

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY  
REPORT

1987





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# *The Annual General Meeting*

**of the Chelsea Society  
was held at The National Army Museum  
Royal Hospital Road, SW3  
on Monday, 23rd November 1987**

Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt., J.P., President of the Society, took the Chair.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by expressing his pleasure at seeing such a large turnout of members present and said how much the Mayor's presence was appreciated in her very busy year.

The Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting were approved and signed.

Mrs. Lewis announced that the President's three-year term of office expired after this Annual General Meeting, but he was willing to serve until the end of 1988, adding that he was of the greatest help to the Society, which did not wish to lose him. He was now Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and would have more commitments in Yorkshire than London. Sir Marcus said how much he was enjoying being in office, but his added duties in Yorkshire would make it difficult for him to continue as President after 1988.

Sir Marcus then announced the retirement of Mrs. Lesley Lewis and the appointment of Mr. David Le Lay as Chairman of the Society. He paid tribute to Mrs. Lewis saying she had been a tower of strength and her knowledge of all the issues was outstanding and he asked that a vote of thanks should be recorded. Mr. Le Lay, who would assume office at the conclusion of the Meeting, had already done a great deal for the Society over the years.

The Chairman then asked the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ian Frazer, to present the Accounts for 1986 and, on his proposal, these were unanimously adopted. The Treasurer also thanked the Hon. Auditor, Mr. Oldak, for all his help.

The Chairman's Report was given by Mrs. Lewis.

Mrs. Lewis then made the following statement on proposals by the Department of Transport for a Western Environmental Improvement Route (WEIR):

The Department of Transport has published (July, 1987) the Options Appraisal Report on WEIR commissioned from consultant engineers. It costs £25 and the Society's two copies are available here for you to look at but please do not take them away. It can be seen in Chelsea Public Library.

These proposals represent yet another attempt to relieve the appalling conditions for traffic, and created by traffic, in the Earls Court One-Way System which includes Edith Grove and Gunter Grove before uniting on Cheyne Walk and Chelsea Embankment. In the 1970s the Greater London Council prepared the Greater London Development Plan which included Ringway I or the Motorway Box, of which the so-called West Cross Route was a component. It was, however, also envisaged as a local relief road for Earls Court, etc., with a new road along the West London railway line, and a separate Public Inquiry was held on it in 1972. The Secretary of State refused permission, his reasons including the threat to riverside amenities, but in any case the whole Motorway Box was soon afterwards abandoned by the new Labour administration at County Hall, and the proposed relief road fell with it. The possibilities of such a road have been under review ever since.

The present scheme is for the solution of the local problem and is not intended to carry more than the existing traffic in the area. Public consultation will be undertaken from Holland Park Avenue in the north, through Kensington east and west of the railway, to Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham on the south, that Borough being concerned as well as ours. Some districts will find common ground, others will have conflicting interests, but if we all prepare our cases constructively it should be possible to hammer out a solution. Our own two concerns are as before, relief for those on the One-Way System but protection of the riverside, which is a national asset, designated as part of Cheyne Conservation Area and the River Thames Area of Special Character, as noted in the Consultants' Report now before us. The two aims are difficult to reconcile because the options recommended would either involve building out over the foreshore, or giving Cheyne Walk no relief from its present intolerable burden of traffic. The Royal Borough and the Chelsea Society were united in evidence on the West Cross Route and we hope that this time too we shall be able to agree on a case for the Department of Transport.

The Report we have before us is said not to be complete enough in technical detail to be the start of the public consultation procedure which is promised. We think however it is not too early for us to start preparing our own submissions and establishing where our support and opposition are likely to come from. What remains to be done by the Department of Transport includes more refined traffic estimates, further work on the capacity of junctions, a topographical survey, landscaping, discussions with developers, providers of public services etc. The public will be invited to discuss and comment on the options after the mounting of an exhibition and issue of a brochure. You may however feel that the views of so experienced a body as the Chelsea Society should be put forward at an earlier stage, before the Department's expensive preparation in depth tends to crystallize the options prematurely. The Council has decided that it is necessary at this stage to employ a firm of consultant engineers to clarify technical considerations for us and help us to discuss them intelligently with the Boroughs and other associations. The Society has sufficient funds to apply to this at the discretion of the Council and it would certainly be within our terms of reference.

Questions from the floor included concern about more use not being made of the West London Railway, and the volume of traffic which would be poured into Chelsea. One speaker asked whether a bridge combined with, or alongside, the present railway bridge had been considered, or the possibility of a tunnel.

Sir Marcus reminded the meeting that permission for a road similar to WEIR had been refused after the Public Inquiry of 1972.

Under Any Other Business Mrs. Lewis said that Mr. Tom Pocock had found a portrait by Walter Greaves which he thought to be of Reginald Blunt, at an estimated £200-£300, but she had succeeded in purchasing it on behalf of the Society for £160, hoping it would turn out to be of interest.

