney shaft.

At a Wandsworth Council meeting in 1906 Mayor Alexander Glegg announced he intended to present a clock tower to the parish of Clapham. The clock and its tower were designed and work was about to start when the architects discovered a snag. A planning regulation insisted that all vertical structures must be of a minimum wall thickness. Mayor Glegg's tower was much too thin.

Thickening the walls would have left no room to get the works inside or allow repair men to get up in the mechanism.

So the clock went down in the parish records as a chimney shaft, which were exempt from the planning standard. The tower was built in little more than a month and there was a ceremonial opening with the Lord Mayor of London and the local M.P. Percy Thornton, accepting the clock for the parish. When the tube line was extended to Morden in the 1920s the clock had to be dismantled and it was not until 18 months had gone by that it was rebuilt, 30 feet nearer Clapham High Street.

The clock that had survived two wars and a lot of German bombs was finally defeated a few months ago by time itself. The works wore out.

The council agreed that Mayor Glegg's gift deserved to live on and the hands were due to move again this week." *Report in the South London Press, 28 February 1975 (reproduced by kind permission of Lambeth Archives)*

D. Perkin

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 235 March 2001

## TRANSPORT - a new Society approach

The newly formed Transport sub-group has now had two meetings. The first was just to formalise the Group and the second began to get to grips with objectives. It was generally agreed that the Society's aims should be practical and achievable with the desire to ensure a safe and convenient environment for the benefit of residents and local business.

The Society will endeavour to establish a consultation procedure with the local authorities in order to influence decision-making on relevant issues. This would be a similar role to that presently existing with the Planning Sub-Committee.

Roads and traffic are emotive issues as has been shown recently by the concerns of the residents in the Park hill/Rodenhurst Road area regarding road closures installed by Lambeth. About 300 local residents attended a recent public meeting about these closures and the knock-on effects. Lambeth agreed to consult further with residents in the area but it is clear that none of these matters, traffic management and parking controls, should be regarded individually. A more holistic approach must be considered and this was stressed at another recent meeting when officers outlined the procedures for designating Parking Zones.

The Larkhall Bridge is back on the agenda, having been closed to traffic since 1998 with a gate positioned in October 2000, there is now a proposal for it to be re-opened. However Lambeth have stated that the Bridge will re-open only after extensive discussion with local residents.

It is interesting to note that minimising through traffic in residential streets can have a detrimental effect on crime rates. It is understood from the

Police that burglaries in Park hill have risen since the closure. There is also concern about a possible increase in muggings in roads that now carry little traffic.

## South London's new art space

The launch of Studio Voltaire, the refurbished factory space and chapel in Nelson's Row, on 20 January was attended by several hundred people. These included the Mayors of Lambeth and Southwark, local councillors, representatives from the Arts Council and National Lottery Board, curators from Tate Modern and from several commercial galleries including Anthony d'Offay and the Photographers Gallery, as well as many artists and local residents. There was music and champagne in the main hall, the 18 individual studios were open, and the further plans for the space as well as the programme for the year were displayed.

It was an exciting event for the group, which took over the run-down premises little more than a year ago and has created a thriving and expanding arts venue in Clapham. The group has recently been awarded charitable status and the next goal is to purchase the premises, which are at present leased.

*Unfortunately, due to sickness, Clapham Arts Festival has had to be postponed from the weekend of 24/25 March until later in the year. A firm date and more news on the event will be given as soon as possible.*

## Next Meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 20 March

#### Marion Harvey MBE BA MSc FRSA

has been Founder Chairman of the London Forum since 1988. Marion has built up the Forum from 35 Founder member societies (of which the Clapham Society was one) to 120 societies, 50 associate societies and 30 subscribers. The London Forum represents upwards of 100,000 Londoners and is therefore the largest single organisation concerned with the needs and wants of Londoners. In 1998 Marion was awarded an MBE for Services to London's Environment.

She is a Member of the Mayor's Policy Commission for the Environment and her talk will focus on this. She will outline the strategy, its implications and the scrutiny process, as well as the impact and influence on the Greater London Authority of the London Forum and its London Societies.

### Tuesday 17 April

#### Graham Gower of Lambeth Archives

will give an introduction to the material held by the department, and how to use it. He will cover books, maps, microfilm, and newspaper cuttings - with special reference to Clapham.

### Tuesday 22 May

To commemorate the opening of the Festival of Britain in May 1951 **Patrick Loobey** will show us his extensive collection of pictures of the Festival and talk about how it was celebrated, not only on London's South Bank, but also in Battersea Park and round the country.

**Do you throw away your Newsletter when you have read it? Why not pass it on to someone who is not a member of the Society, and suggest they might like to join?**

## Clapham and Stockwell Town Centre Shadow Partner Board (yes, what a mouthful!)

The Board is now reaching the end of its first year and is steadily becoming more effective. A public meeting in January at Clapham Centre concentrated on Crime and Community Safety, with presentations from the Met on proposals for the Old Town site and other current issues. The installation of CCTV in the High Street and Old Town has already had a positive effect on reducing crime, and it is hoped to extend the system to cover Clapham Park Road in the near future.

The Board has been able to support a number of local projects, in Clapham these include:

- a mini-bus for the Notre Dame Estate
- greater public consultation by the Clapham Common MAC (this is related to the development plan)
- coaching etc. for the Clapham Crusaders, a local youth football team
- matching funding for the draining and clearance of Long Pond: we have been told that, with this additional funding, the work to Long Pond should start shortly - the Society and the MAC will keep up the pressure.

Ideas for future projects for inclusion in the 2001/2 budget would be welcome. Please contact John How on 020 8673 3945.

## The Clapham House

Around 60 members turned out on a bitter January evening for John How's talk about the design and evolution of the typical Clapham house. He imparted a wealth of fascinating information illustrated with examples of several houses built between 1870 and 1900, and examined in detail his own house in Lynette Avenue.

He first put the house in context by showing the street in 1925, when there were few cars and most houses retained their original iron railings and trees in individual gardens. He then looked at the external features one by one, starting with the cast iron **railings** usually set on a low brick wall and painted in green, dark blue or chocolate brown, not black. Most were removed during the Second World War.

Next we saw **roofs**, clad with slates and often with decorated bargeboards to the gable, and **brickwork**, no longer covered with stucco at this period but often polychromatic and moulded. **Windows** were originally sliding sashes, with bigger panes than earlier following the introduction of larger sheets of good quality cheap glass in the 1830s. Fancy decorated **window and door surrounds** were cast from a mixture of stone dust and cement, and the Minton works supplied encaustic **decorative tiles** for garden paths, as well as halls, kitchens and sculleries. **Front doors** often had glazed upper panels, either frosted or in geometric patterns of coloured glass set in lead strips. **Letterplates** appeared after 1840 as a result of the Penny Post, and by the 1880s included a handle, thus acting as combined knocker and door handle.

We learned that the convention was that the milkman and the coalman knocked once, the postman twice and personal visitors three times.

John paused now for a light-hearted pictorial quiz to test our observation of Clapham buildings. It was embarrassing to find that one could not easily identify, from a detail, buildings seen very regularly, for example the Library, the Clock Tower and The Alexandra.

For the second half of the evening John took us beyond the front door, to look at interior features: **cornices, mouldings, fireplaces and chimney-pieces, wall coverings and paintwork**, describing and illustrating each in turn. **Kitchens**, he told us, have rarely survived, since owners soon replaced the black-leaded range and stone glazed sink as they did the wash stand and free-standing bath in the **bathroom**. He showed us **stairs** with elaborately turned balusters and newel posts, **bedrooms** and finally the **WC** outside in the garden. John's still survives, but minus its wooden seat.

There were many questions from the enthusiastic audience, and as a result of obvious interest in this topic we plan a future meeting at which experts will advise on the care and maintenance of the Clapham house.

Our new sound system, used for the first time, was most successful.

## Winter party at St Barnabas' Church

We were privileged to be able to hold this year's Winter Party at St Barnabas' Church, North Side and to have the opportunity to see the excellent

alterations, completed in 1994 to designs by The Brown Matthews Partners.

The first two bays of the church have been divided from the main body to provide an adaptable public space, which of course, was where the party was held. A floor added over this space provides accommodation for a day nursery, while access to the main church is through large double doors.

The church itself has been refurbished, carpeted, the pews replaced with chairs arranged on three sides round a new nave altar table, but the oak choir stalls retained and used elsewhere in the church.

All has been done with great sensitivity, while providing facilities consistent with today's needs. We are most grateful to the Revd David Page for inviting us to his church, which even many long term Clapham residents had to admit to never having been inside before.

As ever Joyce Luck and her team of helpers provided us with a delicious buffet supper.



Work in progress on the alterations to St Barnabas' Church



In January 11 young oak trees were planted on the Common by Team Lambeth. You can see them at the side of the cycle track near Windmill Drive and on the grassed mounds near the Redgra football pitches.

*Stop press - there are proposals to extend the Controlled Parking Zone, and a consultation process is soon to start. We will keep you informed.*

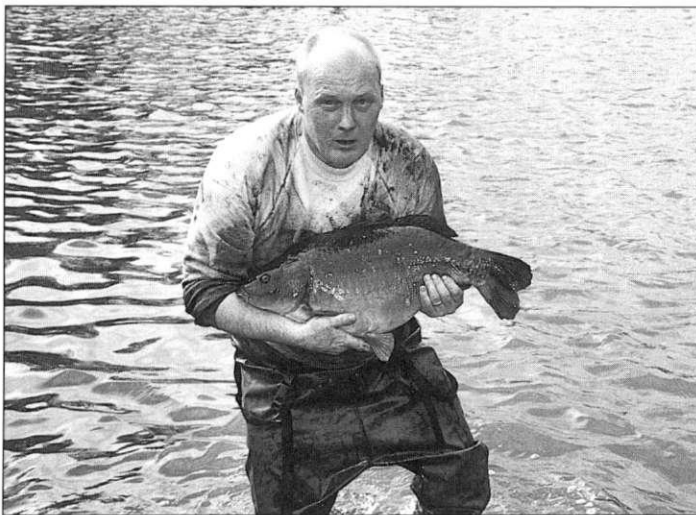
# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 236 April 2001

## Long Pond at long last!

Work on the Long Pond is well under way. The first stages were to pump out the water and to remove the fish and transfer them to Mount Pond. The photo below shows Mark, a member of the Clapham Angling Preservation Society, carefully delivering a large carp to its new habitat. Removing the silt, and the weed which had caused such havoc for the model yachts, is proving a challenge with ever larger diggers being required. On the plus side the drain, which had previously evaded discovery, was located. Its condition has yet to be assessed.



## The Board X Urban Games Event

The third annual Urban Games event is to be held on Clapham Common in late July. Members will recall that this three-day event has raised various concerns in the past, particularly in relation to noise levels.

The Clapham Society appeared at the Licensing Committee on 13 March when Board X made their application for an Occasional Licence. We did not wish to oppose the sporting content of the event but there were other aspects upon which we had views which we wanted to bring before the Committee. We asked for the total exclusion of the graffiti component and for strict control of noise levels, fly posting and unacceptable language over the public address system.

The Licence was granted but a number of stringent conditions were imposed. Graffiti was, unfortunately, not excluded in spite of representations from the Clapham and Stockwell Town Centre Board and the Friends of Clapham Common as well as the Society.

A reminder of our plans for the rest of 2001 and a chance to update your diary.

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm. Details of walks and the **Summer Party** are shown below.

### Tuesday 17 April

**Graham Gower** of **Lambeth Archives** will give an introduction to the material held by the department, and how to use it. He will cover books, maps, microfilm and newspaper cuttings - with special reference to Clapham.

### Tuesday 22 May

To commemorate the opening of the **Festival of Britain** in May 1951 **Patrick Loobey** will show us his extensive collection of pictures of the Festival and talk about how it was celebrated, not only on London's South Bank, but also in Battersea Park and around the country.

### Tuesday 19 June

**Society Forum**. An opportunity for members to air their views and discuss topics of local interest. **Edmund Bird**, Lambeth Conservation Officer, will talk about conservation issues in the borough and members of our Sub-Committees will be on hand to tell you what progress is being made.

### Saturday 14 July

**Summer Party**. An early evening drinks party in the garden of St John's Church, Clapham Road, SW4, with the opportunity to tour the recently restored church. 6.30-8.30 pm. Tickets £5.

### Sunday 15 July

**Historical Walk** of Clapham North area lead by **Peter Jefferson Smith** leaving from Clapham North Tube Station at 2.30 pm

### Tuesday 17 July

**Jill Dudman** will talk about **Norwood Cemetery** with special reference to the many former residents of Clapham buried there. We hope to follow up this talk with a visit to the Cemetery if there is sufficient interest.

### Tuesday 21 August

**Historical Walk** of Clapham South area lead by **John How** leaving from Clapham South Underground Station at 6.30 pm.

### Tuesday 18 September

**Black History**. A speaker from Lambeth Archives will tell us about the study of Black History and its particular relevance to the history of Clapham.

### Tuesday 16 October

**Annual General Meeting**. Our guest of honour and speaker will be **Faith Boardman**, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth.

### Tuesday 20 November

**Clapham Portraits**. Members of the Society will describe the lives of four famous Clapham residents.

## Clapham Historical Walk

The leaflet for our self-guided historical walk of Clapham, based on the walk lead by Peter Jefferson Smith last August, is now published. It will be available at meetings and at the events throughout the summer where the Society has a stand. Price 50p.

## The train now arriving at

**Clapham Common** is the toddler

train for the refurbished Windmill Drive Children's Play Area. At the time of going to press the official opening by the Leader of Lambeth Council, Cllr Tom Franklin, is scheduled for Sunday 25 March at 11am. The Play Area is a riot of colour and has a small adjacent picnic area. The new play equipment looks exciting and we look forward to seeing it in use.



For enthusiasts of shunting and hooting!

## Clapham in the Twentieth Century

The Society is planning a new publication, telling the story of Clapham in the century that has just ended. The aim is to use as far as possible the memories of ordinary Clapham people, to give a picture of how most of us lived. Even in 1900, people wrote that Clapham was changing very fast, and in the next hundred years there were two world wars and yet faster social change. It is often hard to recall what was the normal way of life at any stage.

We have a lot of material already, including the inter-war years and the two wars, but less about more recent times. We would welcome contributions from people, who can write about their own experiences of life in Clapham. They may be members of the

Society, or other people who have interesting stories to tell. We cannot promise to include every contribution, but would still like to hear what you could offer. You may also have photos showing what Clapham was like, which could be reproduced.

If you are interested in helping, please drop a note to Peter Jefferson Smith at 22 Iveley Road London SW4 0EW or Alyson Wilson at 22 Crescent Grove London SW4 7AH.

## Conservation in Nightingale Lane

A walk down Nightingale Lane gives as varied a view of house design from about 1850 to the present day as can be found in any street in London, let alone in Clapham. Probably the most ornate houses are 69-79 built by Thomas Colcutt in 1879, possibly for the directors of the Royal Doulton factory in Lambeth.

These are three pairs of four-storey houses built in a hard red brick with terracotta detailing in French Renaissance style. Terracotta or faience became very fashionable during the 19th



century, with the Royal Albert Hall and the Natural History Museum being prime examples. The Doulton factory, founded in the 1820s, was by the late 1870s probably the leading manufacturer.

George Jennings, one of the foremost sanitary engineers of the 19th century, lived at No. 79 from 1879 until his death in 1882. He was obviously connected with the manufacture of the terracotta components, as the keystones to the windows in the ground floor bay are

embossed with a circular inscription - JENNINGS POOLE DORSET. We have yet to establish the connection between Poole and Lambeth.

The houses are now all divided into flats and only 73 retains the front door in its original position. I have long admired these houses and it has recently been my privilege and pleasure to work on the restoration of the exterior of 73.

This has given an opportunity to inspect at close quarters detailing that is reminiscent of the chateaux in the Loire. The pediment panels include delightful cherubs whilst those lower down reflect more heraldic symbols. The second floor eave is concave with festoons and shells. Probably the most prominent features are the bays, particularly the one over the front door, which is corbelled out at first floor and supported on a substantial bracket.

No 73 retains the original front path, in white marble and slate, as well as the fancy fretwork terracotta front wall. Sadly no original gates remain; these would probably have been wrought or

cast iron and it is hoped eventually to find a suitable design to replace them. Now that 73 has been cleaned the full glory of the details of these lovely buildings is once again revealed. I am now working on the other half of the pair, and 69-71 are also being restored, so soon the whole block will be conserved.

*John How*

## Planning matters

Since the last report, the Sub-Committee has been kept very busy with a number of large developments proposed in the Clapham area.

The largest scheme is the proposed mixed development on the site of the former Savoy Hotel Laundry at **17-19 Union Road**. The applicant proposes to demolish the existing laundry and erect housing, offices, a supermarket and some office/work units, with a large underground car park. Access for all vehicles is from Clapham Road. A contentious aspect of the scheme is the 8-storey tower on Clapham Road, but a walk round the site with the architects made sense of this feature, which forms a sort of visual hinge on a curve in the road. This represents a reduction in height compared to an earlier proposal which we felt would look better. Otherwise this seemed to us a promising scheme.

The Metropolitan Police and their architect presented their proposals for a new **Command and Control**

**Centre** on their site on the corner of Old Town and Grafton Square. Due to the proliferation of mobile phones, the number of 999 calls has increased enormously, and this new centre, mainly manned by civilians, but with a strong police presence, is intended to cope with anticipated demand up to 2017. The Sub-Committee consider this a reasonable use for the site. We felt that more car parking might be provided, against the Planners wishes, as most staff will probably drive to work, especially at night, and this will put a strain on local parking areas. The main criticisms concern the glazed elevation facing the rear of the adjoining terraces to Grafton Square, which would cause considerable light pollution at night, and the appearance of the part of the building actually on Grafton Square.

We looked at yet another scheme for part of the Piano Factory site in **Northbourne Road**, which involves the conversion of some buildings, plus new-build providing three houses, three flats and four live/work units. It was generally felt that this would not be a very nice place to live, with inadequate amenity space outside, and some rather unusual internal planning of the units.

We were disappointed that the development at **10-16 The Polygon** was rejected by the planning committee, as we felt that the final version of the scheme was quite acceptable. The applicants have now lodged a new scheme, which is a terrace of buildings which are a pastiche of the existing adjoining buildings. We know that there has been a lot of local objection to the previous scheme, but feel that it was infinitely preferable.

A proposal to demolish the little cottage called Woodlands Lodge, in **Rodenhurst Road** and replace it with three 3-storey houses was also looked at. The Sub-Committee are, unusually, unsure of the history of the cottage, and would be interested in knowing more about it - does anyone have any information? We were not impressed with either the planning or appearance of the houses and feel that two properties are the most that could be squeezed on this site.

Tesco's proposals for the old **South London Hospital for Women** site are now with the Greater London Authority; an announcement is imminent.

There has been movement in the **Conservation Area Partnership Scheme**, which is now concentrating more on the north end of Clapham High Street; an excellent scheme to improve the visual environment of the area, and we very much hope that it succeeds.

## Planning in Lambeth

On 8 March the Planning Commission, set up by the Environment Scrutiny Committee, held a meeting to discuss their review of Lambeth's Planning Service. Three members of the Society's Planning Sub-Committee attended.

The picture painted is a recognisable one of an under-resourced department which is perceived to be failing on several counts: of an organisation that does not communicate or consult within itself effectively, let alone with the community which it is there to serve. They *"strongly recommend that the Council should put in place a recovery plan to restore confidence in the system"*.

The Commission's findings are couched in tactful terms which usually avoid outright allegation or blame but there is no smoke without fire and the underlying inferences are unavoidable - there are questions of practice, competence and transparency which must be addressed. The Commissioners refer to differing perceptions about the purpose of the planning system, the need for greater clarity about processes and objectives and for a "root and branch" overhaul of the consultation systems. They recommend that priority be given to the non-determination of planning applications and the lack of enforcement which are perceived as *"barriers to the system being seen as effective"* and that additional resources be found to focus on good design in general development control (*Yes please!*) and on post-hoc monitoring. A particular point is made of the fact that more weight should be given to the overworked Conservation Officers. They also recommend that no Whip of any party should be a member of the Planning Applications Committee!

However these are but recommendations. There is some concern that they will be considered for action by the very department which is under fire and could be ignored when convenient. Although the Council has already allocated £250,000 to Planning in recognition of the urgent need to restore confidence in the department, this is a one-off payment which will do nothing to secure necessary additional posts and continuity over the longer term. The need to keep some excellent officers from leaving through despondency is crucial because they have the memory and local knowledge that is so important to conservation work.

The advantage of a low council tax must be balanced against the cost of a weakened planning service.

## Clapham Charities

In 1997 several local charities combined to form **The Clapham Relief Fund**. Euan Kennedy, Treasurer of the Fund, gives a brief outline of the history of these Clapham charities.

**The Clapham Sick Poor Fund** was formed in 1849 as The Clapham General Dispensary on land in Clapham Manor Street given by Rev'd Henry Atkins Bowyer, who was both Lord of the Manor of Clapham and Rector of Holy Trinity Church. On this land the dispensary was duly built, with J T Knowles as the architect, and the building still stands at 42 Clapham Manor Street. More details are given in *The Buildings of Clapham*. With the coming of the National Health Service after the Second World War, the dispensary was no longer needed, the premises were let, and in the 1970s the Borough of Lambeth acquired the property. The charity used its income to make distributions to the needy. The value in 1997 was £123,000.

**The Clapham Pension Society** was formed in about 1850, and in more recent years - maybe from the start - provided a pension for traders who had had their business in Clapham. By the early 1980s the charity had run out of pensioners and was just accumulating money. The value in 1997 was £226,000.

**The Holy Trinity Charities** were eleven charities for the poor. For more information see the Charity Boards at the entrance to Holy Trinity Church. Four were created in the seventeenth century, the oldest in 1620. From this it can be seen that these charities would originally have been administered by the former Holy Trinity Church, now St. Paul's. One was set up in 1834 under the will of Elizabeth Cook, widow of the celebrated navigator, Captain James Cook. However, under the restrictive charities legislation, the value of the investments of these charities had fallen greatly, and their combined capital value in 1996 was a little under £12,000.

All the above charities are now combined in **The Clapham Relief Fund**, which is geographically restricted to the old parish of Holy Trinity. It has investments of about £500,000, and distributes its income to those in need. It welcomes applications - contact The Clerk, Holy Trinity Church, SW4 0QZ.

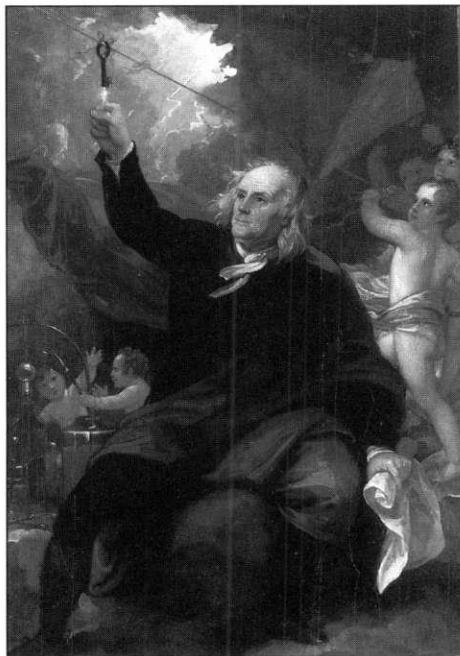
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*Contributions to the Newsletter from members are very welcome, especially publicity for local events. Please send details preferably by email (alyssonwilson.sw4@virgin.net) or by fax (020 7622 7899) or post (Alysson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH).*

## Clapham Scientists

At our February meeting David Singmaster astonished us by distributing a list of over 40 scientists with Clapham connections, though he admitted that his interpretation was quite wide - including engineering, medicine, botany and technology.

Clearly he could not go through all of them and their achievements, but he gave a lively and entertaining presentation, focusing on some of the more important figures. Most of us recognise **Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790) as a distinguished American statesman. We may know that he was also a scientist and have heard that his experiment which first proved that



**Benjamin Franklin**  
**'The Newton of Electricity'**

thickness was conducted by pouring oil on the troubled waters of a pond on Clapham Common when staying with his Clapham friend, Christopher Baldwin. But few of us knew that he was the first scientist to study electricity seriously, and was dubbed 'The Newton of Electricity'. Among many other achievements, he mapped the Gulf stream and supplied instructions to shipping as to how to use it to speed trans-Atlantic journeys.

An eminent scientist with a longer Clapham connection was the eccentric **Henry Cavendish** (1731-1820), who lived at Cavendish House, 'a commodious villa' on South Side. He has been described as the most acute scientist since Newton, but he was so reclusive that much of his work was not known until his manuscripts came to light nearly 20 years

after his death. A contemporary said of him; 'He probably uttered fewer words in the course of his life than any man who ever lived to fourscore years, not at all excepting the monks of La Trappe.' His extensive library was available to any scientist, and he carefully signed receipts for any books which he borrowed

himself! The Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge was funded by and named after him.

### Gideon

**Mantell** (1790-1852) and his wife of iguanodon fame were Clapham residents as were **Peter Dollond** (1730-1820) optician, whose name survives to this day in the High Street chain, and **John Venn** (1834-1923), after whom the Venn diagram is named. Astronomers included Clapham Grammar School headmaster, **Charles Pritchard** (1808-1893) and

banker, **Robert Barclay** (1758-1816). Among local botanists were **John Reeves** (1774-1856) who introduced wisteria to this country and **Daniel Hanbury** (1794-1882), donor of the land for the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley. After telling us about the chemist **Friedrich Kekulé** (1829-1896), notable for his research on atoms, David went slightly further afield to include Putney mathematician, **Srinivasa Ramaujan** (1887-1920). The incident for which he is most famous is too complicated to explain here, though David managed to make the mathematical puzzle roughly comprehensible to the innumerate.

David has compiled detailed notes on his researches and if you would like a copy you are invited to contact him. (020 8674 3676).

*If you have any queries about The Clapham Society or any concerns about local matters please contact the appropriate person shown below:*

**Chairman** **John Adams**  
18a Macaulay Road, London SW4 9HD  
Tel/Fax: 020 7720 4764

**Secretary** **David Perkin**  
14 Englewood Road, London SW12 9NZ  
Tel/Fax: 020 8673 2570

**Membership Secretary** **Joyce Luck**  
15 Cavendish Road, London SW12 0BH  
Tel. 020 8673 2616

**Treasurer** **Michael Strong**  
18 Sibella Road, London SW4 9LK  
Tel: 020 7622 6159 Fax: 020 7771 6751  
Email: michael.strong@btinternet.com

**Transport Matters** **John How**  
26 Lynette Avenue, London SW4 6HX  
Tel/Fax: 020 8673 3945

Email: john@jh995.freeserve.co.uk  
**Planning Matters** **Jeremy Hamerton**  
37 Yukon Road, London SW12 9PY  
Tel. 020 8673 2090

**Common and Open Spaces**  
**Anna Jefferson Smith**  
22 Iveley Road, London SW4 0EW  
Tel/Fax: 020 7622 8285

**Newsletter/Publications** **Alyson Wilson**  
22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH  
Tel: 020 7622 6360 Fax: 020 7622 7899  
Email: alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net

## Traffic restrictions

A meeting for a selection of local residents, organised by Lambeth Council officers, was held on 22 March to discuss proposals to close some roads off Clapham Common South Side, following the experimental closure of Park Hill. The aim is to reduce through traffic and the target is to achieve a reduction to 70% of 1990 traffic levels, though present schemes are only a step in this direction. Residents were divided into groups and invited to make their own proposals. Inevitably not much could be achieved in the hour or so allowed for discussion.

