



THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity 27626

Autumn Bulletin 2019



This Bulletin is printed and distributed to members twice a year, and electronic mailings are sent to members at approx. monthly intervals. The best way to keep up to date with the activities of the Society is via its website at www.chelseasociety.org.uk You can also follow The Chelsea Society on Instagram, where we now have 535 Followers.

If you are not yet a member, you can join easily by visiting our website and clicking on "Join Us" You do not have to be resident in Chelsea.

The Chelsea Society has published an annual report every year since it was formed in 1927. This is a treasure-trove of information about Chelsea, and we now have all the reports indexed. See <http://chelseasociety.org.uk/annual-reports-index/>

Many of them are now on our website.

FUTURE EVENTS | 2019

Meeting with Chelsea Residents' Associations

Monday 14th October 2019 at 6.30pm

The Planning Committee of The Chelsea Society invites all members of the Society, and all members of the Residents' Associations of Chelsea, to discuss matters of common interest in the Small Hall at Chelsea Old Town Hall.

The Leader of the RBKC Council, Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell, will speak at the meeting and answer questions. Admission free



Apsley House



Thursday 17th October 2019

A private guided tour by the Keeper of the Wellington Collection at 10.15am for 10.30am. As Apsley House does not open to the public until 11.am we will have the House to ourselves for the first part of the tour. [This event is now sold out].

The current exhibition explores a little known period of the 1st Duke's life – his years in India from 1797 to 1804. Objects on display include the wonderful silver-gilt Deccan service, laid up in the Waterloo gallery for the first time ever for the public, some of the books that he took on his

journey to India (the first time ever on public display). The exhibition also contains 2 portraits of the 1st Duke on loan from the family, an early work (before he went to India) by Hoppner, and one by Robert Home painted in Calcutta before he left India in 1804.

2019 AGM

The Society's AGM will be held on Monday 25th November 2019 at 6.30pm in the Great Hall at Chelsea Old Town Hall.

Admission free, but Members only.



Vintners' Hall 68 Upper Thames Street, London EC4V 3BG



Tues 17th March 2020 10.30 for 10.45am – 12.30pm

The Vintners' Company is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London. The current site was bequeathed to the Company in 1446, and its history is a fascinating story of trade, charity, politics and companionship.

The wine trade was of great importance to the medieval economy – between 1446 and 1448 wine made up nearly one-third of England's entire import trade. The Vintner's Company presided over this trade by authority of its first Royal Charter granted in 1363. Because of its connections with royalty, Vintners is one of only two City companies to own swans on

the Thames, and participates in Swan-umping (an annual ceremony in which mute swans on the river are rounded up, examined, ringed and then released).

Members of The Chelsea Society and their guests will have a private guided tour of the Hall by Guy Fairbank, and will see some of its wonderful treasures. Guy is a well known London blue badge guide and is himself a Liveryman of the Vintners' Company. Tickets: £20 (max 25 people)

FUTURE EVENTS | 2020

The Garrick Club

21st April 10.00am (no entry before 09.50) – 12:00. Private accompanied tour of the Club.

Named after the great eighteenth century actor, David Garrick, the Club was founded in 1831 by a group of literary gentlemen under the patronage of the then Duke of Sussex as a haven for discourse between artists and patrons.

Many of the nation's art lovers and distinguished personalities were members of the Garrick, including Rossetti, Trollope, JM Barrie, Thackeray and Dickens. Infamously the Club was the scene of a very public quarrel between these latter two literary giants. It houses the largest and most significant collection of British theatrical works of art and has over 1,000 paintings, drawings and pieces of sculpture on display. Artists represented include Zoffany, Lawrence and Millais. Portraits of every British actor of note from David Garrick to John Gielgud are on the Club walls.

Gentlemen are required to wear jackets and ties. Ladies must be similarly attired (trousers permitted). No denim, trainers or gym shoes are allowed. Photography is not permitted and mobile telephones must be switched off or set to silent.

This event is for Chelsea Society members and their guests only:

Tickets £18 including coffee. Tickets (max 30) must be purchased before 3rd April 2020.



The College of Arms

2nd June 2020 6.15 for 6.30 - private evening visit with a talk by Windsor Herald.



The College of Arms is the official heraldic authority for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and much of the Commonwealth including Australia and New Zealand. As well as being responsible for the granting of new coats of arms, the College maintains registers of arms, pedigrees, genealogies, Royal Licences, changes of name, and flags.

The heralds, besides having ceremonial duties, advise on all matters relating to the peerage and baronetage, precedence, honours and ceremonial as well as national and community symbols including flags.

Tickets £28 (max 20 people) - There are steps up to the entrance and the W.C is on the 3rd floor – no lift

Tickets for the ticketed events above are available from the Box Office at the Cadogan Hall, 3 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ in person (Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm (Sunday 12 noon – 6pm – performance days only) or by phone 0207-730-4500 (booking not available online).