Colonel Rubens then announced that, with the prior consent of the President, it gave him the greatest pleasure to propose to the Meeting that Mrs. Lewis should be made an Honorary Vice-President of the Society for her outstanding work on its behalf. This proposal was carried unanimously with much pleasure and Mrs. Lewis expressed her gratitude.

The Meeting ended at 7.30 pm when members and their guests adjourned to the Templer Room for wine and conversation.

## *Chairman's Report*

This was the year of the Society's Diamond Jubilee and precedence in my Report can I think justifiably be given to our celebration of it by the charity auction held in aid of the Chelsea Physic Garden on 26th March 1987. Its success probably exceeded all expectations, except possibly mine, because I held on throughout to what had inspired the idea, faith in the generosity, local patriotism and sporting spirit of our members and the friends they would recruit. Christie's South Kensington held the Auction in their Old Brompton Road salerooms and, having taken us on, gave us storage space, insurance and, on the night, the services of two splendid auctioneers, subsidiary and security staff. They charged no commission or buyer's premium, provided excellent publicity, arranged for delicious catering at cost price and prepared a most attractive catalogue which in the end cost us nothing because it was paid for through advertising space sold by a member of the Auction Committee. You may remember that we passed a resolution in 1985 giving discretion to the Council to pay suitable expenses from the Society's funds, and in the end we gave about £700, thus enabling the entire profits to go to the Physic Garden as our Diamond Jubilee contribution to Chelsea's amenities. The true expenses were really much higher but we shall never know how much individuals paid from their own pockets for postage, telephoning etc., for giving supper parties on the night, and other entertainment beforehand. We also thank those anonymous benefactors, the underbidders, who valiantly pushed up prices and were instrumental in more than doubling the proceeds estimated by Christie's.

We had aimed to collect something like eighty gifts but such was the generous response from donors that we had a hundred and eighty-four, not counting three items which were put into other sales. It took from 7 to 9.30 p.m. to sell our goods, the auctioneers going at a cracking pace, combined with persuasion, amid great enthusiasm and a popping of corks off stage. There were many pictures, some contributed by Chelsea artists, ceramics, silver, jewellery, books, varied by a week's salmon fishing on the Usk, a stay in a Scottish cottage, a weekend trip for two to Compostela, and dinner at La Tante Claire restaurant. Views of the Physic Garden by Sir Hugh Casson and Mr. Julian Barrow were reproduced on the catalogue cover and the originals generously given for sale by the artists. About four hundred people came and the evening turned into a pleasant social gathering and a meeting of friends, sometimes unexpected. We cleared about twenty-two and a half thousand pounds on sales, while some very handsome donations, a raffle and entrance money afterwards brought up the total to thirty-one thousand pounds. I presented a cheque for this amount to Dr. Jamieson, Chairman of the Trustees of the Physic Garden, at the Summer Meeting at Hurlingham. There is printed elsewhere in the Report the notice prepared for circulation in which the names appear of the Patrons and Committee members to whom we owe such gratitude.

Meanwhile the routine work of the Society continued throughout the year and I must pay my customary warm tribute to the President, officers and Editor for all their work and support. The Treasurer deserves special thanks for the extra labours arising from the auction.

I have good wishes to give you from Miss Hilda Buckmaster, a Life Member living in Canada. She sent a cheque for £10 towards Chelsea storm-damage and I have sent that straight on to the Physic Garden as being most in need of contributions.

The membership stands at 730.

## 1. *Planning Matters*

The number of planning applications continues apparently to grow and it is impossible for us to look at more than a few in detail. We must again urge residents to notify us of anything affecting rear aspects, which we cannot see, or proposals which have some special impact that we might miss. We are pleased to know that the Borough has been reconsidering the membership and functions of the Town Planning (Development Plans) Advisory Sub-Committee on which we are represented, together with other bodies. It was influential recently in obtaining refusal of permission for a development at Nos. 43/45 Sloane Street which would have been gross and oppressive in that situation. Nevertheless the Committee's influence generally seems to have waned of late and we are pleased that steps are being taken to revive it.

We regret the number of Appeals upheld by the Department of the Environment against the sensible refusals recommended by the Borough and feel that local views are sometimes sacrificed to central Government policy on employment, economy and private enterprise which may conflict

with longer-term planning considerations. The same view was expressed in a report by the Director of Planning and Transportation to the Town Planning Committee on 3rd February 1987. A further cause for disquiet is the ingenuity of developers in exploiting loopholes in planning legislation and, apparently regardless of expense, causing endless delay and utter frustration for the Borough's enforcement officers.

## *Cases*

### *a. The Sainsbury Site*

Several proposals were put forward and submitted to public consultation. The final one is now being carried out, with Diamond, Lock, Grabowski and Partners as the architects. The scheme is for a complex of small shops on three levels, creating something of the atmosphere of a department store. The Borough is satisfied that no more traffic than formerly will be generated and that the catering facilities, to which there had been objections, would not now present the problems which had been feared. Visually the new building will probably be an improvement. The never-very-successful patio-opening will be replaced by a continuous street frontage and the architecture should be of a high standard. We can however only await with some apprehension a development which will inevitably attract more visitors to an already overcrowded area. We had some sympathy with a group of residents who thought the site would be ideal for an art centre, but the erstwhile failure of the Chenil Galleries set a discouraging precedent and there seemed no immediate financial backing for such a scheme.

