THE CHELSEA SOCIETY REPORT

1991

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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

founded by Reginald Blunt in 1927
to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
15 Tryon House,
Mallord Street,
London SW3 6AJ.

Registered Charity 276264

The Annual General Meeting

of the

Chelsea Society

was held at the

Hall of Remembrance,

Flood Street, Chelsea, SW3

on

Wednesday, 27th. November 1991

The Lord Gibson, M.A., Hon.D.Litt., President of the Society, took the Chair at 6.30 pm.

The President opened the Meeting by expressing his pleasure at seeing such a large turnout of members present, and said how much the Society appreciated the presence of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Desmond Harney, O.B.E. He also extended a special welcome to the Society's other guests, Councillor Mrs. Iain Hanham, Leader of the Council, and Mr. M. J. French, Director of Planning Services.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th. November 1990 were approved and signed.

Two nominations had been received for the vacancy on the Council, the Hon. Christopher Guest and Mr. Neil Hughes-Onslow, a ballot was held in which most votes were cast in favour of Christopher Guest and he was therefore duly elected to the Council.

The President then asked the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ian Frazer, to present the Accounts for 1990, and, on his proposal these were unanimously adopted.

The President thanked the Hon. Treasurer for all the hard work he had undertaken on behalf of the Society during the year which was warmly endorsed by all present.

The Chairman's Report was given by Mr. David Le Lay.

Lord Gibson then invited questions from the floor, whereupon Mr. Charles Everitt requested the Council's view on Sunday trading in Chelsea. From his personal experience, traffic in the King's Road/Sydney Street area on Sundays was almost the same as on weekdays. Replying, the Chairman said that the Council of the Society had discussed this matter during the course of the year and had concluded that they were in favour of the law in respect of Sunday trading being vigorously enforced. A letter had been written to the Leader of the Borough Council expressing this view and a reply received to the effect that the Council would continue with its present policy of only prosecuting when complaints were received, until such time as the Government resolved the problems surrounding the present law.

Mrs. Hilary Krall asked about controls over the public utilities and the street furniture which they seemed to erect without any consent. The Chairman said that there was some local authority control but in order to exercise it, the authority had to act quickly; this was not satisfactory and was a matter which was included for in Mr. Dudley Fishburn's Parliamentary bill.

Lord Meston drew attention to the poor facilities for pedestrians at both ends of Oakley Street; this was especially critical at the southern end where families had to cross Cheyne Walk in order to get on to Albert Bridge. The Chairman agreed and said that the need for a better crossing near Albert Bridge was referred to in the Society's Riverside Report.

Mr. Arthur Grimwade and Mr. Russell Burlingham complained about the recently-erected bicycle racks outside Chelsea Old Town Hall. However, Dr. Yolande Crowe was in favour of the racks as it was important to be able to tie up cycles.

Miss Gemma Piquerez asked whether Flood Street might not be a one-way street; to which the Chairman said he was totally opposed, as it would encourage traffic to travel at faster speeds, whereas the Society was in favour of traffic calming.

The Hon. Christopher Guest asked what the Society's views were on 'Red Routes'; the Chairman said that the full implications had not yet been assessed but that whilst the Society was in favour of the strict enforcement of parking restrictions, it was totally opposed to the removal of any residents' parking bays.

The Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the whole Society, congratulated the Chairman on his Report; which Lord Gibson said he wished to endorse most heartily.

The Deputy Mayor then wished the Chelsea Society a Prosperous New Year.

The numbers present were in the region of 130. The Meeting ended at 7.45 pm. when members and guests adjourned for wine and conversation.

Chairman's Report

The President

For the past three years the Society has been fortunate in having such a distinguished President in Lord Gibson. We are delighted that he has agreed to serve a further three-year term. I, in particular, have greatly benefited from Lord Gibson's careful guidance and wise counsel which he has given generously whenever it has been sought.

The Council

Thomas Faire resigned earlier this year for the reason that he had moved away. We thank him for his services to the Council. It was this resignation which caused a vacancy to occur for which we received two nominations thus necessitating an election.

It is some years since an election was held and I see this as a sign of a healthy and vigorous Society. I trust that it will not deter people from putting themselves forward for membership of the Council, on the contrary, I hope that it will encourage more people to do so, so that elections will become customary rather that a rarity. I certainly hope that this year's disappointed candidate will stand again next year when, because of the rules of our Constitution, there will be several vacancies.

Membership

The current membership of the Society is 1,078, an increase of 86 over the past year. We have therefore now reached the target of 1,000 members which we set ourselves four years ago; during which the approximate average annual increase has been in the order of 10%.

It is vital however that we continue to make efforts to increase our membership still further, to 2,000 and beyond. The wider our membership the more we can claim to speak for Chelsea. To this end, we have recently re-printed our "Join Now" leaflet which is available in various public places. We also took a tent at the Chelsea Arts Club Centenary Charity Cricket Match held on Sunday 4th. August in Burton's Court; this helped to promote the work of the Society as well as support a splendid Chelsea event.

Annual Report

The 1990 Report of the Society was, as usual, an expert publication reflecting not only the work of the Society over the year but also containing items of interest to members. A special feature of the 1990 Report were reminiscences of life in Chelsea during the Second World War as a mark of the 50th. anniversary of the London blitz. We warmly thank the Hon. Editor, Tom Pocock for all his work.

Memorial for Dovehouse Green

The Society is progressing with its idea of erecting a stone plaque at Dovehouse Green, on the gable wall of the old Registry Office, in memory of the 457 civilians killed in Chelsea by enemy action in 1939-45. We are grateful for the help we are receiving from the Borough for this and we are planning that the plaque will be unveiled in the early summer next year.

Activities

a. *Winter lectures*

Our twelfth season of winter lectures had as their theme a celebration of urban living.

On 5th. February, Ian Grant, a practicing architect with specialist knowledge of Victorian buildings, gave us a talk on the late Victorian domestic architecture of East Chelsea. Cadogan Square, Tite Street and Chelsea Embankment contain some of the best examples of this style of architecture, sometimes known as Pont Street Dutch, to be found anywhere.

On 7th. March, Clare Ford-Wille lectured on Walter Greaves, probably Chelsea's most famous local artist, who so loved Chelsea that throughout his life he continuously drew and painted, in meticulous detail, the streets of Old Chelsea and the riverside.

On 9th. April, the series concluded with a fascinating look at the essential qualities of townscape, with examples from all over Europe, in a talk entitled "Man Made the Town" given by Michael Middleton, a former director of the Civic Trust.

As usual, these lectures were held in the lecture room of the Chelsea Physic Garden. They were fully subscribed and in fact members who turned up without tickets could not be accommodated.

b. *Summer Meeting*

One of Chelsea's most famous institutions, the Chelsea Arts Club, has celebrated its centenary this year. The Chelsea Society was uniquely privileged in being allowed to hold its Summer Meeting in the Club's delightful garden on the evening of Thursday 25th. July. 150 members enjoyed a truly splendid buffet, prepared by the Club's chef, which was served in a candlelit marquee. Our special guests were the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Desmond Harney, O.B.E. and the Chairman of the Chelsea Arts Club, Mr. Hugh Gilbert.

The Hon. Secretary was overwhelmed with applications for tickets for this event, and as numbers were necessarily limited, it was with much regret that about 100 members had their applications returned.

c. *Chelsea Residents' Associations Meeting*

This annual meeting was held on Tuesday 23rd. April. As usual, two representatives from each of Chelsea's Residents' Associations were invited to put questions to Professor Sir Anthony Coates, Chairman of

the Planning and Conservation Committee and his Executive Director, Miss Mary Dent. It was one of the last public meetings which Sir Anthony attended as Chairman of this Committee and therefore provided an ideal opportunity for the Society to express its gratitude to him for having been such a sympathetic and effective Chairman. We remembered especially the way in which he championed the interests of residents and the skill with which he managed, in the Borough's official response to the Western Environmental Improvement Route, to unite all of the potentially conflicting views in Chelsea.

The Street Scene

Earlier this year the Royal Borough adopted a "Design Guide" for all aspects of the street scene, which principally means the materials and design of pavements and street furniture. It was extremely gratifying to us that this Guide was largely based upon representations made by the Chelsea Society and also the Kensington Society. In particular, the need for uniform and simple design of street paving was acknowledged and the implementation of this new policy for all re-paving works is already helping to reduce some of the visual chaos of our pavements in Chelsea. It is also relevant that financial savings are being effected as a result of the adoption of a "universal" paving design throughout the Borough.

We naturally hope that the Street Scene Design Guide will be reviewed from time to time and improvements, minor modifications and additions made to it, after due consultation with at least the Kensington and Chelsea Societies. Two matters which are still of concern to us are the standards of workmanship employed in re-laying pavements and the design of street furniture, particularly lamp posts, litter bins and pedestrian barriers.

We were delighted that Dudley Fishburn, Member of Parliament for Kensington, attempted to introduce a Private Member's Bill in Parliament making it compulsory for all local authorities to adopt Design Guides of the type which we now have in this Borough. We hope Mr. Fishburn will continue to press for his Bill.

Survey of Historic Street Furniture

The Society decided earlier this year to produce a survey report of historic street furniture which still exists in Chelsea. Each member was allocated a part of Chelsea to survey and was required to record the location and a description of all old bollards, letter boxes and telephone boxes. The purpose of the survey is to record all such items so as to ensure that the Borough is aware of their existence and that they are properly maintained. In some instances we will be asking that items are Listed as being of special architectural and historic interest.

Lamp posts were not included in our survey as a previous Chelsea Borough Engineer was especially efficient in removing all of the old lamp posts from our streets. More recently, the removal of the once familiar red telephone boxes was almost as efficient, as only three now remain in Chelsea. We are, however, relatively rich in old bollards and letter boxes

and also old street nameplates; it is essential that these are not lost through either neglect or ignorance.

Our report, which will be completed early in the new year, will, we trust, be a useful document to the Borough and to anyone who has an interest in this small but important part of our heritage.

Report on the Chelsea Riverside

The Society has for some time been concerned at the neglect of one of Chelsea's main attractions — its riverside. We therefore decided to prepare a special report on this subject which has just been completed. We are particularly indebted to Nigel Stenhouse, a member of the Council, who has meticulously researched all aspects of our current concerns and has done the lion's share in producing what has turned out to be a major piece of work by the Society.

Our two principal concerns are as follows:—

a. The damaging effect on the Chelsea Riverside of recent and planned developments on the Battersea bank, particularly between Albert and Battersea Bridges. These major developments have much more impact on Chelsea than on Battersea; yet the liaison between our Borough and Wandsworth Borough Council is of a formal routine nature at planning case-officer level only. In the absence of any strategic planning authority for London it is expected that Boroughs will consult with each other in respect of both policy and individual developments near to mutual boundaries. Riparian boundaries present special problems; where it is the character of one of London's principal assets — the River Thames — which is often at stake.

   Amongst our recommendations is a proposal that a joint committee comprising Councillors, Senior Planning Officers and representatives of amenity societies, of both the Royal Borough and Wandsworth Borough Council, should be set up to advise each Borough on all matters affecting both the Chelsea and the Battersea riversides. There is wide support for this proposal and we hope that it will be acted upon as a matter of urgency.

b. Our other concern lies wholly within our own Borough boundary; it is the neglect of the embankment area itself, notably, the restoration of the lighting, to which I drew attention at this time last year. The embankment wall is a Listed structure which makes this official neglect even more deplorable. A visit to the Victoria Embankment in Westminster is instructive in illustrating how the Chelsea Embankment could look. One finds there that the granite wall has been cleaned, all of the globe lanterns are in good working order, there is festoon lighting between the lanterns and plenty of traditionally designed bench seats.

   Last evening, I was privileged to be invited with other guests to join the Mayor of the Royal Borough, on board a boat, from which she switched-on the lighting to Albert Bridge, to mark the completion

of a major refurbishment of the Bridge. This shows that the Borough does consider the Chelsea Riverside to be an asset not just for Chelsea but for all of London. We hope that we shall soon see a reversal of the neglect of recent years and that the Borough will make the restoration of Chelsea Embankment an urgent priority.

Conservation Areas

a. Our request that the former Gunter Estate in West Chelsea be designated a conservation area was turned down by the Borough which was disappointing as we considered that such a designation would have helped to reverse the spiral of decay and blight which this part of Chelsea suffers as a result of the Earls Court One-Way Traffic System.

b. We made representations in respect of a recent proposal to extend the Chelsea Park/Carlyle Conservation Area. After much discussion as to where the new boundaries should be established in which some of our proposals were accepted whilst others were rejected, the principal outcome was that Chelsea Square and Dovehouse Street are now within the Conservation Area. This fact recognizes the contribution made by good quality traditionally-styled houses of the 1930s, '40s and '50s to the environment of Chelsea.

A disturbing aspect of the reasoning put forward by the Borough's planning officers was the implication that domestic buildings were more appropriate for inclusion in a Conservation Area than were institutional buildings. The concept of Conservation Areas is one that is entirely concerned with the appearance of an area and not with the ownership or use of any of its individual buildings.

Planning Briefs

a. Over the past few years we have made repeated requests that a Planning Brief be prepared by the Borough in respect of the proposed Phase 2 of the Royal Brompton's new hospital in Sydney Street. I am glad to be able to report that such a Brief was prepared during the course of the last year and that we were able to agree with its contents. It has now been adopted by the Borough. We were also glad to learn that the Hospital has appointed different architects to design Phase 2 from those who designed Phase 1. The new firm have a good reputation for sensitive design and we are therefore hopeful that this, together with the existence of an agreed Planning Brief, will result in imaginative and sensitive proposals for this important site in the heart of Chelsea.

b. We have also made several requests that a Planning Brief be prepared for the proposed development of the former College of St. Mark and St. John. This should have been done, almost automatically, when the site was designated a Conservation Area in July 1989. The failure to do so has been especially unhelpful to its owners and it has made our task in assessing the various proposals more difficult.

Obviously, with decisions on the current planning applications still pending, now is not the time to prepare such a Brief, but in the event of these applications being refused permission, it has been agreed by the Borough that a Brief will then be prepared in order to help its case at any subsequent appeal.

Use Classes Order

This somewhat technical piece of planning legislation has an enormous impact upon the quality of life in Chelsea. Put simply, it classifies buildings according to their use, but the critical factor is that no planning permission is required to change a building from one use to another use which, under the Order, is in the same Use Class.

In the mid-Eighties, the Government reduced the number of classes of building uses with the aim of cutting out what they saw as unnecessary bureaucracy and as a stimulus to business activity and enterprise. Our Borough and all of its amenity societies warned that this would have grave consequences for central London but our warnings were not heeded and the 1988 Use Classes Order became law.

When we learned that the Minister for Planning had commissioned a report from a firm of private consultants as to the way in which this Order was working, we made representations to him and also sought a meeting so that we could put our views to him direct. This request was granted and on 13th. May, I, together with another representative of the Society, the Chairman of the Borough's Planning and Conservation Committee, the Executive Director of Planning and Conservation and the M.P.'s for both Kensington and Chelsea met with the Minister.

We drew his attention to two particular matters. Firstly, we argued that public houses should be in a separate Use Class so that planning permission would be required, for example, to change a public house into a restaurant. This we felt was particularly urgent in view of the Government's recent directive that the big brewers must divest themselves of many thousands of public houses which would inevitably lead to attempts for many of them to be put to more profitable uses. Secondly, we urged that planning permission should be required to change the use of a hostel into a hotel.

The Minister listened to our views very sympathetically but when his statement was issued it was to the effect that he had decided not to make any amendments to the current situation. It was disappointing that he made this decision without inviting any public consultation on the contents of the consultant's report. We were however pleased to note that in his statement he made particular reference to the views which we had expressed to him, but because these were difficulties that were being experienced in a small part of the country only, he did not consider that they warranted a change in the law.

Unitary Development Plan

We are participating fully in the consultation process related to this

Plan which will eventually replace the Borough's District Plan as its principal planning policy document. The Borough will be producing a final version in 1992 which will then be open to objection; after which there will be a Public Inquiry.

We are especially grateful to Michael Bach for his help in this work.

Local Planning Inquiries

I consider that an important priority for the Chelsea Society is that it must endeavour to appear at planning appeals which take the form of a Local Public Inquiry. Success or failure at planning appeals is now of crucial importance and the views of an amenity society such as ours will invariably have a different emphasis to those put forward by planning officers. This will often substantially enhance a case to the extent that it can influence the eventual outcome.

We need one or two people to undertake this work which though it is both time consuming and does require special skills, can also be enjoyable and extremely rewarding. The Council of the Society is currently giving urgent consideration to this matter.

Planning Applications

Under the expert chairmanship of our Planning Secretary, Andrew Hamilton, the Planning Sub-Committee of the Society looks at all planning applications for development in Chelsea. During the past year they have made written representations in respect of no fewer than 110 applications but it is disappointing that of the applications which have been determined, only 56% accorded with the views of the Society.

The Sub-Committee comprises a total of seven members of our Council and they discuss each application as a committee so that the views which they express on behalf of the Society represent, as far as is possible, a consensus view and not a personal opinion.

I should like this year to make particular mention of only two applications, both of which are in respect of large, important and historic sites where the main issues relate to Listed buildings and extensive mature landscaped gardens. These are as follows:—

a. *The former Chelsea Rectory, 56 Old Church Street, SW3.*

After many years of controversy the future of this site has finally been sealed in the granting of planning permission for substantial extensions and alterations to the existing building. The Society is saddened by the encroachment upon this significant open space but it would appear that the permission granted on appeal some years ago was still technically valid. The quality of the design of new buildings and of landscape proposals for which permission was recently given is of a much higher order and far superior to that granted on appeal.

b. *Former College of St. Mark & St. John, 552 King's Road, SW10.*

This is by far the most important application to have been submitted over the past year. It is a seven-acre site with several Listed buildings including Stanley House built in the 1680's and a garden of some three acres to which there is public access. At the end of last year, King's College, which is part of London University, submitted two alternative applications for massive re-development proposals of this site. In May, the Borough indicated to the University that its preference was for the proposal known as Scheme B as it involved the least amount of development. Last month, the planning officer's reports in respect of these applications were issued. The scheme involving more development, Scheme A, was, not surprisingly, recommended for refusal. We were however most surprised that Scheme B was recommended for approval, as the proposals are in several important respects completely contrary to the Borough's approved District Plan.