The general view seemed to be that timed barriers operating at rush hour time were the optimum solution, but given the budget restriction of £50,000, timed no entry signs could be tried experimentally as long as they were enforced. Generally, modelling should look to an area-wide solution, no traffic burden falling unfairly on any one street.

The Council will take these and a variety of detailed suggestions - many of them inevitably conflicting - and submit revised proposals.

## Police Surgery

Anyone seeking advice or wanting to register concern regarding crime or community safety matters can now meet PC Dave Winton, the beat officer for the High Street. He will be holding a regular surgery, on the first Tuesday of every month between 10am and 1.00pm, at the Clapham Community Project in Venn Street. All matters will be treated with the strictest confidence.

## Cycle routes

The green tarmac rings which have appeared in the middle of some roads (The Chase, Broadhinton Road, Larkhall Rise) with the figure '3' painted in them indicate the number of the cycle route to follow to Waterloo. A new map of cycle routes in Lambeth will be available within the next few months from the Cycling Officer, Michael Bridgeland (020 7926 1236).

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 237

May 2001

## An appreciation of May Cristea (1909 - 2001)

On first meeting, May could give the impression of being La Grande Dame of Clapham. She knew just about everyone, she lived in a large and fine house and she had been in south London for most of her long life. But that was not the May that many of her friends knew. To them she was the good companion, the wise person with whom to share a problem and, above all, a great friend.

She had a number of strong interests; among them her family, the Church of England, unswerving support for Trinity Hospice, the state of Clapham Common and the excesses of Lambeth Council. Conversation with May would invariably include reference to at least one of those elements - she could also tell you the latest storyline of most TV soap operas - and she would expect reciprocation. Her family were the centrepiece and her critical devotion reflected an honesty that not many of us achieve. May had obtained a degree in Theology from Kings College London shortly before the war and followed developments within the Church of England with keen interest. Woebetide the ill-prepared curate or priest who visited her! Her wonderful hand-painted cards sold in aid of Trinity Hospice raised over £80,000 and many recipients were so delighted they framed the cards. Clapham Common was the vista from her drawing room windows and she surveyed all who passed before with sage observations and not a little anger on occasion - large pop concerts were the bane of her life. Finally, she had many acrimonious dealings with Lambeth Council.

The latter trials were met with resigned good humour and a dose of healthy sarcasm. Her generosity in permitting the use of her house,



particularly the magnificent drawing room, for fundraising social functions, including several for the Clapham Society or to parties of architectural enthusiasts anxious to see an authentic surviving interior, was boundless. For May was kind and witty and an excellent hostess. Her birthday parties, which consisted of 'afternoon tea' all day long, were particularly memorable, bringing together many of May's eclectic and colourful friends.

The tributes during her funeral service at Holy Trinity Church on 26 March fairly reflected the loss of a good friend to those in attendance. May was an original; she is not replaceable and the warmth of many happy memories will linger for a long time.

*Anna Long*

### Clapham Arts Festival

Following the success of last year's festival, a larger event is planned this year. An open exhibition entitled **Everybody's an Artist** will run at **Studio Voltaire** from **15-30 June**. During the weekend of **16-17 June** there will be **free workshops** for all ages in various artistic disciplines hosted by

### Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

#### Tuesday 22 May

A **Tonic to the Nation** was the title given to **The Festival of Britain** which opened in May 1951. To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening **Patrick Loobey** will talk about the event and show us his extensive collection of photographs.

#### Tuesday 19 June

**Society Forum.** Edmund Bird, Lambeth Conservation Officer, will talk about conservation issues in the borough and members of our Sub-Committees will be on hand to answer members' queries and discuss the Society's present concerns.

#### Tuesday 17 July

**Jill Dudman** will tell us about **Norwood Cemetery** and about the many former residents of Clapham buried there.

### Celebrate Bastille Day!

Our **Summer Party** this year is on **Saturday 14 July** in the garden of St John's Church, Clapham Road. Most people passing the church on the main road will not even know that behind there is a delightful sheltered garden, which has recently been restored. We hope that the weather will be kind enough to let us have the party in the garden, but the church will be open so we shall have somewhere to retreat to if necessary and a chance see how the interior has been refurbished. Apply for your tickets now with the form on the back of this Newsletter.

Studio Voltaire and at other local sites, The Clapham Society will host **free guided historical tours** and on Saturday evening there will be a **free concert** given by the **London Schubert Players**. On Sunday evening a **film season** begins at Studio Voltaire introducing a variety of independent film makers.

More details of the festival will be given in our June Newsletter.

## Traffic News

Members in the Old Town and Larkhall Rise area will know that Lambeth Council recently circulated proposals for a new traffic management scheme in the area, which involves the reopening of Larkhall Rise railway bridge for northbound traffic only, combined with various speed, width and entry restrictions as well as junction alterations. These are intended to restrict through traffic in the area bounded by Cedars Road, Wandsworth Road, Lansdowne Way, Clapham High Street and Clapham Common North Side.

The Roads and Transport Subcommittee has suggested to the Council that the proposed scheme has a number of important failings and that further consideration is needed. While no solution can fully satisfy all residents, the current proposals seem likely to please no one; they would result in an increase in traffic, and reduction in safety, in a significant number of residential streets in the area.

We now await Lambeth Council's response and we shall keep members in touch with developments.

## The London Forum

About 25 members came to the March meeting to hear the Chairman of the London Forum, Marion Harvey, talk about its rationale, remit and objectives. The London Forum came in to being after the demise of the GLC as the only pan-London organisation putting the views of Londoners to Government on issues including transport, the built environment, the environment and open spaces.

For 10 years the London Forum was a voice for London campaigning for citywide government. There was a slim line strategic authority, the London Planning Advisory Centre, through this time and many of its officers are now in the Greater London Authority. The London Forum worked closely with LPAC and this has now borne fruit as a solid relationship within the new GLA.

There is some disappointment with the funding and the powers of the GLA. The GLA has a scrutinising role vis-à-vis the Mayor's powers and the allocation of jobs, but GLA members are scrutineers only and the Mayor's appointed members are as large a group as

the elected members. On the positive side, there is good consultation with the stakeholder groups, especially on transport. The over arching Spatial Development Strategy is not yet out for consultation. This covers Strategic Planning and it is to incorporate all the other strategies. The outline proposal will be published in April, and the idea is that this will guide Lambeth, like all other London boroughs.

Marion Harvey sits on the GLA's Policy Commission for the Environment as a scrutineer. Other stakeholders include communities, business, specialists and conservation officers. There are five strategies: waste, air pollution, noise, energy and biodiversity. Health is the key. Their full report will be sent to each society. Its importance is that the environment is allegedly at the heart of all the Mayor's other strategies. It includes the ideas of a 'walking friendly city', the plans for pedestrianising Trafalgar Square - 'world squares for all'. It is a very green strategy and there are some encouraging signs particularly relating to biodiversity. There are 64 objectives including banning fox hunting (!) and protecting sparrows. Management of open spaces is highlighted; the key is to keep the open spaces and remove their Cinderella status.

There are great concerns about the low status of conservation and the built environment in the Mayor's plans. These are under the aegis of the not-yet-operational culture strategy group.

Marion Harvey answered questions from members about how the new London government relates to local issues such as the horse trough in Kings Avenue, (under the Cultural Strategy), Battersea Power Station's proposed 700 room hotel, congestion charges, demarcation lines on Clapham Common, the reinstatement of the Care Centre (outside the GLA remit) and graffiti.

Individual societies must use their influence and continue to champion local issues. However trends are encouraging for the greater influence of local civic societies and communities. Home working is growing, firms are offering cycle parks and showers, green travel plans encourage incentives for the employment of local people.

*Moira Todd*

## The Playground

The refurbished Windmill Play Area was opened by Mayor Clare Whelan on Sunday 25 March. The weather was dull and cold but spirits were high. One small boy was investigating the play equipment in the sand pit (see below) even before the ribbon was cut. Mothers were given flowers by the installers. The bells of Holy Trinity Church rang out to celebrate both Mothering Sunday and the opening of the Play Area.

The following weekend Team Lambeth counted 400 children and parents in the playground, with 100 in the sandpit alone.



## A Clapham personality

Ivy Davies, a Clapham resident and member of the Society for many years died recently at the age of 88. She was born in Lambeth, and her school leaving report in 1925 said she was a pupil of 'above-average intelligence' who would make a suitable candidate for the Civil Service or teaching. She became a Civil Servant, and during the war worked on the secret Enigma decoding machine and afterwards as a senior telegraphist.

In 1930s Clapham - even then a place of political controversy - she and her husband took part in protesting violently against such things as Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia, by painting slogans on pavements at dead of night. After the war she was the driving force in opening a lunch club for the elderly in Balham.

In her retirement she visited New York each autumn, staying with a wartime friend of her husband, and each summer he came to London to accompany her to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships.

*Sylvia Foster*

cut here -----

To David Perkin  
14 Englewood Road  
London SW12 9NZ

Please send me ..... tickets at £5 each for the Society's  
Summer Drinks Party on Saturday 14 July at 6.30 pm in the  
garden of St John's Church, SW4. I enclose a cheque (payable  
to The Clapham Society) and self-addressed stamped envelope.

From -----  
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## Long Pond - the story so far

Our April Newsletter began on a cheerful note with details of the beginning of the long awaited work on Long Pond. The pond had not been emptied and cleared of silt since 1988. In 2000 the pond had filled up with weed which had prevented the sailing of model yachts for the first time since the 1870s.

Most of the water was removed and in appalling weather the removal of the silt was begun.

Unfortunately the work proved difficult and the scale of the equipment inadequate. The project came to a halt leaving areas of the pond base badly rutted.

There was a view that, with the removal of the weed and some of the silt, sufficient work had been done. It was thought that the water level would rise naturally without having to fill the pond from the hydrant, since mains water carries more nutrients which would have encouraged the return of the weed.

A number of members and many other people expressed concern about the state of the pond. The main stakeholders, the Clapham Model Yacht Club, who need two feet of water to accommodate the boats' keels, could see that there were many areas of the pond without



sufficient draught. The Society and the Model Yacht Club made representations to Lambeth Council to ask that further silt be removed and the bottom levelled.

One morning a Society member noticed that the hydrant had been turned on. There was a swift response from Lambeth who turned it off. They were unable to discover who had turned it on.

We very much hope that work will be resumed by the time this Newsletter is published. However it is now too late to prevent the cancellation of a planned event this summer when American vintage yachts would have been in competition on a restored Long Pond.

## Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 19 June

**Society Forum.** Edmund Bird, Lambeth Conservation Officer, will talk about conservation issues in the borough and members of our Sub-Committees will be on hand to answer members' queries and discuss the Society's present concerns.

### Tuesday 17 July

**Jill Dudman** will talk about **Norwood Cemetery** with special reference to the many former residents of Clapham buried there. We hope to follow up this talk with a visit to the Cemetery if there is sufficient interest.

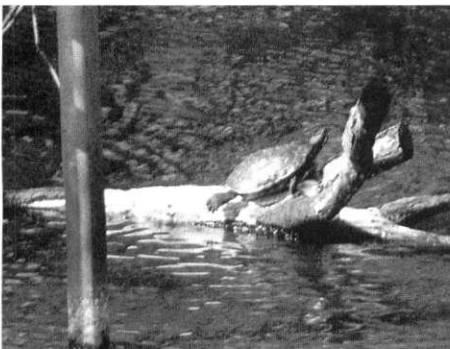
### There will be no meeting in August

### Tuesday 18 September

**Black History.** A speaker from Lambeth Archives will tell us about the study of Black History and its particular relevance to the history of Clapham.

## Mount and Eagle Ponds

The Clapham Angling Preservation Society are working alongside the Environment Agency on improvement plans for Mount and Eagle Ponds. These are being funded by the Agency. Transfer of materials between ponds will lead to the closure of Windmill Drive for about three weeks. Work is due to begin on Monday 21 May.



*This terrapin was probably once somebody's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. It emerged from the Mount Pond to bask in the sun.*

## The Oompahpah Café

The Bandstand Café, scene of much of that sad Channel 4 film about Clapham Common, should be returning to life in July. We wish the new lessees of the Oompahpah Cafe well in their venture and look forward to finding out more about their plans for this key site.

## Guided walks

On **Sunday 15 July** Peter Jefferson Smith will lead an **Historical Walk** of the Clapham North area. The walk will leave at 2.30 pm from Clapham North Underground Station - an area once called Babylon, for reasons as yet undiscovered. We will go via the striking St John's Church to the Clapham Rise Estate - Bromfelde Road, Chelsham Road, Sibella Road and Gauden Road - and then round the Larkhall Rise area before returning to the High Street.

On **Tuesday 21 August** John How will lead an **Historical Walk** of the Clapham South area leaving from Clapham South Underground Station at 6.30 pm.

More guided walks will be available as part of the Clapham Arts Festival in June. Details overleaf.

**St Paul's Church Summer Fair** is on **Saturday 16 June** from 12 noon to 3.30 pm. All the usual fun of the fair, including lots of stalls, face painting, tombola and raffle. This year the church celebrates the 900th anniversary of a church on this site with a major fundraising for roof repairs - all proceeds will go to this fund.

On **Saturday 14 July** we celebrate summer with an early evening drinks party in the garden of St John's Church, Clapham Road, SW4. Tickets £5. - In addition to exploring this secluded garden there will be an opportunity to tour the recently restored church. If you have not already applied for your tickets, do so **now** on the form on the back of the Newsletter

## Films shot in Clapham

The Society is preparing a new book, *Clapham in the Twentieth Century*, using mainly the memories of local people. An area we would like to cover is the use of Clapham for film locations. Do we have among our members a film enthusiast, who could trace what films have been made using Clapham locations and could obtain a selection of stills which the Society could reproduce? Please contact Alyson Wilson (020 7622 6360) or Peter Jefferson Smith (020 7622 8285).

## Mining the Archive

At our April meeting **Graham Gower** introduced members to **Lambeth Archives**, explaining the history of the collection and giving a survey of the extensive holdings and how to use them. He first drew attention to the problem that any Clapham researcher encounters, namely that because part of Clapham was transferred from the borough of Wandsworth to Lambeth in 1965, the records are split between the two boroughs. About two-thirds of Clapham records are in Lambeth, and one-third in Wandsworth.

The home of Lambeth Archives, the Minet Library, was built in 1890 by the Huguenot philanthropist William Minet as an archive and history library relating to Lambeth and Camberwell - this explains why it is on the borders of Camberwell (inconveniently remote from Clapham). The building was bombed in 1940, though fortunately all that was lost was the acquisitions register, with the result that the provenance of some items is unknown. It was rebuilt in 1957. New shelving, microfilm readers and computers have been introduced recently, as Graham showed with his slides, but the warren of basement storage and strong rooms date from the 19th century.

He gave us a run through of what can be found in the archives and illustrated the examples with slides. The holdings include books on general and local history, trade and street directories, electoral rolls, maps, rate books, census returns, council records, Civil Defence and bomb damage records, scrapbooks of ephemera, newspapers, photographs, prints, drawings and many more items. He explained that records are deposited by Lambeth council, and by local businesses, churches, societies and even families seeking a secure place for their records. Many records are now viewed on microfiche or microfilm in order to preserve the fragile original documents.

The Archives department has recently taken on two additional staff to undertake the 'Lambeth Imaging Project'. Over 10,000 photographs from the collection will be scanned, initially to be available on computer terminals in Lambeth libraries and eventually on the internet. Graham finished his whistle-stop tour by encouraging members to visit Lambeth Archives and assuring them of a warm and helpful welcome.

## The Common Fayre

Holy Trinity Church's annual Fayre, said to be London's largest Church Fete, is on Saturday 30 June from 11am to 5pm. There will be stalls selling everything from books and cakes to tapes and toys, a tombola, a silent auction and lots of sideshows. This year a percentage of the proceeds goes to Trinity Hospice.

*Contributions to the Newsletter from members are very welcome, especially publicity for local events. Please send details preferably by email (alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net) or by fax (020 7622 7899) or post (Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH)*

Cut here

To David Perkin  
14 Englewood Road  
London SW12 9NZ

Please send me.....tickets at £5 each for the Society's Summer Drinks Party on Saturday 14 July at 6.30pm in the garden of St John's Church, SW4. I enclose a cheque (payable to The Clapham Society) and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

From .....

## Classic Cars in Clapham



Sinclair-Johnston

Last summer a member spotted a splendid Allard at Brooks Classic Cars on West Side and was reminded of the Allard Clapham connection. The particular car (see above), a 'P' Type dating from 1957 is one of five Allards owned by Roy Jacobsen of Brooks. He bought it in bad condition and has painstakingly restored it over many years for his own use - it is not for sale. Roy says that

this was one of the last of this model made and few now survive.

Sydney Allard set up business in Clapham after the Second World War, with a showroom and offices at 24-28 Clapham High Street and the works in Park Hill on a site stretching right back to Briarwood Road. The cars competed at Le Mans and in many rallies, the greatest achievement being when Sydney Allard himself drove the winning car in the 1952 Monte Carlo rally. The company finally closed in the early 1960s, after a disastrous fire at the showroom, closely followed by the death of Sydney Allard. The site of the works was eventually redeveloped as housing and named Allard Gardens. In 1994 members of the Allard Owners Club provided an impressive line up of cars for the unveiling of a plaque on the site to commemorate the Allard Motor Company.

Brooks Classic Cars, incidentally, have now merged with Bonhams and moved from West Side to Lots Road, Chelsea.

## Clapham Arts Festival

This is the second year of Clapham's local Arts Festival, based at Studio Voltaire, 1a Nelson's Row. Further details about all events are available from **Studio Voltaire** - Telephone **020 7622 1294**.

**Everybodyisanartist 2** is an open submission art exhibition. Slides of work submitted will be projected on to Mary Seacole House, 91 Clapham High Street from 9.30pm to midnight on 9 June. The public will be invited to vote for the best works and these will be exhibited at Studio Voltaire from **16 - 30 June**. (Tuesday to Saturday 12noon to 6pm)

On **Saturday 16 June and Sunday 17 June** there will be various activities from 11am to 4pm, including drama, mosaic and logo workshops, flag, mask and kite making and flower painting. The Clapham Society will have a stand and will offer free guided historical walks of Clapham at 12noon and 2.30pm each day.

**Saturday 16 June 7.30 pm**. Free concert given by the London Schubert Quartet.

**Sunday 17 June and Sunday 24 June 7.30 pm**. Films by new directors, including *Glimmer* by Tom Payne, *Real* by Clapham-based Flaherty Brothers and *Monumentum* by Peter Collis.

**Friday 22 June 7.30 pm** Cabaret Voltaire. Stand up comedians, compered by Shappi Khorsandi.

**Saturday 23 June and Sunday 24 June 11am - 4pm. Open Studios**. Studio Voltaire artists open their studios.

On **Tuesday 10 July**. Peter Jefferson Smith will be speaking on 'St Paul's People' - some of those buried or commemorated at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove. At the Church, 8pm - £5.00 in aid of St Paul's restoration fund.

## Detective work

We have had an interesting follow up to the piece about Clapham Park found by Sylvia Foster and published in the July/August 2000 Newsletter (No.229). We were contacted by a member of the de la Bédoyère family (the family which owned the freehold of the writer's house) who lives locally - in Balham. He was fascinated to know that his ancestors had

owned several houses in Shandon Road. By some neat detective work, Sylvia also traced the writer of the piece. Her family had lived in Shandon Road when she was a child, and had eventually bought the freehold of the house from the de la Bédoyère family in 1965. Furthermore, she had actually been at Bonneville School with Sylvia!

## Self-guided walk leaflet

The first in our series of self-guided walk leaflets is now available, price 50p. The walk covers the centre of old Clapham, including Old Town, Rectory Grove, Holy Trinity Church and North Side. The leaflet can be bought at our meetings or at our stall at the local summer fairs.

## Laporta

At **The Pipeworks** in Prescott Place, in a spacious airy conversion of a former factory, you will find the newly opened showroom of Laporta. Here is an enticing selection of modern Italian furniture for the home office - well worth a visit!

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 239

July 2001

## Battley Brothers on the move

After more than 100 years in Clapham, Battley Brothers, our local printers and good friends to the Clapham Society, are moving out of the area. In 1897 John Rose Battley and his brother George, who were at the time both apprentice compositors, set up a printing press in their parents' small terraced house on the Shaftesbury Estate. In due course, once qualified and confident the business was viable, they left their day jobs to build up their own company. The brothers parted ways in 1904: George set up on his own in the Old Kent Road while John's business, retaining the name of Battley Brothers and by now based in Queenstown Road, went from strength to strength.

In the 1920s the firm moved to Clapham Park Road having outgrown its three adjoining shops in Queenstown Road. Here John Battley added publishing, photography and an artist to the printing business and established a reputation for top quality design and printing, which has been maintained ever since. Despite the recession of the early 1930s the company flourished later in the decade and survived the Second World War with considerable resilience, but was dealt a hard blow by the sudden death of John Battley in 1952. For ten years his widow steered the business through hard times until her younger son, Bernard, completed his training and joined her. In 1969 Battleys moved to their present premises in Old Town, having five years earlier printed the first programmes for the new National Theatre. This was the start of a long and happy relationship with the theatre - Battleys now print programmes not only for the National Theatre, but also for English National Opera, The Royal Shakespeare Company, the Globe Theatre, the Barbican Centre and the Proms.

In recent years printing technology has changed dramatically, and machines have to be replaced regularly with bigger, faster and inevitably more expensive ones. In addition, even more than in the past, everyone wants everything instantly. In order to be economic and competitive this means that machines must work 24 hours a day. Bernard Battley's wife's nephew, Francis Davis, who is now Managing Director has been instrumental in two recent acquisitions and in the launch of a new design company, Arc Design Associates. The consequent increase in staff and in turnover mean that the company needs new office

*cont on next page*



**Battleys delivery van in the 1920s**

## Forthcoming Clapham Society Events

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and start at 8 pm. Details of walks and the Summer Party are shown below.

### Saturday 14 July

**Summer Party.** An early evening drinks party in the garden of St John's Church, Clapham Road, SW4, with the opportunity to tour the recently restored church. 6.30-8.30 pm. There are still a few tickets available, price £5. Telephone David Perkin on 020 8673 2570 to reserve tickets to collect at the door.

### Sunday 15 July

**Historical Walk** of the Clapham North area led by Peter Jefferson Smith. Leaving at 2.30 pm from Clapham North Tube Station, we will go via St John's Church to the Clapham Rise Estate - Bromfelde Road, Chelsham Road, Sibella Road and Gauden Road - and then round the Larkhall Rise area before returning to the High Street.

### Tuesday 17 July

**Jill Dudman** will talk about Norwood Cemetery with special reference to the many residents of Clapham buried there.

### Tuesday 21 August

**Historical Walk** of the Clapham South area led by John How leaving from Clapham South Tube Station at 6.30 pm.

### Tuesday 18 September

**Black History, Clapham and the African Academy.** S.I. Martin will talk about the study of Black History, and particularly the work of Lambeth Archives' Black History project. As part of that project he has been researching the African Academy, set up in Rectory Grove by the Clapham Sect, and will be speaking about this little known but important part of Clapham's history. S.I. (Steve) Martin is the author of *Britain's Slave Trade*, the companion book to the Channel 4 series of the same name, and *Incomparable World*, a novel set amongst the Black community in 18th century Covent Garden.

### Tuesday 16 October

**Annual General meeting.** After the formal business our guest speaker will be Faith Boardman, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth.

### Tuesday 20 November

**Four Clapham Portraits.** Following the success of last year's meeting when members of the Society described the lives of some famous Clapham residents, we have chosen another four local figures to investigate. They are Arthur Henderson MP, John Battley MP, Ada Pullen and Jack Hobbs.

**There will be no meeting in December**

*Battleys - cont from first page*

and manufacturing space with access to power supplies not available on the present site. Battleys have therefore reluctantly decided to leave Clapham.

Battley Brothers have printed all the Clapham Society books since the 1960s and for the last two years they have also printed the Newsletter. But far more than that they have been good friends and supporters of the Society in many ways - from hosting parties at their works to donating prints for sale, and not least by being a source of friendly advice on all printing matters, and on our door-step! We intend to continue using them, of course, but we shall very sad to lose their presence in Clapham.

Plans for the redevelopment of the site in Old Town can be seen, on request, at Clapham Library on North Side.

*Note: John Battleys's life in Clapham extended far beyond the printing works - he was deeply involved in all local affairs and finally became MP for Clapham. He is the subject of one of our 'Clapham Portraits' at the meeting on 20 November.*  
*Alyson Wilson*

## **Experimental Road Closures**

Following the contentious meeting about the closures of Park Hill and West Road, held in January at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lambeth Council have embarked on extended consultation with local residents. Two representatives of each street, from Clapham Common South Side to Rodenhurst Road, have been invited to participate in workshop meetings. The first was held in March. Following this Lambeth Council looked at further options, having realised that changes to traffic flow have a 'knock on' effect over a much wider area, and these were discussed at the second workshop held on 13 June.

The workshops have served to focus opinion on the wider issues of traffic management in the Abbeville Road area and preferred options are to be put out to area wide consultation at the beginning of July, with a decision by September/October. Lambeth Council have stated that any decisions will be made widely known in advance of implementation, which is planned for the autumn. Any changes to traffic flow on, to, or off the main roads surrounding the area are subject to approval by Traffic for London, the Mayor's roads department.

## **The Ponds**

As reported in our June Newsletter work by the Environment Agency on the ponds

was due to begin on 21 May. This work entails the removal of silt from **Eagle Pond** to improve conditions there. The silt will be transferred to **Mount Pond** to help develop a more natural environment around the edges, with reeds and other suitable planting. Unfortunately the first hole to be dug, on the east side of Mount Pond, soon revealed some unexpected cabling. At the time of going to press this is still being investigated so, apart from some ground markings, there is no sign of any progress.

For those following the saga of the **Long Pond** things were to get worse before they got better. While discussions between the Clapham Model Yacht Club, the Clapham Society and Lambeth Council about further silt removal and levelling continued the weed returned!

The situation could only improve and fortunately it did. Using appropriate equipment the rutted areas were levelled and pressed down and the water inlet was turned on. A week later herbicide was added. Within a week there was no sign of the weed and on the morning of the second Sunday in June the Model Yacht Club were able to race, for the first time in eighteen months. Motorised boats controlled by both adults and children had already taken to the water the previous day.

With the wisdom of hindsight, the project was a more major job than had been anticipated. Also the issue of the damaged drain and how best to empty the pond for maintenance and further desilting has not been resolved.

There will have to be a next time for this exercise and it will involve major funding. The pond has a long history and it continues to be a source of pleasure and interest to people of all ages. It would be a sad reflection if these yachts were in future again to spend such a long period in the boathouse.

## **Planning News**

Lambeth Council has commenced the process of producing the next Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Every local Council is required by law to have one, as the adopted UDP becomes the benchmark for planning policy and decisions. Lambeth Council's last one was finally adopted in 1998 after years of debate, by which time it was substantially 'old hat' and has rapidly become out of date.