A charge is made by Cadogan Hall for card payments so it is better to book in person, or by post, with cheque payable to Cadogan Hall. We are very grateful to Gaye Murdoch for arranging these events.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

As at the date of this Bulletin, the Chelsea Society's Planning Committee comprises:

Michael Stephen (Chairman)	Julian Turner (Royal Hospital Ward)
Sir Paul Lever KCMG (Brompton Hans Ward)	Vacancy (Stanley Ward)
Martyn Baker (Chelsea Riverside Ward)	

For details of planning issues see the Society's website.

49 Cheyne Place - NO DEMOLITION!



Planning Application Ref PP/19/05043.

The Chelsea Society strongly objected to this application for development in the Royal Hospital Conservation Area, and the application was refused on 23rd September 2019.

The building is on Royal Hospital Road, opposite Tesco, and on the corner of Tite St. This was a huge and very harmful proposal. The proposal was to demolish the entirety of the building and re-construct on a similar or identical footprint, and with similar or identical elevations.

POLICY CL3

It is inappropriate, and against policy CL3 to demolish a perfectly good building in a Conservation Area, and replace it after huge disruption to local residents and users of Royal Hospital Road, with an identical or near identical copy of the original. POLICY CL3 says that the Council will "resist substantial

demolition in conservation areas unless it can be demonstrated that:

- i. in the case of substantial harm or loss to the significance of a heritage asset it is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss;
- ii. in the case of less than substantial harm to the significance of a heritage asset, that the public benefits, including securing the optimum viable use, outweigh that harm;
- iii. the building or part of the building or structure makes no positive contribution to the character or appearance of the area;

We did not see how this application could possibly comply with this important policy. There would be no public benefit.

The proposal would have caused serious disruption and nuisance to the direct neighbours, and other local residents and traffic flow. It is seriously doubted that an adequate CMP and CTMP could be agreed for such major works. The front elevation is on Royal Hospital Rd/Cheyne Place with a zebra crossing directly outside the premises, and the eastern elevation is on Tite St. which has parking on both sides of the road allowing a useable road width for only one car to drive in the road at any time. The Chelsea Society objected to the closure for an extended period of Tite St, and /or the suspension of the zebra crossing which is the only safe crossing at this point on this busy road which is used by buses and coaches to and from Victoria coach station. It is the only safe access from the north side of Cheyne place/Royal Hospital Road to the shops and restaurants, the Royal Hospital, and the National Army Museum, on the south side of the road.

60 Sloane Avenue

This building was built by Harrods as their car showroom but, due to the First World War, it was never finished.

Planning permission was granted in 2016 for conversion substantially to private residential, but new owners wish to use it for offices, with retail units on the ground floor.

The Chairman of the Society and the Chairman of the Society's Planning Committee met the architects, Squire & Partners, on 10th September 2019 and were delighted to hear that the new owners propose to remove the large glass panels and to complete the exterior of the building as originally intended by Harrods.



PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mallord Street



The Planning Applications Committee of RBKC heard an application on 27th June 2019 to convert the old telephone exchange in Mallord St. into a 400-pupil school.

The Chelsea Society was represented by the Chairman of its Planning Committee, who spoke against the application.

The Committee decided unanimously to refuse the application.

South Kensington Station

The Chelsea Society welcomes the improvements to the station which TfL are proposing, but their latest proposals for "Around Station Development" are too dominant and obtrusive, and would not be consistent with the character of the station or its setting.

A Planning Brief was written in December 2016 by Deloitte Real Estate for TfL. It was reviewed by planning officers of RBKC and should have been the basis for a Supplementary Planning Document. It should be respected today.

TfL committed itself to work with local amenity groups and initially did so. However its latest proposals were drawn up without any involvement with these groups, and this is disappointing.

We urge TfL to resume discussions with local residents' groups, including The Chelsea Society about its proposals, and to explain why it has departed from the Planning Brief agreed in 2016.



The Old Police Station, Lucan Place



Planning Application PP/18/03491 was refused in September 2018.

On 2nd July 2019 the Chairman of the Society's Planning Committee met with the new owners and their development team, and was shown their revised proposals. A public exhibition was held on Monday 8th July 2019.

The Society had met with the previous developers several times, and one of the issues discussed was the use of the 2,000 sq ft on the ground floor and another 2,000 sq ft on the basement floor which they would be making available for community use.

Following the previous application the new design team have revised the design and massing of the proposals as well as increasing the amount of social-community space delivered at the site.

The Queen's Head

The Chairman of the Society's Planning Committee, and the Committee Member for Royal Hospital Ward met the owner and his architect at the Queen's Head on 7th May 2019 to review progress.