The future of this site has greatly preoccupied this Society for many years and our views have remained essentially un-changed and are well known. We would ideally wish to see it remain in its present use which is educational. Although the University have not actually tried to dispose of the site to an alternative educational user, it does seem very unlikely that such a user, from either the private or public sector, could be found. It is therefore unrealistic to refuse to contemplate a change of use. In these circumstances, we are not opposed to residential development on the site nor to the demolition of the ugly modern buildings which currently exist.

Our principal objections to London University's proposals are:—

i. They involve a substantial encroachment into the open space which has public access. This will significantly detract from the feeling of openness currently enjoyed.
ii. The proposed conversion of Stanley House, with all its historic associations, into office accommodation will rob Chelsea forever of a building that is ideally suited for a community use.
iii. The amount of office accommodation proposed and the density of the residential accommodation are excessive.

We earnestly hope that, unless a substantial effort is made by the University to meet these objections, the Borough's Councillors will set aside the recommendation of their Officers, refuse permission, and immediately prepare a Planning Brief for the site.

We also consider the Borough should require that the proposals allow for the possible construction of a new station in the North-West part of this site where the West London Railway crosses over the possible Chelsea-Hackney Underground line. There is virtually universal support for such a station (which would serve all of West Chelsea) and this site represents the only possible location for it.

An aspect of this planning application which is a particular disappointment to the Chelsea Society is that in 1979 we, together with the Borough, fought tremendously hard on behalf of the University in order

to enable them to acquire this site, against commercial opposition, for a sum well below its market value. In recognition of that effort, the then Principal of Chelsea College, David Ingram, promised that they would never forget the help and support they had received from the local community. Yet, only 12 short years later, the University's only concern would appear to be of trying to obtain the highest price for the site.

We are, of course, aware that the University requires this money in order to develop their existing sites in the Strand and on the South Bank; but equally, the price they manage to achieve is dependent upon the planning permission they can obtain and one of the criteria in considering the merits of an application for a site of this size and importance is the degree to which the local community will benefit from the development. The Chelsea Society believes that in this case, above all others, both we and the Borough can ask the University to reflect on its promises of the past and to respond to the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Farewell

At the end of this year, the Vicar of Chelsea Old Church retires. It is in no small measure due to the inspiration and zeal of Prebendary Leighton Thomson that the Old Church has been brought back to its former glory out of the pile of rubble to which it was reduced 50 years ago. We wish him a happy retirement and hope that the very close links he has always had with the Chelsea Society will continue.

Congratulations

It is easy for a Society such as ours to appear to be always critical and negative; in an attempt to redress this false impression I should like to mention some of the good things that have happened to the physical appearance of Chelsea over the past year.

The completion of the restoration and cleaning of our parish church of St. Luke in Sydney Street is a triumph and we congratulate the Rector and his congregation in having the vision to have embarked on such a massive job and to have brought it to a successful conclusion.

Chelsea's churches are important landmarks in our urban environment and it is therefore very heartening to see that St. Andrew's, Park Walk, St. Mary's, Cadogan Street, the Chelsea Methodist Church and the west front of Christ Church and of the Holy Redeemer Church have also all been cleaned in recent months.

Although it was the standards of design of the paving and pedestrian barriers on the south side of Sloane Square which partly prompted the Society to call for the Street Scene Design Guide, the Society does approve of the improvements to the central area of Sloane Square itself. The quality of both paving and street furniture are exemplary and we consider the simple design of the Square and its unique character have been substantially enhanced. We congratulate the Borough.

The Chelsea Residents' Associations meet again

The third meeting of Chelsea residents' associations under the auspices of the Chelsea Society was held at the Hall of Remembrance in Flood Street on 3rd. April, 1991. Two representatives of each association, ward councillors and of the Chelsea Police were present. On the platform were Councillor Professor Sir Anthony Coates, Chairman of Planning and Conservation for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Miss Mary Dent, Director of Planning and Conservation, and Mr. David Le Lay, Chairman of the Chelsea Society.

The Cheyne Walk Trust enquired about the Council's proposals for traffic-relief as it affected the riverside and whether this would be a "mini-WEIR"? When would it be activated?

Sir Anthony replied that the Government had rejected plans for WEIR, which would basically have been a motorway, but that the Council had commissioned a study for the relief of traffic in the Earls Court Road. It had to be seen whether any element of WEIR might be kept but it would have to be a limited scheme because of the cost, which at the last estimate would have been in the region of £100,000,000.

There had been two basic proposals. One was environmental improvements within the one-way system; the other, a new road for heavy vehicles with direct access to the Earls Court Exhibition Centre. But there was unlikely to be any construction within two to three years.

Asked by Mr. Ian Frazer, the Treasurer of the Chelsea Society, what the environmental improvements would be, Sir Anthony mentioned the realignment of pavements and the planting of trees, to which Miss Dent added traffic constraint to produce a smoother flow.

Stressing the Council's former hopes for a larger-scale scheme, Sir Anthony said, "We are left, in effect, with almost nothing. We are trying to make the best of a bad job."

The St. Leonard's Terrace Association pointed out that the humps in their road had been "amazingly effective" in slowing traffic and might be applicable elsewhere. Sir Anthony replied that this was being considered but that, unless carefully positioned, the humps could result in the diversion of traffic into neighbouring streets.

Asked about the restraining of heavy lorries in Chelsea, Miss Dent said that the M25 had reduced the number of heavy vehicles in London.

When the poor condition on the lamps on the Embankment was raised, Sir Anthony replied that the Council would like to see them restored but, because of the cost, which would be more than £100,000, this could not be done immediately although a start would be made during the year.

The Markham Square Association asked about the proliferation of restaurants in the King's Road, the most controversial being the McDonald's "fast-food" restaurant on the corner of Royal Avenue. Sir Anthony replied that some of the recent Government legislation over the change of use of retail premises had been seriously wrong and that the Council had taken this up with the Minister concerned, although no action had as yet been taken.

The Association asked whether it was true that the Council had plans to open privately-owned open spaces to the public. Sir Anthony assured them that the statement in a chapter of the draft Urban District Plan, which had led to these alarming press reports, was no more than an expression of the Council's wish that more use should be made of existing open space.

The Paulton's Square Association was worried that private squares might be bought by individuals or companies and the space used for tennis courts, or car parks. Sir Anthony said that he did not know of any such application but such changes would be prevented. Miss Dent added that there had been one application for the use of a garden by a small school.

The Wellington Square Association asked if the Council could control the looks of the King's Road and whether it could all be designated as a Conservation Area. Miss Dent replied that many of the commercial displays were outside the Council's control although there had been some successes. As to the enlarging of the Conservation Areas, it was felt that some of the buildings in the King's Road were not of a quality to warrant it and, in any case, if such protection was spread too widely it would be devalued. Sir Anthony added that the Council might consider a new planning area designation below the Conservation Area.

The Netherton Grove Association asked about the new St. Stephen's Hospital and its size, particularly that of the nurses' home. Sir Anthony said that it had been one of the Council's few victories on this issue when its protest against the scale of the Health Authority's plans had been upheld by the Minister concerned and it had been reduced.

The Dovehouse Street Association asked about the proposed site for the Chelsea station on the planned Tube line to Hackney and was it to be on Dovehouse Green? Miss Dent said that the station might be underneath but that access would be across the road, possibly on the corner of Oakley Street opposite Argyll House. Mr. Le Lay said it was the view of the Chelsea Society that a new Tube station in West Chelsea to serve St. Stephen's Hospital and the Chelsea Football Ground was absolutely necessary.

After further discussion, the meeting adjourned for wine as guests of the Chelsea Society.

Keeping our eyes open

HUGH KRALL *assesses environmental improvements for the Chelsea Society*

In the Town Hall at Kensington we assemble in one of the little committee rooms on the first floor. On the way up I pause to scrutinize critically Basil Spence's entrance hall. It is a trifle gloomy with its red brick walls and paving in spite of the huge array of incandescent lamps overhead. And were the porters in the reception desk quite as glamorous as he would have imagined?

Photographs of the entries are pinned up round us in various categories. Over coffee we study these, eyeing one another covertly. Menghi Mulchandani, a young woman in a wheel chair, with her pusher, is there to represent the disabled. Michael Middleton, former Director of the Civic Trust (who spoke recently to the Chelsea Society at one of our lectures) is my opposite number for the Kensington Society. Then there is Mary Dent, head of the Borough's Planning Department, Peter Mishcon, her nominee, an architect, as well as Denis McCoy, employed by the Borough to set up the Awards, and, of course, Councillor Desmond Harney, who is our Chairman.

After a short pep talk, when we are all adjured to use Christian names, there is some preliminary discussion about the entries and the categories they are in. We are unable to agree to eliminate any schemes outright and so embark on the mini-bus to visit, or at least drive past, all. Menghi has already visited those that claim to cater for the handicapped and, as we go round, has many sensible, and not immediately obvious, things to say about them.

The Environmental Award Scheme was the brainchild of David Campion, an architect member of the Council. The aim was to encourage the small scale improvements that would not normally be considered for one of the national awards and to increase our awareness of our surroundings. Although the scheme has been going since 1977, it is not regarded as important as was hoped. No doubt this is partly due to the nature of development in London. Architects and their clients are not exclusively local, and an award in one borough will not create great waves throughout the Metropolis. One result (or perhaps cause) is the low level of entries. Considering the number of planning applications made (of which the Chelsea Society's Planning Sub-Committee only sees the more important) there should be plenty of potential entries. All members of the Chelsea Society should keep an eye open for possible entries and persuade the

owners, or their architects, to enter their schemes. All they have to do initially is fill in a little blue form from the Information Office at the Old Town Hall before 31st March. Not only whole new buildings are eligible — good restorations, sensitive extensions, railings — the improvements to Sloane Square have been suggested as an entry for next year.

Our mini-bus, equipped with wheel chair access, sets off in mild weather and heavy traffic for Chelsea. I sit next to Mary Dent and am amazed by her detailed knowledge of what is going on, not only in the development field but in roads, Albert Bridge, the railway bridges — even a squabble between my neighbour and the Chelsea Yacht and Boat Company. We pass Atlantic Court in the King's Road (an entry) but do not stop. We do however get out and look at 44 Tite Street, recently repointed and redecorated, but decide it could have been better done. Apollo Place, a hidden corner behind Turner's House in Cheyne Walk, hitherto sadly neglected, is examined in detail but thought to be a little frivolous. Some houses in First Street have been entered as a group. Sadly, we think the detailing weak and inconsistent even though we admire the effort that has gone into providing new railings, entrance steps and pointing.

There are no more Chelsea schemes this year, so we set off for, to me, unknown parts of North Kensington but via the slightly unsatisfactory redevelopment of 29 The Boltons, where the added floor looks top heavy despite clever reproduction of period details.

North Kensington provides us with some interesting housing schemes as well as the St. Charles Sixth Form College (given an award for Access for the Disabled), a nursing home for the elderly in Ladbroke Road (which could *not* be given an Award for Access for the Disabled!), developments in Lambton Place, an interesting new corner in Portobello Road and many others in obscure parts of the Borough north of the canal (yes, dear friends, even there there is life).

En route we pass the Natural History Museum in Cromwell Road, entered for the restoration of Waterhouse's multicoloured tower roof, beautifully executed but no more than you could expect for a Grade I Listed Building in the ownership of the Crown. We also pass the V & A, entered for its cleaning. Here we feel that the cleaning has so much enhanced the building that we look at it with fresh eyes. The noble sentiments embodied in its sculpture! So alien to us now as to be incomprehensible. We give it an award under "General Environmental Improvements".

The best is to come.

A small housing scheme in North Kensington, skilfully emulating the adjacent Victorian Church School in style and colouring. These small-scale Housing Trust schemes are exceedingly difficult to raise above the purely functional level. There is so little money that to produce a building of distinction and still provide decent paving and railings is a rare achievement. St. Clement's Court on the Corner of Stoneleigh Street and Treadgold Street is one such for the Octavia Hill, Latimer and Rowe Housing Trust and we felt that they and their architects, the Stillman Eastwick Field Partnership most certainly deserved an award.

Nearer home a new pedestrian precinct has been created on the site of the old Kensington Barracks. Here one may have coffee out of doors in nicely paved surroundings with a stunning view of Sir George Gilbert Scott's spire of St. Mary Abbots rising up behind the Georgian facades of Kensington Church Street.

Finally, and unanimously acclaimed as the best, we saw "Kensington Cloisters". This elegant little development can only be seen from Kensington Church Walk, or by the footpath from High Street Kensington past the Old Library. Its official entrance is through existing buildings in Kensington Church Street. It faces on to the churchyard of St. Mary Abbots with its great trees and reflects the ecclesiastical surroundings with a screen of Gothic arches, behind which lie the new buildings. Not only is this in itself an aesthetically pleasing device but the churchyard is enhanced by the completion of its fourth side in so sympathetic a manner. This development is for Try Property Ltd. whose architects, Andrews Downie and Partners, are greatly to be congratulated on achieving a design *and getting it built* which does everything the Environmental Award Scheme sets out to encourage. Well worth a visit, though it is sad that for commercial reasons this has to be for office and not for residential use.

So we return to the Town Hall for (a very late) lunch to discuss and consolidate our views and disperse much later (and more exhausted) than any of us expected.

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Annual subscriptions fall due on 1st. January, if you have not made arrangements to pay your subscription by Banker's Order, you should send your subscription (£5 per person, £7 for married couples) to the following address: **Hon. Treasurer, The Chelsea Society, 6 Edith Terrace, London SW10 0TQ**

It would be of help to the Society if as many members as possible were to pay their subscription by Direct Debit; including those who currently pay by Banker's Order. Forms may be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer or by using the form in the Society's "Join Now" leaflet which is available from Chelsea Library.

Life members are asked to consider making a donation to the Society.

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Any corrections or amendments to members' names and addresses, or enquiries regarding joining the Society should be addressed to:
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Stanley House: can it be saved for Chelsea?

by David Le Lay

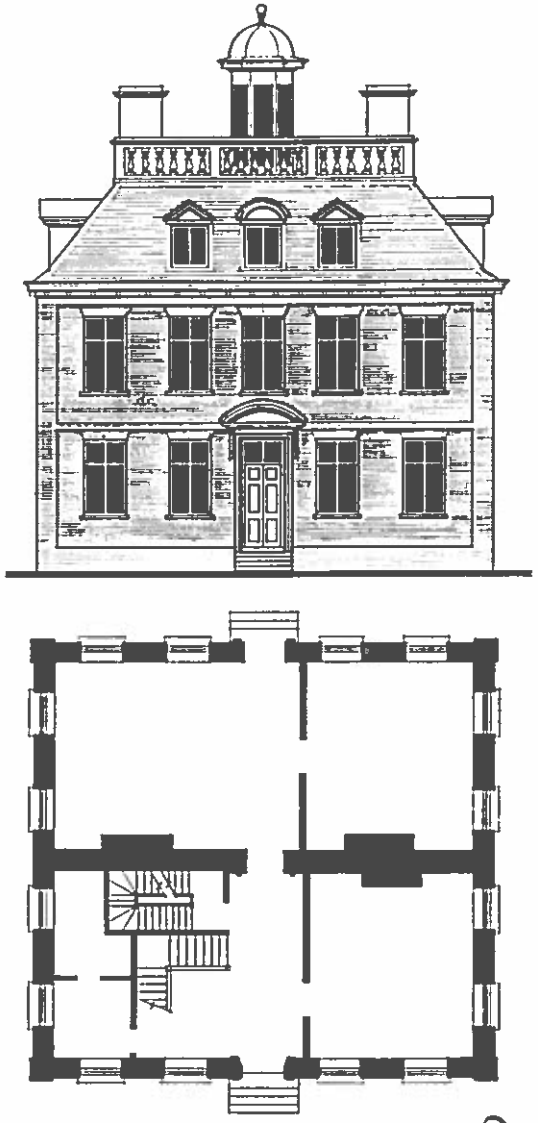
1991 is the tercentenary of the generally accepted date when Stanley House was built at the western end of the King's Road. However, Chelsea historians have tended to cast doubt on this date as being too early; yet, there is evidence to suggest that the house is actually older than 300 years.

There is a distinct tendency to call all historic buildings in the classical style either "Queen Anne" or, even more commonly, "Georgian". This omits to credit the considerable number of fine buildings, especially medium to small mansion houses, built during the reigns of Charles II and William & Mary, which are the very epitome of the English classical house.

One of the reasons for this anomally is that many of these houses were subsequently "modernised". The 18th. century "window replacement industry" in particular was very active and managed to completely change the character of many of these buildings which has mislead future historians as to their real date. A notable Chelsea example is the Royal Hospital which, although it was built between 1682-92, can easily be mistaken for a Georgian building by those not knowing it was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. This is largely on account of its double-hung sash windows which were inserted by Robert Adam in the 1760's as a replacement for the original leaded-light mullioned and transomed casements.

Similarly, Stanley House has deceived many a scholar, including the author of Volume IV of *The Survey of London,* Walter Godfrey, who, in 1913, wrote "It would seem from the character of the architecture that the house in its present form was not erected until the reign of George I" and "it is an excellent example of a Georgian house". Stanley House, like the Royal Hospital, has Georgian windows but that is all that is Georgian about it; in all other resepcts it is typical of a type of house built during the reign of Charles II (1660-89). The particular type to which Stanley House belongs is known as a "compact double-pile".

The characteristics of these houses, of which there are a surprisingly large number throughout the country, are that they have a square or rectangular plan whose dimensions are usually in multiples of 15 feet (Stanley House is a 45 foot square). This mathematical preoccupation with geometry is continued throughout the design which was always rigidly symmetrical, certainly so far as the external elevations were concerned, with usually a front door to both the entrance and the garden fronts.



David Le Lay.
November '91

A reconstruction of Stanley House as it might have looked when originally built.

These houses have two principal floors of equal grandeur and importance (Georgian houses usually have only one *piano nobile*) the upper floor being reached by means of a spacious ceremonial staircase. The ground floor was raised upon a basement, normally containing kitchens and cellars, and there was an attic floor in the form of a hipped roof with dormer windows; all four floors being connected by the "back stairs". The hipped roof was surmounted by a leaded flat roof which was usually surrounded by a balustrade with an octagonal glazed cupola or lantern providing access and a crowning feature to the whole design. These houses were invariably built in prominent positions and such roof terraces enabled the owners to enjoy the view. As the balustrade and cupola were entirely of timber construction and especially vulnerable to the effects of the weather, only a few have survived. Stanley House has all of these characteristics and where the features no longer exist, there is substantial evidence to be found in the building itself that they did once exist.

These houses are often called "Restoration Houses" for they were built at a time of prosperity and confidence after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. Their architectural inspiration came from designs of the 1630's by Inigo Jones. Influences can also be traced from France where Charles II had spent most of his exile and also Holland from where many Huguenot refugees came to this country at that time.