Members of the Society's sub-committees for Planning and Roads and Transport attended a Council-run workshop on 31 May at which the Key Issues Paper was presented. Selected issues, chosen by the council officers,

were discussed. It was not an occasion for a serious thorough debate on Clapham interests but we will be forming a considered response for an official submission by the 23 July deadline. The consultation document may be seen in local libraries or obtained from Andrew Lainton of Lambeth's strategic planning team at 10 Acre Lane (tel.020 7926 1108). It is a provocative document and anyone interested in the future of our local environment and the conservation of old Clapham should be aware of it and respond either individually or through the Society. If members wish to inform the Society's response, please contact the Secretary and we will do our best to make our response representative.

## **Studio Voltaire**

The artists who are based at Studio Voltaire have made a substantial contribution to Clapham in the short time they have been here. They instigated the highly successful Clapham Arts Festival and have provided residents of all ages with exciting and varied exhibitions. An ambitious programme of performances and film screenings is also on the cards. The thirty-two artists who have their studios in Nelson's Row, just off the High Street, have already demonstrated their commitment to our community. We can only be sure that it will continue, though, if they can buy the building they now occupy. Since January, they have been seeking funding for the purchase. This would give them the freehold of the majority of the space now occupied and the 54 years remaining on the lease of the rest. It would ensure the livelihood of the artists, most of whom are local residents, and it would assure everyone else in our community of a vigorous and varied cultural programme.

When the artists moved into Studio Voltaire, they took over a leaking, filthy, smelly site which most of us would have refused to touch. The landlord made the building weatherproof but it was the voluntary labour of the artists which cleared the mess, built the studios, painted and plastered, and opened the galleries to the public. Even today, there is no money to pay for management or menial jobs.

The Clapham Conservation Area Partnership scheme has awarded a grant of £40,000 towards external work to the building, and £10,000 is now sought in partnership funds. More important, though, is the need for capital to buy the building so that we, our children and our grandchildren can benefit from all that Studio Voltaire has to offer. If you would

like to find out more about helping this worth while project, please call Nigel Winborne, the chair of Studio Voltaire, on 020 7622 1294. Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and can reclaim the tax paid on donations.



One of the galleries at Studio Voltaire

### **Tim Bobbin and other pubs.**

By the time this Newsletter reaches you the *Tim Bobbin* should have re-opened after a long period of refurbishment. It has been bought by the Pocket Pub Company who own two other pubs - the *Bedford* in Balham and the *Bohemia* in Bristol. A choice of three real ales on tap is offered by landlord Andrew Cooper. It is good to see that the original bar is still in place, the frontage is unaltered and that the name and the sign remain the same.

Two years ago a few members of the Society toured some of the 'locals' to review recent changes. Since then the damage has gathered pace. Some good-ish Victorian interiors have been stripped out, notably *The Alexandra* and the former *Nag's Head*. The cheap and cheerful appeal of *The Sun* in Old Town, *The Railway* in the High Street and the former *King's Head* in Clapham Park Road to a younger generation may be an irresistible force to the brewers, but the quality of the interiors surely need not have been diminished so completely? Should the old style, in which the Pocket Pub Company clearly have faith, ever return to favour, it will be an exercise in replication rather than restoration and will lack all authenticity as a result.

Many pub names carry meanings related to the history of the place or associations with people. They figure in literature and painting. In Clapham *The North Pole* was sensible to its location at the top of North Street. *The Bowyer Arms* was a reference to the Revd W.A. Bowyer, one-time rector of the parish and also Lord of the Manor and ground landlord for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century development nearby.

An equally maddening trend is the apparent need to 're-badge'. Below is a list of pubs, the names of which have been lost in the last five years or so.

*The Goose and Granite* formerly **The**

### **Plough Inn**

*The White House* formerly **The Oxford Arms**

*The 100 Pub* formerly **The Kings Head Sand** formerly **The Clockhouse**

*The Friesian and Firkin* formerly **The Bull's Head**

*Mistress P's* formerly **The North Pole.**

*The Frog and Forget-me-not* formerly **The Cock Tavern** (dating from c.1722 and one of the oldest)

*The Bread and Roses* formerly **The Bowyer Arms**

*The Railway* formerly **The Railway Tavern**

*The Artesian Well* formerly **The Nag's Head**

**The Perseverance** sold to residential use. Now Perseverance House, 56 Triangle Place.

*The Windmill on the Common* formerly just plain **The Windmill**. Lost too is the huge and heroic gold lettering that proclaimed its name, so much grander than the replacement.

Unfortunately name changes are not subject to planning or other statutory consents. Perhaps it is time to argue otherwise.

John Adams

### **A Tonic to the Nation**

Just over 40 members came to our May meeting for a nostalgic celebration of The Festival of Britain, which opened on 4 May 1951. Patrick Loobey guided us round the exhibition with his collection of postcards of the various attractions and pavilions on the South Bank site and of the more frivolous celebration in Battersea Park.

The idea of a festival to celebrate the centenary of the 1851 Exhibition was first mooted in 1943, decided upon - not without considerable controversy - in 1947 and construction commenced in 1949. The Festival Hall, the only permanent building on the site, was not in fact built specifically for the event, but planned so that completion coincided with the opening of The Festival of Britain. The Festival was intended as a showcase for British design and unashamedly 'to beat the drum' for Britain - to show what Britain had done and could do in the future. In addition to the familiar landmarks, the Shot Tower, Skylon and Dome of Discovery, Patrick showed pictures of the less well-known Power and Production Pavilion, the New Schools Pavilion, the Sea and Ships Pavilion and the Lion and Unicorn Pavilion.

Some pictures showed the long queues to get in; 6 million visitors had been expected, but in the five months it

was open (from May to September) about 8 million attended the Festival on the South Bank. The admission charge was 4 shillings (20p). In October all the Festival buildings were demolished.

Patrick pointed out that there were many concurrent local celebrations; a touring exhibition which went to various cities, several specialised exhibitions in London, the aircraft carrier *Campania* which visited eleven ports round the country, as well as the Festival Gardens in Battersea Park. He showed some splendid pictures of the various attractions in the park. These included a huge Dance Pavilion, the Guinness Clock, Show Boat, the Crescent Restaurant and, most fascinating of all, the Far Tottering and Oystercreek Railway with its three Emmett-designed engines. He also showed photographs of the Tree Walk, both outdoor and indoor theatres and the Fun Fair complete with Big Dipper and Rotor. The Fun Fair was such a success that it opened again the following year, and indeed some parts of the gardens - notably the Tree Walk and outdoor theatre - survived until the mid-1970s. But the design and construction of most of the attractions was light and flimsy, intended to be light-hearted and temporary.

Most of the audience had been to the Festival and the meeting concluded with a few questions, and many reminiscences about visits. We then looked at Patrick's collection of Festival memorabilia - ashtrays, bookmatches, canisters etc - which was displayed alongside John How's programmes and a neat little money box of Anna Jefferson Smith's which opened automatically when 30 one-penny pieces had been put in it!

**Frank Desnaux** died peacefully on 8 June at Trinity Hospice. Frank was a legendary figure in Clapham where he lived for sixty three years. He was a 'living' history book of his life as a child growing up in Luxembourg and Germany. His father was companion-secretary to the Reichsgraf Count Fritz Wolf Metternich zur Gracht of Austrian aristocratic origin. His grandfather Pierre Benjamin Desnaux served in Napoleon's Army as a courier and received the St Helena Medal for operations between 1792 and 1815.

Frank always dressed in the impeccable style of yesteryear. He was old-fashionedly courteous and wittily intellectual. Although not a member of the Society, he was well known to many members and was frequently to be seen walking round Clapham with his faithful dog.

Moira Todd

**Windmill Drive** has been temporarily closed to facilitate work on Mount and Eagle ponds - see separate story - so there have already been several weeks in which to assess the effects of closure. The Clapham Society has long held a majority view in favour of the Drive's closure to through traffic, reinforced by the agreement of Lambeth Council in 1984 to restore part of the roadway to the Common in exchange for the installation of a separate cycle track.

There seems to be a consensus among users of the Common, particularly those accompanying children to the newly equipped and very popular Windmill Play Area, that the closure is a major improvement. There are, however, parking problems especially around The Windmill, which will have to be confronted.

It is important that Society members should make their views, for or against closure, known to the Council in order that they may be taken into consideration when the long term decision is taken.

Please write as soon as possible to Michael Bridgeland, Head of Transport and Highways (interim), Blue Star House, 232-244 Stockwell Road, London SW9 9SP or email to [mbridgeland@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:mbridgeland@lambeth.gov.uk).

**Surfacing** – new paintings by Joanna Usherwood and Loren Beven at **Studio Voltaire**. Clapham Society members are invited to Private Views on Wednesday 4 July and Saturday 14 July, 6-9pm. The exhibition runs from 5-29 July. Gallery opening hours are Thursday to Sunday 12noon – 6pm. Studio Voltaire is at 1a Nelson's Row – behind the Methodist Church in Clapham High Street.

**Happy holidays to all our readers. There is no Newsletter during August. The next Newsletter will be the September issue.**

## The Oompahpah Café

Our June Newsletter included a brief trailer about the re-opening of the bandstand café. We

asked the lessees to tell us something about themselves and outline their plans for the future of this key site.

“Oompahpah - the revitalised



bandstand café - is a venture being undertaken by Andrew Farquhar (34), Carolyn Smelt (30), and Rod Farquhar (31). Living in Clapham Old Town and Clapham North and regular users of the Common, the allure of re-opening the former café grew strong enough to re-mortgage our flats and pursue Lambeth Council for 15 months.

The refurbishment of the existing building is planned to create a clean, bright, fun café with seating both inside and out. The design is flexible, enabling the café to operate on a daily basis and participate in sporting and festival events held on the Common, as well as benefiting the new proposals for the bandstand.

The café will be open all year round during daylight hours. Additional opening will coincide with events running into the evening such as Bonfire Night. An outside service hatch will be provided for recreational users, sports players and spectators. Food can be served direct to the outside giving the ability to serve a greater number of people quickly. We will provide a varied menu of traditional and continental foods including crepes, freshly made soups, Italian breads, locally made savouries and 'home' baked cakes. Drink refreshments will be non-alcoholic - a selection of teas, coffees, fruit juices, milkshakes and carbonated sodas. There will be waiter/waitress food service.

High chairs and a children's menu will be provided along with a protected play area giving a safe environment for children to play whilst the grown-ups relax. We hope to be open for the last week of July. Visit [www.oompahpah.co.uk](http://www.oompahpah.co.uk) for on-going information!"

*We wish this enterprise every success.*

**Saturday 29 September** is **Lambeth Archives Open Day** at the Minet Library, Knatchbull Road, SE5. Exhibition and talks on the theme of 'A Cabinet of Curiosities'. The Clapham Society will have a stand and small exhibition and this is an ideal occasion to find out more about the archives which Graham Gower talked about at our April meeting. A well-worth while event for anyone interested in local history. A full programme of the talks will be available from local libraries in early August.

**London Open House** takes place this year on **Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September**. This popular annual event is an opportunity to visit buildings all over London which are not normally open to the public. A booklet giving full details of all the buildings and opening times will be available free from local libraries from early September, or you can obtain a copy earlier by sending an A4 sized self-addressed envelope with a 41p stamp on it and a cheque for £1.50 to PO Box 25361, London NW5 IGY.

*If you have any queries about The Clapham Society or any concerns about local matters please contact the appropriate person shown below:*

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18 1/2 Macaulay Road, SW4 OOX  
Tel/Fax: 020 7720 4764

**Secretary** **David Perkin**  
14 Englewood Road, London SW12 9NZ  
Tel/Fax: 020 8673 2570

**Membership Secretary** **Joyce Luck**  
15 Cavendish Road, London SW12 OBH  
Tel. 020 8673 2616

**Treasurer** **Michael Strong**  
18 Sibella Road, London SW4 6HX  
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**Transport Matters** **John How**  
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**Planning Matters** **Jeremy Hamerton**  
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## Talks

**Tuesday 10 July**. Peter Jefferson Smith will be speaking on '**St Paul's People**' - some of those buried or commemorated at St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove. At the Church, 8pm - £5.00 in aid of St Paul's restoration fund.

**Monday 10 September** at 8 pm at Holy Trinity Church (Wilberforce Centre).

**'Where are you William Wilberforce?**

**Questions about the resurgence of slavery'** - The first of a series of public talks about the rise and prevalence of modern slavery. Despite the efforts of the Clapham Sect, slavery never died out, and is on the increase, fed by racism, historical animosities, poverty and war. Are the ideals of Wilberforce still relevant? The speaker will be Lillian Craig Harris, PhD. She is a writer and lecturer with first hand experience of conditions in the Sudan, where she worked from 1995-98. Contact Christine Green (020 7622 6884).

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 240

September 2001

## THE 2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on Tuesday 16 October 2001 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham, SW4, starting at 8 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (10 October 2000) published in Newsletter No 232, November 2000, and available at the meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2001
4. Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2001
5. Election of Officers and Committee Members for the year 2001-2002  
Chairman                      Hon Treasurer  
Vice Chairman                Hon Solicitor  
Hon Secretary                Hon Membership Secretary  
A maximum of ten further Committee Members
6. Re-appointment of the Hon Independent Examiner
7. Any other business and announcements

There will be an interval for refreshments following the formal business

8. **The Guest of Honour is Faith Boardman, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth.**

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the elections of Officers and Committee Members shall be made to the Secretary at least two clear days before the Annual General Meeting. Every nomination shall be in writing, supported by a seconder. The consent of the person nominated shall have been obtained.

*David Perkin, Hon Secretary, 14 Englewood Road, London SW12 9NZ*

## **The Bandstand Clapham Common Winter 1906**

The Clapham Society is producing a greetings card for the first time for some years. The card shows the Bandstand in the snow in 1906. It measures 127 x 176 mm (approx 5 x 7 ins) and is printed by Battley Brothers, in sepia on high quality

white board. The card is available with a Christmas greeting or with the inside blank so that it may be used for any occasion.

The price is £4.00 for a pack of 10 cards with envelopes. Cards will be available at the Clapham Society monthly meetings, at the Society's stand at Lambeth Archives Open Day on 29 September, by returning the form on the

## Next Meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham, SW4, and start at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 18 September

**Black History, Clapham and the African Academy.** S.I. Martin will talk about the study of Black History, and particularly the work of Lambeth Archives' Black History project. As part of that project he has been researching the African Academy, set up in Rectory Grove by the Clapham Sect, and will be speaking about this little known but important part of Clapham's history. S.I. (Steve) Martin is the author of *Britain's Slave Trade*, the companion book to the Channel 4 series of the same name, and *Incomparable World*, a novel set amongst the Black community in 18th century Covent Garden.

### Tuesday 16 October Annual General Meeting.

### Tuesday 20 November

**Four Clapham Portraits.** Following the success of last year's meeting when members of the Society described the lives of some famous Clapham residents, we have chosen another four local figures. They are Arthur Henderson MP, John Battley MP, Ada Pullen and Jack Hobbs.

### There will be no meeting in December

back page of this Newsletter with the appropriate remittance, or directly from Alyson Wilson at the address on the form (please telephone 020 7622 6360 first).

Please note there is a charge of £1 for each 3 packs ordered on the form (minimum £1) to cover postage and packing.

**Picture on back page.**

## Conservation in Lambeth

There was a disappointing attendance at the interesting talk given at our June meeting by Lambeth Conservation Officer, Edmund Bird. He first gave a brief summary and history of conservation in the borough.

Lambeth has 2,500 listed buildings and 55 Conservation Areas, of which over 275 acres are in the Clapham area. In c1985 the borough abolished its conservation team and for 10 years relied on advice 'bought in' from English Heritage. The first full time Conservation Officer was appointed in 1995, a year later Edmund joined, his colleague left in 1997 and for a further two years there was only one full time Conservation Officer in the borough. The team has now been built up to two full time and two part time officers. In 1997 as power was devolved to the boroughs, English Heritage began to withdraw and now primarily only comments on applications for Grade I & II\* buildings. The main responsibility of the Conservation Officers is to provide specialist advice to planners on applications affecting Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

The first Conservation Areas in Clapham were declared in 1968 with several subsequent new designations, most recently to include some 1930s buildings, notably Trinity Close and the Oaklands Estate. Edmund stressed the importance of local distinctiveness and of maintaining the special architectural identity of Clapham. Conservation Areas should be a source of local pride; there is a duty to preserve and enhance them with new buildings, which should respect but not necessarily replicate existing buildings. The Shimizu judgement in 1997 has 'watered down' Conservation Area powers status; a building in a Conservation Area may not be demolished without consent, but certain works which previously required consent now do not.

Edmund showed slides of various examples of rehabilitation in Clapham: 175 Clapham Manor Street, the former School of Art in Edgeley Road where houses have been built behind the retained façade, Victoria Mews - a commercial site converted to housing, and the former college in Ferndale Road, which has also been converted to housing.

He talked about Listed Buildings, and pointed out that it's a criminal offence to alter the outside or inside of a Listed Building without consent. He mentioned 'The Register of Historic Buildings at Risk' of which about

20 are in Lambeth, several owned by the borough. He showed pictures of Lambeth Town Hall, inappropriately altered internally in the 1980s, but recently redecorated to its original 1906 appearance.

Edmund told us that his team is now compiling Design Guidance for residents, which should make it easier to know what Planners and Conservation Officers are looking for. To illustrate his point he showed slides of recent local developments which offer different solutions to new development within Conservation Areas. These included the extension to the Clapham Picture House in Venn Street, Coachmaker Mews at Clapham North and the flats over Woolworths in Clapham High Street - the first new development locally to be built without car parking. In answer to a question as to whether residents would not simply park in nearby streets, Edmund replied that there are now developments where specific restrictions on car ownership apply.

There were questions about enforcement - Lambeth now has three Enforcement Officers; about alterations in Conservation Areas, for instance replacement windows - difficult to determine what is 'material' change; and about removal of boundary walls and parking in front gardens - enormous problem! It was a thoroughly interesting evening, though it highlighted the huge problems of balancing the practical and reasonable demands of property owners with the desire to retain the historical character of the area. We are grateful to Edmund for coming to talk to members, and for the consideration his department gives to the views expressed by our Planning Committee.

## West Norwood Cemetery

Torrential rain on the evening of 17 July sadly resulted in a very small audience for Jill Dudman's talk on the history of West Norwood Cemetery and the many notable Clapham residents buried there. The cemetery was opened in 1837, soon after legislation was passed to establish burial grounds in the countryside around London as an alternative to the overcrowded churchyards. A slide of the 1867 brochure showed the two original chapels which were destroyed in the Second World War. Jill paid warm tribute to Clapham antiquarian, Eric Smith, who spent many years walking round the cemetery to compile a card index with about 25,000 entries, which is absolutely invaluable since earlier records are scant.

There are about 40 Grade II listed memorials in the cemetery.

Jill showed slides of the memorials, some badly decayed others restored, of many notable Clapham residents and gave quick sketches of their lives. These included: Thomas Cubitt (1788-1855), builder and developer of Bloomsbury, Belgravia and Clapham Park; Sir William Cubitt (1785-1861) engineer responsible for the treadmill at Brixton Prison and the erection of Crystal Palace; John Grover (1836-1892) engineer and local historian; Gideon Mantell (1790-1852) of iguanodon fame, George Jennings (1810-1882) sanitary engineer; John Gassiot (1797-1877) wine merchant and scientist, George Cattermole (1800-1868), artist and illustrator of books by Charles Dickens, various members of the Mappin family of cutlers and silversmiths (Mappin & Webb) and many others.

Jill touched briefly on the later history of the cemetery, which by the 1960s was almost full and had become neglected. In 1966 it was purchased by Lambeth Council, who intended to turn the grounds into a memorial park, and it was the destruction of some memorials in the programme of "lawn conversion" which led to the formation of The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery. Through their efforts many memorials have been saved and restored, though some areas are overgrown and almost inaccessible. There is a general tour of the cemetery on the first Sunday of each month, leaving at 2.30pm from the main gate, and occasional special tours and lectures. Information from the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery on 020 8670 5456.

## Lambeth Archives Open Day

is on Saturday 29 September from 10 am to 5 pm at the Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, London SE5. The theme this year is *A Cabinet of Curiosities: Collectors and Collections in Lambeth*. The Society will have a stand and a display focusing on the collections of three 19<sup>th</sup> century Clapham residents: Nathaniel Bagshawe Ward, botanist - inventor of the Wardian case, John Allnutt, wine merchant, who had a large house and picture gallery on South Side and George Hibbert, whose collection included priceless books and manuscripts. There is a programme of talks during the day, a Collectors' Corner, where local people will display their own collections, stalls run by other local societies and the Archives staff will be on hand to answer queries. It is well worth a visit. For more information telephone 020 7926 6076

## Poole and Lambeth

John How's recent Newsletter article, *Conservation in Nightingale Lane*, in which he wrote 'we have yet to establish the connection between Poole and Lambeth' prompted me to ask my sister-in-law, who once worked for Poole Potteries and still lives near Poole, if she would investigate the matter. With the help of the Local History Service at the Waterfront Museum in Poole she soon established that George Jennings, the noted sanitary engineer who lived at 79 Nightingale Lane, was born and spent his early years in Poole.

He was born on 10 November 1810, one of six children and the eldest son of Joseph Jennings. At the age of 14 George was taken into the business of his grandfather, a lead and glass merchant. After three years he moved to his uncle's plumbing business at Southwick near Southampton. In 1831, having gained wide experience, he decided to move to London.

He had difficulty obtaining work at first, but eventually secured employment with Messrs Burton of Newcastle Street. In 1834 his grandmother, who had succeeded to her husband's business, died leaving him a small bequest which enabled him to start in business for himself - in Lambeth. His reputation grew rapidly, and in 1847 he received the first of many public awards for his invention of 'india-rubber taps'. He was responsible for the sanitary arrangements for the Great Exhibition in 1851, and at exhibitions around the world including Paris, Vienna, Philadelphia, Sydney and Melbourne. He introduced many improvements in sanitary ware as well as in the heating and ventilation of buildings. At one time there was said to be scarcely a house of importance or hotel in London which he had not fitted out or in which his appliances were not used.

George Jennings later moved in to property development and building. He was responsible for houses in Ferndale Road at Clapham and for several houses, including his own, in Nightingale Lane for which materials came from the extensive stoneware factory which he had built up at his Parkstone (Poole) Works.

Jennings' successful career was terminated abruptly by an accident on 18 March 1882, when he was thrown from a gig near Albert Bridge and sustained a broken collar-bone, which was not thought to be life-threatening. However, in spite of the best medical attention

available, he died at his home in Nightingale Lane on 17 April 1882, leaving a widow and a large family. He was buried at Norwood Cemetery, where his monument may still be seen.

*Peter Holland*

## On Clapham Ponds

After a slow start due to the discovery of some unexpected cabling the work on Mount and Eagle Ponds has progressed rapidly. The project, which has been developed within a partnership between the Environment Agency, Lambeth Borough Council and the Clapham Angling Preservation Society, aims to improve the environment both for the fish and the wild life.

The first major part of the scheme was to remove all the fish from Eagle Pond. Some were transferred to Long Pond and the rest taken to holding tanks elsewhere.



Eagle Pond was emptied and, simultaneously with the removal of the silt, a sizeable area of adjacent ground was dug out to provide a wetlands habitat. The amount of silt was unexpectedly large, more than will be required for planting areas in both ponds. It is currently drying out on the grass but will be moved on. The silt has yielded up an assortment of objects from a clay pipe to a helmet and a hand grenade (not live!) Eagle Pond has now been refilled and the planting of reed beds has begun.

Windmill Drive has been closed for nearly three months to facilitate transport of equipment, silt etc. between the Ponds. It is now scheduled to re-open. This will have safety implications as many people with children and dogs have become accustomed to crossing the road without the concentration required for emerging between parked cars and vans and dodging traffic.

The Ponds Project is the first significant development on the Common for many years. We will watch its progress with great interest.

## Bridge

The Clapham, Battersea & Wandsworth Branch of the RNLI is holding a Bridge Afternoon in the Debenture Holders' Lounge of the All England Tennis Club, Wimbledon on Wednesday 7 November from 2 to 5 pm. Tickets will be £10 per player to include a delicious tea. Please make up a table of 4 players.

The RNLI held this event for the first time last year and it was a great success so, if you play bridge, come and spend an afternoon in interesting surroundings and support the Life Boats. For more information please contact Jill Threlfall Tel: 020 7622 7093 or [jillthrel@aol.com](mailto:jillthrel@aol.com)

## Self-guided walk leaflet

The first in our series of self-guided walk leaflets is now available, price 50p. The walk covers the centre of old Clapham, including Old Town, Rectory Grove, Holy Trinity Church and North Side. The leaflet may be bought at our meetings or from Alyson Wilson (020 7622 6360). The second leaflet (Clapham North) will be on sale very soon, and before the end of the year we hope that the third (Clapham South) will also be ready.

**Clapham Arts Festival** got off to a lively start at Studio Voltaire on the weekend of 16 and 17 June. Despite torrential rain there was no shortage of takers for the various workshops and the Clapham Society walks went surprisingly well in the circumstances. Only one group of intrepid walkers was really soaked - twice. There is clearly a demand for guided walks and we shall certainly plan more.

## Neighbourhood Renewal

Earlier this year the Government launched *A new Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal - National Strategy Action Plan* to tackle deprivation in the country's poorest areas.

Lambeth is a borough scarred with areas of deprivation and poverty. In order to develop a strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal the Council has asked the Town Centre Forums to assist in obtaining the views of the community. Areas that are being targeted are unemployment, crime, education, health and the housing environment. At present this is a three-year plan and £185,000 has been allocated to Clapham and Stockwell in the 2001/2002 financial year. To ensure that the right targets are achieved some of this money will be allocated to research for the future and outreach workers will be employed to establish the areas of need.

John How is Chair of the Clapham and Stockwell Town Centre Partnership Board and will be happy to answer any points on this initiative. Tel: 020 8673 3945

## Conservation in Clapham

The Conservation Area Partnership for improvement to the High Street area is drawing to the end of its three-year life. The success of an early beneficiary (Moen's, the butchers) has already been noted. Among projects for which grants have now been approved are 1-7, Voltaire Road for the installation of high quality hardwood shopfronts, St George's Café, Old Town where work is about to start and St Anne's Hall, where refurbishment is already under way. In addition smaller grants have been offered for some domestic projects.

Unfortunately the former Kelly's Restaurant, 18 The Pavement which is the subject of an insurance wrangle, is now too late to benefit from CAP funding. This is one of the older buildings of Clapham, with the shop built out over the front garden of the original late 18<sup>th</sup> century house. We urge Lambeth Council to do all they can to encourage the protection and restoration of what remains of this building.

cut here

### Christmas Card Order Form

Please send me ..... packs of 10 cards with Christmas greeting @ £4.00 per pack; ..... packs of 10 cards **without** greeting @ £4.00 per pack, plus £1.00 postage and packing for each 3 packs ordered.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel no..... Postcode.....

Please return this form with your cheque payable to The Clapham Society, to **Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, SW4 7AH**



## Fly posting

During the Board X Urban Games in late July parts of the Common once more came out in a rash of fly posters. The organisers had undertaken to clear graffiti and fly posting and for the most part they did.

The main sponsor of the Games was Sprite, but we have been told that the worst offender was a rival firm. The Society will be investigating this issue since it would be unfair were the bill and the disapprobation to go in the wrong direction.

## Architectural Details

Christina Bonnett who drew the line illustrations of architectural details for our book *The Buildings of Clapham* has published a set of prints of these drawings. The set comprises seven prints, each of which shows a collection of drawings of a particular detail: window designs, stucco designs, ironwork designs, roofs and porches, ornaments, glass designs and relief designs. Each print is A3 size (approx 30 x 42cm), and may be bought unframed for £37 or framed for £67. They are available at Outlines, 22 The Pavement or on Outlines website - [www.outlines.org.uk](http://www.outlines.org.uk).

