





1 **GUILLAUME APOLLINAIRE**
 Apollinaire was a French poet, novelist, and art critic and is considered one of the foremost literary figures of the early 20th century and influenced the development of artistic movements such as Cubism and Surrealism. He fell in love with a woman called Annie Playden, who lived at 75 Landor Road and wrote the poems “Annie” and “L’Émigrant de Landor Road” about this unrequited love affair.




3 **AIR RAID SHELTER**
 After the bombings of 1940 the Government decided to construct a system of deep bomb shelters. Each shelter comprises of two parallel tubes 16 foot in diameter and 1,600 feet long. The one in the centre of Clapham High Street is now home to Zero Carbon Farms, where food is grown in the tunnels. The shelter near to Clapham South Tube Station housed the first West Indian migrants from the Empire Windrush, providing affordable lodgings in the area.




5 **MAJESTIC CINEMA**
 Majestic Cinema at 146 Clapham High Street was built in 1914 and is now home to Infernos Night club. In 1960 it closed as a cinema and became a recording studio and bingo hall. The Sex Pistols recorded their first music, including the single ‘Pretty Vacant’ in what are now the Karaoke rooms. The top floor was also featured in the first Inbetweeners Movie as the location of the ‘walking to the dancefloor’ scene and was a popular hangout for Australian actress Margot Robbie, when she lived in Clapham.



7 **THE CLOCK TOWER**
 The Clock Tower on Clapham High Street was unveiled at a ceremony on 19th July 1906. The Clock Tower was given to the Parish of Clapham by Alexander Glegg, Mayor of Wandsworth. The tower was dismantled and rebuilt when the new ticket hall in Clapham Common Tube Station was built below it.




2 **TEMPERANCE BILLIARD HALL**
 The building at 47 Clapham High Street, was originally a Temperance Billiard Hall, built at the height of the “Temperance Movement” in order to provide an alternative to pubs bars and other alcohol based entertainment venues. By 1939 there were around 50 billiard halls across London. It has been the offices of Moxley Architects since 1988.



4 **ISACC SMITH & ELIZABETH COOK**
 Isaac Smith (1752–1831) was a Rear Admiral in the Royal Navy and cousin of Captain James Cook, with whom he sailed on two voyages of exploration in the South Pacific. Smith was the first European to set foot in eastern Australia. There is a small plinth on the rocks in Kurnell, New South Wales where Smith first set foot on Australian soil. In retirement Smith shared a house with Captain Cook’s widow Elizabeth at 136 Clapham High Street (behind Mcdonalds).




6 **MAN ON THE CLAPHAM OMNIBUS**
 Sainbury’s supermarket was previously the location of the London transport Museum, which opened in 1960 on the site of a former bus garage. It closed in 1973. The term ‘man on the Clapham omnibus’ is a hypothetical reasonably educated and intelligent but nondescript person, against whom the defendant’s conduct can be measured. The term was introduced into English law during the Victorian era. At the time Clapham was viewed as a commuter suburb seen to represent “ordinary” London.




8 **ZACHARY MCCAULAY**
 Across the road at number 5 The Pavement is a plaque to Zachary Macaulay (1768 –1838) who was a statistician, one of the founders of London University, an antislavery activist and governor of Sierra Leone, the British colony for freed slaves. His son Thomas Babington Macaulay, (1800 – 1859) was a British historian and Whig politician and held political office in the UK. His books on British history have been hailed as literary masterpieces.




9 **THE ORANGERY**
 The orangery was built in 1793 by Dr William Burgh and was part of a miniature landscape estate with a lake belonging to the Thornton family. The Thornton Family were a prominent family involved in trade and politics and various generations lived on the estate and in the area. A guide book published in the 1790s refers to ‘Mr Thornton’s ornamental park’ with its trees, lawns, shrubberies, venerable oaks, gothic bench in front of the house and the small river running through the pleasure gardens ‘gently bounded by rising hillocks and smooth slopes’.