### *b. New Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street and Cardiothoracic Centre, Cale Street, SW3*

Phase I of the various building works is well under way and expected to be completed in 1989. The driving of the foundations of the Hospital caused considerable disruption to residents and there have been some cracked walls in Sydney Street and Guthrie Street. The Sydney Street and Dovehouse Street Residents' Associations have continued to press for adequate parking, and monitored developments throughout. Plans for an infill building in Dovehouse Street, between the Womens' Hospital and the Nurses' Home, were not in the original scheme and are still under discussion. Owing to delays in the start of Phase I, Phase II is now likely to start without an interval in between and the proposals for it will need much vigilance. Roughly, it will involve southern and western areas of the site, with massive extensions towards the King's Road. It will be important both to achieve the retention of the small listed shops at the southern end of Sydney Street and make them relevant in a new setting. It is greatly to the credit of these residents' associations that they have kept themselves informed throughout on the details of this enormous scheme and maintained a continuous dialogue with the authorities.

### *c. Numbers 3, 4, 5, 8 Coulson Street and 13, 14 Anderson Street SW3*

Last year I reported that the Royal Borough had applied for a third Compulsory Purchase Order on these dilapidated properties. This has just

been confirmed after a Public Inquiry so that the houses can now be put on the market for rehabilitation and occupation. Unfortunately this welcome decision does not include the derelict shops, Nos. 106 and 108 King's Road, which are part of the same block but as commercial premises come under different procedures. The Borough will however now take appropriate steps to get them back into use.

d. *49A Elystan Place*

I referred last year to this case in which an owner had built an extension in excess of planning permission. The Borough served an Enforcement Notice for removal and on 13th November, 1986, the Department of the Environment confirmed it on Appeal, subject to right of appeal on a point of law. No one familiar with this case will be surprised to hear that the appellant found a point of law and is challenging the Order in the High Court on the grounds that it was incorrectly authorised. A Public Inquiry on this is being held on 1st March, 1988, and meanwhile the Borough has issued a fresh notice to prevent immunity from enforcement on expiration of four years. The Society continues to support the objections of residents nearby.

e. *Some developments in progress*

The large sites west of Smith Street on the south side of the King's Road are gradually being transformed into new houses, shops, offices and a supermarket and it will be more proper to comment on these at a later stage. We must however express regret that it was considered impossible to incorporate in the new street frontage "the idiosyncratic block between 85 and 91 King's Road" (King's Road Character Study, R.B.K. & C., 1983), dated 1901, with interesting glazed brick and terracotta facing.

We noted with dismay a proposal to build a huge theatre in Battersea Park and have written strong objections to Wandsworth Borough Council. We have also commented on the unsuitability of it if considered in conjunction with the pending development of the redundant Battersea Power Station as a leisure complex.

Also over our Borough boundary but of great importance to us were proposals for massive residential and commercial development at Stamford Bridge, combined with the building of a new football stadium. The traffic implications, having regard to the Chelsea Harbour development and plans for the Western Environmental Improvement Route, were horrendous and we joined others in objecting at an early stage.

A matter of concern is the constantly worsening traffic conditions in Old Church Street, south, where the lorry ban has brought little alleviation to the general congestion. The latter is likely to be further exacerbated by the pending redevelopment of the Red Cross site and we have much sympathy with residents.

2. *Minibuses for Chelsea*

The C1 minibus from Waterloo through Westminster, Sloane Square, Knightsbridge, South Kensington to High Street Kensington has proved

so popular that residents would like more such services on routes at present inadequately served by public transport. We are particularly concerned for people who have a long walk along Oakley Street from the river to the King's Road, and no nearby shops. Also, the 39 bus along Royal Hospital Road is too infrequent to serve satisfactorily the three public institutions on the way, i.e. The Royal Hospital, National Army Museum and the Chelsea Physic Garden. We are urging the Borough Planning and Transport Department to persuade London Regional Transport to provide a minibus from Chelsea Basin through Hortensia Road to the Fulham Road (serving St. Stephen's Hospital) along Limerston Street to the King's Road, thence via Oakley Street and Royal Hospital Road to terminate at Sloane Square. It would be helpful if anyone supporting this proposal would write accordingly to the Director of Planning and Transportation, Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX.

3. *Activities*

Owing to the charity auction in March we only had one lecture, on 18th February, 1987, at the National Army Museum by kind permission of the Director. It was however a particularly popular event. Colonel Rubens, our Vice-Chairman, gave a lively and most interesting talk on *City Livery Companies*, a subject of which he has professional experience as well as much historical knowledge.