## The Pedestrian Association

is running a Walk to School Campaign. Surveys have shown that children greatly benefit from walking to school. Not only are they healthier, but they develop safety skills and are more mentally alert on arrival at school. Since all parents do not have the time to walk their own children to school, the

## Dorothy Howell - Thomas (1913-2001)

Dorothy first came to live in Clapham in 1942 when William Temple, Archbishop of York, for whom she had been working for some years, became Archbishop of Canterbury. She moved in to one of the much prized flats on the Larkhall Estate - unusual at the time for having constant hot water and fitted kitchens - and from there she cycled daily to work at Lambeth Palace. William Temple left her a legacy to enable her to study sociology and she was Welfare Officer at Selfridges for some years before returning to Church of England matters which included editing the socio-theological journal, *The Crucible*.

She retired to Chichester where she was a founder member of the Chichester Society and wrote several meticulously researched books, including a history of the Labour Party in Chichester and a biography of the reformer, Duncannon (1781-1847). In 1998, already in her mid-80s, she returned to her much-loved Clapham and immediately became an active member of the Clapham Society, of the Church of the Holy Spirit and of the local Labour Party. Dorothy was a committed Christian, a scholar and a socialist with a passion for justice and equality. She was a lively and intelligent friend to many who will miss her greatly.

Association helps schools to set up supervised schemes like the walking bus. Details are available in a leaflet available at Clapham Society meetings or from The Pedestrian Association (020 7820 1010).



*The Bandstand, Clapham Common, Winter 1906*



### A walk round Clapham South

In August, the monthly meeting took the form of a walk in the Clapham South area, led by John How. It had been advertised in other societies' publications, and there was a large turnout.

For someone like me, living north of the Common, and rarely venturing to the farthest edge of the Zone 2 transport area, it was a fascinating study of an unfamiliar part of Clapham and South Battersea. We started at Clapham South Station (originally to be called Nightingale Lane), and went round by the deep shelter and the remains of the Odeon cinema to Malwood Road, where there is a charming vicarage, and back to Nightingale Lane. Here the houses range from the grand mansions of the later nineteenth century, to the Edwardian Art Nouveau houses at Bracken Avenue, and then the flats of the twentieth century. It was good to learn of the work in which John How is involved, for the restoration of some of the big French Renaissance style houses by TE

Collcutt, with the terracotta work by Jennings, who lived in one of them. A detour by Old Park Avenue took us into a largely untouched and very fine development of Queen Anne style houses of the 1890s.

From nearly the end of Nightingale Lane, we worked our way back along Thurleigh Road to the Common. The houses here are on a lesser scale, but with a variety of very good detail, and we passed St Luke's Church, an impressive building of 1883-89. Also in Thurleigh Road and not to be ignored are some houses of the 1930s with the curved windows of the time. The need to look after houses of that period with sensitivity is insufficiently appreciated.

Back at the Common, 21 West Side is one of the few grand houses remaining here. It was built in 1806 by James Burton, father of the better known Decimus Burton. As dusk took over, we came back to Nightingale Lane, to finish outside Broadoak, the mansion built for the widow of manufacturer Sir Titus Salt, and the adjacent Roman Catholic Chapel.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

### Next Meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham, SW4, and start at 8 pm.

#### Tuesday 16 October

**Annual General Meeting.** After the formal business the meeting will be addressed by Faith Boardman, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth

#### Tuesday 20 November

**Clapham Portraits.** Members of the Society will outline the lives of four famous Clapham residents.

Peter Jefferson Smith will talk about Arthur Henderson (1863-1935) Labour politician, who helped to build up the party. He served in Lloyd George's War Cabinet - the first Labour MP to be a Cabinet Minister - and later under the Macdonald Governments, resigning in 1931. He lived in Rodenhurst Road.

Alyson Wilson's subject will be John Battley (1888-1952) who is best remembered today as the founder of our local printers, Battley Brothers. He was, however, deeply involved in local politics, an LCC councillor and was elected as the first Labour MP for the Clapham constituency in 1945.

Derrick Johnson will tell us about the cricketer Jack Hobbs (1882-1963), arguably the greatest English batsman of all time. He played cricket on Clapham Common and lived in Atkins Road and then in Englewood Road.

David Perkin's subject is Ada Pullen (1859-1899). She is better known under another name - but to find out what that is and who she was you will have to come to the meeting!

**There will be no meeting in December**

### Have you ordered your Christmas Cards yet?

Our new greetings card shows the Bandstand in the snow in 1906. It measures 127 x 176 mm (approx. 5 x 7 ins) and is printed, by Battley Brothers, in sepia on high quality white board. The card is available with a Christmas greeting or with the inside blank so that it may be used for any occasion.

The price is £4.00 for a pack of 10 cards with envelopes. Cards are available at the Clapham Society monthly meetings, they may be purchased directly from Alyson Wilson at the address shown (please telephone 020 7622 6360 first), or by returning the form below with the appropriate remittance. Please note that there is a charge of £1 for each 3 packs ordered on the form, to cover postage and packing.



*The Bandstand, Clapham Common, Winter 1906.*

#### CARD ORDER FORM

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ packs of 10 cards with Christmas greeting @ £4.00 per pack  
\_\_\_\_\_ packs of 10 cards **without** greeting @ £4.00 per pack  
plus £1.00 postage and packing for each 3 packs ordered

Name .....

Address.....

.....PostCode.....Tel.No .....

Please return this form with your cheque, payable to The Clapham Society, to

**Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH.**

### Self-guided walk leaflets

We aim to publish a series of walks leaflets for the different areas of Clapham. A leaflet for the walk round Clapham North, which took place in July, is expected to be available by the time of the October meeting. A leaflet for the Clapham South walk described above will be published next.

## On the Common

August Bank Holiday weekend brought the Channel 4 Summer Tour to Clapham Common. The final Test Match against Australia at the Oval was shown live, interspersed with advertisements. In addition a music and dance session with the DJ Paul Oakenfold was scheduled for the Friday evening with the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou* to be shown on the Saturday evening.

The original expected attendance for the free concert on the Friday was 10,000 and then 20,000. On the night the estimated numbers were between 50,000 and 80,000. It was a very warm evening and large amounts of alcohol and other drinks were brought onto the Common. There were not nearly enough toilets and revellers were urinating all over the place. Windmill Drive suffered particularly badly.

On Saturday morning the mess left behind made a sorry sight. A large area of the Common was strewn with rubbish and broken glass.

Channel 4 did their best to bring in as many



people and vehicles as they could to clear the site but in spite of their efforts the showing of the film on Saturday evening had to be cancelled.

The area was not finally cleaned until the following Wednesday and even after that volunteers were still picking up small pieces of glass.

Another pop concert had been booked for Saturday 22 September so the Society, which

had not previously lodged any objection, set out to find more about what was planned. The 'Garage Picnic', as it was to be called, turned out to be the brainchild of Dominic McVey, the seventeen year old entrepreneur who was said to have become a millionaire through selling microscooters. It was to be a ticketed, fenced event lasting from 11am until 7pm with strict age restrictions excluding all under 12 or over 18. No alcohol or drugs were to be allowed on site. The event was to be managed by the Mean Fiddler organisation.

The concert had been agreed by Lambeth Parks but the Music and Dancing Licence had yet to be obtained so the Society attended the Licensing Committee meeting to express various concerns, particularly in the light of recent experience. We highlighted the problems which might arise when people were refused entry on the basis of age or what they were carrying. An alternative event would probably develop outside the fenced area which would be unattended. Also tickets, which were only available in advance, were priced at £25 - another reason to stay outside. The licence was granted, with stringent conditions.

As we go to press we have just heard that the organisers have cancelled the concert, ostensibly on the grounds that there is not sufficient time to sell tickets. This has allowed Colourscape, a very welcome event, to return to the main event area of the Common.

## House of Life

A concert at Holy Trinity Church Clapham Common on Saturday 13 October at 8pm, in aid of St Paul's Church restoration. With Richard Lloyd-Morgan and other singers and instrumentalists, and Leo Aylen (poet). Tickets £10 at the door, £8 concessions and in advance from St Paul's Parish Office 020 7622 2128.

## New Health Club Opens

At last the months of building and fitting out are at an end and Holmes Place Health Club in North Street is due to open on 1 October. Many will remember this as the site of the Normand Electrical Company works which closed in the 1970s. It took over 25 years for redevelopment to be agreed, but now alongside the new housing in Floris Place, a brand new state of the art health club is to open. In addition to gym facilities, a stainless steel swimming pool, sauna, sunbeds, fitness classes, and a clubroom, there is supervised daytime childcare in the 'Playden'.

For details telephone 020 7819 2555.

Cut here .....

### Charitable Giving Declaration

I am/I am not a UK taxpayer and I wish the Clapham Society to treat as Gift Aid donations all donations made by me since 6 April 2000.

Title and forenames .....

Surname .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Signature .....

Date .....

### Enable the Society to recover tax

The Society can recover tax at 28p in the pound on voluntary donations, but not subscriptions, if donors are UK taxpayers and complete the following Charitable Giving Declaration. Members who have made donations since 6 April 2000 or who intend to make donations in future are requested to complete the declaration if they have not already done so, or are not sure if they have. It will be helpful if donors who are not UK taxpayers would complete the declaration as well to avoid the need to contact them in the future. Declarations should be sent to:

Michael Strong  
18 Sibella Road  
London SW4 6HX

## Remembering Clapham Ponds

*Last month's report on the ponds prompted Charles Pearce to write with some memories of the ponds in his youth:*

The enlargement of Eagle Pond as a wetland habitat seems to me a quite wonderfully imaginative development. When I was a school-boy this pond was used for a time for row and paddle boats that children could hire and use safely in its shallow water - the air loud with the keeper's cry 'Come in No 9 - your time is up'.

I can remember the Mount Pond being drained and cleaned in the late 20s or early 30s and being surprised at the number of fish that had to be removed. I can also remember one very severe winter in the 20s when the Mount Pond was alive with skaters, and Windmill Drive was so covered with hard frozen snow that it too attracted the occasional skater.

## Landmark: Lambeth's new digital archive

In September, Lambeth Archives launched Landmark, a new project to put pictures and maps on to computer, and make them available at local libraries.

Lambeth Archives has a huge collection - over 30,000 pictures of houses, streets and events in the borough from the seventeenth century to the present day. Landmark will put about 10,000 on a computerised database, which people will be able to use, and take prints from. The pilot version is now installed at the Durning Library in Kennington and will be available at the Minet from early October; it will reach Clapham sometime in 2002.

The system also includes maps of the borough from the 1840s to the present day. It is possible to display two detailed maps of the same place side by side, and see what changes have taken place. The maps can also be used to see if there is a picture on the system of a particular place.

As with all up-to-date computerised projects there are good facilities for searching and the design looks user-friendly. The system is still a pilot, and there are a few errors in the Clapham locations which we plan to help Lambeth Archives to put right. And so far, the system only holds about a quarter of the eventual total. But even at this early stage, it will be a valuable and (when it reaches us) convenient resource. Some of the Clapham pictures are familiar from local publications, but others not so - for example, a splendid sequence of photos of 1870 of the interior of Cubitt's mansion in Clapham Park. It will be a good facility for the study of local history, and Lambeth Archives staff are to be congratulated on their skill and enterprise.

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 242

November 2001

## Closure of Park Hill and West Road

Lambeth Transport have recently issued a summary of their consultation on the three options that were put forward in the summer. None of the options have overwhelming support; in fact, in each case the figures show more not supporting than strongly supporting. However, Lambeth Transport say that 'based on the result of the consultation and in consideration of the technical merits of the three options in meeting the Council's policy and traffic management objectives' officers will be recommending **OPTION 2**.

This involves: retaining the closure of West Road, relocating the gate in Park Hill to the junction with Clarence Avenue, closing Rodenhurst Road at the junction with the South Circular, no entry from the South Circular into Klea Avenue, speed cushions in Elms Crescent and waiting and loading restrictions at all corners in Abbeville Road.

Lambeth Transport conclude by saying 'any agreed and implemented scheme will be monitored for further traffic management considerations.' For further information contact Michael Douglas, Assistant Engineer on 020 7926 1188 or email: [mddouglas@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:mddouglas@lambeth.gov.uk)

### Road problems? Let us know

The Roads and Transport Sub-Committee is gathering information on road problems - things like ill-considered junction layouts, poor crossing siting and misleading, unnecessary or inadequate road signs. If you would like to draw attention to a particular local bugbear, whether potentially dangerous or just plain daft, please drop a line to Jill Cramphorn, 552 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JX

### Lambeth Planning

Members will remember that the Society's Planning Sub-Committee reported in detail to Lambeth's Planning Scrutiny Commission last year, expressing concern about the performance of the Planning Department. An additional £350,000 was allocated to help improve the service. This does not appear to have had the anticipated result as *Building Design* reported that the Planning Minister, Lord Falconer, was threatening draconian measures to remove the decision-making powers of a trio of 'failing' planning authorities. One of these is Lambeth, which is failing to hit the government targets to determine 65% of applications within 8 weeks. The local *Guardian* reported (11 October) that Lambeth have now appointed a new Director of Community Renewal, Linden Rowley, who will have responsibility for

the council's planning services.

Lord Falconer is also the Minister responsible for deciding on the outcome of the Tesco/South London Hospital inquiry which, over a year after the inquiry concluded, is still awaited.

### Going Down?

Clapham Common watchers will have noticed that the water level in Eagle Pond is now very much lower than it was prior to de-silting. Some of the roots of the beautiful and distinctive willow tree are now over a foot above the water.

The Society has expressed its concern to Lambeth and has been given reassurance that this is a temporary problem which has been caused by the removal of the unexpectedly large amount of silt. This has affected the porosity of the bottom. Time and settlement should resolve the situation.

### Next Meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham, SW4, and start at 8 pm.

#### Tuesday 20 November

**Clapham Portraits.** Members of the Society will outline the lives of four famous Clapham residents.

Peter Jefferson Smith will talk about Arthur Henderson (1863-1935) Labour politician, who helped to build up the party, served in Lloyd George's War Cabinet and was the first Labour MP to be a Cabinet Minister. Alyson Wilson's subject will be John Battley (1888-1952) founder of our local printers, Battley Brothers, but also an LCC councillor and the first Labour MP for the Clapham constituency.

Derrick Johnson will tell us about the cricketer Jack Hobbs (1882-1963), arguably the greatest English batsman of all time and David Perkin's subject is Ada Pullen (1859-1899). She is better known under another name - but to find out what that is and who she was you will have to come to the meeting!

**There will be no meeting in December**

**The full programme of meetings for 2002 will be published in the December Newsletter**

**The Winter Party** will be on **Saturday 26 January 2002** at Studio Voltaire, Nelson's Row, SW4. This will be an opportunity to see Clapham's new centre for the performing and visual arts, hear about future development plans and see round some of the artists' studios, and, of course, enjoy our traditional sumptuous buffet supper. Keep the date free! More details and ticket application form in the December Newsletter.

## Black History

At our September meeting we marked the start of Black History Month with a talk by historian, S.I. Martin entitled **Black History: Clapham and the African Academy**.

When Zachary Macaulay returned in 1799 from Sierra Leone where he had been Governor, he set up an 'African Academy', first at 8 Rectory Grove, later at 14 Clapham Common North Side. Histories on the Clapham Sect have led us to believe that Macaulay had arranged with local chiefs for their sons and daughters to come to England so that they could be given a Christian education. However the facts as researched and presented by Steve Martin do not present quite the same image of patronage and philanthropy.

The formal recognition of the subject of Black History had its origins in the USA, where Black History Month has been concerned with researching and documenting the story of black people in America. The idea was imported to England in 1976. It continued in accord with American themes until about two years ago when an interest in British Black History began to emerge. No doubt the academic rigour and dedication of serious historians such as Steve had much to do with this.

By the latter part of the 18th century, London had a black community of about 15,000, mainly ex-soldiers and sailors or runaway servants. They were seen as a 'problem': a repatriation movement grew and resulted in a transportation of a motley group of 207 individuals to Sierra Leone in 1787, including children, several whites and some undesirables such as prostitutes. This 'colony' failed completely; however by the 1790s there was an establishment which merited the presence of a Governor – Zachary Macaulay. Steve's researches into the make-up of the population of Sierra Leone at that time were a revelation. Only a minority of the children who came to Clapham had distinctively African names. Many were English names such as Calker and Thorp – names which still continue among influential families in Sierra Leone today, but which could not have belonged to the 'sons and daughters of local chiefs'.

The reason takes us back across the Atlantic. Many slaves and ex-slaves fought alongside the British in America and settled as loyalists in Nova Scotia

after independence. Others who had participated in slave rebellions in the West Indies were deported there, such as John Thorp from Jamaica. Their names are the names of their slave-masters. However, the climate of Nova Scotia was as inhospitable to the black people as was Sierra Leone to the whites. Others arrived by different routes. The Calker dynasty issues from Stephen Calker who was a pirate; John Kissel got an education and a trade before returning to Africa to practice his craft as a shipwright. These were typical of the people whose children were recruited by Macaulay.

At least one of the visitors from Sierra Leone was indeed the son of a chief – Prince John Frederick Naimbanna. However his visit (1791-93) predated the academy. The prince met the king, was 'famously pious', and made the headlines for admonishing a gentleman for beating his horse. He died shortly after his return to Africa. Sadly, the 1805 baptismal register of Clapham shows that many of the African Academy children succumbed to disease here, being baptised close to death.

John Venn preached the benefits of giving Africans an English education. Macaulay had the idea that the children of influential notables would be useful as go-betweens in the work of British missionaries and traders. This, combined with the fact that many did not survive the experience, throws new light upon the aims and benefits of the project. Steve Martin has also given us a glimpse of the extent of the movement of black people throughout the British Empire long before the 1950s.

John Adams

## Don't forget -

our new card of the **Bandstand Clapham Common in Winter 1906** is

now available, price £4 for a pack of 10, with or without greeting. Details and application form in the last two Newsletters, or contact Alyson Wilson: phone 020 7622 6360 or fax 020 7622 7899.

## Fifteen Year Strategy

Lambeth Council has put out a consultation document on a Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Framework, 2002 - 2017, which invites comments from a wide range of people, bodies and groups by 30 November 2001. The Society will be making a response and we would like to hear and include the views of members.

The paper ranges from a vision for Lambeth's Parks and Green Spaces to the structures of local involvement. A key issue is the shift from a borough wide approach to one where democratic accountability rests with the five Town Centre Forums. Provided that the Town Centre Forums receive the necessary resources this would appear to be a positive move.

The paperwork runs to fifteen pages so the newsletter cannot do it justice. If you would like a copy please contact Anna Jefferson Smith on 020 7622 8285.

## Alice Crosthwaite,

a founder member of the Society, and a redoubtable supporter of its work, died recently in her 96th year. There will be a memorial service at Holy Trinity Church at 2pm on Thursday 22 November. An appreciation will appear in a future newsletter.

## Bronze Woman

To round off our September meeting Cécile Nobrega read her poem *Bronze Woman*, which honours the contribution of Caribbean women to the community. She also showed us the maquette of the statue of *Bronze Woman*, which has been commissioned from sculptor Ian Walters and is to stand in Stockwell Memorial Gardens.



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# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 243

December 2001

## OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2002

The Events Group has planned a programme for the coming year which, we hope, has sufficient variety and interest to encourage even more members to attend the regular monthly meetings. These are held at 8 pm on the **third Tuesday of the month** at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4. There will be no meeting in August, when there will be a walk instead, or December.

The dates and subjects of the meetings and other events are shown below. More details for each one will be given in the Newsletter nearer to the event.

January 15	Clapham - Future Plans
January 26	Winter party at Studio Voltaire
February 19	Victorian House Workshop
March 19	Health in Clapham
April 16	The Orangery Project - Notre Dame Estate
May	Planning walk
May 21	The Common - Flora and Fauna
June	Clapham Common Walk
June 18	Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Accession Clapham in 1952
July	Summer Party
July 16	Education in Clapham
August 20	Evening walk - Historic Clapham
September 17	Young's Brewery (provisional)
October 15	Annual General Meeting
November 19	Recording Clapham

The Society is publishing a series of self-guided walk leaflets over the next few years. The first two are already available, price 50p each, at meetings or from Alyson Wilson (see back page):

**1: An Historical Walk.** Starts from **Clapham Common** Underground Station and covers the original centre of the old village of Clapham in Rectory Grove and back to the Common.

**2: Clapham North.** Starts from **Clapham North** Underground Station, going through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development of northern Clapham as far as Larkhall Park and from Wandsworth Road back to the High Street.

The leaflet for the self-guided walk starting from **Clapham South** will be out during 2002 and **Clapham Common** will follow after the June walk. Others will be published in due course.

### Literary Clapham

'Forty minutes later she reached Clapham Common tube station... What appeared among the cool trees as she approached was a brick barn of elegant dimensions, like a Greek temple, with a black tiled roof, windows of plain glass,

and a low portico with white columns beneath a clock tower of harmonious proportions. Parked outside, close to the portico, was a polished black Rolls-Royce...'

Members will have little trouble identifying the building, but what novel

## Next meeting

**Tuesday 15 January** at 8pm at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4.

### Clapham - Future Plans

This is a rare opportunity to learn at first hand about the future strategy for our part of the Borough and to question the proposals being put forward by Lambeth Council in the new Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

The preparation of the UDP is a statutory requirement and it will contain the planning policies that will be used to make decisions on planning applications for the next ten years or so. The Society has already made a response to the initial consultation. In January 2002, following consideration by the Council's Policy Committee, the UDP will go on deposit giving a final opportunity to make representations. Meanwhile deliberations are also in hand on the Government initiative to form a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the Borough which will become effective in April 2002.

We have invited Andrew Lainton, Senior Policy Planner with responsibility for drafting the UDP and Frances Farragher, Community Planning Manager, working on the LSP to attend.

### Fireworks on the Common

Even those of us who were getting very fed up with the seemingly endless fireworks in the run up to Guy Fawkes' Day had to admit that the display by Lambeth Borough Council on Clapham Common on November 5th was excellent. There was a large, appreciative crowd. Thank you, Lambeth.

is this a quotation from? This is just one of the questions from a 'Clapham in Literature' quiz which will bend your minds at our winter party - see overleaf.

## The Annual General Meeting

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 16 October 2001 at 8 pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square. The President, Norman Marsh, QC, CBE, presided and about 75 members were present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from John Lamb.
2. The Minutes of the previous AGM (10 October 2000) were approved unanimously.
3. The Chairman presented the Annual Report, which had been previously circulated. He thanked the members of the Committee and the Sub-Committees for their dedication and hard work during the year, which had contributed to the smooth running of the Society. In answer to a question concerning the repainting of 17 The Pavement in a mauve colour, he stated that in the absence of a specific direction it is difficult to exercise control over paint colours even on a listed building. Charlotte Evans, Town Centre Manager, undertook to consult the Conservation Officer about this and report back. The Report was adopted unanimously.
4. The Treasurer presented the Financial Report and Accounts. He pointed out the increased income this year due to healthy sales of *The Buildings of Clapham*. He reminded members of the advantage of completing a Charitable Giving Declaration which enables the Society to reclaim tax paid on donations. There were no questions and the Report and Accounts were adopted unanimously.
5. The following were elected unanimously as officers for the coming year:

<b>Chairman</b> John Adams	<b>Vice-Chairman</b> John How
<b>Secretary</b> Jill Cramphorn	<b>Treasurer</b> Michael Strong
<b>Solicitor</b> Neil Acheson-Gray	<b>Membership Secretary</b> Joyce Luck

Also elected as **Committee Members** were: Nick Bentley, Bill Emmett, Jeremy Hamerton, Anna Jefferson Smith and Alyson Wilson.

6. Euan Kennedy, FCA was reappointed as **Independent Examiner**.
7. The Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary, David Perkin, for his hard work on behalf of the Society over the past four years and presented him with six bottles of wine as a token of gratitude. In his reply David expressed his thanks for the friendships he had made during his time in office and the opportunity to learn more about Clapham, where he had long owned a house, but only come to live relatively recently - at least, he felt, in relation to many members of the Society.

After a break for refreshments the meeting was addressed by the Guest of Honour, **Faith Boardman, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth.** (Report next page)

## Work on St Paul's

Extensive roof repairs have been in progress at St Paul's for the last few months, and should be completed by the end of the year. Fortunately, enough of the old tiles have been saved to cover the side facing Rectory Grove, with new ones only being used to the north.

Matrimony Walk is to be improved with new street lighting, fencing and surfaces and the neglected area alongside given a new lease of life. To the east there are already signs of the community garden to be run together with the Metropolitan Housing Trust. Known

as Eden at St Paul's the aim is to help disabled people gain skills, confidence and enjoyment from working in the garden with a project manager. There will also be a Children's Playground and a 'dog run'. The main churchyard now has a simple Garden of Remembrance in a quiet corner. A box hedge contains an area with a bench, and memorial plaques to those whose ashes will be scattered here can be attached to the garden wall. Recently the Lower Churchyard, now just a grassy area, was the



*Residents of Nightingale House at Long Pond - sustained by coffee and doughnuts they watch Charles Stanton's model boats*



venue for the annual Bonfire Party which has become very popular in the area and caters particularly for smaller children. Two weeks later Lifeline provided a tea-party for a hundred older local people who find it difficult to get out and about.

All this places high demands on the resources of the church community in terms of finance and commitment. £138,000 has been raised from a variety of sources but there is still a shortfall of £22,000 for the roof, which means another exciting plan is on hold at the moment. *Lightmatters* have designed a scheme for floodlighting the exterior, which as well as being visually attractive, would be a good safety feature in the area. Donations towards achieving these plans would be very welcome. They may be sent to St Paul's PCC at the Parish Office with a note mentioning the Roof and Lighting Fund.

*Judith Strong*

## A Party with a difference

Our Winter Party will be on Saturday 26 January starting at 7.30 pm at Studio Voltaire, Nelson's Row (just off the High Street behind Clapham Methodist Church). Many of you may already have been to exhibitions and events at Clapham's ambitious new Arts Centre, but this evening will be a chance to meet some of the artists, to see round their studios and work in progress. There will be an exhibition of local artists' work and we shall hear details of the progress of future development plans for the centre.

Joyce Luck is, as usual, masterminding the traditional two course cold buffet with appropriate alcoholic accompaniment, and would welcome any offers of help either with catering arrangements or more general setting up, fetching and carrying and so on.

There is an added dimension to this party: Peter Jefferson Smith has devised a Clapham literary quiz to test your wits and check that you have not gone into hibernation in mid-winter. Be sure to come along and join in the fun. Ticket application form on the back page.

## Managing Lambeth

**Faith Boardman**, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth, at the AGM - see previous page.

Faith Boardman thanked the Society for inviting her to reflect on the situation in Lambeth at the end of her first year in office. The greatest problem is the financial legacies of the last 20 years; the largest of these is the burden of the debt mainly incurred over the last 20 years. Lambeth Council's debt is nearly £1,000m - greater than that of any other London borough - and the cost of servicing this alone is a serious drain on resources. Investment clearly needs to be made in many areas, but there is no quick and easy solution. The challenge is to get new resources into the borough through partnerships and joint funding. She cited the example of the Clapham Park Estate where New Deal funding is to provide £56m over 10 years, and the Stockwell Master Plan, facilitated by a resident-led campaign, which has attracted £13m of European Funding. As a result of this legacy it is estimated that about £50m is required to bring Lambeth's **Parks and Open Spaces** fully up to scratch. The Hyder Consulting Master Plan, Phase 1 of the Clapham Common refurbishment scheme, is now completed. The Common uses up one-third of the Council's budget for Open Spaces.

