



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2008

This has been another year when the Society has been active in a number of ways, all aimed at making Clapham a better place to live and work. This report will mention the names of several individuals, but the work of the Society depends on a greater number of people than can be individually identified here. Their activities range from membership of our various committees, contributing to our newsletter and delivering it, practical help with organisation of events, and representation of the Society at them; to turning out for our open meetings and other events. Thanks, and well done, to you all.

The Society's core business is concern with the built environment. Planning authorities are legally required to consult us on local planning applications. In this connection, during the year the Society has once again been focusing closely on 'Future Clapham' – Lambeth's proposals to rebuild Mary Seacole House in Clapham High Street and the leisure centre in Clapham Manor Street, and to renovate the library building in the Old Town.

We have reported on the views our representatives put forward in issues of the newsletter. In summary, we were disappointed from the start by Lambeth's failure to set up a Design Review Panel, with members having national standing in the architectural profession, who could comment on the proposed designs as they developed. Developments of this size and importance now generally benefit from oversight of one of these bodies. We also expressed concern about the way that Lambeth invited tenders for a new leisure centre, without having made the case for the existing centre to be demolished rather than rehabilitated. We came to accept that it was not practicable, even if it was desirable, for the leisure centre to be conserved; but the reasoning behind the decision to invite tenders for a new building has still not been made public.

To some extent, we were able to compensate for the lack of a Design Review Panel, when Lambeth invited us to bring together members of the Society with relevant expertise to discuss the designs with the developers' architects and council officers. John Adams, John How, Rosemary Glanville and Mike Moxley put forward their views on behalf of the Society.

The plans they were most concerned about were those for Mary Seacole House, in relation to the exterior (including the cladding), the internal construction, and the way the design will work for people attending the health centre, particularly if they are disabled. In relation to the leisure centre, they discussed the way the 'mews' (where people are going to live and will want some privacy) will relate to the public area around the centre and the path (Edgeley Lane) going through from the Clapham Manor Street site to Edgeley Road. The privacy of swimmers (including children) also needed more thought. Concerns about the leisure centre itself centred on the entrance, and the way the exterior looks on the Voltaire Road side.

The developers and their architects took on board many of the observations our members put forward, and we now wait to see what the designs will look like when they go forward for planning permission. From the users' point of view, rather than as a design concern, we argued that the pool should include diving facilities. We learned that users of swimming pools tend to be small children and adults, unless they have diving areas, in which case they are popular with teenagers. It seemed to us that Clapham would be best served by a pool where young people – and some of us older ones – could dive. We have not been successful in persuading Lambeth or the developers that this could or even should be done.

The project is not going ahead according to the timetable. We understand that Lambeth has been discussing with the developers how they can provide assurance that the project (which depends for its financing on the developers being able to sell part of all three buildings as housing) will remain viable during an economic slowdown and a period of falling property prices.

The Planning Sub-Committee itself met about every six weeks. We were notified of some 550 applications, reviewed 185 and submitted representations to Lambeth (and very occasionally Wandsworth) on 87, details of which have been set out in the newsletters. Most of these representations have been in the form of objections. Members inevitably conclude that all we do is object, but there is simply not enough time to submit positive comments on all those applications that are acceptable. We do take time to praise the best ones.

We have been invited by Lambeth to take part in consultation exercises on the production of the Local Development Framework, which will frame the planning policies to guide future development in Clapham. As a result we have commented on conservation area reviews in Clapham, the Statement of Community Involvement (about how the Council consults residents on planning matters), planning guidance on Residential Extensions and Alterations, and more recently the Core Strategy.

Turning to the work of our Events Sub-Committee, the Society has held nine meetings at Clapham Manor Primary School during the year. We endeavour to provide a varied programme and think we have achieved that. The guest speaker at the 2007 AGM in October was Keith Hill MP and he was followed by a delightful entertainment from Instant Sunshine in November. Sometimes we stray from our immediate patch and there were two meetings, in January on new proposals for development at Clapham Junction and the other in April on the refurbishment of the Royal Festival Hall, both places which members regularly use.