The Summer Meeting, with about a hundred present, was held at the Hurlingham Club on 13th July, on a beautiful evening. Our President, Sir Marcus Worsley, welcomed the mayor, Councillor Mrs. Russell, and the principal item was the presentation by the Chairman of a cheque for £31,000 to the Chairman of the Trustees of the Physic Garden, Dr. David Jamieson.

4. *Some News Items*

a. *The Great Gale*

Unfortunately the first item is very bad news indeed. The freak gale, indeed hurricane, of 16th October, did enormous damage to trees over a large area of south-east England, and Chelsea suffered very badly. The most tragic losses were in the Physic Garden where some very old, very big, and very rare specimens were blown down, including the wonderful great ilex in the southeast corner. The Garden's appearance at the moment is sad indeed but we have little doubt that the Curator, Duncan Donald, will face up magnificently to the task of replanting and replanning for a long future. We wish him success and were pleased to hear that some societies and individuals came forward immediately with generous donations for starting the work. We also had more ordinary but equally spectacular and very sad losses in Burton Court and Royal Avenue, and indeed it is not yet possible to assess the full toll. The wind, with gusts of nearly a hundred miles per hour between about 4 and 7 a.m., produced strange effects, uprooting trees you would have thought sheltered by buildings and sparing many in the open. There was fortunately little loss of life over the country, and buildings did not on the whole suffer badly, but



many parked cars were crushed, seven in the Duke of York's parade ground alone.

b. *The National Army Museum*

We shall be very sorry to say goodbye to Mr. William Reid C.B.E., F.S.A. Director of the Museum since its foundation, who is retiring at the end of the year. He has been a very good friend to the Society, serving on the Council and allowing us to hold our lectures in the Museum's excellent lecture-room. We wish him a happy and fruitful retirement. The Museum has gone from strength to strength under his care, extending the building, making numerous acquisitions and holding fascinating exhibitions. Notable among these was this year's *Lady Butler — Battle Artist*, and the current one, *The Armies of India, 1746 to 1947* must not be missed. Mr. Reid's successor is Mr. Ian Robertson and we look forward to meeting him.

c. *The Civic Trust*

The Trust celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year and to mark the event put on an excellent exhibition in October in the Business Design Centre, Islington. This was the old Royal Agricultural Hall, now brilliantly rehabilitated, and it made a splendid background for the stands and displays of numerous organisations and firms concerned with conservation. There were demonstrations of techniques, such as making bricks by hand of the many types required for the restoration of historic buildings, and architectural videos. It was most encouraging to see how many schemes have been actually achieved and finished in comparatively few years by preservation trusts, local authorities and private enterprise. Pies-in-the-sky have come down to earth.

d. *The Georgian Group*

The Group is celebrating its Golden Jubilee, having been founded in 1937 in response to the threats to post-1714 buildings which were then hardly regarded as historic. It started as a new element in the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings but quite quickly hived off on its own though retaining the title of "Group". Inspired by such losses as Robert Adam's *Adelphi* in the Strand, it went on to prevent many such demolitions and after the war became one of the societies who received a Government grant to watch over threats to listed buildings. It encouraged the study of Georgian architecture by visits, which included pioneering pilgrimages to the Palladian villas of the Veneto, then very little known. Chelsea has comparatively few buildings of the strictly Georgian period but the style survived up to about the 1850s, the date of many of our terraces, and we have often consulted the Group, or been consulted by them. Its headquarters are now in a restored Georgian house, 37 Spital Square in Spitalfields, where much fine architecture of the period is being brought back to life. Many of our members must belong and know all about it, but enquires are most welcome.

e. *St. Luke's Church*

The Restoration Appeal was publicly launched on 3rd May 1987 with Morning Prayer. This was followed by a tree-planting ceremony by the

Countess Cadogan, to celebrate the Centenary of St. Luke's Gardens. The sum of £762,000 has now been raised, or promised, towards the target of £1,250,000, and much work has already been done. Stonework and roofs have been repaired, the Vestry beautifully restored, the heating system replaced and the Crypt adapted to form a Parish Office. Passers-by will have seen the process of cleaning and restoration on the northern exterior, due to be completed at Christmas, 1987. Work on the south side will follow. The completion of repairs, and improvements to the surroundings will proceed as funds become available and all contributions will be welcome at the Appeal Office, St. Luke's Church, Sydney Street, SW3 6NH. Cheques should be made out to St. Luke's Chelsea, Restoration Appeal.

f. *Chelsea Art Society*

The Society held its 40th Annual Exhibition in Chelsea Old Town Hall Sports Hall from 16th to 24th October. It was during the afternoon of Friday, 16th — right on the heels of the disastrous hurricane — that the exhibition was officially opened by the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Mrs. Elizabeth Russell. Many of the members, including the president, Mr. Alan Gourley, were marooned in the country but fears of an 'empty house' were allayed when very many exhibitors, friends and guests arrived for the private view, heralding a very successful week of appreciative visitors and steady sales. Four hundred and thirty-nine items of paintings and sculpture were accepted for exhibition. Four cash awards were presented to artists, three of them to Chelsea residents, and five artists' works were highly commended. The soirée held on Tuesday, 20th October, when Sir Anthony Coates Bt. and Lady Coates represented the Royal Borough, was a happy social evening for about 150 guests.