There is great concern about **Community Safety** and the Council has found substantial extra resources for that over the last year. One example is that CCTV cameras in Town Centres may have displaced some crime to neighbouring streets so an extra £3.5m is to be spent on providing mobile CCTV cameras and additional cameras for certain estates with high crime rates. The Council strongly resists the Metropolitan Police proposal to remove 99 of the 940 police officers from the Borough and asked for the Society's support in this. (In the later question time Nicholas Long, a member of Metropolitan Police Authority said that Lambeth will not lose officers but the basis on which officers is allocated is being reviewed).

The financial legacy has resulted in severe problems in the **Planning Department** and a large backlog of applications. However, as a result of recent extra investment the department is now 'close to' the government target of 65% of applications being decided within 8 weeks, although its funding is still half that of some neighbouring boroughs.

As far as **Education** is concerned, primary schools have much

improved in the last few years, but the Council is aware of the lack of local secondary school choice and a new City Academy on the site of the present Lambeth College on South Side is under discussion. If this proceeds it will attract central government funding of over £30m.

A recent survey of the condition of **Roads** indicates that an investment of £100m is needed. The legacy of neglect of lighting and highway maintenance cannot be put right at once. It is necessary to prioritise and the plan is to bring street lighting up to standard within three years with the help of private finance.

**Parking** consultation in the Thornton area is now complete and the scheme will soon be implemented. Consultation is about to start in Clapham Park. Larkhall Bridge will remain closed until the road safety issues in reopening it have been fully addressed. The Old Town Gateway plan is on hold, while Transport for London plans for London through traffic are considered. Faith Boardman concluded by reaffirming the Council's determination to face the legacy of neglect, to attract outside funding and to cooperate with residents.

A lively question period followed. Asked whether Lambeth could learn from neighbouring Wandsworth, the speaker said that the historic rivalry is over and the boroughs are consulting and learning from each other. On corruption in the Council she replied that there had been lack of control of contracts and poor management in the past, but her predecessor had tackled the issue bravely and effectively. There is improvement in many areas - rent arrears are well down and the Council's debt is stable. Planning applications for large schemes, which will bring money into the borough tend to delay smaller applications. More delegation should result in speeding up the process.

Faith Boardman undertook to investigate the choice of events - in particular urban games and graffiti - for which permission had recently been granted on the Common.

Thanking the speaker warmly for her clear and frank outline of the problems facing the borough, Peter Jefferson Smith said that Lambeth continues to suffer from a poor reputation resulting from its past. There are many other boroughs with far worse problems, and we should recognise the progress that has been made. He paid tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work of so many of the Lambeth officers who care for Clapham.

## Light up a Life

Trinity Hospice's Christmas Tree, on which each light is donated to commemorate a special person, will be illuminated on Thursday 13 December at 6.45 pm. There will then be a candlelit procession to Holy Trinity Church for the annual carol service followed by wine and mincepies. Come and join in and if you would like to donate a light contact the hospice Light up a Life Appeal (020 7787 1044).

Other local carol services include the following:

### **Clapham Methodist Church, High Street**

23 December 6.30 pm Carol Service, all ages

31 December 11.15pm Watch Night Service

### **Christchurch with St John's, Clapham Road**

16 December 4.30 pm Family Carols by Candlelight followed by seasonal refreshments

### **Holy Spirit, Narbonne Avenue**

16 December 6 pm Parish Carol Service

23 December 4 pm Family Carols

### **Holy Trinity, Clapham Common**

16 December 5 pm Family Carol Service

23 December 6.30 pm Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols

24 December 5 pm Christingle Service

### **St Barnabas, North Side**

16 December 6 pm Carols by Candlelight

19 December 6.30 pm Carols on the Common (opposite St Barnabas) with Salvation Army Band, followed by mulled wine and mincepies

### **St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Clapham Park Road**

24 December 8 pm Family Mass. 11.30 pm Carol singing followed by Midnight Mass

### **St Paul's Church, Rectory Grove**

16 December 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

23 December 4pm Crib service

## Wake up and smell the oil!

Local business man, Mick Micetich and his son, Dean, of Rainbow Copy Shop and Internet Centre in Clapham Park Road, are the driving forces behind England's first ever Hot Rod and Kustom 'Autorama' art Exhibition, **Kar Krafts - Gasoline Art** to be held from **8-22 December at Studio Voltaire**, 1a Nelson's Row in Clapham - the home of hot-rodding. The show will feature the world's finest and wildest cars - hot rods, kustoms, gassers and dragsters, as well as photography and jewellery.

## Alice Crosthwaite, 1906 - 2001

Alice Crosthwaite died recently in her 96th year, in a Shropshire nursing home. She was for most of her long life a distinguished Clapham resident, living at 18 North Side from the time her family helped to rescue the Georgian terrace, then abandoned and more-or-less derelict.

Like her redoubtable and charming mother, Alice was a Girtonian. Mrs Crosthwaite, asked whether she had a Victorian struggle to get a university education, said, 'My father promised me a new hunter if I did NOT go to Girton. I went, and I got the hunter.' Asked the same question Alice said, 'My dear, I was pushed.' Probably this was hardly necessary.

In 1931 Alice entered the Factory Inspectorate and was promoted District Inspector in 1947. Early on women inspectors were generally kept employed on women's affairs, but during Alice's working life this attitude changed. Although women on the whole were meant to avoid climbing ladders, for reasons of decorum, it is unlikely that Alice paid much attention to this. She largely worked in London districts and ended her career in Southwark, an area of immense industrial diversity used for the less desirable processes. Alice battled long to improve conditions in factories where asbestos was handled, and in 1971 after her retirement she was called to Court to give evidence in a case taken by men who had suffered the effects of asbestos.

Her early retirement from the Inspectorate was for tragic family reasons. She had a further strenuous career in voluntary work, first in support of victims of crime, and then, after being mugged in Brixton, for helping prisoners' families.

A founder member of the Clapham Society, she was the second Hon. Secretary (1964-65), and in 1972 joined the Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee. During her time on the Sub-Committee (about ten years), it prepared the Society's first set of proposals for improvement of the Common, and raised money for tree planting and new benches.

She committed herself energetically to anything she undertook - Holy Trinity, and its Parochial Church Council, friends and neighbours. She was forthright, courageous, lively, compassionate, warm-hearted, wholly unsentimental. We can still picture her, informally elegant and of great presence, walking slowly and a little stiffly on the

Common with her dog, which we like to think is the little dachshund on our Karen Keogh postcard.

*MEB and PJS*

## Tracing the History of Your House

This is the title of a new book by Nick Barratt, published by the Public Record Office at £12.99. It is a very comprehensive guide, mainly to the PRO's records of land transactions and holdings, so most of it is way beyond the needs of those of us who would like to know about our late Victorian terraces. But it is clearly written, well presented and contains good advice.

Start, says Nick Barratt, at your own house. Talk to your older neighbours, and look at the house itself - how much is original, what has been altered and when. Draw up a research plan, setting realistic goals which you can tackle yourself. The next step will usually be to go to your local history library or archives. For us in Clapham, that would be Lambeth Archives at the Minet in Knatchbull Road or the Wandsworth Local History Library in Lavender Hill. To place your house in its context, look at background area information - local histories, photos, maps, even press cuttings.

You can go on from there to sources which tell you about ownership and occupation - street directories, census returns (every ten years between 1841 and 1891, with 1901 becoming available next year). Electoral registers are easily available, but of limited use until the vote was extended to all adults in 1929.

If you want to go beyond that, the book will give you ideas which may well not have occurred to you. I had learnt at school about Lloyd George's Land Tax, which I dimly remembered as being aimed against Tory Dukes and the like. But I had not known that in 1910 an official valuation was made of every property in the country, and the records show all the owners and occupiers, and sometimes a description of the property. The detailed field books are in the PRO, although finding the right ones seems a complicated business. The book also has material on how to find wills and records of any legal disputes. So you can glean from it what might be relevant to your own researches, and where to find it.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

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## Ace of Clubs Meal Ticket Scheme

Most members of the Society will know of Ace of Clubs, the day centre for homeless and vulnerable people in St Alphonsus Road. It was opened in 1995 in what had previously been a boys' school, and now there are around 2000 members.

A recent initiative has been a Meal Ticket Scheme. It is a response to the Government's controversial Change a Life Campaign which said that members of the public should make donations to the larger charities and not give cash to beggars.

While it acknowledged that some people beg to feed a drug or alcohol habit there are also those who have fallen out of the welfare system. Whatever the underlying reason for begging it is somewhere like Ace of Clubs which is able to provide the help that is needed. This may be the provision of a hot meal (available 365 days a year), housing advice, health care, clean laundry, shower or a variety of other services.

The Lambeth Building Society has given the Club £2,500 to launch a scheme by which those wishing to help will buy £1 meal tickets which can be given to anyone who begs from them. The tickets can be redeemed for a good meal at Ace of Clubs, Deptford Crypt Day Centre and the West London Day Centre. If the ticket is binned by the recipient, as some no doubt will be, it costs only ten pence to replace so the Club still gains ninety pence.

Initially most of the outlets will be local churches. The idea was introduced to the Club by one of our Clapham Society members, Hilda Barclay, who is an Elder of the Clapham United Reformed Church.

For more information about participating in the scheme please contact Anna Jefferson Smith on 020 7622 8285.

## Are you ready for Christmas?

If you still need the odd stocking filler, don't forget our two books in print, *The Buildings of Clapham* (£10 to members) and *The Story of Clapham Common* (£5). We also still have Bandstand cards at £4 per pack of 10 - as well as Mount Pond prints (framed and unframed) and various other cards, maps and walks leaflets. For all publications contact Alyson Wilson: 020 7622 6360. **Happy Christmas!**

To Joyce Luck 15 Cavendish Road SW12 0BH	Please send me ..... tickets @ £10 each for the Society's Winter Party. My cheque to the Clapham Society for £..... is enclosed with a s.a.e.	From .....
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# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 244

February 2002

## Tesco enquiry result – a well considered enhancement?

Just before Christmas the decision on the two alternative Tesco planning applications for the development of the former South London Women's Hospital site at Clapham South, which had been called in for public enquiry in 2000, was finally released.

Although the Inspector had recommended that both applications be refused, this was rejected by the Secretary of State. This is a great disappointment. In particular the Clapham South Neighbourhood Association has campaigned long and hard for a better use of the site with support from this Society.

The principal reason for the Inspector's recommendation had been his "serious reservation....about the design of the proposed extension to the Cooper building and its surroundings that have been necessitated by the need to accommodate the chosen form of vehicular access into and egresses from the site", the design effect of which would be "so seriously detrimental to the character and appearance of the conservation area... as to be unacceptable". This was one of the main points put to the enquiry by the Clapham Society (see also N/L no. 227) and argued by us under quite aggressive cross-examination. It centred on the scale and handling of the proposed archway through the new wing and the ineptness of the design in relation to the composition of the façade as a whole. It is an issue which the Inspector (as an architect) clearly picked up on but which was presumably lost on the planners at Government Office for London, English Heritage and Lambeth Council!

The Secretary of State also said that the site location qualifies as being within a "centre" for the purposes of interpreting PPG6 (which was framed to halt the haemorrhage of retail activity away from the high streets to out-of-town supermarkets). Although he thought that the proposal is out of scale with this particular "centre" he did not consider it to be so serious as to justify refusal. We argued that it is a "neighbourhood", not a "centre".

Our other main objections centred on the difficulties of achieving access into the site so close to a major road intersection and tube station. The argument that there is no alternative location for the complex vehicular entrance and exit arrangements, together with the risks these will bring to the pedestrian circulation across the frontage, also provides the justification for the unfortunate archway through the south wing. The Inspector had linked these two issues and recommended refusal for the reason stated above. The Secretary of State disagreed. However, interestingly, he identified the size of the car park and its ability to attract car-borne shoppers from outside the catchment centre as an issue. He reduced the number of spaces from 156 to 98 in line with the Lambeth UDP. Will such a constraint make the development unviable to Tesco?

It was a great shame that Lambeth Council did not display a more robust and consistent approach in dealing with the future of this site from the outset. Wandsworth, responsible for the conservation area and setting of the listed buildings affected by the development, have opposed it consistently. **As we go to press we hear that they have decided to apply for a judicial review.**

*John Adams*

*We very much regret that due to lack of support we have had to cancel the Winter Party this year. We apologise to those who were disappointed and hope to arrange something at Studio Voltaire later in the year.*

## Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and commence at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 19 February

#### Be Kind to Your House

Do you dislike your neighbour's replacement windows? Do your neighbours hate you because you have painted your frontage mauve? Conservation? Restoration? Extension? Repair? When is what appropriate?

The architectural identity of Clapham is a mixed one. Each street usually has its own particular character based upon differing groups of similar and mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced houses. There is great variety but there is also a consistency and integrity which is threatened by each and every insensitive alteration and repair. Sometimes the damage is invisible to the public because it is internal. However repairs and alterations which fail to respect the intrinsic character or construction of a building can affect group value, structural integrity, upkeep and performance.

The evening will be an open forum on *Do's* and *Don'ts*. A panel of professionals and experts will illustrate some of the classic problems associated with the typical Clapham house and will answer questions. Come along with examples, experience and questions of your own.

### Tuesday 19 March

#### Health in Clapham

More details on this meeting in the next Newsletter.

### Tuesday 16 April

#### The Orangery Project - Notre Dame Estate

Lee Seaman of the Notre Dame Tenants and Residents Association will explain the ambitious scheme to restore the 18<sup>th</sup> century orangery to use as part of a community development on the Notre Dame Estate.

## At the Mercy of the Makeover

Living in a terrace, one is always half afraid of what will happen when houses nearby change hands. These days, with all the make-over shows on television, everyone seems to want to get the builders in as soon as they've moved in.

It wasn't always like this. For the first 60-80 years of their existence London terraced houses stayed, on the outside, much the same as when they were built, save that those without basements lost their railings and gates in the war years.

Change came with the rise in owner occupation during the 1960s and 1970s. First we had the advent of that perfectly useless and now reviled improvement, the louvre window, then pebbledash render began to appear in the inner suburbs, having escaped from its natural habitat on the Kingston bypass.

The London roofscape began to change as more and more main purlins sagged under the deadweight of red concrete tiles. Bays lost their turrets, chimney stacks were taken down and facing brickwork was coated over with masonry paint, pebbledash render or, worst of all, stone cladding.

If you happened to live in a small terraced cottage in an unfashionable area, you got the lot - pseudo-Georgian bow windows with plastic bullion glass, Tyrolean render, Tudorbethan half timbering. Over the 80s and 90s this process spread to more fashionable areas and gradually the historic interest and architectural content of small scale terraced housing was eroded.



The last 20 years have seen home improvement for profit enter the culture in a big way. In Clapham, cellars are dug out to form rooms, lofts are extended and side extensions added as if there were a baby boom. Much of this work is carried out in impeccable taste and, unless one is unfortunate enough to live next door, there is little to complain about.

This just leaves the modernisers who do not have impeccable taste, who move from house to house gradually obliterating the architectural quality of the street. While working on *The Buildings of Clapham*, I came across streets where almost every house front had been painted over. This obscures minor architectural detail surprisingly well. Red bricks look much the same as stock, gault or Cambridge cream bricks when covered in masonry paint. Lintels and mouldings merge into the brickwork and contrasting band courses are lost. Many facades still have interesting historic finishes such as tuck pointing, dog tooth or stone band coursing and black or red tinted pointing. All this richness is lost under the masonry paint.

This was especially frustrating because it prevented me from distinguishing blocks of houses built by one builder, from those of another. A change of detailing usually denotes a change of builder or developer. Confronted by painted facades, I could not tell where one builder finished and another builder began. Just like Georgian terraces, Victorian terrace streets often rely on uniformity, with small subtle detail to provide variety and interest.

While upvc windows are often ugly and jarring, this change is reversible. The windows have a 15-25 year life before the plastic breaks down in sunlight, or a more enlightened owner rips them out and restores the sashes. At least they have a function. Paint over brickwork, apart from being unnecessary in the first place, is often impossible to remove without damaging the brickwork. When it gets shabby, most people just slap on another coat and compound the crime. A few houses have been stripped of paint, but this is an expensive and uncertain process. It has to be viewed as a long-term venture, saving the cost of a repaint every five years, and enhancing the street for the benefit of all.

*Roger Armstrong*

## Celebrating the Jubilee

As our contribution to the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year, our June meeting will be on the subject of Clapham in 1952. A panel of speakers who were living in Clapham in that year will share with us their memories of what it was like here in those now distant days.

As part of that meeting, we would like to put on a small display of items from that year, and invite older members to search their memories and their cupboards. Have you got objects which are typical of 1952? Or perhaps family snapshots which show Clapham at that time?

If you have anything which you could lend us, please get in touch with Alyson Wilson (tel. 020 7622 6360) or speak to her at one of our meetings.

## Aircraft Noise

If you are concerned about increasing aircraft noise there are various actions you can take: Ring the BAA noise-line 0800 344 844 (freephone), ring the DOE 020 7890 3930, write to your MP or join Hacan ClearSkies. This organisation recently won its case at Strasbourg when the court affirmed that night flights are an abuse of human rights, but the British government must recognise this by passing a Bill banning night flights if there is to be a positive outcome of the ruling. For information on how to join ring 020 8876 0455 or go to their website [www.hacan.org.uk](http://www.hacan.org.uk).

*Diana Ross*

## What's in a name?

A member recently enquired why a street off Venn Street is to be named Hanscomb Place. This commemorates the Hanscomb family who were Clapham builders in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In particular they were responsible for building Holy Trinity Church, completed in 1776, at a cost of just under £6,000. Mr Hanscomb, who was also a master carpenter, made the pulpit, desks and reredos for an additional payment of £240. Other new local street names include Floris Place, off Fitzwilliam Road near Holmes Place Health Club, named after the artist C L Floris (1847-1931) who lived in Fitzwilliam Road and Wilderness Mews, off The Chase, which is roughly on the site of a former mansion called The Wilderness.

**Joan Hodge** We are sorry to learn of the recent death of Joan Hodge, who was a loyal and active member of the Society for many years. Up until the time of her death she was one of our local representatives - the group of members to whom we are deeply indebted for their time and effort in ensuring that our newsletters are delivered on time each month.

## Spot the box

The Greater London Industrial Archaeological Society (more snappily known as GLIAS) is starting to compile a database of interesting street furniture in Greater London. They are starting with post boxes, and other items of street furniture will come later.

Most post boxes are the familiar cylindrical pillar boxes. In Clapham, the scarce ones would be as follows:

- Victorian hexagonal boxes - the so called "Penfold" type (1866 - 1879)
- Double boxes with two slots, for town and country (from 1898 and common in central London but not likely to be found in suburbs)
- Any box with a postage stamp dispenser still attached to it (from 1920s)
- Any box with a sign on top pointing to the nearest Post Office, but only if the sign is still attached - most have been broken off (from 1924)
- Edward VIII boxes (1936 - there's one in Beckenham, but are there any others in London?)
- Rectangular boxes. There were two models, both short-lived - Type F made of steel (1968-74) and Type G of cast iron (1974-79), after which the Post Office reverted to the cylindrical type
- Boxes built into walls (common in rural areas, but scarce in inner suburbs)

I know of two rare boxes in Clapham - a hexagonal "Penfold" in The Chase and a rectangular Type G in Rectory Grove. I would be grateful for any other sightings, which I can pass on to GLIAS. Please note down the location with a rough description of the type of box and send it to me at 22 Ivey Road, Clapham SW4 0EW.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

## The Roupells of Lambeth

The Streatham Society has recently published a book about this notorious local family. Richard Palmer Roupell was a wealthy landowner, and the developer of Roupell Street, Waterloo and Christchurch Road and Palace Road in Streatham. One of his four illegitimate sons, William Roupell, who lived in a mansion on Brixton Hill became MP for Lambeth in 1857 at the age of 27, after an election campaign described as the most corrupt in London's history. Five years later, having squandered his fortune, he was found guilty of destroying his father's will and forging a new one. He served a 14 year prison sentence. The book is available for £8.99 (including postage and packing) from The Streatham Society, 200 Woodmansterne Road, SW16 5UA.

## Lord and Lady Clapham



**Lord and Lady Clapham**, just like the Victoria and Albert Museum's new British Galleries where they are now so eye-catchingly displayed, are a delightful mixture of grandeur and fun.

Standing 22" high - or rather seated on their own wooden chairs - this rare pair of wooden dolls are exquisitely dressed in the high fashion of the closing decade of the seventeenth century, when they were made.

The Cockerell family who owned them for generations called them Lord and Lady Clapham after a family home there, the exact site of which is still an open question, though two locations on the north side of Clapham Common are front runners.

In 1747 Frances Jackson, youngest daughter of Samuel Pepys's nephew, John Jackson, married John Cockerell. Her family home had been a mansion on North Side built by her father in 1712, later known as The Cedars and now replaced by Cedars Terraces and Cedars Road. Frances' great-uncle, Samuel Pepys, the diarist, spent the last years of his life (he died in 1703) in the great house a little further east, of his friend and one-time clerk, William Hewer. Frances and John's son, born in 1754, was the architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell.

In whichever Clapham house these two costly dolls with their gessoed, painted faces and wigs of human hair first emerged from their wrappings, a lack of the sort of wear and tear that occurs when children cherish their toys to destruction indicates that, like the dolls' houses of the day, they were more objects of adult admiration. For the V & A this means they have a rarity in museum collections, two surviving late seventeenth century dolls whose elaborate wardrobe, in perfect miniature, of formal and informal clothes of the period, show exactly how they were worn together.

And they are wonderful clothes. Milord's formal dress is a then new-fangled three-piece suit (a wool coat lined with silk and

trimmed with silver braid, a lined silver tissue waistcoat and a pair of close-fitting breeches), felt hat, muslin neckcloth, silk stockings and brass-buckled leather shoes.

Milady is magnificent in her Chinese silk mantua, corset, linen petticoat and undershift, underwired lawn headdress, knitted silk stockings and high-heeled shoes of silk.

The couples' informal night gowns can now be seen and there are several charming accessories including a scaled-down sword and scabbard, gloves and a purse and coins.

The 345 bus route connects Clapham Common and South Kensington Stations (and the three hundred or so years between Pepys's time and our own). Coins are no longer needed to enter the V & A's British Galleries, which are now free again.

When the dolls were bought by Public Subscription in 1974, the Clapham Antiquarian Society contributed and copies of their newsletters relating to the purchase and earlier display (No.319, October 1974 and No.373 April 1979) are in the Minet Archives.

The British Galleries database is online at [britishgalleries@vam.ac.uk](http://britishgalleries@vam.ac.uk).

*Carolyn Rockman*

## Clapham Portraits

Over 50 members came to last November's meeting, which was the second in our series of brief biographies of notable people who have lived in Clapham.

Alyson Wilson's subject was **John Battley** (1880-1952), who as an apprentice printer in 1897 with his brother started Battley Brothers, still today a Clapham-based family business. Born in Clapham, one of six children of a labourer, Battley built up a successful business by application and high standards. He was an autocratic but compassionate employer, and a man of strong moral principles. He was also deeply committed to public service, a founder member of the local Rotary Club, a Justice of the Peace, a member of the London County Council and on many committees. In 1939 he was adopted as Labour candidate for Clapham, but the election did not take place that year due to the outbreak of war. He was finally elected in 1945 as the first Labour MP for Clapham. Social problems were his particular interest and he was a hard-working, conscientious constituency member, though not very active in the House. Sadly, ill health brought on by overwork prevented his standing for re-election in 1950 and he died in 1952. His name lives on both in the Clapham printing firm and in Labour history.

Derrick Johnson's choice was the cricketer, **Sir Jack Hobbs** (1882-1963), who in a recent poll was named as the greatest English cricketer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The eldest of 12 children of a Cambridge labourer, Hobbs left school at 13 to become a servant at Jesus College, where in his spare time he developed his natural talent as a cricketer. He moved to Bedford School and after qualifying to play for Surrey went to live in Fentiman Road, near the Oval. He soon established a reputation as a formidable batsman. In 1913 Hobbs and his family moved to Englewood Road and in 1928 to a large detached house, now demolished, in Atkins Road. He retired from cricket in 1934, but his career record still stands and is unlikely to be surpassed. He scored 61,237 runs in first-class cricket with 197 centuries. He was the first professional games player to be knighted and is commemorated by the Hobbs Gate at the main entrance to the Oval cricket ground with a simple inscription 'In honour of a great Surrey and England cricketer'.

Peter Jefferson Smith spoke about the politician, **Arthur Henderson** (1863-1935). Popularly known as 'Uncle

Arthur', Henderson was the first Labour MP to serve in the Cabinet (in the 1917-19 Coalition). He was born to a poor family in Glasgow, moving to Newcastle when his mother remarried after his father's early death. Henderson was an apprentice iron founder at 16 and became a trade unionist, which led him into politics. In a by-election in 1903 he was elected independent Labour MP for Barnard Castle, and was soon drawn into the management of the newly formed Labour party in 1906. In that year the family moved to Rodenhurst Road, Clapham.

Henderson became party secretary in 1911, but for 20 years played second fiddle to Ramsay Macdonald, with whom he had a constantly turbulent relationship. Despite this he became successively Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary. After the financial crisis in 1931, Henderson refused to be part of the National Government, and lost his seat in the ensuing election. He died soon after, a sick and tired man. Though Henderson is not well-known today, he played a large part in the formation of the traditional Labour Party.

The evening concluded with a lively and stimulating presentation by David Perkin on **Ada Pullen** (1859-99), better known as **Dorothy Dene**, favourite model and muse of Lord Leighton.



*Ada Pullen as Bianca,  
by Frederic, Lord Leighton*

David had done much original research to disprove some of the myths about the model, and he put forward an interesting new proposition. Ada Pullen was born in New Cross, the eldest of 10 children. When she was 21 her mother became an

invalid on the birth of the tenth child, her father deserted them and Ada assumed responsibility for the family. In the early 1880s they moved to The Chase in Clapham, when Ada and at least one sister, were already working as models for Frederic Leighton. Ada, however, aspired to be an actress and Leighton supported her ambitions. To further these she changed her name to Dorothy Dene. With Leighton's help she did appear on the stage, but with very limited success and to generally unfavourable notices. One of those who saw and reviewed her performance was George Bernard Shaw.

Bearing this in mind and with impeccable logic, David drew parallels between Dorothy Dene and Eliza Doolittle in Shaw's *Pygmalion* and questioned whether the former might have been a prototype for the latter. Has he discovered a new Clapham connection?

## Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Framework 2002-2017

The consultation period for this has been extended to March 2002 (see November Newsletter).

If you have any queries about **The Clapham Society** or any concerns about local matters please contact the appropriate person shown below:

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**Common and Open Spaces**  
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# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 245

March 2002

## A Farmers Market in Clapham

For a few weeks last autumn there was a Farmers Market on Sunday from 10am to 2 pm in the grounds of Thomas's Preparatory School in Broomwood Road. Stalls included not only fresh vegetables but also bread and cakes, poultry and fish, so that finally we were able to buy good fresh produce locally. News of this welcome arrival was just about to appear in our February Newsletter when we heard that the market had been closed because Wandsworth Council had refused planning permission. The local press reported that 'the council shared residents' fears that the resulting noise would spoil their Sunday mornings'.