Chelsea's principal historian, Thomas Faulkner, tells us in his *Chelsea and its Environs* that Stanley House was built in about 1691, it was left in an unfinished state and unoccupied for several years. The date of 1691 is the year of the death of William Stanley who was the grandson of Sir Robert Stanley, second son of the sixth Earl of Derby. William Stanley was the last in that particular line of the Stanley family and as he had no direct heirs this would explain why the house remained unoccupied after his death. It was usual for people to build a new house for themselves either upon becoming married or inheriting. William Stanley inherited the family home, then known as "Brickhills", in 1676 and it is therefore most likely that he set about building Stanley House in the 1680's but that its internal fitting out was not completed when he died. This is borne out by the architectural evidence; for although the design of the house is "Restoration", the internal panelling which survives is early eighteenth century.

Stanley House originally stood within heavily wooded grounds with tree-lined avenues aligned onto its principal elevations and formal gardens on the north side of the house. To the south there was a walled forecourt with a fine pair of gates and gate piers, aligned onto the front door, which was the main entrance from the King's Road. The stable yard was located to the west of the house.

One unanswered question is whether or not the original house had windows on its east and west elevations. There is no doubt that these elevations did have at least "blind" windows; but the building of the Hamilton Room in the 1820s obliterated the east elevation and only part of the west elevation is still visible today. This has only one window at

first floor level and evidence of painted *trompe l'oeil* windows in the other "blind" openings (if present plans for the change of use and conversion of the house are approved, this elevation too will be completely obliterated). Ashdown House on the Berkshire/Oxfordshire borders, built in 1663, has a virtually identical plan to Stanley House and it has windows on all elevations. However, Dr. Alison Maguire who is currently cataloguing the Bodleian Library's Rawlinson Collection of house plans of the 1680s, believes one of these plans to be the Stanley House pattern and that has no windows to the side elevations.

Since Walter Godfrey surveyed the house in 1913, it has undergone several unfortunate alterations and it is today in a poor state of repair. The fine panelled rooms on the first floor are neglected and unused and those on the ground floor which are currently let-out for a variety of social and educational functions, are decorated and furnished in an unsympathetic manner. The future of Stanley House is uncertain; the present owners, London University, want to convert it into commercial offices but their detailed plans cast doubt as to whether this is a suitable use for the building.

The architectural and historic importance of Stanley House is such that it demands careful repair and scholarly restoration and that the enjoyment of this particular type of English classical house should be available to the widest possible public. It would certainly be unfortunate if the public were denied even the limited opportunity to enjoy this building which has existed in recent years.

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An achievement: the restoration of St. Luke's

by Tom Faire

On October 20th, 1991, our patronal festival, the congregation of St. Luke's, the principal parish church of Chelsea, gave thanks for the completion of our great restoration programme, which began with the sale of the Rectory in Old Church Street in 1983. Over £1,600,000 has been raised to ensure that St. Luke's can continue to serve the local community.

During the first 160 years of its life, the ravages of the elements and pollution had taken their toll on the soft Bath stone fabric of this fine church. This was made worse by a bomb dropped on the site of the old St. Luke's School (now St. Luke's Hall) which severely damaged the east end of the church generally. Some essential repairs had been carried out, notably the east window was replaced to a design by Hugh Easton in 1958 and the aisle roof was repaired to check leaks after an appeal to "Save St. Luke's". However the money raised by the parish in the 'Sixties and 'Seventies was insufficient to tackle the overall problems of longstanding decay and deterioration of parts of the structure. After a thorough examination of the fabric by our architects, Donald Insall and Associates, a phased programme of restoration was prepared and an appeal was launched.

Originally, the church was built of solid stock brick (which can best be seen from the fine brick vaults and inverted arches in the crypt) with a stone cladding between two and four inches thick, fixed to the brickwork by intermittent iron cramps. The greatest part of the restoration work went into the replacement of stone which had eroded for a variety of reasons. Water penetrating the cladding had rusted the iron cramps in places and, because rusted iron expands roughly eight times, this had forced the stone apart. (Fortunately when the iron tie bars which strengthen the tower were exposed they were found to be in much better condition than we feared.) However the main cause of the deterioration was erosion of tracery, mouldings and ashlar by rain, wind, frost and pollution, to such an extent that much of the detail was completely lost and some of the stone was falling away — a particular worry over the west porch where stone was literally crumbling.

First, the stone was cleaned by gentle abrasive action of damp fine sand so that the full problem could be seen by our architects. Then the masonry was assessed, stone by stone, carefully cut out if too far gone, replaced or recarved and pointed to match. Fortunately the original quarry at Doulting which supplied the stone was still producing, which accounts for

near perfect match of the new to the existing stone. In some places the stones were so eroded that the architect was able to exercise a little imagination — the uppermost string course on the north nave wall contains sculpted heads of the rector and two churchwardens.

While the phases of stonework repair proceeded in an orderly fashion round the church, contract by contract, there was other work to do inside. To ensure that the life of the church could flourish in its newly repaired building it needed to be sensitively adapted for its present day use. First a ramp for the disabled was built at the west end and glass doors were installed to enable passers-by to enjoy the nave vista when the church was closed. Then our attention was turned to the beautifully-proportioned vestry at the east end, severely bomb-damaged and painted like a colour card. The fine panelling was repaired, missing sections were replaced and the original collapsible changing cubicle for the priest was made to work again. A new lavatory replaced the one which drained into the gardens and was connected to the mains. Relieving the vestry of its clutter meant space had to be found elsewhere for choir and clergy robes, so new cupboards were built in the north aisle in oak to match the elegant detailing of the existing joinery. The crypt, which was used as a youth club, was converted into parish offices for the St. Luke and Christchurch clergy team and for the Chelsea Social Council.

Whilst investigating the different options for lighting during the general rewiring we stumbled across the original mechansim for raising and lowering the great nave chandeliers, which caused such a furore when the church was opened. As we discovered, it is impossible to hear what is happening inside the church when you are above the vault; the operatives employed to lower the lights at the end of the inaugural service lowered them too soon, terrifying the congregation who believed that the first stone vault since mediaeval times was falling on top of them! Our own attempts to re-use the same lifting gear ended in near disaster, when we borrowed a giant chandelier from Christopher Wray to give an impression of the original lighting scheme; with two of us hoisting and several posted up the tower stairs to relay messages into the nave, we began to winch the chandelier up into position on the end of the great chain. Having made the chain fast we were about to descend to view the chandelier, when the original ratchet began to slip and the chandelier to descend out of control. Faster and faster it unwound, and eventually the chain flew off the drum altogether. Fortunately, the end of the chain lodged itself into a cleft between two rafters and the chandelier came to an abrupt halt two feet above the flagstoned floor of the nave!

Apart from the lighting and rewiring, the heating has been overhauled and electric heating installed in every pew. The most recent phase of restoration, marking the climax of the work has been the cleaning and repair of the reredos, including the cleaning and relining of Northcote's painting *The Entombment* and the commissioning of new festive altar palls.

The appeal is officially finished now but there are still important areas to complete: the bells require work so that they can be enjoyed into the 21st. century and the gardens, railings and gates require care and attention.

From Dr. Phené to Mr. Heseltine

by Guy Topham

Towards the end of 1991, trees became a focus of attention. Mr. Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, ceremoniously planted a tree in the streets of Chelsea and a new system of volunteer "tree wardens" was launched by the Council to monitor their condition in the Royal Borough. This was continuing the work started more than a century ago by one of the legendary figures of Chelsea's past: Dr. John Samuel Phené.

Today he is commemorated by the name of Phené Street and the Phené Arms pub but the memorial he would surely have chosen are the trees he planted thereabouts and which now grow in so many London streets. For it was Dr. Phené who was credited with starting the practice of planting trees in the pavements of ordinary London streets. Hitherto, they had grown in parks and avenues such as The Mall but had not given shade and greenery to the busy streets themselves.

But, for long after his death in 1912 at the age of 89, he was primarily remembered as the eccentric builder of the most extraordinary house in Chelsea. This was variously known as "Gingerbread Castle" and the "haunted house" and stood at the corner of Oakley Street and Upper Cheyne Row until 1923. A tall house, encrusted with statuary, gargoyles, pillars, pediments, classical pillasters, ogee windows and assorted and nicknackery, and its large garden, darkened by trees and shrubs, was also cluttered with statues. It was never occupied by its builder, who lived across the road at 32 Oakley Street.

The house gave rise to the legend that Dr. Phené had built the house for his bride, who had died on the eve of their wedding and that the house, complete with untouched wedding breakfast, had been locked and left from that day.

In fact, Dr. Phené had not emulated Dickens's Miss Havisham but had married and named Margaretta Terrace after his wife. The marriage had not lasted and she had left him to live in Paris and the house, where they had never lived, remained empty.

John Phené inherited some acres of Chelsea to either side of Oakley Street, qualified as an architect and indulged his tastes as an antiquary and traveller. He lectured to learned societies on such diverse subjects as "The Prehistoric Traditions and Customs in connection with the Sun and Serpent Worship", "Some Linguistic Synonyms in the Pre-Roman

Languages of Britain and Italy" and "Deudrophoria, Researches for and Examination of Still-Existing People, Languages and Customs mentioned by Herodotus, Stralio, etc., in India, Thrace, Italy and Western Europe."

He was a striking figure, even in Chelsea when it was the artists' quarter of London, with his white moustache, beard and long hair, tall black hat and cloak. Proud of his Huguenot ancestry he decided to name his strange house in Oakley Street after his ancestral home, the Chateau de Savenay. He never occupied the house, which was as ornate inside as out, and some said that he left it incomplete so as to avoid paying rates; after his death it remained unoccupied until demolished in 1924.

Dr. Phené left his library and papers to Chelsea Polytechnic but all were burned during the Blitz. Would they have illuminated his curious character? Perhaps, but it may be best to leave him as he appears in tradition: one of the most remarkable of Chelsea's almost extinct breed of eccentrics.

(See illustrations, pages 40-41.)

New at the Library

The annual list of additions to Chelsea Library.

BRITTAIN, VERA	*Testament of a Peace Lover.* Letters from Vera Brittain. Virago Press, 1988. Lived at 19, Glebe Place.
DELANEY, J. G. P.	*Charles Ricketts: a Biography.* Clarendon Press, 1990. Has connections with The Vale and Beaufort Street.
DODGSON, ELYSE	*First Lines: Young Writers at the Royal Court.* Hodder, 1990. Four plays first performed at the Royal Court.
FLEMING, G. H.	*James Abbott McNeill Whistler: a Life.* The Windrush Press, 1991.
WHITELAW, LIS	*The Life and Rebellious Times of Cicely Hamilton.* Womens Press, 1990. Lived at 44, Glebe Place.

Down the garden paths . . .

by Kenwyn Pearson*

In the early 1990s, we are all too well aware of the effects of traffic and the increasing demand on our space. But in Chelsea we are lucky to have a good proportion of open space and gardens and trees which help to filter noise and reduce pollution. Also in Chelsea many private properties have well-established gardens in which the owners take pride. So I would like to muse for a while on how Chelsea has evolved horticulturally.

The manor of Chelsea, acquired by King Henry VIII in the 1530s, had a great garden, which, as seen on a map by James Hamilton of 1664, was planted with bays, cherries, nut trees, damsons, peaches, 200 damask roses, whitethorn and privet hedges. It also employed 29 gardeners and six women weeders. Equal opportunities did not form part of 16th century legislation.

The Royal Hospital had not been built, and the King's Road was completed for Charles II to drive from Whitehall to the Old Fulham Ferry, mentioned in Domesday Book, en route for Putney and his palace at Hampton Court, where the gardens were being restyled in the fashionable French style. All the land now bounded by Old Church Street, Beaufort Street, the Fulham Road and the Thames was the great garden of Sir Thomas More and goes back into history before the Physic Garden came into existence. More's garden was visited by Erasmus and Holbein and had a wide range of shrubs. More grew rosemary in abundance. In the north-east corner stood the great elm known as the Queen's Elm, beneath which Queen Elizabeth I supposedly sheltered from a rainstorm while walking with Lord Burleigh. By 1625 More's garden had been incorporated in Chelsea Park and by 1876 it was built over by the Elm Park Estate.

The Chelsea Physic Garden came into being in 1673 with the lease of 3½ acres from Lord Cheyne to form the garden of the Apothecaries. The famous cedars of Lebanon were planted in about 1683 and the high wall surrounding it was built to prevent theft of specimens. This wall enabled an even greater range of plants to be grown and the large stove-greenhouse was built in the garden in 1681.

The arrival of Hans Sloane on the scene in 1684 was to significantly change horticulture in Chelsea, particularly in the Physic Garden and in the progressive development of the Cadogan Estate and, indeed, the whole world of horticulture.

**Head gardener to the Cadogan Estate.*

The Manor of Chelsea survived in various forms and with additions and changes until it was sold to Charles Cheyne in 1667. In 1698 it passed to his son, and he sold the entire estate and Manor to Sir Hans Sloane in 1712. This signalled the end of the old Chelsea and the beginning of a new era, some of which survives to the present day. It was through the marriage of one of Sloane's daughters, Elizabeth, to the second Lord Cadogan that the Cadogans came into possession of a large part of Chelsea.

Horticulturally the next major period of change came through Henry Holland, the architect. In the 1770s he was working as an assistant to "Capability" Brown, the famous landscaper, and made an approach to Lord Cadogan with plans for a new development. Holland then leased about 100 acres of what was to become Hans Town in the area we now know as Sloane Street, Sloane Square, Hans Place, Cadogan Square and Cadogan Place. In his proposed development he reserved himself 21 acres on the west side of the land, near what we now know as Pavilion Road, and here he erected an elegant house and planted gardens. It was supposedly from this design that, in 1787, he built the first Brighton Pavilion designed as a classical villa.

In the 1770s, market gardens were gaining in importance and Jacques Poupart developed one on what is now the Chelsea Football Ground at Stamford Bridge. Then there was the Royal Exotic Nursery near to what is now South Kensington underground station, which, trading under the name of Wills and Segar, sold palms, pot plants and floral arrangements to the large houses of London, including Buckingham Palace. Knight and Perry later ran the nursery until 1853 when Veitch took it over.

Holland died in 1806 and the Pavilion was sold to a Peter Denys. The population of Chelsea continued to rise as London expanded and took up more of the surrounding villages. This development had made Holland realise the potential of the area, but it was also this that eventually destroyed most of the green spaces. About 14 acres of land to the west of the Pavilion was leased in the mid-19th century as market gardens and nurseries but the development of Cadogan Square and Lennox Gardens was soon to change this. The market gardens sold their produce to residents in Hans Town and people who lived nearer the river in the ever-growing Cadogan Estate. Slowly the market gardens were pushed out of the area and the land was taken over for recreation, or ornamental gardens. These became the London squares and private gardens we know today.

One of the largest private gardens in Chelsea surviving to this day is on Sloane Street and known as Cadogan Place Garden. As a private garden, this was fenced towards the end of the 18th. century, when a London Botanic Garden was formed by a man named Salisbury. This covered six acres, and included a library, hot house, greenhouse and conservatory. In 1807, the plants were labelled and the full details of the garden were revealed in the August edition of *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1810. Horticultural students attended lectures there and from May to September concerts were held in the gardens; subscribers to the garden living within one mile paid 11 guineas per year for membership. In 1991,

the garden measured 7½ acres, cost over £100,000 a year to maintain and was run by 21 gardeners. The range of plantings and species has changed substantially not least because of the problems of Dutch Elm disease and the storm of 1987. But most of the existing framework of the garden, the lawns, paths and shrubberies has not changed for over 100 years.

Paultons Square was built in the 1830s on a market garden and named after Paultons in Hampshire, the country seat of George Stanley, Sir Hans Sloane's son-in-law, and, of course, survives as a garden. Markham Square which was laid out in 1836 was built on a field, which was part of what was known as Box Farm. Chelsea Square was renamed in the 1920s, being previously Trafalgar Square, long before the famous one in Westminster and has an interesting square garden. The famous Chelsea Rectory garden, dating back to 1566, contains mulberries said to have been planted in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I; there are other mulberries in Chelsea planted during the reign of Charles II.

Lennox Gardens was built on Prince's Cricket Ground after its lease had expired in 1885. Oakley Street and Oakley Gardens have strong gardening links and Oakley Square, renamed Carlyle Square in 1872 in honour of Thomas Carlyle, was built on a market garden. In 1851, Dr. J. S. Phené, who built Carlton Terrace and Phene Street, planted many of the trees which survive in that area today. Part of the wide boulevard of Royal Avenue, built to connect the Chelsea Hospital with Kensington Palace, but never completed beyond the Kings Road, survives today. Chelsea also has squares, churchyards and gardens maintained by residents' associations and individuals for the benefit of the community.

And so to the future. It is most important that the cities of the world keep and maintain their open spaces, trees and landscapes and we should follow the lead of many countries, particularly on the Continent, and encourage patios, pots, containers and window-box gardening. Elm Disease and the storm of 1987 presented a wonderful challenge to us all for change and development. The Clean Air Acts have done much to reduce the effects of pollution, and modern hybridizers, plant breeders and plant collectors have vastly increased our awareness of horticulture and the range of plants available.

We are also fortunate in having an active Chelsea Gardens Guild, which encourages all gardeners to create an enjoyable environment and practice good gardening, arranges lectures, demonstrations and discussions on horticultural subjects. The Guild also arranges tours of nurseries, and gardens of interest, provides authoritative advice on horticultural matters and organises competitions. This organisation is a good way of encouraging our community to brighten and improve the environment. It also reminds us of our horticultural heritage in Chelsea.

For details of membership of the Chelsea Gardens Guild apply to Mrs. Pamela Sheridan, 24 Paultons Square, London SW3 5AP (071-352 0158).

(See illustration, page 43)

An appreciation of the Rev. Prebendary C. E. Leighton Thomson

He came in 1950 to a church curtained by tarpaulin, still shaking off the rubble from a direct hit in 1941. As a teenager — the term ill fits one who is invariably well groomed — he had visited the Old Church and been intrigued by the ornate choir stalls and the dark-stained pews. He found it quaint but when, after serving a curacy in south London, he spent three years as a chaplain in Alexandria, he must have thought longingly of its cool setting. On his return he found in working order only that corner of the church that had once belonged to Thomas More. Here the heart of the parish still beat; here Leighton took his first service as vicar before a congregation provided with makeshift pews and hassocks. The roof had mostly gone, and the strains of the upright piano were carried away, when it rained, by the clatter on the reinforced asbestos roof above.