g. *Chelsea Gardens Guild*

Like the Chelsea Society, the Chelsea Gardens Guild celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 1987. The usual competitions for large, small, communal and Church Gardens; patios, roof gardens and terraces; window-boxes, tubs and containers were duly judged, and a special Jubilee Cup, to be retained by the winner, was offered for the best overall display. The prizes were presented at a delightful garden party held on 12th July, 1987 in the Chelsea Physic Garden. This occasion was a remarkable demonstration of the devotion of gardeners to work which they enjoy for its own sake, and which benefits everyone. The Guild's party is one of the happiest fixtures in the Chelsea year.

This is the last Annual report I shall write as your Chairman and perhaps I may be permitted a few backward glances. I feel that my term of office has been bracketed between a major failure and a considerable success. The failure was the sale of Chelsea Rectory and its garden to a private owner rather than, as had been indicated in the District Plan, its acquisition as a public open space in perpetuity. Counsels were fatally divided and the people of Chelsea lacked the will and cohesion to secure this priceless asset, so rich in historic associations. I think Chelsea rectory must be written on my heart. More cheerfully I can pass to the last year of my



tenure with the success of the charity auction in aid of the Physic Garden, and our happy association with it since it became an independent Trust. Between these points I remember particularly the successful campaign in which we joined to prevent Cheyne Walk being designated a trunk road and, as such, put out of our Borough's control. There are not quite as many artists in Chelsea as there used to be, but a surprizing number turned up, some from far and wide, to paint Whistler's Reach in vindication of its scenic values. I think the powers-that-be certainly got the message that the riverfront is a pretty hot potato and I hope they will remember this as we once again have to tackle the question of the road, now renamed the Western Environmental Improvement Route, of which more anon. I look back with pleasure on the Summer Meetings we have enjoyed together and I shall enjoy future ones even more when I have no responsibility for them. I thank the President, officers and members of Council, past and present, for their work, support and good advice, and I must couple with this my gratitude to Mr. Sanders, Director of Planning and Transportation in the borough, and his staff with whom we have so harmoniously agreed, or agreed to differ. I hand over my office with confidence to David Le Lay who is well known to many of us as a devoted friend of Chelsea and armed with the expertise to fight its planning battles. Architects have always been vital to the Society's work and it is highly satisfactory that we now have an architect as Chairman. I congratulate the Council on its choice.

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

### Effects of Planning Applications on individual residents' amenities

The Society's planning secretaries regularly monitor the lists of planning applications, and make objections to the Borough Planning Officer when either public or private amenities appear to be adversely affected. They can however only operate from the outside unless they are notified by residents that the proposals threaten amenities only visible from the inside or the rear of the premises. If residents desire the support of the Society in any objections they should at the earliest possible moment notify one of the Society's officers as indicated below, giving particulars with copies of any letters written by them to the Borough. The Society will in suitable cases support any reasonable objections, whether or not the residents are members, but membership of the Society makes contact easier. It is especially desirable that Residents' Associations should include some members. Particulars can be obtained from the Chairman, or other officers, or from the Information Office, Chelsea Old Town Hall.

Officers to be notified of planning matters.

Hon. Planning Secretary: Dr. Eileen Harris, 16 Limerston Street, SW10 0WH. Tel: 352 2420.

Hon. Assist. Planning Secretary: Mark Dorman Esq., 35 Smith Street, SW3 4EP. Tel: 352 7390.

## The once-secret garden

by Duncan Donald

### Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden

We are proud of our history at the Chelsea Physic Garden. But why should one support a Garden founded in 1673: what purpose does it now serve, and what of its future?

Physic Gardens arose in Europe in the 16th Century — first at Pisa in 1543, then in Padua and Florence (1545), Bologna (1568), Leiden (1587), and Montpellier (1593). These were all linked with university medical schools and their role was clear: to teach medical students botany, how to recognise and use plants. They were the natural successors of the mediaeval monastery garden, inheriting not only this emphasis on utility and teaching rather than simply ornament or pleasure, but also design elements — the site enclosed by a wall (*hortus conclusus*), divided by broad axial paths into four quadrants (perhaps betraying an Islamic origin, and probably intended to represent "the four corners of the earth"), these quadrants containing many narrow rectilinear flower-beds separated by equally narrow paths: all features evident in the Chelsea Physic Garden today. They were quiet places in which to walk, protected from the world outside, to study God's plant kingdom arrayed before one and there to contemplate Man's place in the order of things; models re-created in the image of the Garden of Eden, if John Prest is to be believed.\*

The first such garden in England was founded at Oxford in 1621, since enlarged and now run as the University Botanic Garden. A similar garden founded in Edinburgh in 1670 closed after a few years, and so the Chelsea Physic Garden — established by the Society of Apothecaries on its present site in 1673 — remains the second oldest surviving botanic garden in Britain. Like its predecessors, it was founded with a teaching function — but I think we should also see its foundation against the back-drop of the restoration of Charles II, the introduction with his court of new ideas from the Continent, including an awakening interest in the natural sciences, evidenced by the birth of the Royal Society in 1662 and pioneered by men like Newton and Boyle and, in botany, the Cambridge don John Ray.