11 **NOEL COWARD**
 Heading back to the High Street to 50 Clapham Common Southside where the actor and playwright Noel Coward lived from 1912 with his family, who rented the top two floors. This Happy Breed is a play and later a film by Coward written in 1939 and concerns the working class Gibbons family living in Clapham and explores post WW1 national reconstruction. Coward describes Clapham as ‘lively on Saturday night when the shops stayed open until midnight.’



13 **TEMPERANCE FOUNTAIN**
 The statue on the Common, which can be seen from the Tube Station depicts a woman giving water to a beggar and was cast by F Miller of Munich, from a sculpture by August Von Kreling and erected in 1895. The purpose of these fountains was to encourage people not to drink beer by supplying safe and free water. Beer was the main alternative to water, and generally safer. The temperance societies had no real alternative as tea and coffee were too expensive, so drinking fountains were seen as an attractive alternative.




15 **WILBERFORCE & THE CLAPHAM SECT**
 The blue plaque is located on Holy Trinity Church. The Clapham Sect were a group of prominent individuals who worshipped at the Church at the end of the 18th Century. Under their influence Clapham became a centre of evangelism and they combined their efforts to exert pressure on the government. The group were credited with the foundation of several missionary and tract societies and were instrumental in the abolition of slavery. William Wilberforce was the MP for Yorkshire and amongst one of the most prominent members of the Sect.




17 **MARIE KENDALL**
 A plaque to Marie Kendall can be found at 22 Clapham Common Northside. She was a British music hall comedian and actress who had a successful career spanning 50 years. Kendall performed at major venues across London, securing parts in pantomimes as well as singing Cockney songs in the best music halls.




10 **PHILLIS WHEATLEY**
 Phillis Wheatley was a young African-American slave transported from the Gambia to Boston. In 1773, aged nineteen, Phillis travelled to England for the sake of her health. Here her friends arranged for the publication of a book of her poems. While in England she stayed for a week with the Thorntons and subsequently negotiated her freedom from slavery. She returned to America and died in poverty aged only 31. She is remembered as the mother of African-American letters.




12 **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**
 One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, Franklin was an author, politician, statesman and diplomat. He was also an outstanding experimental scientist and during the 1760s initiated his ‘oil on water’ experiments on the ponds of Clapham Common, an important moment in the study of surface chemistry. During one of his voyages across the Atlantic, Franklin observed that oil had a calming effect on waves when poured into rough ocean waters. Franklin spread monomolecular films on water, and ultimately devised a concept of particle repulsion that is related to the hydrophobic effect.




14 **DEANE AND CO. MURAL**
 Henry Deane opened a pharmacy at 17 The Pavement in late 1837. After Henry’s death in 1874, the pharmacy was bought by Agnes Borrowman – one of few female chemists at the time. She later paired up with Margaret E. Buchanan who managed the chemist and together they ran the business and a pharmaceutical school within the premises where they trained and employed only female chemists. Borrowman became the Pharmaceutical’s Society’s first female examiner in 1924.



16 **GRAHAM GREEN**
 A blue plaque honouring Graham Greene can be found at 14 Clapham Common Northside. Greene was an English novelist and author regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. He lived on Northside from 1935 until he was forced to leave due to bomb damage in 1940. His novel the End of the Affair is set in Clapham in 1945-6. The narrator lives in a bedsit ‘at the wrong side of the Common’ (South Side), drinks in the ‘Pontefract Arms’ (The Windmill) and visits ‘the dark church at the corner of Park Road – a Roman Catholic church full of plaster statues’ (St Mary’s).



18 **SAMUEL PEPYS**
 Pepys was an English diarist and naval administrator. He rose to be the Chief Secretary to the Admiralty. His private diary that he kept from 1660 until 1669 is one of the most important primary sources for the English Restoration period, providing eyewitness accounts of events, such as the Great Plague of London, the Second Dutch War, and the Great Fire of London. He visited Clapham numerous times throughout his life and retired there in 1701, living in a house, which was located in the garden of Royal Trinity Hospice at 30 Clapham Common Northside. He died there in 1703.