To be aware of those early days, and to contrast them with the orderly brightness of the building today, is to get some measure of the extent to which Leighton, over forty years, has nurtured and cherished his church, and breathed into it once again the ardent spirit of worship that had been rudely interrupted. It needed a man, strong, and if need be ruthless, enough to confront the manifold problems ahead, and the time in which to tackle them. In Leighton, barely into his thirties, they chose well; better, perhaps than they knew.

When, eight years after his appearance, the Old Church was triumphantly reconsecrated in the presence of royalty and to the flourish of trumpets, it had become whole again, but the occasion was not so much an end as a beginning. There was as yet no vicarage, or church hall, they were still signing cheques in the mid-'Sixties to pay for the restoration work, and some formidable monuments had to be found a new resting place. This was achieved in the case of the Gervoise Arch and the Stanley Memorial only after much heart-searching, opposition — though not from the bulk of the parish — and wearisome negotiation, during which the impatience of the vicar was contained by his own deep sense of history and its perspective, and by a succession of churchwardens whom he found providentially well-equipped to deal with each new crisis.

A parish magazine stepped gingerly into the second half of the 20th century, replacing the few columns in the magazine of St. Luke's to which, as a chapel of ease, the Old Church had been restricted before the war. The children's service was another area where no legacy had been left. From scratch he has built it up into an occasion the good name of which has spread well beyond the narrow confines of the parish. His firm mellifluous voice has sailed unscathed through countless half-hours — he disdains statistics — and through the sneezing and wailing that punctuate the best of services of that kind. He has used paper work, blackboards, even a conjuring trick to hold attention without ever losing that delicate balance between informality and reverence on which success depends.

Stewardship, removing from the weekly offertories the burden of the church's running costs, was a frail child of the 'Sixties that works smoothly now, though never in danger of being over-subscribed. Consultation over the form and siting of the More statue, about the same time, marked the starting point of a gradual but steady growth in good relations between his church and the neighbouring Roman Catholic one, in which both parties have played their part. It was no surprise, when, in 1986, his work was recognized by his appointment as Prebendary of St. Paul's.

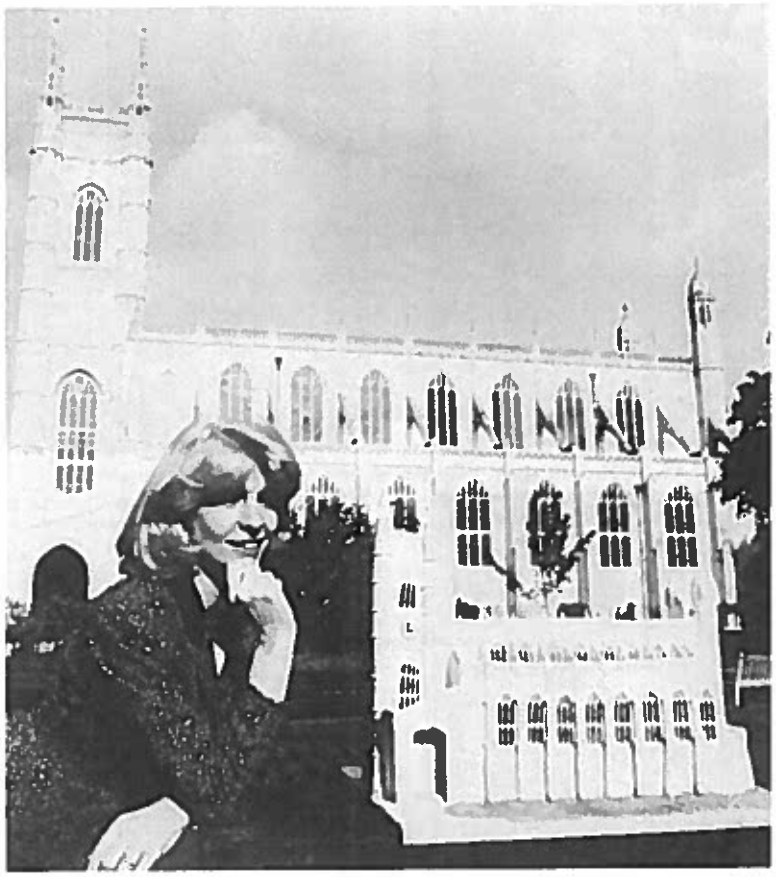
Leighton is not one to get submerged in a sea of domestic activities and their problems. His link with the Territorial Army as a long-serving chaplain opened one window; others were captaining parties to Egypt, or the Holy Land, or farther flung holidays with his wife, Prudence, upon whom he so much relied. In the Masonic order he has reached a position close to the top. About his sketching there is nothing amateurish. Those who have enjoyed his Christmas cards would believe him well qualified to be a member of the Chelsea Arts Club, were he not already an honorary life member by virtue of his office in the church. He first saw his sketches as marking the steps by which the church was restored and adorned, but part of the satisfaction he derives from the hobby is the sense of relaxation it induces.

How can anyone write of the ways in which a priest gives help to those in spiritual need? Intimacy in such matters is a barrier to be crossed only with delicacy, yet one example may suggest countless others which remain untold. A bereaved husband sought the formal guidance and comfort of religion. After a shrewd delay, out of the blue came an invitation to join Leighton in scrubbing the church floor. Scrubbing a floor is a fine activity; it induces a feeling of humility, and is not as hard on the back as it sounds. No great scope for conversation, but in the peace of a church quite devoid of gloom, its healing effect was powerful. A bottle of brandy, Christmas gift from a parishioner, was broached to celebrate the completion. An enduring bond had been formed, not only between man and man, but between man and church.

Nothing more clearly illustrates the strength of Leighton's faith than his ability, within a few days of Prudence's sudden death, to conduct on his own her funeral service in a church filled with the sound of strong voices. It was a shining example of all that he has stood for. In the unbroken line of incumbents since Reginald de St. Albans in 1291 Leighton's contribution must surely stand among the most impressive. His successor will find, as he did, a loyal nucleus ready to welcome. The problems confronting him will be less of bricks and mortar and of the gathering of loose strands together, for the structure has been rebuilt and works as smoothly as any parish could hope. But in an age of bed-sits, property developers and week-ends away, the "village" church may well be facing problems no less formidable than the piles of rubble that greeted his predecessor.

Peter Ryde

(See illustration, page 39)



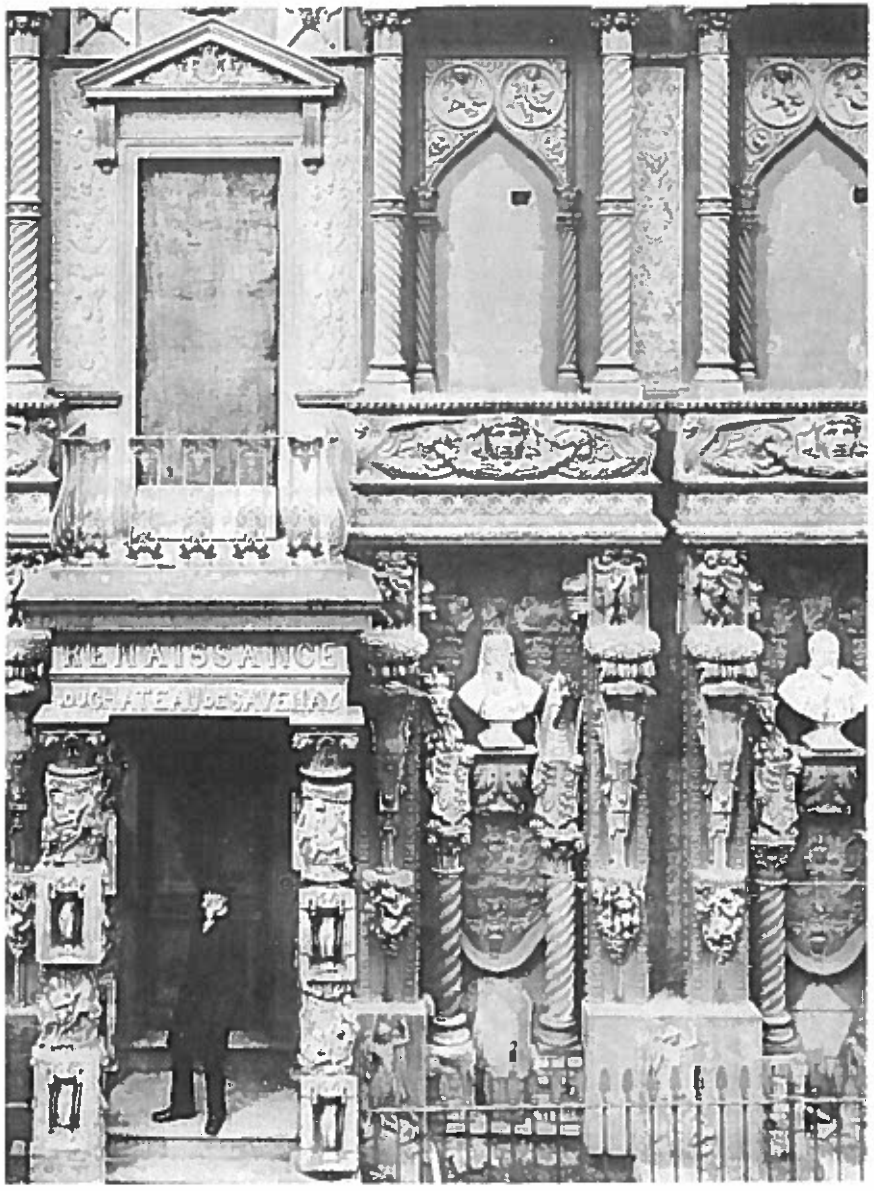
Not just a piece of cake. The raising of more than £1,600,000 for the restoration of St. Luke's Church was celebrated by the baking of a suitably iced cake by Jane Asher, the actress, who runs a bakery and cake-shop in Chelsea. (See page 28.) (Photograph by courtesy of the Daily Telegraph*).*

The summer meeting at the Chelsea Arts Club: top right: the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Desmond Harney, listens to David Le Lay, Chairman of the Chelsea Society, address the meeting; top left: Mrs. Lesley Lewis, Hon. Vice-President of the Society; bottom left: Hugh Gilbert, Chairman of the Chelsea Arts Club, responds; bottom right: Leo and Philippa Bernard of Chelsea Rare Books with Michael Bryan.

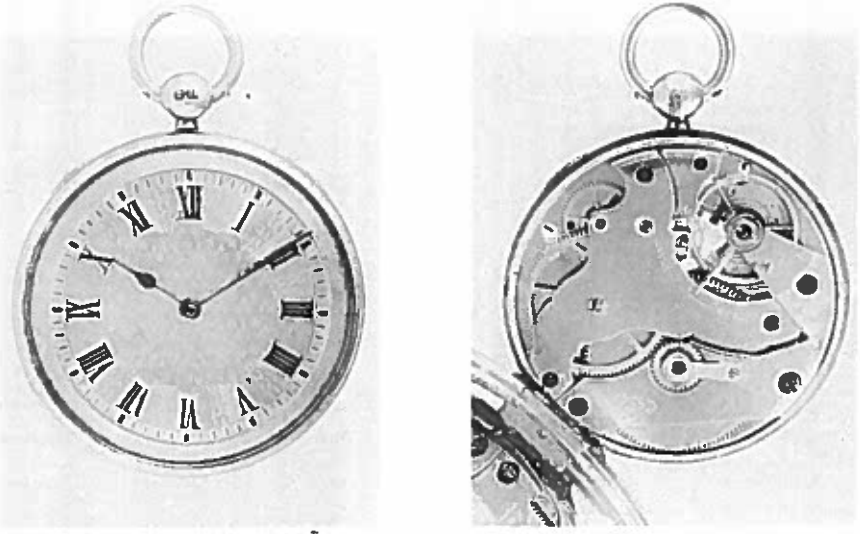
Friends who will be remembered. The Rev. Prebendary Leighton Thomson, who retires after more than 40 years as Vicar of Chelsea Old Church, with his wife, Prue, who died this year. (See pages 35 and 61.)

The late Kit Gayford, the "elderly, young-minded naiad of Chelsea Reach", on board her houseboat moored off Cheyne Walk. (See page 63.)

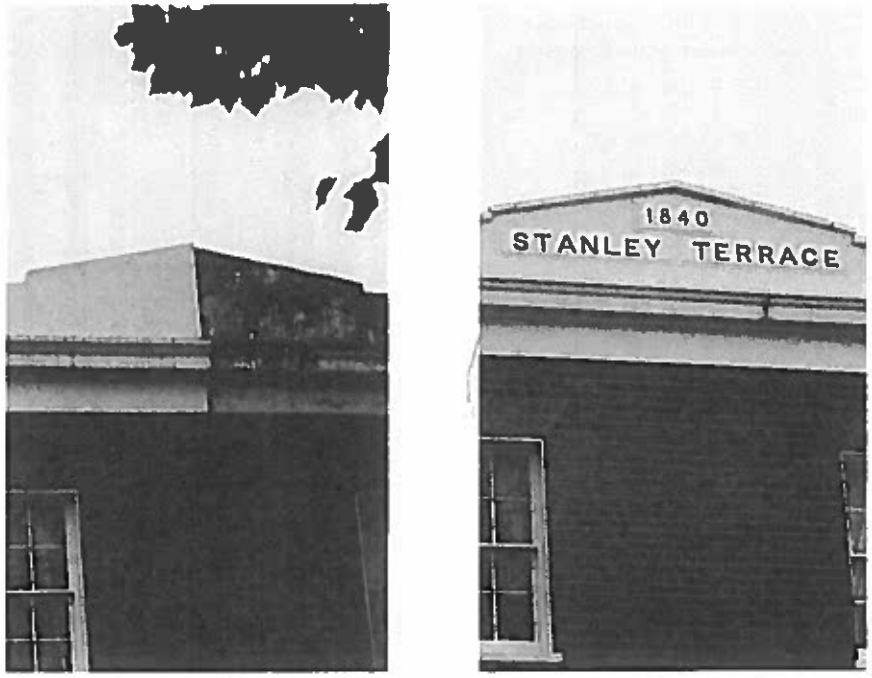
The planting of trees in Chelsea streets, pioneered by Dr. John Phené (see opposite and page 30) in the last century was continued by Mr. Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, when he planted the first of a renewed avenue in Upper Cheyne Row beside the site of Dr. Phené's house (see opposite) to launch National Tree Week. (Photograph by Michael Sumner Esq.)



Dr. John Phené, eccentric, architect, antiquary and tree-planter, seen outside his extraordinary house on the corner of Oakley Street and Upper Cheyne Row at the turn of the century. (Photograph by R. A. Inglis; reproduced by courtesy of Dr. Patrick Lovett and John Bignell Esq.)



The Chelsea watch, which had left the trail of clues that Simon Bendall followed to trace its mysterious maker (see page 57).



A small victory: the inscription "Stanley Terrace. 1840", which had disappeared from the pediment of the King's Road terrace between Paultons Square and Beaufort Street, restored after a request from the Chelsea Society.

Green grows Cadogan Place. Kenwyn Pearson, the head gardener of the Cadogan Estate, in that Chelsea garden, one of many in his care. He writes about their history on page 32.

A puzzle: where is this street, here drawn by Walter Greaves in 1897? All the buildings it shows have been replaced but the sign "Christchurch Street" is the clue; it is, of course, what is now Royal Hospital Road and was once Queen's Road. (By courtesy of Michael Bryan Esq.)

STOLEN: *The bronze bust of the novelist Henry James, which was taken from its plinth on the landing of the main staircase of Chelsea Library at the beginning of the year (above). Sadly there is no known copy from which to cast a replacement.*

STOLEN: *Derwent Wood's statue "Atalanta", which was taken by metal thieves from its plinth in Cheyne Walk, near Albert Bridge, where it had stood for more than half a century (left). A new statue is being cast from the original.*

Times past 1.

Before the Victorians

by Arthur Grimwade

Readers of the Society's Annual Report may recall that I have previously offered them glimpses of Chelsea seen through the eyes of a Dutchman in the 17th. and a Swede in the 18th. centuries, both resulting from chance discoveries of these accounts, previously printed but scarcely known. Since then, in a similar piece of serendipity, I have unearthed what must be, I fancy, an extremely rare slim, maroon, paper-bound volume of 1901 entitled *Random Recollections of Chelsea and the surrounding District as a Village in the early part of the last century by An Old Inhabitant.* The copy acquired by the London Library in 1946 bears an inscription on the introduction page "With the author's compliments, Tho. Ellenor".

The anonymous introduction to this little book of 83 pages is dated 1901, Highfield Lodge, Wandsworth Common, and is faced by a reproduced photograph of a bearded man apparently of earlier date than the introduction which states that the idea of compiling the recollections from a diary "only occurred to me when confined to my room to pass away some of the weary hours", so we may presume that he was of a ripe and failing age by then, borne out by the fact that he writes of "A Boy's Tramp to Derby Day" in 1837.

Chapter I begins "In my early recollection, Chelsea had many industries characteristic of the village, which may have entirely passed away. The only conveyance — a two-horse coach, called the 'Village Clock' — used to run from the Cross Keys in Lawrence Street, twice a day, for one shilling to Charing Cross, and one-and-sixpence to the City; time from Chelsea, ten in the morning and two in the afternoon; supposed to do the journey in an hour — which it never did." He goes on "the King's Road was like a country road, with a toll-gate on the north-east side of Sloane Square" and further that "it only took a second place in Chelsea proper. Paradise Row and Cheyne Walk were considered the busiest and most thriving parts of the village." He recalled "the first policeman coming on duty. Nearly all the schoolboys, nurse girls and children turned out to see him. He was a tall ungainly-looking countryman, dressed in a blue bobtailed coat, white duck trousers, heavy Blucher boots, and a top hat and white gloves. For several days an admiring crowd followed him a little way behind like the tail of a comet, but the novelty wore off after a time."