The details of the Garden's history and development from these early days has been re-told elsewhere many times; we owe to the Chelsea Society the leaflet version currently on sale at the Garden, compiled in 1986 as a brief summary for those, otherwise unfamiliar with our three and a half acres, who were being asked to support the (outstandingly successful)

auction last March. Viewed with the advantage of hindsight, this history is quite remarkable, and not least because of its sheer continuity and the powerful influence it has exerted on the evolution of botany and horticulture for more than three hundred years.

Other gardens, even older than the Physic Garden, have had periods of brilliance interspersed with lacunae or neglect or decline; few, if any others can match the continuity of links the Garden has had throughout its existence with the leading botanists or gardeners of their day. To read even an abridged list of their names — Philip Miller, William Aiton, William Hudson, William Curtis, Joseph Banks, John Lindley, Robert Fortune, N. B. Ward, Thomas Moore, E. A. Bowles — is to read a summary of British botany and horticulture over these years: pioneers in plant naming, in the introduction of new plants to cultivation for the first time and then, following their successful propagation, in their dissemination to other gardens and consequent popularization.

This, in turn, has meant that the Garden's sphere of influence has spread far beyond its few Chelsea acres, taking the name of the borough worldwide for centuries in a way that possibly only the Chelsea Hospital and Chelsea bun can match. As London taxi-drivers know (those who have heard of the Garden — an increasing proportion now), Philip Miller is credited with having sent cotton seeds to Georgia which later played a part in the development of the hardier strains that transformed the fortunes of the southern United States; he trained Aiton, who became the first Gardener at Kew; with Hudson, he fostered the early interest in exotic plants of Joseph Banks, who became in effect the first Director of Kew and was the prime mover in the establishment of the Horticultural Society, now the Royal Horticulture Society. Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward's invention, the Wardian Case, was used by plant-hunters like Fortune to enrich our gardens; to develop the colonial plantations of rubber, tea, cinchona, etc., which changed the agricultural patterns of whole countries in the Victorian period; and by Victorian gardeners, stimulated too by Moore's writings on ferns, to bring the garden into their drawing room in ornate cases.

These are the pioneering exploits of botany that have shaped our world, but it should not be forgotten that steadily, behind these advances that we now see as fundamental, the educational core of the Physic Garden was still continuing, with generations of doctors attending courses to learn how to recognize and use plants in the preparation of medicines. This role lasted until the end of last century when, with the Victorian pill-manufacturers in the ascendant and the garden becoming an increasing financial burden to the Apothecaries, they handed over the management to the City Parochial Foundation. The educational and research roles continued, but now with an aim that was more botanical and only rarely medicinal; further, the City Parochial Foundation took on the management only on the condition that the Garden was to be run as a private concern, not open to the general public. And so it became "London's Secret Garden"... until, that is, in 1983 the management changed once more and the new body of independent Trustees decided to re-open the gates, albeit only for limited hours during the summer season (except, that is, for subscribing

Friends of the Garden, who have rights to visit throughout the year during normal office hours, as well as on the public open days).

'*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*': I started this article by saying that I intended to explore the present and future roles of the garden, and have so far only described the past! It was inevitable, not least because I feel strongly that the garden's future lies in its past; to me it is inconceivable that a radical volte-face is appropriate when the remarkable continuity of the Garden's history becomes apparent. Some change is certainly necessary: plants age, over-mature borders need to be renewed; even hurricanes strike and forcibly engender some changes that may not have been foreseen or desired! The change to being an open garden again after the extended period of closure itself leads to many changes: labels to be up-graded, guides trained, above all displays to be made more self-explanatory for visitors who are self-guided. Herein lies the impetus for my plans gradually to lay out a Historical Walk around the perimeter of the garden over the next few years, telling the Garden's own history through the plants associated with it and its associated personalities, putting each display into a coherent educational context.

Education remains, as it was when first founded, the Garden's primary function. It still addresses the traditional audience of the trainee doctor, or pharmacist, or herbalist, groups of whom still visit to study the large collection of culinary and medicinal plants in the Herb garden. Nowadays though this area and the others in the Garden aim to inform a much wider cross-section of visitors: school parties interested in botany, garden design students attending courses run on the premises by the English Gardening School, other gardeners curious to see the largest olive tree outdoors in Britain, those interested in garden history coming to see the earliest (1772) rock garden in the country, and so on.