19 CHARLES BARRY

At 32 Clapham Common Northside there is a blue plaque honouring Charles Barry 1795 – 1860, an architect best known for his role in designing the Houses of Parliament during the mid-19th century following a design competition. He also designed Trafalgar Square, The Cabinet office and Halifax Town Hall.



23 AFRICAN ACADEMY

The next stop on the tour is 8 Rectory Grove, back towards Clapham Old Town. the original home of the African Academy. The Academy was set up by Zachary Macaulay and moved to 14 Clapham

Common North Side. It provided an education for free Africans from Sierra Leone who were then to return to their land as missionaries. The Clapham Baptism Register for 1802 shows that the Academy included the sons of local kings and tribal rulers.



20 EDVARD GRIEG

Edvard Hagerup Grieg (1843 – 1907) was a Norwegian composer and pianist. He is considered one of the leading Romantic era composers. His use and development of Norwegian folk music in his own compositions put the music of Norway in the international spectrum, as well as helping develop a national identity. A blue plaque can be found at 47 Clapham Common Northside where he stayed when performing in London.



24 JOHN FRANCIS BENTLEY

(1839 – 1902) was an English architect whose most famous work is the Roman Catholic cathedral in Westminster, which was built in a Byzantine Revival design. He was born in Doncaster and lived and died in Clapham. He also designed Corpus Christi Church in Brixton. A blue Plaque can be found on the house where he lived at number 43 Clapham Old Town, close to the Sun Pub.



21 NATSUME SOSEKI

Heading back towards Clapham, on the left is a road called The Chase, where Natsume Sōseki lived and a blue plaque can be found at number 81. Soseki was a Japanese novelist best known for his novels Kokoro, Botchan and I Am a Cat. He was sent to study English literature in London by the Japanese Government between 1901 and 1903. He lived in four different lodgings, the last of which in Clapham was the only one he considered satisfactory. Between 1984 and 2004, his portrait appeared on the Japanese 1000 yen note.



25 THE OLD FIRE STATION

The tour ends at The Old Fire Station, located at 33 The Pavement. It was constructed in 1868 as a Fire Station to service the new publicly funded Metropolitan Fire Brigade. It was designed by Edward Cressy and was one of 26 fire stations built across London and served the area for 34 years. It is only one of three of Cressy's fire stations that still exist today.