Turning to the river front he writes "the Swan Brewery stood at the bottom of Swan Walk and between that and the Botanical Gardens was the Skinners' Company's Dock and barge wharf, where the state barge was kept. . . The land between the barge house and the brewery was a

rare place for eels and a favourite place for us boys to lay night lines, as it was always well ground-baited by the refuse from the brewery. I have taken twenty-four eels off twenty-five hooks on a night line." Stories follow of riverside characters, including "Jamie Cator had the reputation of being a remnant of the old press gang — and looked it every bit" and "Two watermen went regularly up to Thames Street as carriers . . . They would frequently bring a barrel of herrings or sacks of potatoes and go round with a bell and announce they would sell in the boat at the drawdock and in winter would have flaring lights and sell by Dutch auction. In the summer there was the grass boat, owned by an old man, his wife and daughter. . . They came twice a week with bundles of rush grass cut in the marshes on the river's bank to sell to the local tradesmen to feed their horses at three-halfpence a bundle. They were a terribly drunken lot; but the temptation to drink in those days in Chelsea was very much greater than at present, for, since I can recollect, in that one road not much over a mile from Battersea Bridge to Ebury Bridge on the canal, there have been eighteen public houses closed, and only one new license granted."

The author's third chapter "Entertainment and Sports" contains a lively picture of Chelsea Regatta. "A grand day, usually about Whitsuntide, when rowing took place for various prizes, subscribed for by the inhabitants, the publicans being the most active promoters, and the leading gentry patrons and liberal subscribers. . . The amount collected at a time would be as much as fifty or sixty pounds. There was a grand prize, a boat to cost twenty pounds and various money prizes. The limit of entries was twelve, to be drawn by lot by Chelsea watermen. . . The race was in two heats; the course from a point opposite the Yorkshire Grey stairs, round a boat moored opposite the Adam and Eve, back and round a boat moored opposite the Brunswick Tea Gardens at Nine Elms and back to the starting point. The waterside on a regatta day was like a fair as there were two or three mountebanks, a circus and dancing booth on various pieces of vacant ground. Performers dressed as clowns played a river tournament, sitting on beer barrels afloat, tilting at each other with long poles. Then there was an old woman drawn in a washing tub by four geese." And more to the same effect.

The next chapter "Chelsea Notabilities" contains a pleasant sketch of the inhabitants of the Rectory in the early eighteen-thirties. "I well recollect the Kingsleys coming to Chelsea. I think it was about 1832. The first time I saw Charles and Henry [the authors] they were boys about twelve and fourteen. I met them in the Rectory garden at the giving of prizes to the St. Luke's National School boys, when they were regaled with buns and milk. The rector and the boys were great favourites with the parishioners, as they were courteous and very free with everybody."

The picture painted of the river front is tantalisingly far removed from today's juggernaut route. "The favourite promenade, especially on a Sunday, was the River Terrace at the back of Chelsea Hospital. It was thrown to the public and you gained access to it from the gate of the private gardens opposite King Charles's statue. It consisted of a gravelled terrace and a dwarf wall on the river side, with two rows of immense elms

commencing at the outlet of Ranelagh Ditch to the river, and ending at the Round House. On the corner stood the College Water Works, with the old machinery going to decay, that had been used to pump water for the hospital. This was a grand place and considered extremely fashionable, where most of the courting and flirting by the young people was carried on. The Ranelagh Ditch was the boundary of the hospital grounds and was an open stream about nine feet wide. It was open right up to the end of Eaton Place. It was crossed by two bridges, one called Ranelagh in the Pimlico Road, the other called Bloody Bridge between Sloane Square and Westbourne Street." [The 1836 map of Chelsea shows the bridge to the east of Sloane Square at about the start of today's Clivedon Place so could he have meant the present Bourne Street?]

He goes on "On the banks of this foul and offensive stream there was no better than a common sewer. Between the two bridges were crowded together a lot of old cottages that were periodically at high tide flooded by the offensive matter. The district was known as Frog's Island and suffered terribly in the outbreak of cholera in 1832. . . I think this stream is now covered over. It had its rise from the overflow in the Serpentine and crossed under the road at Knightbridge, about where the Albert Gate now stands." A footnote signed J. H. Quinn, who presumably acted as Ellenor's editor, points out quite correctly, "It marks the parish boundary and is carried across Sloane Square Station in great iron cylinders."

After this gloomy picture of the eastern edge of "the village" the author's reminiscences become more disjointed but interesting vignettes of the life of the time appear sporadically. "It was a grand sight on the first of May to see the four-horse mail coaches pass along Knightsbridge at eight in the evening. As many as fourteen would pass all in their new livery of scarlet coats, trimmed with lace, the guards blowing their horns. I have seen them take up passengers at the top of Sloane Street, who arrived there in one of the old hackney coaches, and it appeared quite an undertaking to get the passengers on board." He follows later with the lying in state of the Duke of Wellington at Chelsea Hospital: "During the ten days for which the body was on view the crowd was immense and on about the third day there were two women trampled to death and a great number injured owing to the number of artillerymen marching up in a body and trying to force their way through the crowd". He next recalls that "The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race was best seen from Cheyne Walk as the course at that time was from Westminster to Putney and the race was considered a dead certainty for whichever boat got through Battersea Bridge first and had the Middlesex shore."

Next comes a chapter on public gardens which begins, "The first that I recollect was the Manor House in the King's Road between Little's Nursery and Shawfield Street where Radnor Street and the Commercial Tavern now stand." The 1836 map shows this as exactly opposite to Jubilee Place with "Little's Botanic Nursery" behind a row of houses facing Markham Street, and, curiously enough, another Manor House very close in Smith Street, facing St. Leonard's Terrace, then called Green's Row.

The author goes on "It was a detached house with carriage drive in front and grounds reaching to where the bottom of Radnor Street is. . . in about 1836 it was taken by a man of the name of Smith and turned into a tea and recreation garden, a sort of little Vauxhall with coloured lamps, statuary, shrubbery, winding path and fountain, with music and dancing. . . It was carried on only for a few years after which the owners built the Commercial Tavern, with a large room behind, now Radnor Chapel. . . Radnor Street was built leaving the old Manor House standing at the corner of the King's Road. It was then turned into the Chelsea Literary and Scientific Institution and so continued until removed to the Chelsea Town Hall. It struggled on for a few years and then came to grief." A more lengthy account of Cremorne then follows and a short mention of the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition, but this was no part of Chelsea itself.

We read further of his childhood memories of the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832. "There was a great illumination, and gangs of men and boys went about breaking the windows of all the houses that were not lit up. The illumination consisted of tallow candles stuck in square lumps of clay about six in each window. Chelsea has always had a strong radical element, for, during the agitation over the Reform Bill, the Unionists had one or two meeting-houses. In 1848, the time of the Chartists, one of the sections met on Chelsea Common and marched to the great meeting on Kennington Common." The rest of the story is history with the holding up of the Chartists at Westminster Bridge and the conveying of the petition to the House in two four-wheeled cabs.

Ellenor's first employment was as a "checker" for landing goods in the London Docks and to get to work there at eight o'clock he walked for one and a half hours from Chelsea and back at four for 12s. a week. Occasionally, when the tide was right, he would "get a ride home by taking a scull and dropping up with the tide", pulling an oar in the boat. Walking was the normal progress for him. "I have often walked from Chelsea to the Robin Hood at Kingston Bottom and back after I had done my day's work, to do my courting and see the young lady, the daughter of the head gardener at Park House, who lived at the lodge by the entrance gates." But the girl was sent away as companion to an old lady in Bath and he does not relate whether or not she became his wife.

We will close these picturesque extracts from a remarkable sketch of a century and a half ago and finish with the author's last page devoted to what we may assume to be his own composition.

Dear old Chelsea, the landmarks fast fading away,
Where the warrior, the statesmen, the grave and the gay,
Came to rest and play.
Where fair maids and grand dames spent their fortune and fame,
Then flirted away, where grand lords and gay courtiers came
For their wooing by the silent highway.
Where men of learning high in the state,
Passed from their hearths to the dungeons and died for their Faith.
Brave to the last,
Dear old Chelsea will soon be but a page of the past.

Times past 2.

After the Victorians

by Bertha Bottrill

No. 2 Trafalgar Square was where I lived at the age of five, but we did not overlook Nelson's Column with which this address might be associated. No, we overlooked a pleasant Chelsea garden "for the use of Residents only" and for which each house-owner possessed a key. The owner of our house, Mrs. Dee, lived on the ground floor and the basement, whilst we had a large flat on the First Floor and a charming French lady lived above.

The top end of our square merged into Manresa Road, where there was a timber-merchant's business and such a lovely smell of new wood. Up on the right was the Chelsea Polytechnic, which my sister and I attended for dancing lessons. Very junior pupils met in a small room at the top of the building, one day behind a curtain we found a model skeleton hanging, so obviously the room was used for other lessons. As we progressed we came down to a larger hall complete with gallery and finally having reached the "Special Dancing Class" we met in the largest Hall, where our teachers were really the pupils under surveillance. One would sometimes encounter Fraulein the principal with her pekinese in attendance.

Sadly, Mrs. Dee died and her relatives decided to sell the house so we moved to Guthrie Street nearby. Here our Flat overlooked the Convent garden and we attended the Convent School, where mother and her sisters had been pupils before us — they had grown up in Arthur Street. One Saturday morning we watched many aeroplanes flying overhead — a neighbour announced that they were Germans. Whether or not that was the case, the 1914 War had begun.

The owner of our house announced that her daughter's husband had been "called-up" so daughter was bringing her family to live with her mother and we must move once again. In those days very few people owned their house but, if they did, they usually let flats, so we found a nice one in Redesdale Street, not far from Royal Hospital Road. Despite the War, our childhood seemed happy enough, we explored the neighbourhood with friends, went swimming at the Chelsea Baths, enjoyed picnics in the summer in Battersea Park and in the winter collected fallen bark from the trees there which made lovely fires in the open kitchen grate.

Mother was a great believer in "fresh air", so we were encouraged to walk everywhere and came to know our Chelsea very well in every direction. Setting off from home into Flood Street and down to the Embankment, along Cheyne Walk and into the narrow gardens where Thomas Carlyle's statue surveyed the scene. Grandmother's cousin Fanny and her husband owned a small tailoring business in a very old house in

a row of shops almost hidden behind the gardens. At one time when the chimney was being swept the sweep lost his broom and his poor lad was sent up to find it and discovered a tiny room off the chimney — who knows just what this was for? Under the large flagstones in the kitchen was said to be a passage which led to a house owned by Nell Gwynn at Sands End, beyond the Cremorne Gardens. Grandmother remembered these gardens as a delightful place to walk in, but all that remained in our time were the massive gates leading into the brewery. She also said that great-grandfather died from pneumonia caught whilst shooting birds on Chelsea Marshes.

Mother's friend Miss Watson owned a small restaurant called the Blue Cockatoo and on a Sunday we sometimes took tea there with her.

Great-grandmother was buried in the graveyard around Chelsea Old Church, but alas a bomb demolished a great deal of this hallowed spot. There is a lovely picture by Whistler looking across the river to Chelsea Old Church — he of course lived by what we called Chelsea Reach. If visiting friends living in a block of flats in Beaufort Street, we would call in at the chapel built we were told on the site of Sir Thomas More's house and in the garden was a mulberry tree said to have been planted in his time as they live to a great age.

On a friend's birthday, her mother took us to the King's Picture Palace in the Kings Road and here we enjoyed *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*. Afterwards, and to us most excitingly, we visited a fish and chip shop for a meal — mother did not approve when told about this, but was too polite to say so.

Past Chelsea Reach, along Cremorne Road brought us to the World's End, a great disappointment this, although I am not sure quite what we expected. Walking back along the King's Road, one eventually came to the top of Oakley Street. Ellen Terry's house stood on the corner among other large houses and mother was asked to caretake one for a short period during the war so we were sleeping there the night the bomb fell on part of the Chelsea Pensioners' Home at the far end of Redesdale Street, many of the houses had windows blown out, but ours was one of the lucky ones, not one pane cracked. Every Chelsea child knew of the "haunted house" in Oakley Street and hurried past it. The story went that it was built for a Doctor Phené for his bride, but she jilted him and he left it just as it was, furnished or not, we never knew. *(See page 30.)*

Through a short turning off Oakley Street brought us to the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer which we attended. One Sunday evening returning home after the service the maroons sounded and a policeman cycled by saying "get those children home, mother" — poor mother was literally running as fast as she could. If a raid began during a service, the congregation descended the stone steps into the crypt, where we felt perfectly safe.

As befitting its name, the King's Road was, and I believe still is, an

interesting thoroughfare and so varied. In my thoughts I am back at Christmastide and our annual visit to see the pantomime at the Chelsea Palace. Opposite stood Chelsea Town Hall, where later I enjoyed going to the Primrose League dances. Nearby was the Margaret Morris School of Dancing — I dearly longed to learn my dancing there, but it was out of the question. I believe Isadora Duncan was a pupil there at one time.

At the corner of Markham Street stood the Markham Cinema where we enjoyed seeing Lilian Gish in *The White Sister*. More friends lived in Markham Street — father Italian, mother English and eight children. Visiting this family we often walked on to Chelsea Common, which in our day resembled a small village green with a variety of shops and a pub. Into Cadogan Street, we would walk, passing St. Mary's church and finally reaching Sloane Square, where mother worked at Lady French's Workroom during the war. If weather permitted, we then walked down Lower Sloane Street and on to the Embankment as being a pleasant way home. During holidays we had permission to play in the Chelsea College gardens — pretty grassy hillocks, just right for hide-and-seek. Along this stretch of the Embankment were very elegant houses around the Swan Walk area. I met a lady who had grown up in one of these as her father had been butler to the family.

One came eventually to the Cadogan Pier. I have never heard mention of a very exciting event which took place there and which we witnessed. King George V and Queen Mary came down the river in the royal barge — a magnificent sight! They landed at the Pier, where a small white pavilion had been erected for their reception. Later they drove in their carriage up to the Kings Road and so back to Buckingham Palace. We had run through the turnings to see this as well. I Think our dear Princess Mary was with them. I would be so interested to know why this event took place.

Familiar ground now, Wellington Square, Chelsea Barracks, Smith Street, Radnor Street, Flood Street and Manor Street, so many memories up and down these turnings. Father came home on leave, took me to buy some shoes — I never saw him again.

In the winter, on the corner of Manor Street, stood the Hot Potato Man — what an appetising smell on a cold day! We were tempted, although mother did not like us to eat in the street. All the parents had a certain code of conduct — one either did, or did not — despite all this, we were happy and contented children.

Our way to school was down Sidney Street, past St. Luke's Church and graveyard. Here again, mother insisted if we cut through the graveyard that we walked quietly 'out of respect for those lying there'. I wonder what she would have thought to see the gravestones standing around the walls and the area a childrens' playground? From Sloane Square to the World's End, we children knew and loved every inch of our dear Chelsea.

A rumbustious century for the Chelsea Arts Club

To mark the centenary of the celebrated Chelsea institution, TOM CROSS *describes a period beyond the memories of its present members.*

In August, 1914, the long peace of Europe ended and no one in England could foresee the crippling effect that this would have upon the social fabric of the nation. In London, the sculptor Derwent Wood, supported by several leading members formally proposed that a Chelsea Arts Club Corps be formed and sought the sanction of the War Office for this. He hoped for at least one hundred members and was sure that "the Club would be proud to have made such an effort in the present crisis". When Alfred Munnings came to London from Cornwall at the outbreak of war he found fellow members, who had already joined the Artists' Rifles, solemnly drilling with broomsticks in the garden. He went to the nearest recruiting station in Chelsea but to his surprise he was rejected from the Yeomanry because of his blind eye and returned to Hampshire to paint hop-pickers.

The older artists, too old for active service, helped as best they could. They turned their studios into workshops, or they patrolled the streets as special constables, prepared to cope with any emergency. The landscape painter Arthur Black was sent to France to make hand and foot splints for the wounded. William Dickson was also too old for the Army, but, being a good mechanic, he turned his studio in the King's Road into a workshop and for three years devoted all his time to making fine parts for the sights of field-guns.

In the early days of the war, the Commandant of the 3rd London General Hospital made an impassioned plea in the bar of the Club for help with the medical services and, as a consequence, some thirty members joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. Many of these enlisted in 1914 and stayed, although past military age, until the end of the war. When Derwent Wood joined the R.A.M.C. in 1915 he was the first sculptor to be recruited into the Army to practise his art. He helped the wounded and disfigured in the field, by making silver masks to cover facial wounds. Others drove ambulances or served as stretcher-bearers for the Red Cross throughout the war in France, Belgium, Italy and the Balkans.

Henry Tonks, then teaching at the Slade School, combined his medical experience with his artistic skills in an extraordinary way. At the beginning

of the war, Tonks, then fifty-nine, served in England as a volunteer hospital orderly but by January, 1915, he was in France and the following year was made a lieutenant in the R.A.M.C. He became interested in the recording of facial surgery cases and began to visit the Cambridge Military Hospital where Sir Harold Gillies had developed techniques of skin grafting to repair soldiers' disfigured faces. He worked with Gillies in the operating theatre recording operations and made a series of remarkable pastel drawings of severely wounded soldiers.

In the last year of the war Tonks was appointed a war artist, agreed to tackle a medical subject and, after much indecision, he left for France in June, 1918, in the company of John Singer Sargent, to paint a field dressing-station for propaganda purposes. With the war still at its height, he worked on studies in an advanced dressing-station near to the front line, although with typical self-depreciation he wrote "anybody less suited to be a special artist probably does not exist". However, he went on, "I pride myself that it gives a reasonable account of modern war surgery. . . I used to make such notes as I could of actual wounded men and I think most of what I saw is based on actual fact."

Gaps were appearing in the Club as members were called into the armed forces and, of the 319 members, 74 were serving with the Colours by 1916. They were all made honorary members and their subscription was waived, their photographs were exhibited in the Club and food parcels were sent to them at the Front. As far as possible the Club tried to proceed with its normal affairs but attendance was down and income was reduced. There was concern that members would not find employment as artists and it was agreed to put on a cheap lunch at one shilling instead of one and sixpence. It was also agreed that any artist who was in receipt of help from the Artists' Benevolent Fund should be allowed three months credit for meals but although every economy was being made, the Club was running at a loss. Because of the lack of young men, the red-coated waiters were replaced by waitresses, the cost of wines and spirits was raised, economy was made in the use of coal and electric light and the Club closed at 11 p.m.

In 1914, a new Club steward was appointed, a young man called Albert William Smith, who, for no good reason, was immediately christened 'John the Steward'. He was then about 24 years old, courteous and well-spoken and had trained as a servant. His young wife Ellen Mayne became stewardess. 'John' soon became a Club institution. He recalled the casual atmosphere of the Club on his first days:

"I arrived this morning, 2nd. April, 1914, at the Club, on Good Friday. Most of the members were away, being holiday time, so I did not see many the first day . . . On Monday most of the members came back and dinner seemed a strange affair after private service. I thought what a strange lot of people to be sure. Members 'lazed' on the table, swore a bit, and had not brushed their hair, but it is easy to fall into line. I mean there was no need to be embarrassed. Mr. Robert Fowler came in on the Saturday afternoon, and seeing that I was new, started showing me a few

card tricks. Mr. George Coats came in aid in his well modulated voice asked me my name, etc. At that time he was Chairman of the House Committee. The Annual Dinner followed on the 27th, a pleasant affair; English ribs of beef from Smithfield Market at 9d a pound, quite different from the 'War meat'. We managed to finish the clearing away by 2 a.m."