In February, eminent Society member Michael Green introduced his new book, *Historic Clapham*, drawing on his immense knowledge of Clapham from prehistoric times to the more recent periods with which we tend to be more familiar. The Eric Smith memorial lecture in March turned to art, with an illustrated talk by Nicola Moorby, curator at Tate Britain, on J M W Turner and his links with South London. The 'Future Clapham' proposals were the hot topic in May, followed by Trees on the Common in June.

Other events have included summer walks, concerts on the bandstand, principally organised by Peter Jefferson Smith, and the Society's stand at the Holy Trinity, St Paul's and Abbeville fetes. Alyson Wilson makes the arrangements for our presence at these fetes, and Claire Fry very kindly contributed specialist help as a designer to the panels we use on our stand. We owe many thanks to Annabel and Stephen Allott for kindly hosting our summer party at their lovely house and garden on West Side. The Society also wishes to thank Clapham Manor Primary School, particularly Brian Hazell, the Head Teacher, and Richard Johnson, the Premises Manager, for their continued support throughout the year.

We are always happy to consider new ideas and topics for our meetings and would welcome any suggestions members would like to put forward.

Our Local History Sub-Committee has begun to put articles on local history on the Society's website. The intention is to add a few each year. This is a way of preserving the work our members have done, and of making it available to a very much wider readership. September's newsletter lists the first four articles. This has been a lengthy and painstaking process as we worked out how best to present these articles, and I would like to record in particular our thanks to Christina Bonnett, who maintains the website, for her patience, as well as her expertise.

This was the year that will be remembered by local historians for the publication of Michael Green's *Historic Clapham*. This is an important work of historical research, piecing together the history of Clapham from the earliest times to the end of the seventeenth century. Serendipitously, works by Thames Water in The Chase uncovered the foundations of Clapham Place, the great house whose history concludes the book.

Our publications continue to do the Society great credit. The newsletter has appeared regularly, thanks to its contributors, to Bill Emmett and Jennifer Everett who share the design and layout of the material, and particularly to Alyson Wilson for collecting and editing it. (Alyson is always looking for contributions from members, particularly information about forthcoming local events and pictures. So if you have any ideas for an article or image that would be interesting to our members and readers, please get in touch with her.) Anyone who logs on to our website can read the newsletter – Christina Bonnett often updates it so quickly that the newsletter is online before the hard copies have been delivered. All our members get a copy through their doors thanks to our newsletter deliverers, to Jennifer Everett for organising them, and to Peter Holland who mails out about 150 copies each month. Thanks again to Claire Fry, who has this year again been responsible for the design and layout of this Annual Report.

There has been a steady sale of our books during the year, through the website, at local events and particularly at Clapham Books. Full details of all our publications are on the back of this report and on our website.

The Common and Open Spaces Sub-Committee met bi-monthly throughout the year. Through its work, through our representation on

the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC) and through contact between our members (especially Anna Jefferson Smith) and Lambeth's officers and councillors, the Society follows developments concerning the Common and helps to make the views of local people heard.

At present the pressures on the Common are increasing in a number of ways. To us, the recently published Lambeth Parks Business Review makes worrying reading. A borough-wide target set for income from events appears to be generated almost entirely from the use of the Common. The condition of the site used for events had not recovered, at the beginning of this summer, from the previous year: what state will the Common get into if it is used even more heavily?

We believe that some of the substantial profits that promoters of events on the Common must make should be spent on restoring the ground afterwards, and on maintenance and improvement of the land and buildings. The Review currently makes no promises that any of the money will return to Clapham Common, or even be applied to parks and open spaces across the borough – although it may stay within the Cultural Services budget. The Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces Forum, in which the Society, the CCMAC, and the Friends of Clapham Common (FoCC) are participants, is mounting strong opposition to aspects of the Review, in particular to the proposed commercialisation of green space.

The sub-committee has discussed and given views to Lambeth on a number of issues. These include: the proliferation of British Military Fitness classes, and their incursions into all of the Common, where they are often felt to be a threat by older walkers, disabled people, or those with dogs or children; a proposal for an additional cycle path which would have been shared between cyclists and pedestrians, again posing difficulties for any but the most robust of the Common's users; and some components of the Masterplan, including the tree planting programme, and proper restoration of the Common after events. On these and other issues we have shared ideas with the FoCC and the CCMAC on which both organisations are represented.