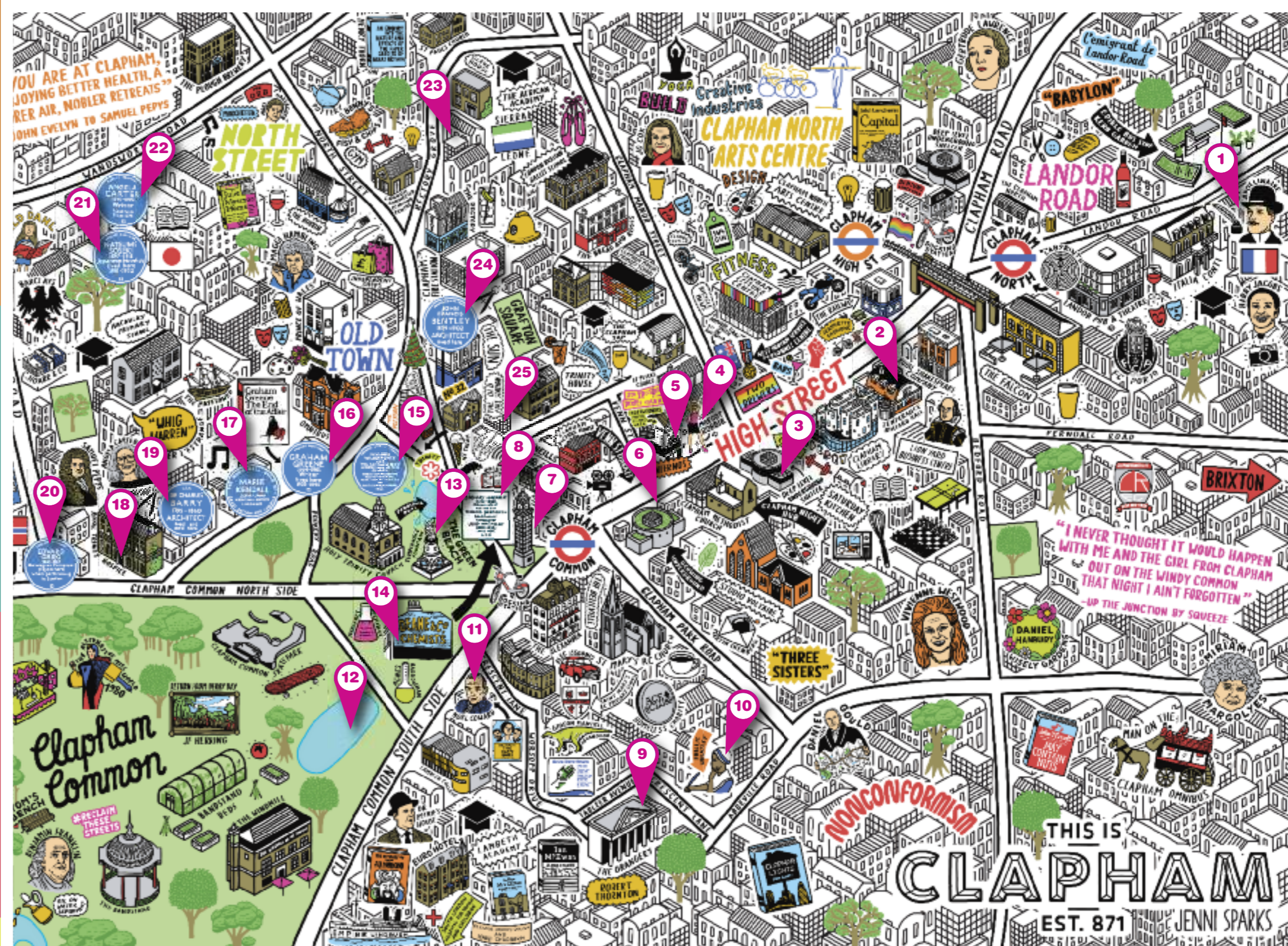
22 ANGELA CARTER

On the same road at number 107 there is a blue plaque to writer Angela Carter. Angela Carter was an English novelist, short story writer and journalist, known for her feminist, magical realism, and picaresque works. In 2008, The Times ranked Carter tenth in their list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945." In 2018 a documentary about her life called Of Wolves and Women was shown on BBC2.



26 CLAPHAM BOOKS

May Contain Nuts *by John O'Farrell*
Capital *by John Lancaster*
End of the Affair *by Graham Greene*
Clapham lights *by Tom Canty*
Fu Mancho *by Max Roher*
Home *by Julie Myerson*
The Orphans *by Annemarie Neary*
The New Mrs Clifton *by Elizabeth Buchan*



Thank you for picking up a copy of our free Clapham Walking Guide. The guide is a walking tour that begins at The Landor Pub on Landor Road. It will take you along Clapham High Street and past Clapham Common Tube Station, where you should take a left turn onto Crescent Lane and onto Worsopp Drive to view the Orangery.

Walk back towards the High Street across the Common towards The Pavement, taking in Trinity Church and onto Clapham Common Northside to view various Blue Plaques. Turn down The Chase to see the Blue Plaques of Angela Carter and Natsume Soseki and then head towards Rectory Grove and back towards Clapham Common where the tour concludes in the Clapham old Town Piazza.

For more detailed information about some of the people and places identified in this tour and their locations, scan the QR code.



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EST. 1871

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