Together, the steward and stewardess ran the Club; their duties were comprehensive, overseeing everything from the kitchen and other staff to the wine cellar and tradesmen. After balls or dinners, they could be on duty in the bar until 4 a.m. and then be required to prepare 120 breakfasts before the last guests left. 'John' was a keen observer of the members. He admired their way of life, he enjoyed their successes and commiserated with their disappointments. He wrote his reminiscences in two journals, parts of which are quoted here. He described a Club which was boisterous, outgoing and friendly, yet at a time of war tensions were high, fierce disagreements could occur and members not infrequently came to blows:

"On Monday night the Club gave a dinner to Bill Baynes, and a riotous affair it was. Bill drank innumerable pints of beer, and sloe gin. After dinner the company went into the billiard room, where singing and a general carousel took place. One member happened to say that any person serving in France must be lousy. Bill Baynes instantly let down his trousers, pulled up his shirt and said 'Look at this and see if I am lousy.' Afterwards they patrolled the billiard room, headed by Bill, singing 'Ribs of beef and b----y great lumps of Duff'. This went on until two o'clock and, on the following day, Bill returned to France. Several members went to Victoria with him and jumped over the barrier to wish 'God Speed' to poor Sergeant Baynes; and that was the last we saw of him, as he was blown up by a shell three weeks afterwards."

Although many of the men were away, the Club was at its liveliest, there was constant coming and going of members on home leave, or others calling in between portrait commissions of the military.

Philip Wilson Steer was in the Special Constabulary for a short time, later he was recruited as a war artist on a scheme that was introduced by the Government in 1916. He was asked to paint Dover harbour for the Navy, however he found this disturbing to his comfort. Steer's requirements while painting (as listed by his friend Philip Connard) were: One, shelter from the wind (his fear of draughts was notorious), Two, proximity to a lavatory. Three, shade from the sun. Four, protection from children. Five, a suitable subject. These were not easily satisfied, he found his hotel accommodation depressing and when he started to paint in watercolour "some blighter comes up and wants to see my permit, which is very upsetting just in the middle of laying on a wash!" To add to his difficulties he found that "Ships and boats had a habit of moving unexpectedly and after spending much time and labour in putting one in, one finds one has got it in the wrong place."

H. M. Bateman, the *Punch* artist, had made an unsuccessful attempt to join the Army but after a brief period of training he contracted rheumatic

fever and was invalided out. During his recovery he was in the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, where he found a number of friends from Chelsea. He decorated the recreation room with several cartoons, one of which was of Sgt. Derwent Wood fixing a splint to a straffed microbe.

William Orpen, Augustus John and John Sargent were the biggest names among the war artists. Some of the earliest commissions of the war were offered by the Canadian Government, as part of a scheme that had been pursued with energy by Lord Beaverbrook, and Orpen was one of the first major painters to be appointed. During his first months in France he was remarkably unproductive, objecting to being treated like a child, and being expected to show his work each day and to hear it criticised by Philistine officers in terms which outraged him. He spent much time quarrelling with the authorities who thought he was "Irish and artistic". Orpen was later appointed an official war artist to the British in 1917 and was still in France in 1920.

Augustus John had been saved from the rigours of active service by an ailment he described as "housemaid's knee". He applied for a war artist appointment in 1917 and the Canadians offered him a major's commission with full pay. He came to France in January, 1918, to the area around Vimy and cut a dashing figure as the only bearded officer in the Army except for the King, for whom he was frequently mistaken. John greatly enjoyed the attention that he was given but was sent home in disgrace for knocking down a fellow officer.

The most ambitious picture to come from the Western Front, and one of the most powerful, was John Sargent's *Gassed*. A subject had been suggested to him by the War Office — the co-operation between American and British troops — and as an American living in London this appeared to be appropriate. It was suggested that this should be a "super-picture" designed, like John's, to be hung in a Hall of Remembrance, to be 20 ft. long by 9 ft. high. With a personal letter from Lloyd George, Sargent received V.I.P. treatment. He arrived in France in July, 1917, and was given good accommodation with the Guards division on the Somme. He made many sketches, working under a large white umbrella — later camouflaged — and was taken on occasional rides in a tank. However he had great difficulty in finding a subject of sufficient gravity and importance to fill the large canvas, without it looking, he said "like an illustrated-paper kind of subject". Eventually Sargent chose to paint a scene that he had witnessed at Le-Bac-du-Sud on the road to Arras, where a temporary dressing-station had been set up to relieve the suffering of hundreds of men who had been temporarily blinded by mustard-gas. When completed, this haunting painting became one of the most famous of the war pictures.

Into the autumn of 1918 the war dragged on. But at last, in 1918, the Kaiser abdicated and two days later the German delegation signed the Armistice. In the Club, the celebrations were fierce and, on Armistice Day, Alfred Munnings arranged a dinner for which he decorated the billiard room. This was an uproarious affair with speeches and frequent

interruptions for his own recitations and songs, his rendering of *The Raven* was interrupted by squalling cats on the roof and curses from himself.

Colonel John Cameron presided at the Peace Dinner. As the steward remembered; "Col. Cameron was very strict; some members were whispering during a speech and he jumped to his feet and said in broad Scotch, 'Will you shut up with your row down the room there!' After dinner, when the speeches were over about midnight, I saw him with his arm around a maid and when he saw me he said, 'You know John, you'll have to get a bit of discipline in this place.'"

Tom Cross, himself an artist and a member of the Chelsea Arts Club, is the author of Artists and Bohemians: 100 Years with the Chelsea Arts Club *(to be published by Quiller Press), from which this is an extract.*

A correspondence

A member of the Chelsea Society was dismayed by the recent destruction of one of the principal charms of Chelsea. So he wrote to Sir Norman Foster, the architect, at his new office block, Riverside Three, which he has designed, built and occupied immediately across the river from Chelsea Old Church:

I write to ask whether it would be possible for the lights of your office to be switched off after the staff leaves rather than being left on until about midnight? Like many Chelsea people, we have always loved the Whistlerian lights on the river at twilight and the reminders of his "nocturnes" after dark. Hitherto, it has always seemed that, whatever was built on the riverside and whether or not one approved of it, the lovely, changing light would always remain. . . .

Now, however, we in Old Chelsea — and particularly in this ancient street — are faced with a huge rectangle of bright electric light, which obliterates all Whistlerian subtlety. Obviously light is necessary for the work of your office staff but it would be a great kindness if it were possible for you to arrange for the lights to be turned off when no longer needed so that the beauty of Chelsea Reach can be restored for some of the evening and more of the night.

He received this reply from Mr. Graham Phillips of Foster Associates:

We concur with your request since we do, in fact, have standing instructions to our security staff to switch off all the main lighting once the staff have left. Unfortunately, staff regularly work until midnight and sometimes right through the night. We will, however, ensure that the security staff are otherwise following the policy.

The lights continue to blaze.

The quest for the Chelsea watchmaker

by Simon Bendall

In the summer of 1991, a friend of mine who deals in clocks and watches, showed me a watch which he thought might be of interest to me. At first I was not sure why he thought this since the gold face and mid-nineteenth century style did not immediately appeal to me, although it was earlier than it looked since the gold marks on the case showed that it had been made in 1834.

The watch was unsigned except for some rather crudely engraved initials on the back plate, which happened to be the same as mine — S.B. My friend told me however, that the watch was undoubtedly the work of James Ferguson Cole. But, on dismantling the watch for cleaning, there appeared scratched on the back of the dial the inscription, "Samuel Boulter maker 1844".

The first thing to be done was to check Samuel Boulter's name in the Dictionary of Clockmakers where he appeared in the Trade Directory of 1839 as a watch maker resident in Chelsea. This was enough — as a resident and a keen collector of "Chelsiana" I knew I had to acquire the watch. Research would follow.

At this point it is necessary to reiterate that my friend had told me that the watch was by J. F. Cole although it was signed by Samuel Boulter. The simple answer to this paradox is that the leading makers did not themselves have a factory, as we know it, but they designed the watches and then had "outworkers" who specialised in making the separate parts such as wheels, pinions, barrels and dials and only when the almost complete watch was returned to the "maker" would he add the escapement and balance, adjust, sign and sell the watch.

The research was fascinating but, apart from one moment when inspiration failed, not too difficult. Since I knew already that Samuel Boulter was resident in Chelsea in 1839, I checked the address given in the Trade Directory: 12 Gloster Place, in the census records of 1841. He was still listed there as a watchmaker. Gloster Place was on the King's Road opposite Markham Street. The 1851 census records showed that he had moved, with his wife Ann, to 30 Markham Street and the increased information in the records by this time indicated that he had been in Marksbury, Somerset, a village about five miles south-east of Bath in 1808. Since, in order to check the census records it is necessary to know the address of the person being researched, and not finding Samuel Boulter in Markham

Street in the 1861 returns, I decided to check the death certificates of everyone of his name who had died in London after 1851.

The very first Samuel Boulter, who had subsequently died in London, had been exactly the same age, being born in 1808 but had been the Minister of the Catholic Apostolic Church in College Street (now Elystan Street), Chelsea, and had taken a cab on 9th January, 1873, to Fulham station and been found dead of a heart attack on arrival. Despite the fact that I could find no records of any subsequent deaths of a Samuel Boulter in London over the succeeding years, there was no positive proof that the two Samuel Boulters were the same person.

The Catholic Apostolic Church was founded in 1835 by the followers of the Rev. Edward Irving who had been a friend of Thomas Carlyle's in Scotland. He had come to London in 1822 from which time, as the *Century Cyclopedia of Names* states, "begin the peculiar mental and religious abberations which are associated with his career". The Catholic Apostolic Church, otherwise known as the Irvingites, was ruled by twelve "apostles" and among its tenets were the Pentecostal phenomenon of "speaking with tongues" and a belief in an imminent Second Coming.

Since I had been told that the Catholic Apostolic Church still existed and not finding it in the telephone directory I telephoned the Charity Commissioners since most Churches have charitable status. I was told that their headquarters was now the church for the University of London, the Church of Christ the King at the south-west corner of Gordon Square. Although leased to the Anglicans, it is still owned by the Catholic Apostolic Church, who occupy adjacent premises. They were able to check their records, which revealed that the Samuel Boulter, who had died in 1873, had joined the Catholic Apostolic Church on the 8th. June, 1847, when he had received the laying on of hands from one of the "apostles". There was, however, no record of when he had been made a priest, or what his profession had been.

At this point it occurred to me that Samuel Boulter might have left a will. It took only a few minutes to check the records in Somerset House. There was a will and in it Samuel had left his entire estate of £200 to his wife. The entry for the will described him as of 35 Wellington Square, late of 2 Hemus Terrace, Chelsea. The second address had been that at which he lived when he made his will in 1866. Back to the Chelsea Public Library, I was fortunate to find him living at 35 Wellington Square in 1871 and described as an "annuitant", which was the technical term for a person of pensionable age in receipt of a pension or annuity. Possibly this was money he received from the Catholic Apostolic Church. My greatest good fortune appeared when I checked the 1861 census for Hemus Terrace. For a start, I found him resident at No. 2. Since Chelsea was an area of great mobility at that time, I felt extremely lucky that Samuel had at this crucial period spent at least five years at the same address! There was better to follow: he was described in the census as "watchmaker now out of business". Here at last I could be certain that the watchmaker and the minister were one and the same person and a resident of Chelsea for

probably all his working life. In 1861, Samuel Boulter was 53. Was his eyesight deteriorating, or were there other personal reasons why he was not working as a watchmaker? Perhaps a combination of circumstances, including the fact that from this time onwards the old-fashioned British watch industry was beginning to be hard pressed by the new factory-made watches of Switzerland.

To turn to the watch. Although Samuel Boulter had indicated that he had made it, the movement was neither signed, nor numbered, which was most unusual. In all the addresses that he inhabited in Chelsea, he and his wife were always lodgers, sometimes sharing houses with up to four other people. This, taken together with the facts that no other watches of his are known and the small amount of his estate, indicate that he was not a watchmaker who employed others and then sold signed watches, but rather a skilled outworker employed by others.

This watch, which can be dated from the hall mark on the case to 1834, is of extremely fine workmanship. The case itself is by William Rowlands, who later became Master of the Clockmakers' Company, and has a silver band around the edge typical of many of the watches of Breguet. The dial is also high quality work and the watch itself is much thinner than most English watches of the time. Although the movement is of Continental appearance, it has a typical English right angle lever escapement with a going barrel of unusually large diameter and a large train count. It has also an unusually long curved lever arm and impulse and safety roller. There are sloped edges to the bridges which are of a very particular shape. All these features are unique to the watches of James Ferguson Cole at this period.

J. F. Cole, (1798-1880), was one of the most ingenious watchmakers of his day and has been described as the English Breguet. He was extremely inventive and almost every watch he made incorporated something new, though not always in the mainstream of horological development. It seems most likely therefore that Samuel Boulter was an outworker who did work for Cole and wanted a watch of his design. One imagines that he asked Cole for one of the ebauches, or basic movements, and that it was Cole's stipulation that when finished it was to bear neither Cole's nor Boulter's name, nor was it to be numbered. Samuel Boulter did, however, engrave, rather crudely, his initials on one of the bridges before the movement was gilded. Ten years on, in 1844, when overhauling the watch, Samuel Boulter scratched his name and the date on the back of the dial. Since Samuel Boulter was making the watch for himself it is certain that he will have done all the work himself. Its quality is proof of his skill in all the facets of production. It may be considered strange that he did not make and sign many watches but, in fact, many of the very best makers worked for others.

What of the watch? We may suspect that Samuel treasured it all his life and that it passed to his wife Ann. She died six years later, in 1879, at 50 Sloane Square, and left her entire estate, worth less than £100 to her younger unmarried sister, Harriet Curtis, who was living at the same

address. Harriet Curtis lived until 1892, dying on the 18th. January at 25 Redburn Street. She died intestate and her estate valued at £49-0s.-10d. was administered by her niece Harriet, wife of Henry Thomas Treadwell of 40 Seaton Street, Chelsea. There were several next of kin, so to whom did the watch go next, or had it already been sold in time of hardship? Wherever it went, it was obviously well looked after since it still keeps excellent time and has it's original double-ended key. Who was Mr. Treadwell? Research will continue, but in the meantime it is gratifying to know that not only Clerkenwell, but also Chelsea, saw the production of some of the most advanced and interesting watches of the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

(See illustration, page 42.)

BOOK REVIEW

London 3: North West by Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner. (Penguin Books, £25).

The publication of a new "Pevsner" remains an important occasion even though the late Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's name is now joined by that of his successor, Bridget Cherry. Their latest volume covers the north-west of Greater London and so includes Chelsea.

This reviewer turned first to Lawrence Street, the touchstone of an author's accuracy, to find that the usual pitfalls of distorted tradition presented as fact had been avoided and so read on with confidence. The authors have avoided many. For example, that estate agents' creation, Chelsea Green, is given its real name of Chelsea Common and the wanton destruction of the third of C. R. Ashbee's amazing houses in Cheyne Walk (No. 37) is properly mourned. (I happened to see the late Richard Crossman, then Minister of Housing and Local Government, standing in the road, looking at the trio, while considering the plans for the monstrous Pier House block of flats and making up his mind to save two but destroy one.)

The London volumes of *The Buildings of England* series are bigger than the county volumes and do not sit happily alonside them on the shelf. This one, although ostensibly pocket-shaped, is too thick and heavy for any pocket because it covers too much ground. Explorers of Chelsea and Kensington are unlikely to combine that expedition with one to Northolt and Ruislip, for example. But such is the scope of this volume. It devotes 38 pages to Chelsea and 253 to the inner boroughs of north-west London — with another 98 given over to chapters about the development of architecture and building — out of its total of 804 pages. Had the volume been split into two and produced in the original format of the series, it would have been more compatible with the shelf, coat pocket and reader.

Tom Pocock

Obituaries

Mrs. Prudence Thomson

To be a success as a vicar's wife is one of the most demanding jobs on earth, it requires a multitude of talents and Prue Thomson had most of them. Perhaps some of the skills were learnt subconsciously in the rectory at Landford in Wiltshire where she was born and brought up and where her father was rector for 30 years. Prue went to school at Godolphin and from there won an Exhibition in Geography to St. Hugh's, Oxford, where she achieved a good degree as well as the distinction of playing lacrosse for the University against Cambridge. Wartime geography graduates were directed to specialist work which was how Prue came to be employed in a Naval Intelligence Department until she was accepted for service in the W.R.N.S. After training at Greenwich, Prue served in the Fleet Air Arm as a Met. Officer in Scotland and at Yeovilton until 1943 when she married Leighton Thomson — in Oxford, where they had first met.

This happiest of marriages was spent in just three parishes, first in South London, then in Alexandria, where Leighton was posted as assistant chaplain, and Prue was able to join him with their two small children. After three years in Egypt, the family returned to England and Leighton was appointed to Chelsea Old Church.

Many members of the Chelsea Society will know that in 1950 the Old Church still resembled a bomb-site rather more than a place of worship. Vicarage and parish hall had been wrecked along with the church and for the first ten years Prue and Leighton lived in Margaretta Terrace. There must have been many weary walks to and from Old Church Street with children and dogs in tow, wondering if the new vicarage would ever be finished. And looking back we may well wonder how Prue found time to cherish so many other people in the parish as well as her own family while moving house, making quantities of curtains and helping to plan the rebuilding of Petyt House as the parish hall. The years in No. 4 Old Church Street saw great changes, wartime scars gradually disappeared and while Leighton nurtured the church Prue found her vocation as the cornerstone of the vicarage. She had the rare and priceless ability to bestow time, attention and understanding whenever and wherever it was needed, no fuss, or commotion and it was never allowed to look like work. Friends in the country and from around the world were made welcome and the fame of Prue's cooking travelled far beyond the bounds of Chelsea. The annual jumble sale to raise funds for the church became a parish tradition with two hours of hilarious and chaotic but successful amateur salesmanship master minded by the vicar's wife. Generations of children will recall the excitement of coming back to Petyt House on Christmas Eve after carol singing round the parish and being given mince

pies and hot punch. This wonderfully grown up drink was specially brewed for the occasion with a high proportion of tea, but who would have guessed it?