Scaffolding is now in place and stripping-out has been completed.



The owner expects the work to take 67 weeks. We have emphasised to him the importance of retaining the character of the pub, and of the terraced house next door in Tryon Street.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Sloane Street

On 24th April 2019 the Chairman of the Society, Dr. James Thompson, wrote to the Leader of RBKC, Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell, to draw her attention to the Society's objection to making the road narrower at the north end of the street to accommodate parking bays for the shops.

See <http://chelseasociety.org.uk/sloane-street/> The Council has so far given no indication that it will not proceed with this scheme, which is also opposed by the local residents associations.



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Charles Harold St. John Hornby was the Second Chairman of The Chelsea Society, following the death of Sir Albert Gray KC on 27th February 1928. He served as Chairman until 1945.

Hornby was born on 25 June 1867 at Much Dewchurch, Herefordshire, the eldest son of the Reverend Charles Edward Hornby, then a curate, and his wife, Harriet, daughter of the Revd Henry Turton, who was the vicar of Betley, Staffordshire. He was educated at Harrow, and New College, Oxford, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in classics.

In 1892, Hornby was called to the bar, but his friend, Freddy Smith, offered him a partnership in W.H. Smith, the family business. He was quickly given increasing responsibility for handling the firm's external relations, which included dealing with the new breed of newspaper and magazine proprietors, such as Alfred Harmsworth, whose brashness was antipathetic to the older partners.

It also included negotiating the contracts with railway companies for the operation of bookstalls on stations and the sale of advertising spaces which at that time constituted the bulk of the firm's business.

For many years Hornby's major relaxation outside business was his private press, the Ashendene Press, and he first set up a hand press at his father's house in Ashendene, Hertfordshire, in 1895. In 1899, the year after his marriage, he moved the printing press to his new home, Shelley House on Chelsea Embankment, and continued to produce highly regarded limited editions from there until 1935. He had two typefaces specially designed for him, Subiaco and Ptolemy. His passion for fine printing and bookbinding was reflected in his attitude to the printing department of W. H. Smith.

Hornby was High Sheriff of the County of London from 1906-07. He died at his home, Chantmarle, Cattistock, Dorchester, on 26 April 1946. His clear and perceptive mind, his energetic, decisive, and determined character, and shrewd business sense, had made him a highly regarded chairman of The Chelsea Society. One of his sons, Michael (1899-1987), also became a director of W. H. Smith, and Michael's son, Sir Simon Hornby, who died in 2010 aged 75, was President of the Chelsea Society. He too was a director of W.H. Smith.

His other son, Sir Roger Hornby (1904-1987), was senior partner at the stockbrokers Cazenove. His daughter, Dame Rosamund Holland-Martin (1914-2001), led the NSPCC from (1969-1988), and was married to Admiral Sir Deric Holland-Martin.

PAST EVENTS

Chelsea Pottery

29th May 2019

The Society made a private visit to the Victoria & Albert Museum for an illustrated lecture on the Chelsea Pottery works founded in Chelsea in about 1745, and the ceramics produced there, many of which are in the Museum's collection and bear the famous anchor symbol, which is now the logo of The Chelsea Society.



PAST EVENTS

Summer Party

19th June 2019

More than 70 members of the Society welcomed distinguished guests including the Mayor of Kensington & Chelsea, and the Rt. Hon. Greg Hands MP, to their Summer Party.



Lambeth Palace

12th July 2019 at 1.45 pm



Twenty members of The Chelsea Society enjoyed a private visit to Lambeth Palace - the London residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury for over eight centuries.



Cricket

25th July 2019



On the hottest day ever recorded in England, which happened to coincide with the election of the new Prime Minister; the first ever cricket match between Raffles Club and the Chelsea Society was held, at the glorious Duke of York Square by kind permission of Lord Cadogan.

The event was sponsored by Raffles Club,- who provided much-needed cool refreshments – and it attracted over 300 people of all ages; most of whom were local residents. We are hoping that we can make this an annual event, and that we will be able to give members more advance notice.

If you are a sponsor or a player who would like to be involved, then please contact Logan Wijay, the founder/team-manager at: logan@keuk.com

School Visit

Monday 7th October

Members of the Society made a private tour on 4th October of Marlborough Primary School on Sloane Avenue (entrance in Draycott Ave), with co-head teacher Sarah Howell. This was an opportunity to see inside the rebuilt school with its imaginative use of inside space and outside areas for recreation and growing herbs and plants.



The school sees itself as an inclusive and welcoming primary school, and caters for many pupils with special needs. The school was established on the same site in 1878 and moved into its new building in 2017. The modern architecture caused controversy, and some local residents felt that the old Victorian school building should not have been demolished.



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