On further investigation we find that as part of the planning application, the council contacted the 93 properties adjoining the school to get feedback over any concerns they may have. Nine householders responded, two for and seven against. To find out if this 10% response was representative Jo Dimond-Brown of English Farmers Markets carried out a survey of the same properties that the council had written to. This revealed that 70% of those contacted were in favour of the market but had not written. The survey also revealed that the majority of the customers using the market would come by foot, so that concerns about increased traffic and noise were unfounded.

Armed with these statistics English Farmers Markets have re-applied, and hope that Wandsworth Council will be prepared to look at the possibility of the market re-opening.

If you would like to express your views on this please contact Jo Dimond-Brown, English Farmers Markets, PO Box 28800, London SW13 0WD, tel: 020 8392 0631 or email: [jo@englishfarmersmarket.com](mailto:jo@englishfarmersmarket.com).

## Clapham Futurevision

Members will remember the proposals for Gateway projects for improvements to Old Town and the area around Clapham Common tube station; these are still alive but have largely been delayed by complicated traffic issues.

The Clapham Community Partnership, which is a flexible and hopefully expanding group of local residents and interests, is at the early stages of developing a Masterplan for Clapham which will include the Gateway areas. This Masterplan is essential in order to help obtain funding for projects in the future.

The first stage of wider consultation will be an Open Day on Saturday 23 March, from 11am to 4pm, at Studio Voltaire in Nelsons Row, where everyone will be welcome. So please come and give your views on concerns and desires to help shape the future of Clapham.

## The Alexandra

Does anyone have any pictures of the interior of the Alexandra before it was stripped out? We are looking for these for our archive.



## Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham SW4 and commence at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 19 March

#### Healthcare buildings in Clapham

**Rosemary Glanville**, Clapham resident, architect, and lay representative on North Lambeth Primary Care Group (PCG) will tell us about some local buildings that we can be proud of. They are neither doctors' surgeries nor hospitals, but community care buildings which provide care between the two. As the NHS restructures on 1 April 2002 the services in these buildings will be part of the new Lambeth Primary Care Trust. These buildings provide a homelike rather than an institutional environment, intended to contribute to the healing process.

### Tuesday 16 April

#### The Orangery Project - Notre Dame Estate

**Lee Seaman** of the Notre Dame Tenants and Residents Association will explain the ambitious scheme to restore the 18<sup>th</sup> century orangery to use as part of a community development on the Notre Dame Estate.

### Tuesday 21 May

#### What lives and grows on Clapham Common?

**Anna Jefferson Smith** and the Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee go behind the scenes.

## Idyllic Northern Line

Last year this charming poster was sold in a London saleroom. It was produced in 1924 to celebrate the re-opening of the Northern Line (then known as the City and South London Railway) after redevelopment to link the City Branch to the Charing Cross Branch, at a cost of £3,000,000. The cheerful 1920s travellers on the left of the picture greet the shadows of their Victorian forebears on the right. It is a far cry from the rush hour scene on the platform in 2002!

## Secondary School saga. A success?

There will soon be a new secondary school in Clapham. The Government plans to build an 11-18 school on the old Henry Thornton site. As proposed this would be a City Academy joint-funded by the Government and a private sponsor, the Church Schools Company.

This would not have happened without a group of local parents and school governors combining forces to address the horrendous trauma that constitutes the secondary transfer process. What was clear was that the choice of schools in Lambeth was extremely limited, that many children were opting for schools out of the borough and that many children would be involved in considerable travel, losing touch with primary school friends. This group of parents and governors thought that there must be something they could do. This was the beginning of the Secondary Schools Campaign In Lambeth.

The initial meetings of SSCIL were taken up with collecting stories from families about their experiences of choosing, applying for and getting into a secondary school. In the era of 'parental choice', SSCIL were shocked and appalled by the clear lack of choice! Children often had applied to more than five schools, taken several entrance tests, attended interviews and were still unplaced. Tortuous appeals processes lead to endless worrying.

So why do so many children leave Lambeth at 11? Standards of primary schooling are amongst the best in the country. What happens at secondary school level? To find out, SSCIL organized a meeting, inviting parents and carers, teachers, headteachers, councillors, MPs and the press. We heard that parents wanted schools with sixth forms but that there aren't any in Lambeth, that 6 of the 10 schools are religious when the majority wanted non-denominational schools and that popular schools set entrance tests and have opaque selection procedures. It was clear that there simply are not enough places in local schools for Lambeth children at secondary school level. Children and parents are forced to look further afield for a good non-denominational, co-educational 11-18 school and so the competition for places escalates. It is a nightmare.

SSCIL turned to Lambeth Council and asked what was going to be done. Unfortunately, the early reaction was slow and inappropriate. SSCIL then mobilized to demonstrate how desperate

## Guided Walks

Last year our guided walks proved so popular that we have planned more this year. Walks are free of charge and all are welcome.

In an effort to suit as many people as possible, dates, times and starting points vary so please check these very carefully. All walks are planned as round trips starting and finishing at an underground station and usually last approximately 2 hours.

For some routes self-guided walks leaflets, price 50p, are already available. They may be purchased on the walk, at our meetings or from Alyson Wilson, Tel: 020 7622 6360.

The schedule of walks this year is as follows:

**Sunday 12 May. Historical Walk of the Clapham South** area led by John How. Leaving from Clapham South Underground Station at **2.30 pm** we shall go via Balham Hill, the Church of the Ascension in Malwood Road, along Nightingale Lane to Old Park Avenue, Thurlough Road (St Luke's Church) to West Side and back to Nightingale Lane.

the situation had become, encouraging the local community to write to local politicians and the DFES. With vital support from MPs Kate Hoey and Tessa Jowell, SSCIL convened a stakeholders' meeting, met with Government ministers and contacted both local and national press to advertise the plight of Lambeth children. We marched on Downing Street to present a 1000-signature petition.

SSCIL are determined that there will now be genuine consultation about the school and that the community be represented on the governing body. There are concerns about private sponsorship and about the role of this sponsor in particular. However, the good news would seem to be that we are going to get our local school after all and a popular local secondary school will be good news for the whole community.

If you want to know more visit [www.sscil.org.uk](http://www.sscil.org.uk) Any questions? Ask us on [sscil.campaign@virgin.net](mailto:sscil.campaign@virgin.net)

*SSCIL Committee*

**Saturday 18 May. Planning Walk.**

Leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at **11am** members of the Society's Planning Committee will walk us round and discuss some of the current new developments in Clapham.

**Thursday 20 June.** An evening walk on **Clapham Common** led by Anna Jefferson Smith and Mike Fry. Leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at 7 pm.

**Thursday 11 July. Historical Walk** round the original centre of the old village of Clapham led by David Perkin. Leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at **7 pm** the walk will cover Old Town, Grafton Square, Clapham Manor Street, Rectory Grove (St Paul's Church), and back to North Side and Holy Trinity Church.

**Tuesday 20 August. Historical Walk of the Clapham North** area led by Peter Jefferson Smith. Leaving from Clapham North Underground Station at **7 pm** the walk will go via St John's Church to the Clapham Rise Estate - Bromfelde Road, Chelsham Road, Sibella Road and Gauden Road - and then round the Larkhall Rise area returning by Cubitt Terrace to Clapham High Street.

## Building Award

One of the prime objects of the Society is to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning. The Planning Sub-Committee, which meets every six weeks and reviews the current planning applications, is at the forefront of this approach.

However, it has long been a desire for the Society to take this initiative further and make an award to buildings that have made a positive contribution to the community and environment of Clapham. It is now proposed that an Award be made biennially for a new building, a conversion or for the conservation and enhancement of an existing building. Runners up will receive a certificate.

Nomination forms, with details of the criteria will be sent out with the April newsletter. If members have views on this, or want more details in advance contact John How on 020 8673 3945.

**Team Lambeth - Best Value Review** In 1997 Lambeth put all their 'blue collar' services out to contract with Team Lambeth, a partnership between Lambeth Council and Service Team Limited. These cover 17 different contracts from refuse and street cleaning services to security and meals on wheels. After five years a review of the options is under way and your views on performance standards would be welcome. Any comments should be sent to Steve Cleary, the Project Manager, Room 108, Lambeth Town Hall, SW2 1RE: tel: 020 7926 0794, email [scleary@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:scleary@lambeth.gov.uk)

## The January meeting

In January the London Borough of Lambeth placed on deposit its draft Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The Society's timely and well-attended meeting on 15 January heard Andrew Lainton of the borough's Regeneration and Planning Department outline some of the main issues addressed in the Plan and their possible implications for Clapham.

Even a short walk in Lambeth would confirm Mr Lainton's opening assertion that the borough is experiencing an unprecedentedly high level of building development. A major aim of the UDP is to ensure that such work does not happen in a vacuum, but can be informed by an understanding of the character of the area and the needs and aspirations of the people who live and work there. The plan proposes a number of major objectives for the borough as a whole, including:

- encouraging new types of **employment** – at present, the majority of those working in Lambeth are in the public sector;
- accommodating a major growth in **housing** – 27,000 new units (about 1,800 a year), half of which should be affordable;
- protecting, and respecting the individuality of, the borough's **open spaces**;
- improving existing **community facilities** and meeting the need for more of good quality
- working to regenerate the borough's **town centres** while recognising their diversity and avoiding 'one size fits all' solutions.

Turning to the Clapham area, Mr Lainton focused on several specific issues. First, he confirmed that draft planning briefs were about to be issued in relation to two important development sites: that at the corner of Old Town and Grafton Square which the Metropolitan Police no longer intended to use as a holding facility; and the old Cannons site in and behind Macaulay Road. The Plan also promotes the idea of improvements to the Old Town/Polygon area.

Landscaping measures - a new piazza was mentioned - and the re-siting of the bus stands were first mooted in the Gateways initiative but traffic calming and reduction are now also included. Finally, the Clapham Park estate had been designated for major regeneration and redevelopment at a cost of £54m, supported by central government funds.

The borough had, Mr Lainton explained, sought to produce a UDP that was shorter and better designed than its predecessors. He outlined the procedures

involved in taking the Plan forward. Comments on the current draft were required by 25 February; a revised plan would be deposited around June; a public inquiry would follow around the turn of the year; the Inspector's report would be presented mid-2003.

While members may with some justification take the view that we have been here before, and that the outcomes have hardly repaid the effort we have put into considering and responding to UDPs in the past, we cannot afford not to take this exercise seriously. There is a lot at stake as far as Clapham is concerned. It was clear from the lively exchange of views at the meeting that there are points on which the perceptions of residents do not coincide with the intentions outlined in the Plan. Whether it is more coherent and sustainable than its predecessor is arguable. The Planning Sub-Committee is currently considering formulating the Society's response to this first stage of the UDP process; which must be lodged by February 25. As matters develop, we shall do our best to keep members in touch.

## Subscriptions are due 1 April

**This concerns all members.** Even those who pay by standing order should check that they pay the right amount.

The response to this annual reminder has improved but last year many hours still had to be spent chasing people who had not paid their subscriptions. Too many members still do not pay them at the increased rates introduced in 1998, or fail to pay the extra £3 for having the newsletter posted to them.

Please renew your subscription NOW! Payment by standing order is preferable but if you wish to pay by cheque please send it to Joyce Luck right away – your cheque will not be deposited until April. Please check what you should pay by referring to the Membership and Subscription Details form. If you are in any doubt please contact Joyce Luck on 020 8673 2616. Donations are very welcome! With subscription rates remaining very low, increasing numbers of members are making donations. These are welcome not only as additional funds but also because the Society can recover from the Inland Revenue 28p for every £1 you give. But it can only do so if you are a UK taxpayer and have completed a Gift Aid Declaration. If you have made a donation since April 2000 or intend to make one now or in the future, please complete this form. If you do not wish to commit yourself to paying the same amount of donation each year, it is perfectly acceptable to pay your subscription by standing order and to send a cheque for your donation at any time. Donations are accepted without prejudice to the Society's approach on any matter.

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*Mrs Joyce Luck  
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**Common News**

In our November Newsletter concern was expressed about the low water level in Eagle Pond following the desilting of the pond and establishment of the adjacent wetland area. Adjusting the drainage has solved the problem for the pond but maintaining the correct water level in the wetland area is still proving to be a problem. The Environment Agency and Lambeth Parks are working together to resolve it. (Lilies planted in the area were swiftly stolen.)

Work is going on to improve the lighting on Clapham Common. The old concrete lampposts are being removed. Installation of new posts should take place in April.

**Commemorating John**

**Burns** John Burns (1858 - 1943), MP for Battersea, was the first working man to become a Cabinet Minister. Among his first political activities was open air speaking on Clapham Common (where he was arrested, and met his wife), and he lived in the latter part of his life at 110 North Side. When he died, he was buried in St Mary's Cemetery, Battersea.

The Battersea and Wandsworth TUC has recently restored his grave, and a ceremony to mark this took place on 27 January. Over a hundred people braved the weather to hear the speeches, among them Burns' great-great nephew. First, Anna Jefferson Smith on behalf of the Clapham Society described Burns' political history and local connections - she spoke on the same subject at our September 2000 meeting. At the end of her talk, Anna mentioned that Burns was the model for the mosaic portrait of St Mark under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. Martin Linton, the present MP for Battersea, said that Burns can also be seen, this time as Vulcan, among the allegorical figures on the arch in Whitehall linking the two big government offices across King Charles Street. After Martin Linton and other local speakers, the main address was given by Tony Benn, whose oratory has lost none of its humour and fire.

A persistent theme of the speakers was the importance of remembering our past. Burns and people like him fought for and achieved many of the conditions in the work place and in housing and education which we take for granted. And so many of the same issues are being fought again in our politics today. Understanding our history is essential to building our future, and part of that process is to stand in the January cold and drizzle in a cemetery to remember a remarkable life.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*



Anna Jefferson Smith speaking at the ceremony to mark the restoration of John Burns' grave



Tony Benn and Martin Linton by the restored grave

If you have any queries about **The Clapham Society** or any concerns about local matters please contact the appropriate person shown below:

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Email: [michael.strong@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.strong@btinternet.com)

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**Planning Matters** **Jeremy Hamerton**  
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Email: [alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net](mailto:alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net)

## Be Kind to Your House

About 40 members came to our February meeting, on yet another wet and windy evening, for a workshop about the care of the average Clapham house (built between about 1880 and 1910). John How, architect and Vice-Chairman of the Society, chaired the panel which comprised: Edward Fox, building surveyor; Roger Armstrong, whose extensive knowledge of local buildings is used to purchase property for a housing association; Sinclair Johnston, structural surveyor and John Adams, conservation architect and Chairman of the Society.

Each member of the panel was first invited to speak briefly on his speciality or the type of house abuse which particularly offended him. Edward Fox explained that his work involves issues to do with party walls, landlord and tenant disputes and service charges. One of Sinclair Johnston's main concerns is subsidence, though fortunately we have not recently had the sort of very dry summer that causes the worst problems. Roger Armstrong is infuriated by alteration to the facades of terraced houses – for example by rendering or painting – that obscures the original detail and history of the terrace and spoils the unity of the group. John Adams's *bête noire* is the insensitive replacement of wooden sash windows with UPVC frames which cannot replicate the originals and, despite what the salesmen will tell you, are not maintenance-free and do have a limited life.

The audience was then invited to put questions to the panel. There was no shortage of questions and a wide range of subjects was

covered. Lambeth Council's opposition to the removal of inappropriate trees and their insistence on heavy pollarding came in for some criticism. The imminent changes in disabled access regulations were raised, though it was pointed out these will only apply to public places. There was some discussion about the use of resins for repairs to woodwork.

The cleaning of painted brickwork was discussed: it was recommended that this should only be done by specialist firms as fierce cleaning can cause more problems and result in a "scrubbed" look compared with the natural weathering of adjoining houses. The use of cement mortar instead of the softer lime mortar was deplored for the damage it causes. Interiors were considered too, including the restoration of lost cornices and other decorative plasterwork, and the repair or replacement of tiled floors.

The panel members were not always unanimous in their views, but many useful ideas on a variety of topics were put forward and we were directed to the specialist advice leaflets on display, published by The Victorian Society. One view on which there was no dissent was that we should not be afraid to adapt the insides of our houses to today's requirements. For example, it is logical to replace the several small ground floor rooms required by a family 100 years ago with an open-plan kitchen/dining area. What we should avoid is external alterations which detract from the appearance and group value of a terrace. It was a stimulating and thought-provoking evening and we are most grateful to the panel for their time and expertise.

## Next meetings

All meetings are held at 8pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, SW4.

### Tuesday 16 April: The Notre Dame Orangery Development Trust

Lee Seaman of the Clapham Orangery Partnership will explain the ambitious scheme to restore the 18th century orangery in the Notre Dame Estate to use as part of a community development. Work is now being done on establishing the Trust, testing the proposed business plan and identifying potential sources of funding. Lambeth Councillors have signalled their support for the project through the secondment of an employee from Housing Regeneration to work with the Partnership for one day a week - a pioneering move in support of a tenant-led regeneration initiative.

**Tuesday 21 May: What lives and grows on Clapham Common?** Anna Jefferson Smith and the Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee go behind the scenes.

**Tuesday 18 June: A celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Accession.** A panel of people who were in Clapham in 1952 will recall life here fifty years ago.

*Contributions to the newsletter from members are very welcome. Please send details, preferably by email (alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net) or by fax (020 7622 7899) or post (Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH).*

## Spot the Box - 2

In the February newsletter, I asked for sightings of any rare post boxes in our area. My thanks to two members, who have noted VR wall letterboxes. One is in Thurleigh Road, the others in Wandsworth (outside our area, but I will pass them on to GLIAS). As wall boxes were generally in rural areas, it is a good indication of the character these now heavily built up suburbs had in the later 19th century. The next request from GLIAS (Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society) is for interesting telephone boxes. In the main, GLIAS is interested in recording those surviving from the days when the telephone service was part of the Post Office. There was a long series of designs,

of which the best known was the K6 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1936); they were all painted red; the older versions had multi-panel windows, but after the mid-60s they had single panel glazing on all three sides. My impression is that in Clapham all of these have gone and are replaced by modern British Telecom boxes. But if there are any of the old red boxes left in the streets (not "rescued" boxes on private premises) I would like to know. There were other sorts of phone box, in particular the blue police boxes now best remembered as Dr Who's Tardis. Please report any sightings, not to the Time Lords or the police, but to me at 22 Ivey Road, SW4 0EW.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

## Archival Gossip

*In Lambeth Archives there is an interesting series of press cuttings from Clapham newspapers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One regular column entitled 'Licensed Victuallers, their names and their parlours', described The Sun thus in 1837:*

*'But now to the parlour of the Sun: it is a snug little retreat of the old school, and the knowing Mr Ireland (the landlord), or some one before him, perhaps, has decorated it with a picture of "Pay today, and trust to-morrow", in the person of customer and landlord. ....By the way, we had almost forgotten to mention that the barmaid, Miss Charlotte, is a very nice smiling little dark-eyed girl, and a great favourite with the visitors, young and old.'*

## Planning Matters

**UDP:** the planning subcommittee discussed Lambeth's draft Unitary Development Plan at a special meeting. We feel that their intention to produce a shorter, clearer and more streamlined document has not been realised when compared with those of some other boroughs. We are particularly concerned at the over-prescriptive controls on design in some areas and also, paradoxically, by some loosely phrased policies which may be hard to uphold at an inquiry. Also of interest is that any applicant wishing to deviate from a use prescribed in the UDP must first demonstrate its non-viability; and any development having a transport impact must be supported by an independent Transport Assessment – both costly exercises for the smaller applicant. The formulation of the Society's response was a time-consuming process for which special thanks to Tony Crowther, Phil Ashford and our chairman. Any member who wishes to see it should contact Jeremy Hamerton, John Adams or John How.

**Draft Development Briefs:** Lambeth has produced Development Briefs for two major sites in Clapham: the Cannons/ LETS site at the top of Macaulay Road, and the former 'police site' at 63 Old Town/Grafton Square. These establish the council's aspirations and ground-rules for development on matters such as usage, density, vehicular access, parking and urban design. They tend to be prescriptive too, but provided that they are taken as guidelines rather than rules and are not used to stifle imagination and interest where they sensibly challenge the brief, we shall welcome them.

**Rectory Grove Conservation Area:** we are pleased to report that the area is being extended to include 553-641 Wandsworth Road. Several of the buildings are early 19th century roadside development. The former LCC Weights and Measures Testing Office and the Coroner's Court at 43 Netherford Road are also included.

### Recent Applications:

**Lambeth College:** application to extend the existing building complex, adding classroom blocks, infilling the existing courtyard and replacing the pool complex with a classroom block: *no objection*.

**2 Carpenter's Place:** proposal to demolish the existing industrial building and replace it with four office/light industrial units with seven flats above. The proposals show a very large building with poor access and day-lighting to some of the flats and the proposed car parking appeared to be too tight to be workable: *objection*, on grounds of gross over-development.

**5 Cavendish Parade:** following the failure of an appeal against the decision to refuse consent for change of use from shop to restaurant, a new application without a front forecourt has been lodged. The Society *objects* to the scheme (reasons: too many bars and restaurants in the mixed-use area; loss of a retail unit).

**10-16 The Polygon:** minor revisions to the already approved scheme (for retail/restaurant units with flats above). The scheme is still a rather dull and unconvincing pastiche of the adjoining buildings and we would have preferred to see a good modern building on this site, but there are *no grounds for objection*.

## "Slates and slugs" at St. Paul's Church, Rectory Grove

On Sunday, April 21st, St Paul's Church is holding a celebration to mark the completion of restoration work on the roof and west end of this Grade II\* listed building - and the opening of "Eden", the new community garden.

The celebration begins with an open air church service at midday - followed, at 12.30, by the official opening of Eden. There will be food and information stands run by community groups, such as London Wildlife Trust, Thrive, Public Arts, Metropolitan Housing Trust, South London & Maudsley.

There will be art and gardening workshops. An art workshop will give locals - both young and old - a chance to cover any spare roof slates with designs, some of which may be incorporated into the finished garden. An Eden workshop will encourage everyone in the area to have their say in how the garden will look.

Eden is sited on the open land to the east of St Paul's Church, a green space with enormous potential for the local community, but one which has lain unused and almost neglected, until recently. Over the course of the last few months, some planting and clearing has already taken place and work on a wildlife area has begun. During the forthcoming year, raised beds will be created, further plants, shrubs and trees will be planted - and benches will be put in place, to provide a restful spot for those who find digging too strenuous.

Slates & Slugs is open to all local residents and anyone else with an interest.

## A new Blue Plaque

Natsume Soseki (1867 – 1916), a significant Japanese scholar and novelist, lived in The Chase at the beginning of the 20th century. A blue plaque now marks the house where he lived, next door to which can be found the Soseki Museum (open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am to noon and 2pm to 5pm, and on Sundays from 2pm to 5pm).



## Urban fun & games...

Urban Games, run by Board X, are scheduled to return to Clapham Common on 26, 27 and 28 July 2002. Once more, graffiti is being advertised as a component. The Society has consistently opposed the idea that graffiti is an acceptable part of any event on Clapham Common. We have written to the Environment Department of Lambeth Borough Council, who have agreed the letting in previous years. We shall also appear before the Licensing Committee on 16 April to object.

J. Cramphorn  
552 Wandsworth Rd.

# The Clapham Society Newsletter



Issue 247

May 2002

## The Queen Mother,

as Queen Elizabeth, opening a new maternity ward at the South London Hospital on 19 May 1948. She had been a supporter of the Hospital since the 1920s as Duchess of York and later as Queen. She was also a keen supporter and patron of the Hostel of God, now Trinity Hospice. The photograph is one of a set of historic photographs of the South London Hospital which have been preserved by the former Friends of the Hospital.



as Queen Elizabeth, opening a new maternity ward at the South London Hospital on 19 May 1948. She had been a supporter of the Hospital since the 1920s as Duchess of York and later as Queen. She was also a keen supporter and patron of the Hostel of God, now Trinity Hospice. The photograph is one of a set of historic photographs of the South London Hospital which have been preserved by the former Friends of the Hospital.

## Diary Date - Summer Party

Our summer party this year will be on Saturday 6 July at 21 Clapham Common West Side, by kind permission of Stephen and Annabel Allott.

After many years as a home for the elderly, this beautiful Grade II listed, early nineteenth century house was impeccably restored as a family home in the 1990s. In 1998 it was used as a set for the film of Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy*. Weather permitting, our traditional summer early evening drinks party will be held in the garden. Make a note of the date now. A ticket application form will appear in the June Newsletter.

## Don't forget this month's Guided Walks!

**Sunday 12 May.** Historical walk of the **Clapham South** area lead by John How. The walk will leave from Clapham South Underground Station at **2.30pm** and go via Balham Hill to the Church of the Ascension in Malwood Road, along Nightingale Lane to Old Park Avenue, Thurleigh Road to include St Luke's Church, to West Side and back to Nightingale Lane.

**Saturday 18 May. Planning Walk.** Members of the Society's Planning Sub-Committee will lead us round and discuss some of the new developments in Clapham. Leaving from Clapham

## NO Farmers' Market in Clapham

Our cautious optimism in the March Newsletter (No 245) that Wandsworth Council might be prepared to think again about their refusal of planning permission for a Farmers' Market was misplaced. On appeal they have refused permission for the Sunday market in the grounds of Thomas's Preparatory School in Broomwood Road on the grounds that 'the proposed use would be an unneighbourly activity detrimental to the residential amenities of adjoining residential occupiers and would result in increased traffic and parking problems, and would not comply with policy S18'.

Common Underground Station at **11 am.**

Clapham Society walks are **free**. They are planned as round trips starting and finishing at an underground station and usually last about 2 hours. Self-guided leaflets are available of some walks, price 50p at meetings or from Alyson Wilson, Tel: 020 7622 6360.

For keen walkers there are various other guided walks in South London throughout the summer. A leaflet showing details of these is available at our meetings or at Clapham Library on North Side. Details of all Clapham Society walks this year were given in the March Newsletter (No 245).

## Next meetings

All meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, SW4 and commence at 8 pm.

**Tuesday 21 May**

**What lives and grows on Clapham Common?** The Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee will lead illustrated talks about the ecology of our Common alongside news from the anglers on Mount and Eagle Ponds. There will also be a speaker from the Wandsworth Action Volunteers for the Environment telling us about 'Green Links, Opportunities for Wildlife' of which our Common is a part. This talk will be followed up by an evening guided walk on the Common on 20 June.

**Tuesday 18 June**

**A celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Accession.** A panel of people living in Clapham in 1952 look back to how life was then. One of those taking part is a year younger than the Queen herself, others were still at school. What were their homes like, the places their families worked, their schools? How did they entertain themselves? How different was life fifty years ago?

**Tuesday 16 July**

**Education in Clapham.** Nigel Haselden and a panel of speakers will describe the provision of education and the buildings constructed for it in our area.

**Tesco** A date, 27 June, has now been set for the Judicial Review of the Tesco/South London Hospital planning application. It will probably last for two days.