Prue would probably have drawn the line at preaching a sermon but many other jobs were tackled when holes had to be filled in times of crisis, anything from playing the piano for the children's Sunday service to managing the parish hall for several years, something many people would consider a full time job. Regular worshippers at the Old Church became connoisseurs of flower arrangements and were well aware that all the loveliest ones were done by Prue. What they didn't know was how often the work had to be done before breakfast, or late at night, because the rest of the day would be spent helping someone who was sick, dealing with a stream of telephone calls if Leighton was out and providing tea and a sandwich for her "regulars", local vagrants, and she was a very shrewd judge of whether or not the need was genuine. But the vicarage was never just a refuge, it was a loving, happy home with many shared interests in books, painting, the garden and Leighton's life-long enthusiasm for Henley and the world of rowing.

Prue was the kind of friend everyone needs and most values. Loyal and loving, courageous enough to be critical when necessary, wonderfully sensitive to other people's anxieties and delighted to share in their happiness. Her own three grandchildren were a source of much pride and pleasure and, like all of us who knew Prue, they will remember her gratefully for the way she widened their horizons and enriched their lives.

Niccy Pomfret

Mrs. Lavinia Smiley

With the death of Lavinia Smiley the Chelsea Society has lost an enthusiastic and particularly talented member and benefactor.

As an artist her work was skilled, original and entertaining, manifesting what one critic called "a controlled eccentricity of line that was extraordinarily pleasing". She was also a writer and in the case of her books for children illustrated with her own drawings. In 1955, the first of them, *Come Shopping* was published by Faber and in 1956 there followed *Robin In Danger* and *Hugh the Dragon Killer*. These were reprinted years later with three more which she had written in the fifties for her children and nephews — *William and the Wolf, Clive to the Rescue* and *Buster's Holiday*.

Born in 1918, Lavinia was the daughter of Clive and Alicia Pearson. Her father was the second son of the first Viscount Cowdray and chairman of the Cowdray group of companies. Lavinia's upbringing in Grosvenor Square and Parham, the great Elizabethan house in Sussex now open to the public, was the subject of a detached but affectionate account of her childhood entitled *A Nice Clean Plate*, published in 1981.

In 1977 she gave Castle Fraser, her home in Scotland, to the National Trust of Scotland. Her parents had acquired it from the last of the Mackenzie Frasers just after the First World War and had restored it with scholarly care, a work which Lavinia and her husband continued until they handed the castle over to the Trust in excellent condition with a generous endowment. For the Trust she wrote *Life at Castle Fraser 150 Years Ago* compiled from documents in the castle. Later she wrote a well-documented and engaging account of the Fraser family in the 19th. century published by Michael Russell.

Shy and retiring, she nevertheless had a capacity for intense enjoyment, coupled with an individual and subtle humour that brought unending pleasure to her friends.

Patrick Gibson

Miss Kit Gayford

Kit Gayford — also known as Eily (her real Christian name), "Bird" (because of her perkiness), or, enigmatically "Mrs. C.", died during the summer in her late eighties. Living for many years in her houseboat, the *Buccaneer* — a converted assault landing-craft — off Cheyne Walk, she shone like a beneficent lighthouse on the river.

Born in 1903 in Suffolk, hers was not a privileged life. She worked as a governess in Norfolk, taught dancing at preparatory schools and lectured on dental care. The war introduced her to life afloat when she went to work on canals, helping to man narrow-boats and barges. As was clear from her book about that time, *The Amateur Boatswomen*, she greatly admired the barge-people she met. When one waterman told her that he was illiterate, he added that what you didn't know, you didn't miss; that, she came to feel, could be a good maxim and certainly she enjoyed her simple life, which was wholly without envy.

After the war, she bought her houseboat for a few hundred pounds and lived on board at moorings on the site of the Greaves family's boat-yard on Cheyne Walk. To help make ends meet, she went to work as a home-help ("charring", she said frankly) for young bachelors, who, she felt,

could not look after themselves; it was for this that she used the pseudonym, "Mrs. C."

As the elderly, young-minded naiad of Chelsea Reach, she radiated her own contentment, generosity and intelligence. In her cosy little houseboat — full of books and pictures; a classic Chelsea interior in miniature — she loved to entertain and share with others her view of the river's changing lights and moods, seen from the grove of pot-plants on the lowered ramp of her landing-craft a few feet above its surface. Police launches often stopped alongside at teatime, or for mince-pies at Christmas, and her uniformed policemen friends were prominent at her memorial service in Chelsea Old Church.

Ashore, she bicycled furiously through the Embankment traffic and there was a particular sense of outrage among the other boat-people when her bicycle was stolen. Much as she loved her life on the river, it was characteristic that she should sell her houseboat and spend the proceeds on establishing herself in a retirement home at Wimbledon while she was still active, so, as she said, "not to be a worry to my family."

Although she was not a member of the Chelsea Society, she was so much a part of the Chelsea scene in the post-war years that her happy life should be recorded with admiration.

Tom Pocock

(See illustration, page 39.)

David Birkin

It is now 20 years ago that my wife and I first met the Birkins. We had just moved into our house in Lawrence Street, and their house in Old Church Street was only a few steps away. We had, of course, heard of Mrs. David Birkin as Judy Campbell and of their daughter Jane Birkin, both of them celebrated actresses. But suddenly we found ourselves friends of the enchanting Birkin family headed by David Birkin.

David, we learned, had been 'something in the Navy' during the second World War. Later we were to discover that the 'something' consisted of his being the most intrepid and fearless navigator of high-speed motor gunboats plying to and fro across the Channel, landing and retrieving secret agents on the beaches of Brittany. One of these agents was a young man called François Mitterand. For his services in this highly dangerous area he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. And only a few years ago he was invited to meet President François Mitterand, then on a state visit to this country, who invested David with the *Légion d'Honneur.*

None of this did we learn from David himself, who was a quiet, self-effacing and utterly charming man. In recent years his health had been deteriorating to a most distressing degree, but we never heard a word of complaint from him. The gallantry and fortitude that carried him through the war continued to uphold him through the considerable pain and distress of his later years. He seemed to us almost indestructible. He continued to greet his friends with the same undaunted, smiling courtesy.

David Birkin died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of 6th. March and will be deeply mourned and missed by all of us who were proud to have been his friends. Our sympathy goes out to his loving and lovely family, Judy, Andrew, Jane and Linda. He will long be remembered by all of us who knew him as a gallant, modest and lovable gentleman.

John Casson

(Reprinted from The Chelsea Anchor*)*

Viscount De L'Isle

Viscount De L'Isle, the soldier, statesman and former Governor-General of Australia, died on 5th April, 1991, at the age of 81. For many years he took an active interest in the affairs of the Chelsea Society, of which he was a life member.

Descended from Sir Philip Sidney, the Elizabethan soldier, statesman and poet, he himself came into the public eye when he won the Victoria Cross for gallantry in Italy during the Anzio battle of 1944. That same year, he was elected, unopposed, as National Conservative Member of Parliament for Chelsea, his birthplace. But, after only a few months in the House of Commons, during which he served briefly as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions, he succeeded to the barony and moved to the House of Lords. In 1951, Sir Winston Churchill appointed him Secretary of State for Air. From 1961 to 1965 he served as Governor-General of Australia and became thoroughly involved in Australian life. On his return to England, he took up many senior business appointments and devoted much of his time to Penshurst Place, the family seat near Tonbridge. His widow survives him, together with his son and four daughters by his first wife, who died in 1962.

Treasurer's Report

I am very pleased to report that the surplus this year amounts to £1,822 against a comparable figure last year of £3,959. However, members will note that the 1989 surplus included a very kind legacy of £3,500 whereas this year's income has arisen mainly from the Society's activities together with another useful hike in the deposit interest. Sundry income includes a surplus on the sale of the Society's Christmas card, together with income from including other organisations' circulars in the Society's mailings.

Of the expenses, the charge for stationery and postage shows the biggest leap, due to a renewal of the Society's stationery stocks and more activity generally which has resulted in an increase in the postage costs. I should also mention that next year the Society will have to face the need of each of the big four banks to increase their profits after their recent rather disastrous results. For years we have only paid nominal bank charges (in 1990 they were £3) so you can imagine our discomfiture when we were advised that our charges on an annual basis would rise to £288. We took the opportunity of looking at alternative banks but found either the same reaction or that the services offered were not suitable. At the same time, we negotiated with Barclays Bank and I'm pleased to report that the estimated annual charge is now £140.

At 31st. December, 1990, the Society's reserves stood at £21,122 (including an increase of £730 in the Life Membership Fund) but I believe we should all bear in mind that if the Society did have to brief counsel to lead a campaign in a cause deemed worth fighting, and one will arise one day, these reserves will not go far in the light of ever-increasing legal costs. Nevertheless, I am not recommending an increase in subscription levels for 1992 but will review the position later in that year.

May I once again thank Mr. James Macnair for his kindness in acting as the Society's Honorary Auditor. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of his eminence in the profession to act as the watchdog of the Society's finances.

My Lord President, I beg to present my report and the accounts for the year to 31st. December, 1990. If there are questions, I shall be pleased to answer them.

Ian Frazer
Hon. Treasurer

27th. November, 1991

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1990

Income and Expenditure Account — General Fund

	1990 £	£	*1989* £	£
Income				
Annual Subscriptions		3,554		2,680
Donations Received		535		540
Legacy Received		—		3,500
Income Tax Recovered on Convenants		194		159
Advertising Revenue in 1990 Annual Report		488		658
Deposit Interest Received		1,815		968
Sundry Income		621		74
		7,207		8,579
Less: Expenditure				
Excess of Expenditure over Receipts from Meetings	141		605	
Cost of Annual Report	2,804		2,633	
Stationery, Postage and Miscellaneous Expenses	1,855		928	
Cost of Annual General Meeting ...	321		271	
Subscriptions to Other Organisations	28		128	
Painting Purchase	236		—	
Gift of Print	—		55	
		5,385		4,620
Surplus for the year		£1,822		£3,959

Income and Expenditure Account — Life Membership Fund

Balance of Fund — 1st January 1990 ...	5,113	4,540
Income National Savings Bank Account Interest	730	573
Balance of Fund — 31st December 1990	£5,843	£5,113

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1990

	1990 £	1990 £	1989 £	1989 £
Current assets				
Debtors		1,291		1,814
Balance in National Savings Bank Accounts		6,649		5,919
Balance on Bank Current and Deposit Accounts		16,473		14,399
		24,413		22,132
Less: current liabilities				
Creditors	2,907		3,513	
Subscriptions Received in Advance ...	384		49	
		3,291		3,562
Net assets		£21,122		£18,570
Represented by:				
Balance of Life Membership Fund ...		5,843		5,113
Add: Balance of General Fund				
1st January 1990	13,457		9,498	
Surplus for the Year	1,822		3,959	
		15,279		13,457
		£21,122		£18,570

I. W. FRAZER, *Honorary Treasurer*

REPORT OF THE HONORARY AUDITOR to the members of THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

I have reviewed the above balance sheet and accompanying income and expenditure accounts. I consider that on the basis of the books and records and of information given by the Honorary Treasurer, they present fairly the financial affairs of the Society at 31st. December 1990 and the income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Dated: 1991
London SW10

J. MACNAIR
Chartered Accountant

CONSTITUTION

1. The Chelsea Society shall be regulated by the Rules contained in this Constitution.

OBJECTS

2. The Objects of the Society shall be to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea particularly by:—
   (a) stimulating interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea;
   (b) encouraging good architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and proper maintenance of open spaces;
   (c) seeking the abatement of nuisances;
   (d) making representations to the proper authorities on these subjects.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Subject to the provisions of Rule 7, membership of the Society shall be open to all who are interested in furthering the Objects of the Society.

THE COUNCIL

4. (1) There shall be a Council of the Society which shall be constituted in accordance with these Rules.
   (2) The Society shall elect not more than twelve members of the Society to be members of the Council.
   (3) The members of the Council so elected may co-opt not more than four further persons to be members of the Council.
   (4) The Officers to be appointed under Rule 5 shall in addition be members of the Council.
   (5) In the choice of persons for membership of the Council, regards shall be had, amongst other things, to the importance of including persons known to have expert knowledge and experience of matters relevant to Objects of the Society.
   (6) The Council shall be responsible for the day-to-day work of the Society, and shall have power to take any action on behalf of the Society which the Council thinks fit to take for the purpose of furthering the Objects of the Society and shall make and publish every year a Report of the activities of the Society during the previous year.
   (7) The Council shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.
   (8) A member of the Council who is absent from two successive meetings of the Council without explanation which the Council approves shall cease to be a member of the Council.
   (9) Three of the elected members of the Council shall retire every second year, but may offer themselves for re-election by the Society.
   (10) Retirement under the last-preceding paragraph shall be in rotation according to seniority of election.
   (11) Casual vacancies among the elected members may be filled as soon as practicable by election by the Society.
   (12) One of the co-opted members shall retire every second year, but may be again co-opted.

OFFICERS

5. (1) The Council shall appoint the following officers of the Society, namely —
   (a) a Chairman of the Council,
   (b) a Vice-Chairman of the Council,
   (c) an Honorary Secretary or Joint Honorary Secretaries,
   (d) an Honorary Treasurer and
   (e) persons to fill such other posts as may be established by the Council,
   (2) The terms of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be three years and those of the other Officers five years from the date of appointment respectively. Provided nevertheless that the appointment of the Chairman shall be deemed to terminate immediately after the third Annual General Meeting after his appointment.
   (3) The Officers shall be eligible for re-appointment to their respective offices.
   (4) Nothing herein contained shall detract from the Officers' right to resign during their current term.
   (5) By Resolution of a majority of its members the Council may rescind the appointment of an Officer during his term of office for reasons deemed substantial.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

6. (1) The Council may appoint a member of the Society to be President of the Society for a term of three years, and may re-appoint him for a further term of three years.
   (2) The Council may appoint persons, who need not be members of the Society, to be Vice-Presidents.

SUBSCRIPTIONS*

7. (1) The Council shall prescribe the amount of the subscriptions to be paid by members of the Society and the date on which they are due, and the period in respect of which they are payable.
(2) Membership of the Society shall lapse if the member's subscription is unpaid for six months after it is due, but may be restored by the Council.
(3) Members may pay more than the prescribed minimum, if they wish.
(4) Members may pay annual subscriptions by banker's order or by Direct Debit.

GENERAL MEETINGS

8. (1) In these Rules "General Meeting" means a meeting of the Society open to all its members.
(2) The Council shall arrange at least one General Meeting every year, to be called the Annual General Meeting, and may arrange as many other General Meetings, in these Rules referred to as Special General Meetings, as it may think fit. Notice of the date of such meetings shall be given not less than 35 days ahead.
(3) General Meetings, the agenda for which shall be circulated not less than 21 days in advance of the meeting, shall take place at such times and places as the Council shall specify.
(4) The President shall preside at any General Meeting at which he is present, and if he is not present the Chairman of the Council or some person nominated by the Chairman of the Council shall preside.
(5) Any election to the Council shall be held at a General Meeting.
(6) No person shall be eligible for the Council unless —
(i) he or she has been proposed and seconded by other members of the Society, and has consented to serve, and,
(ii) the names of the three persons concerned and the fact of the consent have reached the Hon. Secretary in writing at least 28 days before the General Meeting.
(7) If the Hon. Secretary duly receives more names for election than there are vacancies, he shall prepare voting papers for use at the General Meeting, and those persons who receive most votes shall be declared elected.
(8) The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall include —
(a) receiving the Annual Report; and
(b) receiving the Annual Accounts.
(9) At the Annual General Meeting any member of the Society may comment on any matter mentioned in the Report or Accounts, and may raise any matter not mentioned in the Report, if it is within the Objects of the Society.
(10) The President or chairman of the meeting may limit the duration of speeches.
(11) Resolutions by members may be made only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting as permitted under sub-section (12) of this Section of the Constitution. Any member who wishes to make a Resolution shall give notice of such Resolution by sending it to the Society to reach the Honorary Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the meeting. The Resolution, if seconded at the meeting by another member, will be put to the vote.
(12) If any 20 members of the Society apply to the Council in writing for a Special Meeting of the Society, the Council shall consider the application, and may make it a condition of granting it that the expense should be defrayed by the applicants.

AMENDMENTS

9. (1) These Rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting, if a notice in writing of the proposed amendment has reached the Hon. Secretary at least 28 days before such a Meeting. Provided that nothing herein contained shall authorise any amendment the effect of which would be to cause the Society at any time to cease to be a Charity in Law.
(2) The Hon. Secretary shall send notices of any such amendment to the members of the Society 21 days before the General Meeting.

WINDING-UP

10. (1) The winding-up of the Society shall be subject to a Resolution proposed by the Council and approved by a two-thirds majority present at a Special General Meeting.
(2) In the event of the winding-up of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Council of the Society and approved by the Meeting of the Society at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed.

**The current rate is £5 annually payable on the 1st January. The annual husband-and-wife rate is £7.*

List of Members

An asterisk denotes a life member. The Hon. Membership Secretary should be informed of correction or changes in name, address or title.