The garden still continues to offer research facilities for outside institutions, most appropriately at present, in view of its traditional interest, for study by King's College of the herb Feverfew, *Tanacetum parthenium*, and its possible use in a prophylactic treatment for migraine; Imperial College studies the fungal disease which causes ergot in many important crop grasses; the British Museum (Natural History) Botany Department maintains a large research collection of *Pelargonium* species. The garden also conducts its own research, currently on the taxonomy of sages, *Salvia* species; the possible origins of old garden daffodils, *Narcissus* cultivars; and the history of plant introductions to Great Britain.

It also aims to be simply a nice place for local or foreign visitor alike to come and walk (whether or not they want to marvel at God's plant kingdom and quietly contemplate Man's place in the order of things); and, in common with other botanic gardens throughout the world, it takes part in plant conservation programmes, both at national and international level.

Gardens themselves need conservation. We are fortunate in having not only a keen and very dedicated staff but also a considerable degree of support from kind volunteers who help guide visiting parties, man open days, simply garden or offer assistance in a great variety of ways. However

some tasks are beyond the capacity of our own staff or helpers, and the new Trustees on taking office in 1983 had to launch an Appeal for £1¼ million to endow and secure the future of the Garden and to try to fund both renovation of the existing buildings and new developments to assist the garden to become more self-supporting. Three years later, the building refurbishment is nearly complete, the endowment is nearly secured (a further £100,000 would be ideal) but some of the desired improvements seem, as yet, unlikely to be achieved.

The Chelsea Physic Garden has survived vicissitudes of finance before; it has also survived serious gales — though perhaps none so bad in its entire history as that which struck on Friday 16th October this year. That it has survived is due to the help it has received from countless people over many generations who have found its teaching and research, its beauty and shelter worthy of their support, and for that reason alone its future should be assured.

*\*Prest, J. 'The Garden of Eden: the Botanical Garden and the Re-Creation of Paradise' (Yale University Press, 1981).*

## *New lamps for old, old lamps for new (cont.)*

Since Glebe Place became the torch-bearer of the move to restore the handsome Victorian-pattern street lamps to Chelsea, other streets have followed their example. By the end of the year, Lawrence Street and part of Upper Cheyne Row, where the protest against the Council's uprooting of the original lamp-standards in the early 1960s had originated, were again lit by lamps of an appropriate scale and design. The rest of Upper Cheyne Row was soon to get its new lighting and Cheyne Row was hoping to follow.

It is an expensive undertaking for the residents, who must pay a proportion of the cost. For example, in Lawrence Street, the residents raised nearly £2,000 towards the installation of two Victorian-pattern lamp-standards and three lamp brackets. But the verdict seems to be that it was worth the expense and the fund-raising effort.

Other Chelsea communities wishing to do likewise should first contact the Director of Engineering and Works, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Central Depot, 37 Pembroke Road, London W8 6PW.

## *Gone with the wind . . .*

In the early hours of Friday, 16th October, Chelsea awoke to a sound never heard there before. It was a frightening symphony of noise: the roar of wind, the splintering crash of falling trees, the smashing of glass, the trilling of triggered burglar alarms and the smash of falling chimneys. The great gale had struck.

This was the storm that killed 19 people, damaged thousands of buildings and felled perhaps 15,000,000 trees across south-east England. Next morning the scene in Chelsea reminded some of devastation remembered from wartime dawn. Streets were blocked with fallen trees and strewn with broken masonry and glass. Everywhere great, familiar trees — mostly planes and trees of heaven — lay prone, having smashed into houses and crushed cars. Cheyne Row was blocked and so was Royal Avenue, Manresa Road, both sides of Oakley Gardens and many more streets.

In squares and gardens, the giants had crashed. One of the huge planes came down in Carlyle Square and a great tree of heaven — only recently pruned to maintain its handsome shape while letting through the maximum sunlight — fell in Esther Darlington's garden and across John and Patricia Casson's, which wins so many prizes from the Chelsea Gardens Guild and Brighter Kensington and Chelsea. In doing so, it knocked Epstein's bronze bust of John Casson's mother, Dame Sybil Thorndike, off its plinth on to the lawn, happily undamaged.

Most tragic was the fate of the Chelsea Physic Garden, which as its Curator, Duncan Donald, writes on another page, suffered grievous losses. Among the 15 trees uprooted that night, or felled later as unsafe, was the great tulip tree, the 80 ft. pendant lime, the cucumber tree and a holm oak planted in 1772.

Stories reminiscent of "bomb stories" told during the Blitz began to circulate. Some of the most alarming were told in Lawrence Street and Cheyne Row, where sheets of corrugated iron, torn from the temporary roof erected by builders over King's Mansions, were blown over the rooftops. "I looked out on my window," said one lady in Upper Cheyne Row, "and there was the corrugated iron floating down the street like thistledown."

A night to remember.