**STOP PRESS** *The entertainment licence for the July Board X Urban Games on Clapham Common was agreed on 16 April by Lambeth Council Licensing Committee, but subject to stringent conditions. The chief focus of the objectors, who included The Clapham Society, the Friends of Clapham Common, Wandsworth Borough Council and Cllr Roland Doven, was the inclusion of graffiti - known as 'aerosol art'.*

## Transport in Clapham

Towards the end of last year, Lambeth published a 'key issues' consultation paper entitled **Transport - the Way Ahead**. Representatives of the Society's Roads and Transport Sub-Committee attended one of a series of local workshops on the paper, and also sent a written response to the main questions raised in the document. This stressed the importance of setting achievable objectives, given the complexity of transport issues and the division of responsibilities between different agencies. Among other points, our response suggested that:

- people will only switch from cars to public transport if its quality and reliability are significantly improved;
- both walking and cycling should be promoted, and measures to make both safer are urgently needed;
- the complexity of parking issues should be taken into account in devising new schemes, and in enforcing restrictions priority should be given to removing vehicles creating obstructions and safety hazards;
- Lambeth should give high priority to the repair and maintenance of roads and pavements: potholes and uneven surfaces are dangerous and can create noise pollution and damage to buildings.

We now look forward to the full report on these consultations, and on the conclusions Lambeth has reached, which we understand will be issued soon.

## Lambeth in pictures

At the click of a mouse you can now search the collection of historic pictures and maps of Lambeth from the Minet Library in our local library.

The Landmark project, which we told you about in the newsletter in October 2001, is now available at Clapham Library on North Side. You can search by subject, street, people, maps or various other categories and then print off any picture you want. It is very easy and absolutely fascinating, but to show you just how easy we have arranged for **Graham Gower** of Lambeth Archives to come along to introduce and demonstrate the scheme.

This special event is on **Monday 10 June from 6 to 8 pm**. Please drop in even if only briefly and see how it works - you will be amazed how quickly you get hooked! Those who heard Graham speak at our meeting in April 2001 will know just how infectious his enthusiasm is.

## Health care in Lambeth

Once again the Society chose a wild, wet and windy night for its monthly meeting; but the 20-odd members who braved the weather on 19 March were rewarded with a most informative and thought-provoking presentation by Rosemary Glanville, a Society member who is an architect and health facility planner working with the North Lambeth Primary Care Group, and head of the Medical Architecture Research Unit at South Bank University.

Ms Glanville began by outlining some of the imminent changes in the structure and administration of the health service. These are based on the aim of improving patients' experience of care: increasingly, primary health services will be integrated with community provision to form teams which, drawing on improved access to new technologies and information, will be able to take a rounded view of patients' needs and circumstances. This approach reflects the philosophy embodied in the five buildings which she went on to describe, which provide various types of intermediate health care in Lambeth, and of which she believes we can be proud.

The **Lambeth Community Care Centre** (designed by Edward Cullinan & Partners), off Kennington Road, fills a gap in provision which was left when the old Lambeth Hospital was closed after the modernisation of St Thomas's. It provides a day centre for older people, and facilities for services such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Ms Glanville's slides clearly showed how a very pleasant therapeutic environment has been created by integrating accessible garden and conservatory areas into the design. The **Whittington Centre** in Streatham (also Cullinan & Partners), a day hospital for older people, also makes good use of a green space: one fully glazed side of a curved corridor looks on to a central courtyard garden.

In **Minnie Kydd House** (Greenhill Jenner) at Clapham South, a nursing home for physically frail people, south-facing balconies overlook the garden, and deep overhanging eaves provide shady areas. Inside, patients can bring their own pictures to personalise their rooms; walls are hung with art work by students at the Roehampton School of Art, and a conservatory provides a very pleasant large meeting space. The **Woodlands** nursing home (Panoyre & Prasad) in Kennington provides accommodation for the mentally frail in four home bases, each with its own individually-themed garden. Raised

flower beds directly in front of the ground floor windows help provide privacy, and the internal design and lighting contribute to the creation of a very tranquil atmosphere. On the old South Western Hospital site in Landor Road, the **Pulross** intermediate care centre (also Panoyre & Prasad) includes features such as a curved glazed wall overlooking a two-level garden and a large, light gym for physiotherapy.

For most of the audience, this talk and accompanying slides proved something of an eye-opener: few of us had realised that our local health authority provides facilities embodying such high standards of design, and we are most grateful to Rosemary Glanville for a very clear and interesting exposition.

## More Archival Gossip

*A series of cuttings from a gossip column in the local paper in 1839 reveals some colourful local characters.*

'There is no harm in Mrs Guthrie the walking telegraph and newsmonger of Clapham, drinking gin, but she should not have it brought in pint pots to make persons believe it is beer.'

'We advise Jem Lawrence the painter not to go to the Cock so often, and insult every female that passes by. Miss Elizabeth Crabb of Waterloo Place not to be seen so late at night in the back slums with her young man, and not to use such language to her mother when she tells her of it.'

'We advise Mrs Dewell of Waterloo Place, not to go to the Kings Arms so often and scandalize certain young men and women in the neighbourhood.'

*(reproduced by kind permission of Lambeth Archives)*

## Clapham Futurevision

The Open Day held on 23 March by the Clapham Community Partnership was a great success. Over 200 people attended producing constructive comments on various aspects and concerns about life in Clapham. The themes addressed included housing and environment (including transport), employment, education, health, youth, arts and leisure, and crime.

The comments are being collated and a report will be prepared to develop priorities for future action. The Report will be presented at a public meeting, venue to be confirmed, on Saturday 8 June. The Partnership was delighted with the response from the Open Day and is very keen to maintain the momentum generated and ensure that actions follow words. Working parties will be set up to progress the issues.

R. Lechi

# The Clapham Society

## Newsletter



Issue 248

June 2002

## The Orangery

At our April meeting Piers Player, Community Worker with 'Together in Notre Dame' and Lee Seaman of the Tenants and Residents Association gave a presentation on the Clapham Orangery Project, the ambitious scheme to restore the 18<sup>th</sup> century Orangery building on the Notre Dame Estate as part of a community centre.

Piers started by explaining his role and the current urban regeneration scheme, City Challenge. After the 1980s riots in Brixton, money had been put into new buildings and facilities but people and management were neglected so that the money was largely wasted. It is now realised that local residents and community groups must have a central role in turning around their neighbourhood. 'Together in Notre Dame' is helping residents of the estate to identify and meet their own needs - everyone who works for it lives on the estate. At present there is a parent and toddlers group, junior and senior youth clubs, a senior citizens' club, various outings are arranged, a week's camping and an annual carnival. The Community Hall used by the groups is small and inadequate, and better facilities are urgently needed. He pointed out that if the revival of an area like Clapham is not accompanied by social regeneration of estates the gap between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' widens and crime increases. Around 2000 people live on Notre Dame Estate including over 250 children.

Lee then gave a brief history of the Notre Dame site and estate, before showing the plans and explaining the development proposals. The Orangery is the last remaining feature from the extensive gardens of the 18<sup>th</sup> century home of Robert Thornton on South Side. The house became a convent school in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, housed the Free French

in the Second World War and was demolished after the war for the building of the estate. The plan is to refurbish the Orangery and build a new Community Hall behind it with a new outdoor play area and landscaped gardens. The running costs of the community facilities will be financed by the rental income from a block of new offices and flats to be built on the site of the present, disused football pitch. These flats would be rented at 'affordable rents' to 'key workers'. Two houses, also to be rented, will be built on the land between 38 South Side and the first tower block, Bourne House.

The capital cost of the scheme is estimated to be in the region of £4 million. A business plan is being prepared and some sources of finance have already been identified. It is hoped to obtain both Heritage lottery funding and Community lottery funding; private trusts have also shown interest. So far local consultation has taken place and The Notre Dame Orangery Development Trust has been set up. Lambeth Council has seconded a member of staff from the housing regeneration department to work on the scheme and plans have been drawn up by Richard Griffiths, the architect of the Southwark Cathedral Visitor Centre.

The speakers answered a number of questions about the scheme and discussed it at length with individuals after the meeting. Copies of a booklet giving more information were distributed. The Society has some spare copies, which are available from Alyson Wilson (Tel: 020 7622 6360).

Illustrations of the plans are overleaf - sorry for their poor quality.

**A great evening on Saturday 6 July: The Clapham Society Summer Party** at 21 Clapham Common West Side, by kind permission of Stephen and Annabel Allott. Early evening drinks party - 6.30 to 8.30 pm - in the garden (we hope) of this beautifully restored early 19<sup>th</sup> century house. Ticket application form on back of this Newsletter. Numbers strictly limited.

## Forthcoming events

Our regular monthly meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, SW4 and commence at 8 pm.

Details of other events as shown below.

### Monday 10 June

#### **SPECIAL EVENT at Clapham Library, North Side**

Graham Gower of Lambeth Archives will explain and demonstrate the use of the digital archive of historic pictures of Lambeth now available on the computer at our local library. Do drop in, even if briefly, between 6 and 8 pm and find out just how easy it is to use this invaluable resource.

### Tuesday 18 June

**A celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Accession.** A panel of people living in Clapham in 1952 look back to how life was then. One of those taking part is a year younger than the Queen herself, others were still at school. What were their homes like, the places their families worked, their schools? How did they entertain themselves? How different was life fifty years ago?

### Thursday 20 June

Evening walk on **Clapham Common** led by Anna Jefferson Smith and Mike Fry, leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at 7 pm.

### Thursday 11 July

**Historical Walk round Old Clapham** led by David Perkin, leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at 7 pm.

### Tuesday 16 July

**Education in Clapham.** Nigel Haselden and a panel of speakers will describe the provision of education and the buildings constructed for it in our area.

## Planning matters

### Recent applications:

**13-21 Old Town:** proposals to convert the ground floor of this late 18<sup>th</sup> century terrace into a pub/bar. A problematic frontage denies the individual buildings behind. Yet another bar is unwelcome in this area. Although the works to the upper floors had already received planning permission, we also took the opportunity to comment on the insensitive way this work had been carried out: *objection*.

**22-24 Bromells Road:** proposal to convert part of the ground floor of this light industrial building into live/work units. In 1999 this Society objected to the scheme, now built, for the change of use from commercial to residential, on the grounds of loss of employment. Commercial use at street level was retained. The current proposals reflect further creeping erosion. The applicant should be asked to demonstrate that

light industrial use is not viable: *objection*.

**67-68 Trouville Road:** proposal to replace a row of garages with two houses. Provided that the relationship to the Edwardian flats alongside be improved: *no objection*.

**Maritime House, Old Town:** more telecommunication aerials, mounted prominently on the central cupola of the front elevation of this landmark building. If technically possible the aerials should be behind where they would be less visible: *objection*.

**Victoria Court, Kings Avenue (C33 Womens Housing Trust):** refurbishment of the original 1849 Thomas Cubitt house - his only remaining mansion in the street - involving demolition of a later wing and the 1920's two-storey block of flats in the rear garden, both to be replaced by a more sensitive design: *no objection*.

## Clapham Futurevision - Saturday 8 June

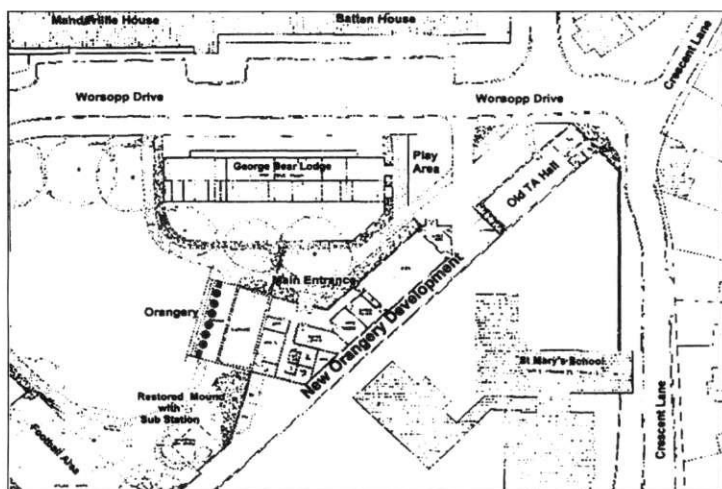
Following the success of the Open day in March there will be a follow up session in June. This will involve examining the responses from the Open Day and drawing out from them realistic action based projects that can be implemented in the short term to improve Clapham. Longer term goals and aspirations will also be identified.

Participants will have the opportunity to join working groups to develop project ideas and prioritise projects for implementation.

The session runs from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm (registration from 9.45 am) at St Anne's Hall, Venn Street, SW4. Attendance is open to all, however places will be limited due to the size of the venue and interested participants will be expected to commit themselves for the whole day.

It is essential to prebook with the Town Centre Office. Please contact Chris Sipidias (Tel: 020 7926 0765 or email: [csipidias@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:csipidias@lambeth.gov.uk)) for more information and bookings.

### The Orangery - its new community facilities



### - and the new housing office/flats and houses



## De Morgans in Wandsworth

In April the De Morgan Centre for the Study of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art and Society opened at the West Hill Library in Wandsworth. The collection of work by William De Morgan, the Victorian ceramic artist and his wife Evelyn, the painter, also includes many papers relating to their lives and their circle which have never been available before.

Since 1965 some of the work has been on display in Old Battersea House, but this is the first time the collection has had a permanent home. Evelyn's paintings hang on the walls and William's brilliantly coloured lustre pottery is elegantly displayed in show cases around the room. The cases are filled with pottery arranged by colour rather than by date or style, so that the visual effect is quite stunning. A refreshing innovation is that the display is not broken up by labels and numbers. There is an introductory information panel and free leaflets if you need more detail, but you are encouraged to look rather than read.

Admission is free. The Centre is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 12-6 pm, Friday and Saturday 10-5 pm. Closed Thursday and Sunday. The 37 bus from Clapham stops outside the door.

## Lambeth Cycle Map 2002

A new map of cycle routes in Lambeth has just been published. In addition to the routes, the leaflet shows cycle parking locations and useful contact information for cyclists. One slight problem, however, is that the route most familiar to those in Clapham - the one with the number 3 in the green circles - is shown as following Old Town and Rectory Grove into Larkhall Rise, whereas in fact it goes down The Chase, Hannington Road, Broadhinton Road and Turret Grove to join Larkhall Rise at its junction with Rectory Grove. The map is available from Lambeth Transport (020 7926 1240).

## Summer Events in Clapham

Don't miss the....

### French Market

On **Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June** from 9 am to 5 pm there will be a visiting French Market in Venn Street and Bromells Road, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce.

### The Abbeville Festival - Saturday 29 June.

12 noon to 4 pm. This is the day when the Abbeville Road area celebrates with stalls, sideshows, games for children and competitions. A section of Narbonne Avenue is closed off, there is a barbeque, licenced bar, teas in the church and lots of homemade produce. The street is in holiday mood and this is one of the Clapham summer events not to be missed. More details from Sarah Papachristidis (020 7720 3010) or Frances Stormer (020 8671 3867)

### Holy Trinity Common Fayre -

**Saturday 6 July.** 11 am to late afternoon.

Renowned as London's largest church fete and one of South London's most popular summer events, the Fayre appeals to all ages. As well as traditional fete activities such as a Punch and Judy show, tombola, donkey rides, raffles, stalls, there are also some new musical entertainments planned for this year.

Proceeds will go to the Nehemiah Project which provides safe accommodation, effective rehabilitation and vocational training, as well as to Holy Trinity itself, one of London's most historic churches.

### Studio Voltaire

**2 - 19 June. Ausgang**

Liz Neal, Patrick Coleman, Shez Dalwood, Holly Johnson, Ben Copperwheat and more. Young artists Jubilee Celebration.

**25 June - 5 July. [ur]banality**

Rob Nice, Katie Jarvis, Patrick Brown, Tom Cox, Beatty Hallas and nine other artists explore the urban environment - painting to digital image.

**Studio Voltaire** is at 1a Nelson's Row (behind the Methodist Church on the High Street). Admission free. Closed Mondays, other days 12-6.

*Tony Crowther, architect and member of the Society's Planning Sub-Committee, queries whether his particular dislike is*

## Just a detail?

I was sorry to miss the recent 'Be Kind to your House' meeting, especially as the panel were asked to identify their particular dislikes. Mine would have been the white-painted softwood fascia.

Traditional roof detailing is unobtrusive and practical; oversailing eaves have a cast-iron gutter sitting on brick corbels or fixed to a slim timber fascia painted black, or brown, or green. Slates or tiles at a gable end are simply bedded on the brickwork; dormers are clad in lead or zinc; mansard roofs have a lead flashing dressed over the slates. It is the cornices, window surrounds and doors which are stressed or differentiated, and say 'look at me', or 'how smart we are in uniform', which is as it should be.

But now there is a curious urge to draw a strident white line at these points in the form of a wide, warping, peeling strip of unseasoned softwood, endgrain exposed, poorly fixed, primed and painted brilliant white. Well, within a year or two the true nature of the beast is revealed - it is manifestly fading, peeling or rotting and is, of course, totally inaccessible.

I think it all started in the '60s when flat roofs were in vogue and the depth of the roof joists was sometimes forcefully expressed with horizontal boarding. It spread to new housing, particularly on the gable ends where it is entirely superfluous, and then became the defining cliché of the loft-conversion and 'permitted development' dormer window. It seems to happen by default and its sole purpose must be to provide a fixing for the equally awful plastic guttering.

Does it really matter? If you do not look up much, you may be undisturbed by it, but if you do it is alarming to note how extensive and insidious this vernacular bodge has become. A short walk round Clapham will throw up a dozen examples on buildings of all types, sizes and ages. Indeed, new buildings which are meant to 'blend in' do not, and the contagion spreads to the inaccurate repainting of existing buildings to match. Black, brown, or green look better for longer, save on maintenance, and do not draw the eye to bits one would rather not see.

*Tony Crowther*



**Compare the traditional and new eaves**



On Sunday 21 April, St Paul's Church in Rectory Grove celebrated the restoration of the church roof and western façade and the new community garden, Eden, was opened. To commemorate the occasion a fig tree was planted.

## Model boating on the Long Pond

*Derek Cross, Chairman of the Clapham Model Yacht Club, has written an account of model boat sailing on the Long Pond, which started in the nineteenth century. This article describes the early years: the later history will appear in the Society's forthcoming publication, Clapham in the Twentieth Century.*

It is likely that model boats have sailed on the Long Pond since the time that the pond first became available for public use. Evidence suggests that model yachts have been sailed there since the mid 1800s and firm evidence exists that there was a Club formed to sail on the pond in 1870 and that regular races were held on most Saturday afternoons.

There is little evidence of the type of boat that was sailed, or their size, but it is likely they ranged from small pieces of wood with matchstick masts sailed by small boys, to much larger hand-built models of Cutters, Luggers, Yawls and Bermudan rigged yachts capable of fine performances. There is reference in the Boys Own Paper of 1887 to the 'Clapham Club' holding its annual regatta in September of that year and that the boats sailed were based on 'the 3, 5 and 7 Tonner' full sized craft, probably rigged as cutters.

It is evident then that model yacht racing was firmly established on the Long Pond by the late 1880s. That the sport was growing in popularity is evidenced by the proposal to form a governing body, the Model Yachting Association (MYA), the first moves to constitute such a body being made in 1888 but things dragged on and it was not until 1911 that the MYA came into existence bringing with it generally accepted racing rules, although it was not until some time later that different classes of racing yachts were formulated. There have been several Clubs based at the Long Pond but, like most Clubs, membership tended to rise and fall over the years. When it falls too low a Club cannot support itself and goes out of existence and so I have used the name 'Clapham Club' so far as a generic term to cover the various Clubs sailing on the pond up to the mid 1930s. These include 'The Corinthians', 'The South London Model Yacht Club' and 'The Long Pond Model Yacht Club'. The current 'Clapham Model Yacht Club' (CMYC) was formed in 1934 and has continued to the present day. It seems likely that model boat sailing has been more or less continuous on the Long Pond over the years since the mid 1880s apart from the periods of the two world wars.

The sailing of model boats on the pond has always been an attraction to both sailors and those who watch. I have been told by those who remember the years between the wars that the pond was so popular on Sundays that sailors had to get there early in order to find space to launch a boat!

The membership of the CMYC still being modest we have not yet regained the glory days of very large fleets of yachts racing on Sunday mornings, but we do have small fleets sailing on the first and third Sundays each month with different classes of yachts, and two or three times a year we host meetings of the Vintage Group on the pond. At these meetings you will see a range of elderly boats of all kinds, from clockwork Hornby speedboats to the toy 'Star' sailing yachts much prized by small boys over past years as well as fine vintage hand built yachts from the 1920s, sometimes even earlier.

The Clubhouse is always open when we are sailing and if you are interested please do come in and have a chat.

For some of the earlier history of model boating on the Long Pond, I am indebted to my club-mate Jim Vice.

*Derek Cross*

cut here

To John How  
26 Lynette Avenue,  
London SW4 9HD

Please send me ..... tickets at £5 each to the early evening drinks on 6 July at 21 Clapham Common Westside. My cheque and s.a.e. are enclosed.

## Contacting the Clapham Society

If you have any queries about **The Clapham Society** or any concerns about local matters please contact the appropriate person shown below:

**Chairman** **John Adams**  
18 1/2 Macaulay Road, London SW4 OQX  
Tel/Fax: 020 7720 4764

**Secretary** **Jill Cramphorn**  
552 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JX  
Tel/Fax: 020 7720 3343

**Membership Secretary** **Joyce Luck**  
15 Cavendish Road, London SW12 OBH  
Tel: 020 8673 2616

**Treasurer** **Michael Strong**  
18 Sibella Road, London SW4 6HX  
Tel: 020 7622 6159 Fax: 020 7771 6751  
Email: [michael.strong@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.strong@btinternet.com)

**Transport Matters** **Jill Cramphorn**  
552 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JX  
Tel/Fax: 020 7720 334

**Planning Matters** **Jeremy Hamerton**  
37 Yukon Road, London SW12 9PY  
Tel: 020 8673 2090

**Common and Open Spaces**  
**Anna Jefferson Smith**  
22 Iveley Road, London SW4 OEW  
Tel/Fax: 020 7622 8285

**Newsletter and Publications** **Alyson Wilson**  
22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH  
Tel: 020 7622 6360 Fax: 020 7622 7899  
Email: [alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net](mailto:alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net)

### Cercle français

A small group of Francophiles, with mixed ability level of French conversation, meet on Wednesday evenings in the Abbeville Road area. If you are interested in improving your skills, please telephone: Celia Bibby 020 8673 0586. C'est gratuit!

### Feedback

We welcome news from readers about Clapham, including forthcoming events. Contact Alyson Wilson, preferably by e-mail to [alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net](mailto:alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net), or by 'snail mail' to 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH

.....  
from.....  
.....



## House buying in 1900

' Today I went to No 74 and put the conservatory in hand. It is to cost £11 including snow guards on the roof, and I have asked several people about it and everybody agrees that it is very cheap. As you say, dear, it will be a great improvement to the room. After leaving 74 I went to the City and visited the B[uilding] Society and informed them the house was ready for second survey. I had to pay £1.1.0 second survey fee and when the inspector has been down they will write me to say the cheque has been sent on to the solicitors. I shall then pay my second £75 and the solicitors fees and a new registration fee (just come into force) and if all is well shall be able to take possession on Wednesday next.'

An extract from a letter written in July 1900 by Cecil Cooper to his fiancée, Dora Davis, about the new house he had bought in Crescent Lane. They were to be married one month later. This letter is published in full in *Clapham in the Twentieth Century*, our new book which will be out this autumn. For more details see the back page of this Newsletter



Dora Davis

**Patriotism is not enough - this young man celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in The Chase - see story on inside page**



## Important diary date

On the evening of **Wednesday 25 September** there will be a special meeting to present and discuss the **Clapham Gateway Project** - the proposal to improve the Underground Station Island area and the Old Town-Polygon area. Full details will be included in the September Newsletter. Note the date so that you do not miss this vital meeting.

## Cercle français

Apologies to the Francophiles who tried to contact Celia Bibby last month. A gremlin transposed the figures in her telephone number. The correct number is 020 8673 0568.

If you would like to join in French conversation on a Wednesday evening, do give her a ring.

## Clapham Society events

Our regular monthly meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, SW4 and commence at 8 pm. Details of other events as shown below.

### Saturday 6 July

**Summer Party** at 21 Clapham Common West Side, by kind permission of Stephen and Annabel Allott. Early evening drinks party - 6.30 to 8.30 pm - in the garden (we hope) of this beautifully restored early 19<sup>th</sup> century house. A few tickets may still be available - telephone John How 020 8673 3945 to check.

### Thursday 11 July

**Historical Walk round Old Clapham** led by David Perkin, leaving from Clapham Common Underground Station at 7 pm.

### Tuesday 16 July

**Education in Clapham.** Nigel Haselden, a parent and governor at Clapham Manor Primary School and Brian Hazell, head-teacher of the school, will outline the changes in the provision of local education, with archive material from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries through to more recent ideas concluding with the high-profile proposal for a City Academy in Clapham. It is hoped that fellow contributors to the research will attend and that members of the Society with experience of education in Clapham will come to the meeting to add to the discussion.

### NO MEETING IN AUGUST

### Tuesday 20 August

**Historical Walk of Clapham North** led by Peter Jefferson Smith, leaving from Clapham North Tube Station at 7 pm.

### Tuesday 17 September

**Young's Brewery.** Michael Hardman will talk about the history of Britain's oldest brewery, which has been brewing beer since the reign of Elizabeth I.

### Tuesday 15 October

**Annual General Meeting.** Martin Bacon, Chief Executive of The Civic Trust will be the Guest of Honour.

## The Queen's Golden Jubilee

On Monday 3 June The Chase was decked with bunting and some 300 residents and their friends held a magnificent barbeque lunch and tea. With the help of a small organising committee, the initial idea blossomed and a previously unknown reservoir of talent and community spirit was revealed.

Memorabilia from previous jubilees was displayed, and during the afternoon there were Punch and Judy shows, treasure hunts, races, face painting, quizzes, painting a portrait of the Queen and cake decorating competitions, all accompanied by a band and piped music. The Police and Fire Brigade joined in the fun - the latter providing great sport for those children who enjoyed being hosed down!

Everyone was delighted that HRH Princess Alexandra and her husband, the Hon. Angus Ogilvy visited the party. They clearly wanted to meet as many people as possible and took a great interest in the whole event.

The raffle attracted a large range of prizes from partygoers and local enterprises, and the day raised over £1000, which will be donated to two of the Queen's chosen charities. In addition, one of Clapham's largest employers, QAS, has donated commemorative trees to be planted in the autumn at the end of The Chase.

Partygoers - including the two police horses and their dog(!) - signed a commemorative book with moving tributes to the Queen, some of the longest and most moving being from the youngest members. The book, suitably embossed and including appropriate photographs, will be sent to Her Majesty.

*David Treherne Pollock*

*Did you have a Jubilee party in your street? We would welcome reports and especially photographs of street parties in the area for the Clapham Society's archive. If you can help please contact Alyson Wilson 020 7622 6360.*

**The friends of William Wilberforce** is an informal Clapham based group exploring ways in which the spirit of William Wilberforce's ideals might be relevant to the challenges of the 21st century. A series of three Autumn/Winter talks/discussion will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common North Side, SW4. Details from Christine Green on tel. 020 7622 6884 or e-mail [christinegreen@amserv.net](mailto:christinegreen@amserv.net)



and the toast is....



It was a very big party....