The Society has joined in a quarterly 'walkabout' around the Common with Lambeth officers, when we draw attention to problem areas and discuss solutions. We are following with keen interest a project to restore and improve Mount Pond. Lambeth, the Environment Agency, Clapham Angling Preservation Society, CCMAC, FoCC and the Clapham Society will all be working towards this.

The Roads and Transport Sub-Committee has been in abeyance throughout 2007-08: regrettably, we have not yet been able to find a new convenor for it. This specific case illustrates a more general issue. The Society has now been in existence for 45 years, and quite a few of its officers and committee members have been with it for a good proportion of that time! If we are to continue as the active and influential organisation that I believe we are, we need some of our younger members to get more involved in our work. So may I end with this invitation: if you are interested in what we do, and can offer a modest amount of time to help take it forward, please contact me.

Alison Macnair

Alison Macnair
Chair



THE CLAPHAM SOCIETY (Charity No. 279595)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 31st March 2008

Note	2008			2007		
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
INCOME						
Subscriptions: Standing Order	3,393		3,393	3,204		3,204
Other	1,024		1,024	1,126		1,126
	<u>4,417</u>		<u>4,417</u>	<u>4,330</u>		<u>4,330</u>
Donations: Bandstand	-	13	13	-	170	170
Other	1,358		1,358	1,320		1,320
Income Tax recoverable	2	-111	-111	610		610
Parties	390		390	1,212		1,212
Events	1,000	116	1,116	1,291		1,291
Interest receivable	513	225	738	702	1,593	2,295
	<u>7,567</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>7,921</u>	<u>9,465</u>	<u>1,763</u>	<u>11,228</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Newsletter printing	1,282		1,282	1,359		1,359
Printing, postage and stationery	828	1,528	2,356	719	77	796
Meeting room hire	578		578	500		500
Parties	374		374	1,690	2,068	3,758
Events expenses	1,116	610	1,726	1,479		1,479
Subscriptions & affiliations	303		303	242		242
Insurance	230		230	230		230
Leaflets	-		-	265		265
Donations: Borough of Lambeth	-		-	-	77,080	77,080
Other	-	60	60	86		86
Trustee	177		177	-		-
Website maintenance	411		411	-		-
Noise survey - 50% of cost	1,761		1,761	-		-
Depreciation - Software	135		135	135		135
	<u>7,195</u>	<u>2,198</u>	<u>9,393</u>	<u>6,705</u>	<u>79,225</u>	<u>85,930</u>
Surplus	372	-1,844	-1,472	2,760	-77,462	-74,702
Surplus from publications	1,371		1,371	642		642
Surplus for the year	<u>1,743</u>	<u>-1,844</u>	<u>-101</u>	<u>3,402</u>	<u>-77,462</u>	<u>-74,060</u>
Balance brought forward	37,956	6,437	44,393	34,554	83,899	118,453
	<u>39,699</u>	<u>4,593</u>	<u>44,292</u>	<u>37,956</u>	<u>6,437</u>	<u>44,393</u>
Publications						
Sales	2,659		2,659	4,403		4,403
Stock brought forward	17,024		17,024	12,435		12,435
Purchases	169		169	8,029		8,029
Other publication expenses	-		-	321		321
Stock carried forward	-15,417		-15,417	-17,024		-17,024
Cost of sales	<u>1,776</u>		<u>1,776</u>	<u>3,761</u>		<u>3,761</u>
Surplus:	883		883	642		642
Bank interest	6		488	-		-
Surplus for year	1,371		1,371	642		642
Brought forward	17,405		17,405	16,763		16,763
Designated Fund	<u>3</u>	<u>18,776</u>	<u>18,776</u>	<u>17,405</u>		<u>17,405</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2008

Note	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Equipment - Cost		901		901
Less: Depreciation		-766		-631
		<u>135</u>		<u>270</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock of publications		15,417		17,024
Debtors: Inland Revenue	2,261		3,095	
Other	923	3,184	859	3,954
Cash at bank and in hand:				
NatWest Bank	2,765		9,065	
Charities Aid Foundation: Main Account	18,803	21,568	9,077	18,142
Bandstand Restoration Fund Account	4	3,546		5,338
Local History Fund Account		1,047		1,099
		<u>44,762</u>		<u>45,557</u>
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors & accruals		605		1,434
Net Current Assets		<u>44,157</u>		<u>44,123</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>44,292</u>		<u>44,393</u>
Represented by:				
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
General Fund		20,923		20,551
Designated Publication Fund	3	18,776		17,405
		<u>39,699</u>		<u>37,956</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
Clapham Bandstand Restoration Fund	4	3,546		5,338
Local History Fund	4	1,047		1,099
		<u>4,593</u>		<u>6,437</u>
		<u>44,292</u>		<u>44,393</u>

