

WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM COMMONS.

Mr. CONDER'S SCHOOL, PARK ROAD,

NEW WANDSWORTH, S.W.

April 2nd, 1870.

SIR,

The preservation of Clapham and Wandsworth Commons for purposes of healthful recreation and enjoyment is a question of deep importance to the owners and occupiers of property in the neighbourhood and to the Public generally. The present Lord of the Manor claims the absolute ownership of Wandsworth Common, with a considerable portion of Clapham Common, and it is desirable for all parties that the question of right should be at once settled, instead of remaining in a state of uncertainty. Within the last quarter of a century Wandsworth Common has been diminished to about one half of its former area, and encroachments are continually taking place. The present condition of a large portion of the Common, the enclosures which have been made, the unsightly heaps of refuse from the ash-pits of the district, and the character of the buildings which have recently been erected, give some idea of the future uses to which the remaining 150 acres will be applied if Lord Spencer's claim be established.

It is felt that this question involves important rights and privileges, which the Copyholders, the Freeholders and the Public have enjoyed from time immemorial without any obstruction or hindrance, and that it should no longer be left undetermined.

The following is a resumé of the steps which have recently been taken in the matter.

On the 7th of February last Mr. H. W. PEEK, M.P. for Mid Surrey, wrote a letter to Mr. BUCKMASTER, of which the following is an extract:

"The public may grumble as much as they please, that will never stop encroachments or inclosures. What I have been thinking of is this; round Clapham Common there are many wealthy gentlemen, some of whom are beginning to be alarmed at Lord Spencer declining to renew the lease of that part which belongs to him,—and in the neighbourhood of Wandsworth, there are many well-to-do people. If these will pay £4,000 into a bank, I will add £1,000, and as a Battersea copyholder, would at once commence proceedings to take up everything irregular during the legal term, which I believe is 20 years.

"I will hold myself bound to this offer till June 1870, but no longer."

In consequence of a requisition to the Churchwardens, influentially signed, a Public Meeting was held in the Lammas Hall, Battersea, on Monday, the 14th of March which was numerously attended, when the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

“That this Meeting thankfully accepts the generous offer of Mr. PEEK, and pledges itself to raise as large a proportion as possible of the sum required in the Parish of Battersea.”

“That a Committee be formed to carry out the foregoing Resolution, to consist of the following Gentlemen, with power to add to their number.

Mr. JAMES LORD, St. John's Lodge,	Mr. H. WHITING, Lavender Hill,
Mr. C. ECCLES, Lavender Sweep,	Mr. M. WHITING, ditto,
Mr. F. BERTOLACCI, Park Road.	Mr. NOEL WHITING, ditto.
Mr. BICKERDIKE, Elm Terrace,	Mr. BASS, Plough-lane.
Mr. C. LAMBERT, Wandsworth-common,	Mr. E. R. RANSOME, Wandsworth-common
Mr. J. C. BUCKMASTER, St. John's Hill.	Mr. OULDS, 25, Lavender Road.

“That Copies of the above Resolutions be forwarded to the Vestry Clerks of the Parishes of Clapham, Wandsworth and Tooting.”

The following sums were promised in the room:—

Mr. JAMES LORD	£100	0	0
Mr. M. WHITING	50	0	0
Mr. NOEL WHITING	50	0	0
Mr. H. WHITING	50	0	0
Mr. E. RANSOME	50	0	0
Mr. C. LAMBERT	25	0	0
Mr. C. ECCLES	50	0	0
Mr. J. C. BUCKMASTER ...	25	0	0

Subsequently promised—Rev. J. S. JENKINSON, 50 0 0

On Saturday Evening, March 19th, the Committee appointed at the Lammas Hall, met at Mr. CONDER's School, Park Road, New Wandsworth,—Mr. JAMES LORD in the chair, when the following gentlemen were added to the Committee.

Mr. CUMMINS, Nightingale Lane, Wandsworth Common.
 Mr. WARRINGTON, ditto ditto
 Mr. J. A. ROSE, ditto ditto
 Mr. G. JENNINGS, ditto ditto
 Mr. TOM TAYLOR, Lavender Sweep,
 Mr. NASSAU SENIOR, Lavender Hill.
 Mr. HUNTER, 5, Louvaine Road.
 Mr. MILLIS COVENTRY, Fernside, Wandsworth Common.
 Mr. CONDER, Park Road.
 Mr. GRAVELL, Lavender Hill.
 Mr. R. HADFIELD, Spencer Road.
 Mr. J. P. TURNER, Elm Terrace.

It was unanimously resolved that Mr. JAMES LORD, of St. John's Lodge, and Mr. CHARLES

LAMBERT, of the Elms, Wandsworth Common, be appointed Treasurers to the Fund.

It was also unanimously resolved that Mr. J. C. BUCKMASTER, of St. John's Hill, and Mr. G. BICKERDIKE, of New Wandsworth, be requested to act as Hon. Secretaries. Mr. CONDER kindly offered the use of his Schoolroom for the meetings of the Committee.

The present time may be looked upon as a crisis in the affairs relating to the Commons, and you are earnestly entreated to give your utmost aid both in money and influence, in meeting the spirited and liberal offer now made by Mr. PEEK.

The experience of Mr. PEEK, and his advisers, in conducting proceedings for the Preservation of the Commons, afford an ample guarantee that the Fund, when raised, will be applied in the most judicious and economical manner, any balance which may remain at the conclusion of these proceedings will be returned pro rata to the subscribers.

The time for collecting this fund being limited you will greatly assist the labours of the Committee by at once filling up the attached form, promising the amount you will contribute and returning the same to one of the Secretaries or Treasurers.

Subscriptions will be received by any Member of the Committee, or may be placed to the joint account of H. W. Peek, Esq., M.P., James Lord, Esq., and Charles Lambert, Esq., with the London & Westminster Bank, Lothbury.

We are, Sir,

Yours obediently,

JAMES LORD, St. John's Lodge,
CHARLES LAMBERT, Wandsworth-common. } Treasurers.

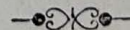
J. C. BUCKMASTER, St. John's Hill,
GEORGE BICKERDIKE, Elm Terrace, } Hon. Secretaries.

Fund of £5,000 for the preservation of Wandsworth and Clapham Commons.

(Suggested by a letter from H. W. Peek, Esq., M.P., to Mr. Buckmaster, on the 7th of Feb. 1870.)



H. W. PEEK, ESQ., M.P. £1,000



*I, the undersigned, hereby agree to pay the sum of £ :
towards the above Fund, on or before the 1st of June, 1870.*

Signed.....

Address.....