...which Princess Alexandra enjoyed

## Proposed forthcoming events on the Common

**School Fields** 13 July, noon - 11 pm.

Expected attendance 40,000

**Urban Games** 26, 27 July, 10 am - 9 pm, 28 July noon - 10 pm. EA 10,000

**Stella Artois Films** 9, 10 August, 6 pm - 10.30 pm. EA 10,000

**Gospel Music** 31 August, noon - 9 pm. EA 10,000

**Big Band Sounds Ball** 5 September 7 pm - 12.30 am. 6,7 September 7 pm. - 1 am. EA 500

*The Society is objecting to the late finishes of these events. The Clapham Society Guidelines for events on the Common recommends 11 pm as the latest acceptable finishing time.*

**Art Out There** 13,14,15 September, 10 am - 10.30 pm. EA 10,000

## Playing dirty on the Common

It is a Monday morning in June on Clapham Common. The sky is, for once, a cloudless blue. The trees are at their greenest, the fishing season has begun and the Windmill Play Area is packed with children and their carers.

Unfortunately there is a blot on the landscape. Close to the Bandstand the unappetising Mr Royle of television's Royle Family has his trousers down and is sitting on a toilet. Closer inspection reveals this to be a press call on the part of the Keep Britain Tidy group campaign against dog fouling.

While we support wholeheartedly the aims of the campaign, indeed the most recent back-to-back dog bins were provided by a grant from Lambeth Council requested by the Convenor of the Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee, we are very disappointed that the Common should appear as a back drop for such an unpleasant scene.

## Trade Unions in Clapham

Fifty years ago at least six trade unions had their headquarters in Clapham. Gradually the number dwindled, largely due to amalgamations. Now once again a trade union is moving into Clapham. The Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union (BECTU) - itself an amalgamation of various unions in the entertainment field - is moving to 371-377 Clapham Road.

**Don't forget ! Holy Trinity Common Fayre - Saturday 6 July.** 11 am to late afternoon. London's largest church fete with traditional fete activities, Punch and Judy show, tombola, donkey rides, raffles, stalls and dog show.

## Trouble at T'Well

When the Artesian Well (at the corner of North Street and Wandsworth Road) applied for an extended licence some three years ago there was fierce local opposition and Lambeth Council voted not to extend the licence beyond 1am. Despite councillors' promises to keep local residents informed of any further developments, following consultation that can only be described as cynical and minimal, the licence has recently been extended to 2 am on three days and to 3 am on Fridays and Saturdays. Nobody realised what was happening. Among objectors to the original application were this Society and the Trustees of Hibberts Almshouses nearby, whose elderly residents will be disturbed by any disorderly behaviour of their neighbour's clientele in the small hours.

There may be nothing that can be done until the next licensing review. For us the lesson to be learned must be the need for greater vigilance which includes reading the small print of the notices in *The South London Press*. If members become aware of similarly contentious applications being slipped through on the quiet, please let us know quickly. If you have any expertise or interest in the subject we would welcome some dedicated help. Please contact John Adams 020 7720 4764.

## Clapham Community Partnership

Following the Open Day held on 23 March 2002 when 200 local people aired their views on a number of issues, about 30 attended a workshop on 8 June to concentrate on the more urgent of these - crime, transport, environment, leisure and amenity and youth provision. Priorities were identified in each area and these will be progressed as funding allows.

## Planning Walk

Jeremy Hamerton, Convenor of the Planning Sub-Committee, led a most interesting walk round some of the new developments in Clapham on a Saturday morning in May. Possibly because of the gloomy weather and predicted rain this was not well attended. It was, however, a very useful introduction to some of the important local developments - in particular, the Grafton Square/Old Town site and the Macaulay Road/Cannons site. We intend to repeat the walk in the autumn to give members another opportunity to see what is going on around us.

## Local writer needs your help

I am a local novelist embarking on my first non-fiction project. I am attempting to write a 'biography' of 34 Lillieshall Road, SW4 - the house I have lived in for the past 15 years. I want to find out as much as I possibly can about the history of the house and everyone who has ever lived in it since it was built 130 years ago, and, if possible, trace some of those people or their living descendants.

It is a modern day detective story and I am writing it up as I go along - anyone who helps me in any way at all will (if they don't mind) feature in the book! So, do you know anyone who lived on Lillieshall Road (especially if close to no 34!) any time in the last century? Could you put me in touch with them? Do you know of any records I might not easily come across - or anything that might just send me in interesting or useful directions?

I can't tell you how grateful I would be for any help or any leads at all. Contact **Julie Myerson** 020 7207 1810 or email [julie.myerson@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:julie.myerson@ukonline.co.uk)

## More on De Morgan

The De Morgan Centre in Wandsworth (see last Newsletter) is holding a selling exhibition of reproduction De Morgan tiles by Kenneth Clark Ceramics from 24 June until 14 September, 2002. These high quality tiles have been developed over many years and used for restoration projects including Peacock House in Addison Road where missing and broken tiles had to be matched exactly with De Morgan originals.

## Behind the scenes on Clapham Common

At our May meeting a panel of enthusiasts introduced us to the amazing variety of wildlife to be found on Clapham Common. Anna Jefferson Smith, Convenor of our Commons and Open Spaces Sub-Committee, first introduced Jackie Fisher, landscape architect and ecologist, who has contributed to the Hyder report on the restoration and improvement of Clapham Common. After a very brief historical summary, she pointed out that although the Common is a Grade I site of conservation importance, most of the wildlife interest is around the periphery because of the preponderance of 'amenity grass' (i.e. playing fields). The ponds are the most interesting natural asset. Canada geese are prolific and aggressive, but do not deter the coots.

Cormorants and herons are frequent visitors, although they do not nest here. Terrapins have become part of urban wildlife. There is also some wildlife potential in the woodland areas.

Next, Reg Gafoor, Chair of the Clapham Angling Preservation Society (CAPS), outlined the activities of the society, which took on the management of the ponds about seven years ago. CAPS bailiffs monitor the fishing, teach children to fish and hold competitions which are supported by local businesses and politicians. In addition, CAPS provides nesting boxes for birds and for bats and cooperates with the Environment Agency to improve the ponds. Until recently there were almost too many carp in the ponds - some up to 30 years old (carp can live about 65 years) - and some have now been traded for roach, bream and fresh water chub. The stock of these fish had been reduced by cormorants, which are a considerable problem.

Valerie Davies of Wandsworth Action for Volunteer Ecologists explained the work of her organisation on sites in the Wandsworth area and distributed their Green Links leaflet, which outlines several walks linking a series of green areas in the borough.

Finally, Anna Jefferson Smith gave a general talk about the Common with some unusual slides, taken on her daily walks. These included swans in flight, a stray poppy among the 300,000 daffodils planted by QAS, a hollyhock by the perimeter railings, Battersea Woods in the snow and a traditionally glorious sunset.

The audience had several questions, mostly concerning events on the Common and the condition of the Bandstand. On the former, Anna assured us that the Society monitors all applications carefully and protests vociferously when appropriate. The number of large events is strictly limited, but the letting and licensing issues are complex and Lambeth Council appear to be rather naïve about some applications. The latter issue is extremely difficult. The current cost of repairing the Bandstand is estimated at around £300,000. While it has become a symbol of Clapham, which most local people value, it is also a fact that it does not at present have a practical use. Perhaps with enough local interest and in cooperation with Lambeth Council funds for the restoration could be found.

John Adams concluded the proceedings with a tribute to Anna Jefferson Smith for her tireless efforts to preserve and enhance the amenity of Clapham Common for all residents.

## **Clapham in the Twentieth Century**

...is the title of our new book which will be published in October. It is a collection of letters, diaries and memories of those who lived or worked in Clapham during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These include well-known figures such as Graham Greene and Noel Coward, immigrants from the West Indies, Poland and Kosovo, local shopkeepers and businessmen, schoolchildren and many more. The book tracks the changes in Clapham from 1900 through two World Wars, depression, revival and gentrification to the lively, popular family area it had become by 2000. The book is illustrated with many photographs and drawings from private collections which have not been published before.

*Clapham in the Twentieth Century* will cost £10 to members (£11.95 to non-members). An order form will appear in the September Newsletter.

## **My Personal Best**

The Society has been consulted on a proposal that an American firm, Sports International Inc. UK, should install a computerised running route within Clapham Common.

The route would follow the periphery and have twelve Transceiver Pods with permanent markers and informational signs which would be clearly identifiable as MyPB (My Personal Best) signs. The route and its equipment would be installed on a five year fixed term.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Lambeth Council and S.I.I., as yet unsigned, also agrees that S.I.I. host 16 days of events which may involve commercial partners presence at the venue.

The amount of information on this issue in a newsletter must necessarily be limited so we are listing briefly our grave concerns about this project. They include damage to the Common, commercialisation (including free advertising for 5 years), number of events, signage, and legal aspects.

The Society has recorded its intention to vigorously oppose this scheme, as have the Friends of Clapham Common.

## **Phone boxes and other street furniture**

Thanks to all members who have responded to requests in Newsletters for locations of interesting items of street furniture in the Clapham area.

**Telephone boxes.** You are more

likely to see a traditional red box in Wandsworth than Lambeth. When BT decided to get rid of the K2 and K6 boxes, our member Nicholas Long surveyed large areas of London on behalf of the Thirties Society, for good examples which could be put forward for listing as historic buildings. Lambeth (and sadly, the Clapham Society) was indifferent, but Wandsworth Council saw the point. In consequence, the only surviving red boxes in the Clapham area are on North Side, close to the junction with Elspeth Road, at the corner of Silverthorne Road and Thackeray Street, and two in Theatre Street, by the side of the former Battersea Town Hall. The Silverthorne Road box was in its original state and Listed. The other three had lost their glazing bars, but Wandsworth paid BT to restore them.

**Under your feet.** GLIAS (the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society), which is compiling a database of street furniture, is now moving its attention to the street furniture under your feet. In Clapham, there is a lot of it, and we would like to identify examples that are either in particularly good condition or are rare, which we could suggest for inclusion in the database.

**Coal hole covers.** The late Victorian terraced houses which cover so much of our area would have a coal hole in front of the front door, so that the coal could be tipped into the cellar without being brought through the house, and the cover will have a maker's name and address (mine is by WH Stevens 383 Brixton Road SW). Are there streets with particularly good runs of them? Can anyone tell GLIAS of a surviving example of a plate by J W Cunningham of 179 Blackfriars Road, which features a dog eating out of a pot?

**Pavement lights.** The most common examples are by Hayward Brothers of Union Street in the Borough. There are Haywards in Clapham, in front of the shops at the north end of South Side for example - but do we have any in absolutely pristine condition, and do we have any by less common manufacturers?

**Public services.** There are various items located in the pavement for public services - fire hydrants, sewer access covers, and covers for gas, water and other services. It is worth looking out for those which have the names of organisations or suppliers which have disappeared. One of our members has been looking out for them, and has found the 'Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company' outside Battersea Reference Library; this is one of the original London

water companies, later a constituent of the Metropolitan Water Board. Other local examples are 'Battersea Borough Council Electricity Department', which was a power supplier until nationalisation. 'CLESCO' was the County of London Electricity Supply Company, a supplier in an area of the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth which extended round the south of Battersea as far north as Clapham Common Underground Station. 'London County Council Tramways' and later 'London Transport', distributed their own power wherever trams once ran e.g. Balham Hill.

More recent covers show the changing history of telecommunications, from Post Office Telephones, to BT and the recent arrival of the cable companies. But there are too many of these for recording them to be necessary.

Suggestions for plates and covers in the pavement worth recording would be welcomed. Please note what the item records and its location, and send the information to me at 22 Iveley Road London SW4 0EW.

*Peter Jefferson Smith*

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

**Chairman** **John Adams**

18½ Macaulay Road, SW4 0QX

Tel/Fax: 020 7720 4764

**Vice Chairman** **John How**

26 Lynette Avenue, London SW4 9HD

Tel/Fax: 020 8673 3945

Email: [john@jh995.freemove.co.uk](mailto:john@jh995.freemove.co.uk)

**Secretary and Transport**

**Jill Cramphorn**

552 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JX

Tel/Fax: 020 7720 3343

**Membership Secretary** **Joyce Luck**

15 Cavendish Road, London SW12 0BH

Tel: 020 8673 2616

**Treasurer** **Michael Strong**

18 Sibella Road, London SW4 6HX

Tel: 020 7622 6159 Fax: 020 7771 6751

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**Planning Matters** **Jeremy Hamerton**

37 Yukon Road, London SW12 9PY

Tel: 020 8673 2090

**Common and Open Spaces**

**Anna Jefferson Smith**

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## THE 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society will be held on Tuesday 15 October 2002 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, Clapham, London SW4, starting at 8 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (16 October 2001) published in Newsletter No 243, December 2001, and available at the meeting
3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2002
4. Adoption of the Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002
5. Proposed variation of the concessionary and additional member subscription rates
6. Election of Officers and Committee Members for the year 2002-2003  
Chairman Hon Treasurer  
Vice Chairman Hon Solicitor  
Hon Secretary Hon Membership Secretary  
A maximum of ten further Committee Members
7. Re-appointment of the Hon Independent Examiner
8. Any other business and announcements

*There will be an interval for refreshments following the formal business*

9. **The Guest of Honour is Martin Bacon, Chief Executive of The Civic Trust**

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the elections of Officers and Committee Members shall be made to the Secretary at least two clear days before the Annual General Meeting. Every nomination shall be in writing, supported by a seconder. The consent of the person nominated shall have been obtained.

*Jill Cramphorn, Hon Secretary, 552 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JX*

### Conservation award

Congratulations to Martin Drury, long-term Clapham resident and Clapham Society member, who recently received the Esher Award from The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) for his outstanding contribution to the historic environment. As Historic Buildings Secretary and later Director General of the National Trust Martin was responsible for broadening the scope of buildings acquired by the Trust and for promoting their careful and conservative repair. His association with historic

buildings continues in his present role with the Landmark Trust.

### London Open House

The weekend of 21 and 22 September is the annual opportunity to visit over 500 buildings in the London area, many of which are not normally open to the public. These include private houses, offices, clubs, livery companies and civic buildings. New additions this year include the GLA's new home, City Hall, designed by Foster and Partners and Lloyds Register of Shipping (Thomas

## Forthcoming events

Our regular monthly meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall, Grafton Square, SW4 and commence at 8 pm.

### Tuesday 17 September

**Young's Brewery.** Michael Hardman, Head of Public Relations at Young's Brewery in Wandsworth, will talk about the history of Britain's oldest brewery and plans for future development. Subject to demand, we hope to arrange a visit to the brewery as a follow-up to the talk.

### Tuesday 15 October

**Annual General Meeting.** Martin Bacon, Chief Executive of The Civic Trust will be the Guest of Honour.

### Tuesday 19 November

**Recording Clapham.** An evening about how and where to find records of the area and how we might record the Clapham of today for future generations.

**There is no meeting in December**

## Gateway Projects Special Meeting

**Wednesday 25 September at 6pm at  
St Anne's Hall, Venn Street, SW4**

Members will remember that about two years ago proposals were made for improvements to Old Town and the area around Clapham Common Underground Station. These were delayed due to complications involving discussions with Traffic for London and funding. However improvements are now back on the agenda and the new proposals will be introduced at this meeting.

Colcutt 1901) with a recent extension by Richard Rogers. A directory of the buildings open will be published with the *Evening Standard* on Tuesday 3 September, or will be available after that date from local libraries or on the internet ([www.londonopenhouse.org](http://www.londonopenhouse.org))

## On the Common

### Sprite Urban Games 2002

This three-day event was held on Clapham Common for the fourth consecutive year from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 July. The Society has consistently opposed the graffiti component of this event which also includes skateboarding, BMX bikes and breakdancing plus DJs and a retail area. At the Licensing Committee in April we were told by the organisers that there would only be professional artists creating Aerosol Art, and that tagging around the event would not be a problem.

The outcome was surprising. Although there was tagging outside the fenced area the worst incidents occurred within it. The Board X web site admitted that so many people wrecked the place with tagging that they might not in future be able to have Aerosol Art at the Urban Games or even have the Urban Games at all. They also said that they went to a lot of trouble, including going to court, to ensure the artists could still participate in the Urban Games. Surfers were encouraged to spread the word that those who did the tagging may have ruined it for everyone. We rest our case.

### Please Keep off the Grass

Society members George and Angela Owen were horrified to see vehicles from George Irvin's Funfair being driven onto the grass opposite their home on South Side via a gap in the post and rail fencing. A couple of small branches were knocked off a tree and subsequently replaced in another tree. As Lambeth had agreed that, after a circus some years ago which had caused a great deal of upset, this part of the Common should not be used for

events again they were quick to react.

A meeting between residents, Lambeth officers, George Irvin and a representative of the Society revealed an error in the placing of the Fair and it was agreed to review the situation after the first weekend. At that meeting it was agreed that because of the bad weather the Common would suffer more damage if the Fair was moved so it remained on the grass from 1 - 11 August.



'Aerosol Art' at the Games

Clearly it is a nonsense to hold a fair on grass when there is a designated site on the hard standing area of the Common next to the South Circular.

While the damage to the grassy area is

clear to see, there is also a plus point in that the fee to Lambeth for the site will go towards the restoration of the vandalised paddling pool pump. Mr Irvin has added £500 to the fee as a good will gesture towards bringing the pool back into use.

**The paddling pool** on Clapham Common has remained empty throughout the summer because of repeated malicious damage to the hut, now demolished, and equipment which it contained. A proposal by ward councillor, Helen O'Malley, that the pool be restored as soon as possible has been passed by Lambeth Council.

**Proposed forthcoming events on the Common**  
*Art Out There* 13,14,15 September, 10 am - 10.30 pm. Expected Attendance 10,000  
*Equestrian Theatre - Spirit of the Horse* October 3 - 27. On the circus site on weekdays 7.45 pm and at weekends 2.30 pm and 6.30 pm.

## Edgars return to Clapham after 115 years

In the last few years Sinclair Johnston, whose offices are in the remaining wing of Eagle House which was the home of William Edgar in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, has been in contact with Edgar's descendants in Melbourne, Australia.

William Edgar, co-founder of the Piccadilly Circus department store, Swan & Edgar, lived at Eagle House, South Side until his death in 1869. His wife survived for 20 years and when she died the property was sold, the original house demolished and the whole site redeveloped. For some reason (maybe a sitting tenant?) one wing survived, and was used for various purposes including a Plymouth Brethren's mission hall, before Sinclair refurbished it for use as his office in 1989.

For some time Wal Edgar, William's great-great-grandson, has been enthusiastically tracing his family history and was recently in England visiting various places connected with them. On 17 July Sinclair and his family entertained Wal, his wife, Helen, and their two sons to dinner at Eagle House. They are pictured here in the garden behind the office in Narbonne Avenue.



The Edgar family at Eagle House

## The Friends of William Wilberforce

The first of three autumn meetings of this informal Clapham based group takes place on Wednesday 2 October in Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common North Side, SW4 at 8.00 p.m. The subject is **The challenge of refugees to the Christian conscience**. Speakers are Alison Lea from the Refugee Council, Louise Zanré from the Jesuit Refugee Council, Gitti Dunham, Amnesty International and the

Chairman Michael Green. For details, please contact Christine Green on 020 7622 6884 or [christinegreen@amsolve.net](mailto:christinegreen@amsolve.net)

## Do you travel on South West Trains.....

and do you have something to say about the service provided? If so, the company's newly-formed Passengers' Panel have told us that they would be interested in your views. Any member who has comments to offer - now or in

the future - is invited to get in touch with Jill Cramphorn (020 7720 3343).

**Lambeth Archives Annual Open Day** is on Saturday 28 September from 10 am to 5 pm at the Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, London SE5. This is an opportunity to explore the archives, hear local history speakers and see displays by various local societies. As usual the Clapham Society will have a display, which this year will be based on the history of the late South London Hospital.

## Clapham fifty years ago

The Society celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's Accession with an evening of memories about Clapham in 1952. There was a good turnout at our June meeting to hear a panel of five people who lived here then talk about their lives fifty years ago, under the chairmanship of Peter Jefferson Smith.

They were first asked to introduce themselves and say what they were doing in 1952. Basil Wakeling was just over 30 years old at the time, married and working in his father's sports shop in Clapham Park Road; he lived over the shop. Joyce Luck had been married for four years, was living very close to where she lives now and working in the West End. Pat Cox was 16 years old, living off West Side and at Clapham County Secondary School in Broomwood Road (now Thomas's Preparatory School). Bernard Battley, 14 years old, lived in Nightingale Lane in the family home recently rebuilt after bombing – and had just got a scholarship to Dulwich College. Peter Skuse, aged 8, lived in Abbeville Road and was at Bonneville Road School.

Each was asked a series of questions ranging from 'Do you remember what were you doing when you heard of the King's death?' to 'Where did you go on holiday?' and 'What did you do in your spare time?'. Gradually a picture emerged of a very different life to that we now know, and long-forgotten memories flooded back. Peter Skuse vividly described school life with gas lighting, 48 children in a class and seating in tiers, while Joyce told us of keeping house on £3 per week and shopping at Sainsburys in Balham, where the butter was formed into pats and the bacon sliced on marble slabs. Bread and potatoes were still rationed in 1952.

Regular visits to the cinema – Streatham Odeon, the Majestic in the High Street and the Classic in Tooting – were recalled and ballroom dancing was popular. Pat Cox described the last great 'smog' at the end of 1952, before the Clean Air Act. She also reminded us of the 'fog' through which we were accustomed to view the cinema screen in the days before smoking bans were introduced. Televisions were rare and for many seeing the Coronation in 1953 was their first experience of the small screen.

Joyce Luck and her husband went on a £20 holiday to Innsbruck in 1952, with £10 spending money – foreign currency was still strictly limited. But a foreign holiday was unusual; the Skuse family went in motor-bike and sidecar to Devon, and just avoided the floods

which seriously damaged the coastal resorts of Lynton and Lynmouth; the Battley family went to a boarding house at Rottingdean and the Cox family drove to a small hotel in Torquay in their newly acquired Triumph Mayflower car.

During the course of the evening some unexpected links emerged, such as the fact that Peter Skuse's best friend, Norman, donned his jacket and tie each Saturday to go to his 'Saturday job' at Wakeling's shop.

The Chairman's final question 'What did you think you would be doing in 50 years time?' stumped all the panel. How many people ever ask themselves that question?

## The Evening Economy

In recent years restaurants, bars and late night venues have proliferated in Clapham. That this is a countrywide issue became clear at a recent Civic Trust conference entitled *Out on the Town*. This was an opportunity to learn how the Evening Economy is dealt with elsewhere, with representatives from all over England airing their concerns and sharing their approach towards resolving the problems.

The Evening Economy (7.30 – 11.00pm) is distinct from the Night Economy which runs from about 11.00pm into the small hours. Concerns about the latter included lack of night transport, venues all turning out at the same time which contributes to anti-social behaviour, and control of noise levels.

Government proposals to transfer the licensing of premises from magistrates to local authorities may soon be introduced. This would put control under one body and should allow a greater say for local people. It was also suggested that Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, which empowers planners to consider the impact of applications on the local environment, should be more widely enforced.

Lambeth Council has already indicated in the draft UDP that limits will be put on the number of planning applications approved for licensed

premises. Ideas put forward included developing a local charter for licensed venues and a Responsible Host Award. Martin Bacon, Chief Executive of the Civic Trust, who is the Guest Speaker at our AGM on 15 October, will I am sure elaborate further on the subject.

*John How – Vice Chairman*



Princess Alexandra outside St Peter's Church

## Another Jubilee party

Prescott Place was the scene of a very jolly Jubilee street party hosted by St. Peter's Church for the residents of the parish. After a slow, rather showery start the street came alive with the sound of music and the smell of hotdogs on the barbecue. The bolder visitors tackled egg and spoon races and various team games.

The highlight of the event was a visit by HRH Princess Alexandra, who found time to pop in and chat informally. She and her husband, Sir Angus Ogilvy, requested a brief look inside the church and were most interested in the fine interior. They spent a while chatting with parishioners and Sir Angus even helped carry some food outside! After the royal visitors had left the afternoon concluded with impromptu dancing in the street. A great day was had by all.

*Tricia Davies*



The Summer Party at 21 Westside - also the set of *Rattigan's The Winslow Boy* screened on BBC2 on 24 August

## Planning matters

### Former South London Hospital for Women, Clapham Common Southside:

Wandsworth Council have failed to get Planning Permission revoked at a Judicial Review, but the fight goes on. We shall report further developments later in the year.

### Recent applications:

**29-33 Macaulay Road:** proposal to redevelop the former Cannon's site for residential and light industrial/office use. 29 Macaulay Road, an existing Victorian villa, would be converted into flats, with a large side extension added. The front Cannon's building would be demolished, and a large new block of flats erected on the Macaulay Road frontage. The large industrial building to the rear would be retained for industrial use and refurbished. Other smaller rear buildings would be demolished, and a smaller two-storey block added. The Society has *objected* to the scale and style of the new frontage block, the extension to No 29 and the loss of some mature trees.

**66 Clapham Manor Street:** proposed rear single storey extension with raised parapet, and second storey added to part. New front railings. A missed opportunity to add back front mouldings to revive Cubitt's composition, which frames the Bread and Roses pub: *objection*.

**Windsor Works, Venn Street:** new proposal for site adjacent to the Sorting Office, reusing the existing light industrial buildings on the site, and converting them to (mainly) residential use. This site is better suited to its existing use, and we were concerned about the loss of yet

another employment generating site: *objection*.

**Business, adjoining 19 Union Road:** proposed infill block of residential units continuing the line of the Victorian terraces on either side, and a two-storey house behind. Well executed and sensitive scheme: *no objection*.

**53 Abbeville Road:** proposed demolition of existing car repair garages in Narbonne Avenue. New two-storey building linked to main property. Conversion to offices with flat units above. Concern about the elevational treatment of the rear block: *objection*.

**4A King's Avenue:** proposal to convert warehouse building to side of large double-fronted detached house into flats. Due to the form of the warehouse, there are difficulties getting light into the flats, which are built around small lightwells, and appear rather dark and cramped: *objection*.

**Haselrigge Primary School, Bowland Road:** proposal to demolish existing school hall and build new infill terrace of five 5-bedroom houses, and further block to side of four 3-bedroom houses, and fourteen flats: *no objection*.

**Salvation Army Hall, 140 Clapham Park Road:** proposal to replace existing building with 3-5 storey block containing flats above a community hall. Sheer patent glazed front façade not in keeping with context or proposed function: *objection*.

**49 Clapham High Street:** application to extend existing Grade II Listed Building with side addition and mansard roof, and conversion of lower floors to restaurant or nightclub use. We are unhappy with the side extension, and proposals to demolish some of the original internal features, such as staircases: *objection*.

## Contacting the Society

If you have any queries about **The Clapham Society** or any concerns about local matters please contact the appropriate person shown below:

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## Clapham in the Twentieth Century

Our new book to be published next month is a collection of letters, diaries and memories of those who lived or worked in Clapham during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Graham Greene, Noel Coward, Jack Hobbs and Pamela Hansford Johnson as well as immigrants from the West Indies, Ireland, Poland, India and Kosovo write about their lives in Clapham.

Working lives which range from selling sawdust to butchers at the beginning of the century to computer software systems at the end; the foundation of the South London Hospital for Women in 1916 and the bitter struggle against its closure in 1985; bombing raids and wartime hardship; school days at various times between the first and the last decades; the gradual closure of small retail shops and opening of bars and restaurants – all form part of the varied and fascinating picture of the century recalled in this book. Order your copy now on the form below and it will be sent out early in October.

Please send me .....copies of *Clapham in the Twentieth Century* @ £11.95 (£10.00 to members of The Clapham Society) plus £2.00 post and packing. Name.....

Address.....

Post Code..... Tel. No.....

Return this form with your cheque, payable to The Clapham Society, to **Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH.**