Notes to the Accounts

- 1. General** - These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities.
- 2. Income Tax Recoverable** - The amount of -£111 is made up of £544 claimed for 2008 since the year end less £655 being a reduction in the amount estimated to be recoverable for the years 2003 to 2007. It is expected that final claims for these years will be made within a year.
- 3. Unrestricted Funds** - The historic surpluses on publications are held in a "Designated Fund" for financing future publications.
- 4. Clapham Bandstand Restoration Fund** - The income and expenditure for this fund have been included in these Accounts as Restricted Funds. All the amounts in the Restricted Funds relate to this fund, except for £48, (2007 £37), of interest received and £100 of Events expenses which relate to the Local History Fund.
- 5. Risk Policy** - The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks.
- 6.** For the first time, interest has been allocated to Publications.

David Brown ACIS - Treasurer
30 August 2008

Alison Macnair, Chair

David Brown ACIS Treasurer
30 August 2008

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report

Subscription income showed a slight increase over last year, as did the proportion of subscriptions paid by standing order. Two significant items of expenditure were the publication of the booklet sent to those who had contributed towards the restoration of the bandstand, and payment of 50% of the cost of a survey of the noise levels generated by events taking place on the Common.

David Brown ACIS - Treasurer

30 August 2008

EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee

I report on the Accounts of the Society for the year to 31st March 2008, as set out above.

Respective Responsibilities of Executive Committee and Examiner

As trustees of the Committee you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Committee Members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Euan S Kennedy FCA, 5 Gauden Road, Clapham SW4 6LR

30 August 2008



COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS 2007-2008

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SUB-COMMITTEES 2007-2008

Common and Open Spaces

Anna Jefferson Smith (Convenor), Diana Bell, Anne Dukes, Jennifer Everett, Mike Fry, David Perkin. Adviser: Jackie Fisher.

Events

John How (Convenor), John Adams, Jill Cramphorn, Peter Jefferson Smith, Alyson Wilson.

Local History

Peter Jefferson Smith (Convenor), Annabel Allott, Mary Coales, Michael Green, Derrick Johnson, Bernard Middleton (until April 2008), David Perkin, Alyson Wilson.

Planning

Philip Ashford (Convenor), John Adams, Roger Armstrong, Jeremy Bayliss, John How, Ellen Leslie, Helen Molton (until January 2008), Emma Nicholson, David Whitestone.

Roads and Transport

currently in abeyance

Newsletter Delivery

The following members were responsible for delivering the monthly newsletters in 2007-2008. If you would like to know who delivers to you, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Christine Armstrong, Margaret Comport (until December 2007), Liz Coulson, Kath Derrig, Ann Dunkley (until December 2007), Jennifer Everett, Mike Fry, Marian Gleeson, Keith Grant-Peterkin, Peter Holland, John How, Derrick and Janet Johnson, Val Johnson, Anna Long, Lili Massey, Charity McEvoy, Michael McNish, Ros Pedge, David Perkin, Vivienne Pickering (from March 2008), Joan Sinclair, Hazel Smith, Helen Widgery, Alyson Wilson.

PUBLICATIONS

Discovering Clapham (March 2007) 104 pages. The book starts with an overview of the history of Clapham, setting out how it developed from a small rural village to the bustling part of inner London it is today. The following seven chapters take seven different areas of Clapham, and illustrate a selection of the interesting buildings, giving some background and details to put them in context. Illustrations and information about some notable former residents are included in appropriate places.