J. Abel
Mrs. J. Abel
*Mrs. A. Abeles
T. K. Ables
Paul V. Aitkenhead
S. G. Alder
Roy Alderson
R. Alexander
Mrs. R. Alexander
*Miss D. C. Allason
*Lt.-Col. J. H. Allason
Mrs. Nuala Allason
C. Allen
Mrs. C. Allen
Mrs. Elizabeth Amati
*The American Women's Club
Miss Sophie C. M. Andreae
*Douglas H. Andrew
Miss E. M. Andrews
*Miss G. P. A. Andrews
*The Marquess of Anglesey
Miss Mary Appleby, C.B.E.
Paul Arbon
Mrs. Paul Arbon
J. N. Archer
Mrs. Victoria Archer
Robert Armitage
Mrs. Robert Armitage
*Mrs. John Armstrong
Peter Armstrong
Miss Sue Arnold
*David Aschan
*Mrs. M. G. Aschan
Martin Ashley
John Assael, R.I.B.A.
The Hon. Nicholas Assheton
*Mrs. R. J. V. Astell
*Mrs. Philip Astley, O.B.E.
Miss Kate Attia
Mrs. Douglas Auchincloss

Mrs. M. J. Babington Smith
Lady Baillie
M. Bach
David Bailey
Mrs. David Bailey
Miss J. K. Baker-Wilbraham
J. T. Baldwin
Mrs. J. T. Baldwin
M. T. Ballisat
Mrs. M. T. Ballisat
D. Baring
Mrs. Valerie Barker
Miss C. Barlow
*D. H. Barlow
J. C. Barnard
Sir John Barran, Bt.
Lady Barran
*Miss Jean Barrie
Julian Barrow
Mrs. Julian Barrow
Simon Barrow
Adrian Barr-Smith
Mrs. Adrian Barr-Smith
*Derek Barton
*Mrs. Derek Barton
Mrs. Roger Bassett
R. Bate
Mrs. R. Bate
Miss V. F. Baumgart
Sir Peter Baxendell
Lady Baxendell
Dr. J. H. B. Beal
Mrs. J. H. B. Beal
*E. V. Beaton
*J. Becker
Mrs. P. M. Becker
Robert Beckett
Mrs. Robert Beckett
Mrs. Patricia Behr, M.V.O., M.B.E.
*William Bell
Mrs. B. E. Bell-Burrow
Simon Bendall
Mrs. Simon Bendall
T. J. Bendall
M. G. Bendon
Mrs. M. Bendon
F. C. Benenson
Mrs. F. C. Benenson
Mrs. Anne Trego Bennett
D. R. Bennett-Jones
Mrs. J. R. Bentley
Miss S. L. Bergh
Mrs. R. A. C. Berkeley
L. Bernard
Mrs. L. Bernard
Miss Anne Berne
*Miss Anne Berriman
Rear-Admiral C. Bevan, C.B.
Mrs. C. Bevan
*Ernest Biggin
Miss Celia Bigham
John Bignell
Michael Bignall

Miss Susan Bilger
Miss Pamela Birley
*E. W. Bissett
Miss C. J. Blackshaw
Miss C. Blake
*Mrs. G. Blakiston
Derek Bloom
Mrs. L. Blunt
Mrs. J. B. Flockhart Booth
Miss Judith Borrow
The Lady Barbara Bossom
*Lady Bottomley
Miss Patricia Bottomley
*Timothy Boulton
David Bowen
M. Boxford
Mrs. M. Boxford
*Miss M. D. Boyd
Mrs. A. Boyle
Miss Louise Brackenbury
R. M. A. Braine
Mrs. R. M. A. Braine
Mrs. Molly Brandt
J. C. Brass
Mrs. J. C. Brass
Rear-Admiral F. B. P. Brayne-Nicholls, C.B., D.S.C.
Mrs. L. D. Brett
Christopher Bridge
Mrs. Christopher Bridge
R. Bridge
Mrs. R. Bridge
Miss E. M. E. Brighten
Sir Theodore Brinckman
*Sir Nigel Broackes
Mrs. E. Broadbent-Jones
Mrs. Susan Broidy
*Lady Bromet, D.B.E.
Denis Broodbank
*Mrs. E. Broughton-Adderley
*J. Francis Brown, C.B.E.
W. K. Brown
Mrs. W. K. Brown
*W. M. G. Brown
Michael Bryan
Mrs. Michael Bryan
A. A. G. S. Buchanan
Mrs. E. J. Buchanan
Miss M Buckley
*Miss Hilda Buckmaster
G. O. Budd
Mrs. G. O. Budd
*Miss Jacinthe Buddicom
J. H. S. Burgess
*Richard Burgess
Ian M. Burgoyne
Russell Burlingham
*A. I. J. Burns
Mrs. D. E. Burtt
*Mrs. James Buxton

*The Hon. Julian F. Byng
R. W. Byng
P. J. Byrne
Mrs. P. J. Byrne
Richard Byron

*The Earl Cadogan, M.C.
*R. A. W. Caine
Sir Jack Callard
Lady Callard
Donald Campbell
Miss Judy Campbell
Mrs. Cynthia Campbell-Savours
Samuel Carr
Lord Carrick
Lady Carrick
*Mrs. Donald Carter
*Bryan Carvalho, M.B.E.
*Mrs. Bryan Carvalho
Miss J. V. P. Carvill
*Rev. John Carvosso
N. R. Cashin
Mrs. N. R. Cashin
John Casson
Mrs. John Casson
R. D. Catterall
Mrs. R. D. Catterall
Capt. M. K. Cavenagh-Mainwaring, D.S.O., R.N.
*The Rt. Hon. Lord Chalfont, P.C., O.B.E., M.C.
Lady Chalfont
M. E. Chamberlayne
Dr. V. E. Chancellor
The Rt. Hon. Paul Channon, M.P.
Mrs. Paul Channon
Lady Charles
The Chelsea Gardener
Chelsea Methodist Church
Chelsea Yacht & Boat Co. Ltd.
Andrew Cheyne
Mrs. Andrew Cheyne
Mrs. J. M. Cheyne
Peter W. Chéze-Brown
*R. A. Chisholm
*Mrs. R. A. Chisholm
Miss Emily Chong
*The Church Commissioners
R. F. G. Churchill
Mrs. R. F. G. Churchill
Charles Clark
Mrs. Charles Clark
N. J. Gordon Clark
Mrs. N. J. Gordon Clark
Miss A. M. Clarke
R. D. Clarke, F.I.A.
*R. S. Clarke
*Miss Edith M. Clay, F.S.A.
Dr. C. Ellison-Cliffe
Dr. Percy Ellison-Cliffe

Sylvia Lady Clitheroe
M. R. Coad
Mrs. M. R. Coad
John Cobbett-Maddy
Mrs. Jacques Cochemé
M. R. Cockell
J. Brunel Cohen, O.B.E.
Miss Ida Cole
Miss S. M. Coles
*W. N. Coles
Mrs. W. N. Coles
David B. Collenette, M.C.
Mrs. D. B. Collenette
Miss Penny Collie
Mrs. Elizabeth Collins
Brig. J. C. Commings
Mrs. D. H. Copley-Chamberlain
John Corbet-Singleton
Mrs. John Corbet-Singleton
Stuart Corbyn
Miss Linda Coulthard
*Mrs. P. J. Cowin, B.E.M.
*Dr. David Craig
Miss Rosemary Craig
*Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, C.B.E., T.D.
Mrs. A. J. Crewdson
Miss Elizabeth Crichton
Crosby Hall Ltd.
Mrs. A. M. Crosthwait
Dr. Yolande Crowe
Miss P. Croxford
Martin Cullen
Mrs. Martin Cullen
George Cumming
Ian Curror
Mrs. Ian Curror

Mrs. Linda Dalling
Mrs. Elma Dangerfield, O.B.E.
A. E. Dangoor
Mrs. A. E. Dangoor
John Danilovich
The Hon. Mrs. Danilovich
Miss Sylvia Darley, O.B.E.
*Miss Esther Darlington
Nigel Darlington
*Mrs. Madeline Daubeny
*Mrs. Olga Davenport
*Alban Davies
Mrs. C. Davies
George Davies
Mrs. George Davies
Peter Davies
Miss P. Jane Davies
Miss Sue Davies
Dr. Michael Davys, V.R.D.
*David Day
Mrs. Laura Kathleen Day
*Dr. Joan S. Deans
Oliver R. R. de Baer

Mrs. Oliver R. R. de Baer
Mrs. Anne de Ballestero
*Robin de Beaumont
Mrs. N. de Bellaigue
David de Carle
Mrs. David de Carle
H. B. de Cerenville
Mrs. H. B. de Cerenville
R. G. de Ferembre, F.R.S.A.
Baron de Gerlache de Gomery, M.V.O.
Mrs. Cordelia de Gray
N. E. de Gruchy
Damon de Laszlo
Mrs. Damon de Laszlo
Mrs. Victoria de Luria Press
Sir Roy Denman
Lady Denman
*Mrs. Edward Denny
*Donald D. Derrick
Miss Joan Derriman
Lewis Deyong
Mrs. Lewis Deyong
*Christopher Dickman
*Mrs. Dorothy Dix
*His Honour Judge Dobry, C.B.E., C.M.G., Q.C.
Miss I. J. Dodgson
D. R. Donald, B.Sc.
David W. Donaldson, D.S.O., D.F.C.
Ian Donaldson
Mrs. Joyce Donaldson
Miss Sheila Donaldson-Walters, F.C.S.D., F.R.S.A.
*G. M. Dorman
Mrs. Jane Dorrell
Miss Julie A. Dorrington
Mrs. Betsy Drake
*Mrs. P. Drysdale
*Mrs. Eric Dugdale
*The Lady Dunboyne
Mrs. P. A. Dunkerly
Richard Dunning

*Margot Eates, M.B.E.
Mrs. S. A. Eaton
*Q. Morgan Edwards, M.A.
*Mrs. Q. Morgan Edwards
*Miss A. Powell Edwards
*Miss P. M. Egerton
Dr. Werner Ehrlich von Ehrnfeldt
*John Ehrman, F.B.A., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.
*James Ellis, A.R.I.B.A.
*Mrs. James Ellis
Mrs. T. K. Elmsley
*David Enders
Lt.-Col. R. M. Engel
*Philip English
Graham Etchell
S. S. Eustace

Miss Edith Evans
R. Bradford Evans
Mrs. R. Bradford Evans
Miss J. T. Evans
C. Everitt
Miss Lene Ewart
Baroness Ewart-Biggs

*Mrs. Ian Fairbairn
Miss A. Fairbanks-Smith
T. R. Faire
P. W. Fane
Cecil Farthing, O.B.E., F.S.A.
W. G. R. Fearon
Mrs. W. G. R. Fearon
Miss Ann Featherstone
Mr. J. F. Q. Fenwick
Mrs. J. F. Q. Fenwick
Major Fenwick
Miss S. M. Fergus, M.V.O.
Miss G. B. W. Ferguson
J. W. Figg
*Capt. E. J. Finnegan
Miss E. M. Fisher, L.V.O.
Mrs Joan L. Fitzwilliams
Mrs. A. Fleming
Robert L. Fleming
Mrs. Susan Fleming
Major E. J. Fletcher
*W. W. Flexner
Mrs. W. W. Flexner
Kevin Flude
*Sir Hamish Forbes, Bt., M.B.E., M.C.
Miss K. Forbes-Dunlop, B.A.Hons.
Lady Ford
Mrs. C. Ford-Wille
S. R. Fraser, M.Eng., C.Eng., F.I.E.E.
Graham Frazer
Mrs. Graham Frazer
*Ian W. Frazer, F.C.A.
Mrs. Ian W. Frazer
*Mrs. P. Fremantle
Mrs. R. Fremantle
*K. R. S. French
*Jeffrey Frost
Mrs. Sheelagh M. Fullerton

I. J. Gaunt
Mrs. I. J. Gaunt
Donald Gee
Douglas W. Gent
Mrs. Douglas Gent
J. A. Gere
D. F. Gibbs
Mrs. D. F. Gibbs
*Lady Gibson
The Lord Gibson
Dennis Gilbert
Hugh Gilbert
Albert Gillotti
Mrs. Albert Gillotti
The Lady Glenkinglas
Mrs. Catherine Gliksten
*Dr. Alan Glyn, E.R.D., M.P.
*Miss Elizabeth Godfrey
Mrs. Isobel M. T. Goetz
P. Goff
Mrs. P. Goff
Miss Lynn A. Gold
F. J. Goldschmitt
Mrs. F. J. Goldschmitt
*R. W. Gollance
Miss Diana Gordon
D. Gourlay
Mrs. D. Gourlay
Miss Nancy Gow, M.B.E.
Miss N. M. Grace
D. C. Grant
Miss Janet S. Grant
*N. J. Grantham
Vice-Admiral Sir John Gray, K.B.E., C.B.
Martin Green
Mrs. Martin Green
*Miss Margaret Greentree
Miss Maureen Greenwood
Mrs. J. D. Grellier
*R. P. Grenfell
Miss A. H. Gresham-Wells
*A. G. Grimwade, F.S.A.
William Gubelman
Mrs. William Gubelman
C. J. G. Guest
The Hon. Mrs. C. J. G. Guest
Lady Gunning
Lady Guy
Richard Guy

Miss J. M. Haddon
Miss Margaret Hallendorff
Mrs. M. O. Halliday
D. I. A. Hamblen, C.B., O.B.E.
Otto Hamburger
Mrs. Otto Hamburger
Andrew Hamilton
Mrs. Andrew Hamilton
Philip Hamilton
Mrs. Philip Hamilton
The Duchess of Hamilton
Miss Hermione Hammond
*R. O. Hancock
*T. H. H. Hancock, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.
L. J. Hapgood
Mrs. L. J. Hapgood
M. R. Harding
Desmond Harney, O.B.E.
Donald Harris
*John Harris, O.B.E., F.S.A., Hon. F.R.I.B.A.
*Mrs. John Harris, M.A., Ph.D.

John Harrison
J. L. Harrison
Mrs. J. L. Harrison
Sir Michael Harrison, Bt.
Miss Mollie Harrison
David Hartley
Mrs. David Hartley
Dr. R. Hartley
Mrs. R. Hartley
Miss Stefanie Harwood
N. D. Hatherell
Mrs. N. D. Hatherell
Mrs. M. Haulicek
Harry Havemeyer
Mrs. H. Havemeyer
Denys Hawthorne
Mrs. Denys Hawthorne
*E. L. Hayes
*Mrs. E. L. Hayes
W. S. Haynes
Mrs. W. S. Haynes
David Heal
Miss Lesley Heathcote
Gavin Henderson
*G. A. Henley
H. N. Henshaw
Mrs. H. N. Henshaw
E. J. Hess
Mrs. E. J. Hess
P. Higgins
Mrs. P. Higgins
Mrs. N. Higham
Miss Leonie Highton
W. N. Hillier
Mrs. W. N. Hillier
A. Hilton
Mrs. A. Hilton
*P. D. J. Hippisley-Cox
Fergus Hobbs
*Mrs. Eliot Hodgkin
Major I. S. Hodgson
Sir Trevor Holdsworth
Lady Holdsworth
Miss Kiki Holma
Stanley Honeyman
Mrs. Stanley Honeyman
*The Viscountess Hood, C.V.O.
Gavin Hooper
Dr. D. A. Buxton Hopkin
Mrs. D. A. Buxton Hopkin
Robert Horley
Miss A. M. Hornby
Dr. Susan Horsewood-Lee, M.R.C.G.P.
D. A. Howard
Mrs. D. A. Howard
Denis Howard
Mrs. Denis Howard
*Miss I. M. Howard
N. H. Howard
Mrs. N. H. Howard
*Malcolm S. Howe
Paul Howe
Miss Daphne Howeson
*D. R. Howison
Miss Kathleen F. Hubble
*Neil Hughes-Onslow
Jean-Baptiste Hugo
E. F. Humphries, B.Sc.(Eng.), F.I.C.E.
*John R. F. Humphry
A. C. B. Hunter
*Richard Hunting
N. Husband, R.I.B.A.
Nicholas Huskinson
Mrs. Nicholas Huskinson
M. J. Hussey
The Lady Susan Hussey, D.C.V.O.
V. A. Hutchins, M.A.
Miss P. J. Hutchinson
Martin Hutton
Miss Peggy E. Hyne

*The Countess of Iveagh

Basil J. Jackson
Mrs. Basil J. Jackson
J. Jacobsen
Mrs. J. Jacobsen
*Miss Peggy Jacobson
S. Jaffa
*Mrs. Anne Jardine
Mrs. D. B. Jarvis
*Mrs. H. A. Tregarthen Jenkin
*The Lord Jessel, C.B.E.
Miss Antoinette Johnson
I. Johnson
Mrs. I. Johnson
S. H. Johnson
Mrs. S. H. Johnson
Sir Alexander Johnston
Lady Johnston
R. C. S. Jordan
*P. L. Joseph
The Rt. Hon. Lord Joseph, C.H., P.C.

Mrs. M. C. Kayley
*Mrs. Veronica Keeling
Mrs. Gabrielle Keiller
*Miss M. Kennedy-Bell
T. A. Kennedy-Davis
The Worshipful The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea
Dr. R. B. Khambatta
Mrs. R. B. Khambatta
M. Kia
Paul H. Kiernan
*Allan R. King
*Miss F. B. King
Mrs. Gloria King
Gordon King
Mrs. Gordon King

Mrs. Marianne King
Mrs J. D. King-Lewis
*The Lord Kinnaird
*James H. Kirkman
Mrs Cynthia Kirkpatrick
Lady Kirwan
Mrs. Penelope Kirwan-Taylor
Dr. Paul Knapman
Mrs. Paul Knapman
B. E. Knight
Mrs. B. E. Knight
Miss S. M. Knight
Miss Susanne Koren
Mrs. Hilary Krall
*Hugh Krall
H. Kretzmer
Mrs. H. Kretzmer

*Alberto de Lacerda
Lady Lacon
J. D. Laffeaty
R. A. Lamb
Mrs. R. A. Lamb
Miss M. M. C. Lambert
Mrs. K. E. Lander
Miss Monica Landers
Mrs. J. Larken
R. J. O. Lascelles
*W. A. J. Lawrence
*Mrs. W. A. J. Lawrence
Miss Elizabeth Leader
Miss E. A. Leathart
Laurie Lee, M.B.E., F.R.S.L.
*David Le Lay
*Miss F. M. Leney
Dr. R. D. G. Leslie
Mrs. R. D. G. Leslie
E. G. Lewis, C.M.G., O.B.E.
*Mrs. Lesley Lewis, F.S.A.
Sir William Lewthwaite
Lady Lewthwaite
*Sir David Lidderdale, K.C.B.
Leslie Ling
Mrs. Leslie Ling
*Lady Caroline Lingard
Chris Lingard
Miss Elizabeth Linton
Miss Gwyneth Lloyd
*G. Lloyd-Roberts
*Prebendary Harold Loasby, M.A.
Mrs. Harold Loasby
Prince John Lobanow-Rostovsky
Princess John Lobanow-Rostovsky
*H. Brian Locke
*Mrs. J. A. Long
Stephen P. H. Long
*The Countess of Longford, C.B.E.
*Mrs. Joseph Losey
*James N. Lotery
*Dr. Patrick Lovett

Mrs. Anna Low
Miss Helen O. Lowenthal, O.B.E.
Miss Elizabeth Lowry-Corry
N. Luard
Mrs. N. Luard
C. D. Lush

*E. C. Macadam
*Lord McAlpine of West Green
*Mrs. A. R. H. Macdonald
*Miss I. M. Macdonald
Mrs. N. Macdonald
Mrs. J. V. Macdougall
D. T. Macgregor
D. D. Mackintosh
*James Macnair
*His Honour Judge M. J. P. MacNair
Mrs. M. J. P. MacNair
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