This is our first colour publication. Many of the pictures are recent photographs, and older pictures include prints and drawings, historic photographs as well as paintings and watercolours, which for the first time we are able to do justice to by printing in colour. £6.00 (members) or £7.50 (non-members)

The Clapham Sect. Margaret Bryant (April 2004) 64 pages. The story of a group of people whose activities changed the world. Wealthy Clapham businessmen and religious philanthropists, they fought to change the moral climate of their times, and campaigned against the injustices of slavery and the slave trade. Led by William Wilberforce in Parliament, their greatest achievement was the outlawing of the Atlantic slave trade in 1807. Margaret Bryant paints a vivid picture of these remarkable people and their lives in late eighteenth century Clapham and reminds us how much our modern world owes to them. £6.00 (members) or £7.50 (non-members)

Clapham in the Twentieth Century. (2002) 236 pages. A collection of letters, diaries and memories of Clapham during the century, from Graham Greene, Jack Hobbs and Noel Coward to immigrants from the West Indies, Poland and Kosovo, local businessmen, shopkeepers and schoolchildren. In the words of those who witnessed them, the book tracks the changes in Clapham from the last years of Queen Victoria's reign through two World Wars, depression, revival and gentrification to the lively, popular family area that it had become by 2000. £10.00 (members) or £11.95 (non-members)

The Buildings of Clapham. (2000) 236 pages. A history of the development of Clapham and its buildings with street-by-street gazetteer giving date, builder, architect, noteworthy features of each building and information on interesting former residents. Illustrated with maps - old and new - archive photographs and drawings of architectural details. Detailed glossary and index. £10.00 (members) or £11.95 (non-members)

Clapham Saints and Sinners. Eric Smith (1987) 78 pages. A fascinating selection of extracts from the Occasional Sheets of the Clapham Antiquarian Society, packed with information about the history of Clapham and its residents. £ 9.00

CD of Clapham Antiquarian Society Occasional Sheets. (2005) The entire collection of monthly sheets (see above) issued between 1947 and 1992 by the CAS, which merged with the Clapham Society in 2005, have now been put on to CD. An invaluable resource for anyone researching Clapham history. Price £30.00

Clapham Walks: Self-guided walks leaflets, each covering a different area of Clapham. Price 50p each.

1. Old Clapham. A walk round the centre of Clapham, including The Polygon, Old Town, Rectory Grove and St Paul's Church and back to North Side, Holy Trinity Church and Trinity Hospice. (2003)

2. Clapham North. From Clapham North Underground Station to St John's Church, round the Clapham Rise Estate (Gauden Road, Sibella Road, Chelsham Road and Bromfelde Road) to Larkhall Park and the Springfield and Larkhall Estates, and back along Clapham Manor Street. (2007)

3. Around Nightingale Lane. From Clapham South Underground Station to Malwood Road and along Nightingale Lane as far as The Nightingale PH, coming back via Thurleigh Road, St Luke's Church and part of West Side. (2003)

4. Clapham Common. A tour of the Common starting from Clapham Common Underground Station, taking in Holy Trinity Church, the Bandstand, Windmill Drive, and all three ponds. (2003).

5. South Side. From Clapham South Underground Station along the south east border of the Common towards Clapham High Street, including a brief diversion down Narbonne Avenue, The Windmill on the Common, Notre Dame Estate and Crescent Grove. (2007)

6. West Side. Starting at Hightrees House at the corner of West Side and Nightingale Lane following along the side of the Common to St Barnabas Church and Alverstoke on North Side, and returning along streets one block back from West Side. (2007)

Clapham Common postcards. Four colour photographs of Clapham Common: The Bandstand in late autumn; Terrapins on Mount Pond, Eagle Pond and Sunset over Long Pond. Set of four. 50p.

The Drinking Fountain, Clapham Common. Christmas 1906. Greetings card. Sepia photograph of the Drinking Fountain in the snow printed on high quality white board. 12.7 x 17.6 cm. folded. Available with Christmas greeting or with the inside blank. Pack of 10 cards with envelopes £4.00.

Publications may be obtained from:

Alyson Wilson, 22 Crescent Grove, London SW4 7AH. Tel. 020 7622 6360.

Email: alysonwilson.sw4@virgin.net. **Personal callers by prior arrangement.**

Postage and packing £2 per book, 50p for up to 8 postcards. Greetings cards £1 for one pack, £2 for 2 or 3 packs. Cheques payable to The Clapham Society.

Details of meetings, activities and a full list of our publications are on The Clapham Society website at www.claphamsociety.com