*See illustrations, pages 33 and 34.*

# The shop on the corner

## A Chelsea institution

by Marek Effendowicz

Peter Jones, has a unique atmosphere born of a long and intricate history. The 1936 rebuilding was the most dramatic and comprehensive transformation of a shop which had been altered a number of times even before John Lewis thrust £20,000 into his pocket and walked from Oxford Street to Sloane Square.

In 1871, the 28-year-old Welshman, Peter Rees Jones, having run a draper's shop first in Hackney, then in Bloomsbury, moved to Chelsea and two small shops at 163 and 165 Marlborough Gardens (now Draycott Avenue). By 1874, business was steady enough, with an annual turnover of £8,000, to plan a move to a better site at the Sloane Square end of Chelsea. The gamble of the relocation, more staff and enlarged stock assortment paid off spectacularly. Turnover in 1877, the first year at 4 and 6 King's Road, had surged to £18,000.

Not only had Peter Jones confidence in his own abilities and trading formula, for there was competition from a linen draper further up the road, but also an eye to the shifting patterns of trade in the area. At first his customers came mainly from the artisan class, but the gentrification of Chelsea was just beginning and Peter Jones could expand to attract this wealthy carriage trade. By 1884 he had absorbed the neighbouring grocery shop and boot warehouse, increased his staff to 150 from the initial 30, and had a turnover of £40,000.

Having acquired a further ten shops on the King's Road and property in Symons Street, Peter Jones substantially rebuilt his premises, work which was largely completed in 1889. An article in *The Builder* describes the shop — perhaps unlovely to modern eyes — as “built of red Mansfield stone and red Farcham bricks ... the roofs covered with German green slates”. The 1893 *Illustrated London*, however, was full of praise for an edifice “of harmonious design and handsome appearance, rising to a height of five storeys and crowned by a turret from which rises a flagstaff that is quite a landmark in the vicinity”. It continued its eulogy: “For general commodiousness and imposing proportions, this fine block is unsurpassed in London”. Inside, a number of long high-ceilinged salons attracted the favourable comment of *Illustrated London*, especially the umbrella department (No 10 King's Road) which was “ornamented with magnificent marble pillars and panelled throughout with mirrors”. A richly carpeted walnut staircase led to the dress sections where the goods were “all of a very superior quality, though moderate prices prevail”.

It was a sign of Peter Jones's modern outlook that he was one of the first to install electric lighting in a large store, and of his progressive views that he provided well for his staff. Most of them lived above the shop in residential quarters which were “replete with every appointment this is conducive to social enjoyment”, including a well-stocked library, a piano for musical evenings and a couple of billiard tables.

This, then, was the shop John Lewis bought after Peter Jones's death in 1905, and the shop that, in structure at least, remained unaltered until the 1930s. Having peaked in 1902-3, business at Peter Jones rapidly declined with the failing strength of its owner, and the shop's earlier reputation as the apogee of taste and elegance was dissipated. John Lewis was not able to restore its fortunes and in 1914 he handed over the chairmanship of what had become “that bucket of a shop” to his son Spedan.

It was just as well that the Star and Garter pub, on the corner of Sloane Square and King's Road, had been bought but not included in any of the early rebuilding projects. In 1915 Peter Jones made a net loss of £267, while the pub — now the site of the china and glass department — made a profit of £1,500. Ruefully, Spedan Lewis declared, “I regret we are thriving exceedingly by being publicans”.

With its “very delicate uninterrupted uprights between the windows ... this is one of London's most successful modern designs”, wrote Nikolaus Pevsner in 1952. With the design of the new Peter Jones the fussy jumble of Victoriana was swept away and two sides of the island site were wrapped in a smooth curve of glass and steel like a piece of ribbed textile. It was the first “curtain wall” building in London — that is one where the exterior walls are not part of the supporting structure.

The design met the requirements both of aesthetics — it received a great deal of critical acclaim from public, press and architects — and of practicality. By pinning the skin of the building to steel joists projecting above the shop windows, the architects achieved a continuous run of glass and more display space in relation to the length of the building. Spedan Lewis was quite decided upon this point, and wrote in *The Gazette* of 13th April, 1935, that an efficient design means “you must not lose a single inch of window-space against the street”, and roundly attacked the space-wasting “sham masonry” typical of department store architecture.

Between the Mackmurdo building (acquired in 1939) and the bank (incorporated in 1963) a conventional external wall construction was erected at the Cadogan Gardens entrance as early as 1932, but the systematic demolition of the old shop began only in 1935. Some of the more unusual architectural plans, such as the sixth floor swimming pool and the sun lounge with sliding roof, were never realised, but the Sloane Square end and King's Road frontage were completed in 1936.

Miss Adrienne Spanier, now retired as an interior designer, can remember both the original store and the transformation process. She joined in 1931 as a saleswoman in the painted furniture department and remembers the long corridors linking the otherwise unconnected shops

on the King's Road, the tall aisles patrolled by Dickensian floor walkers, and the counters at which customers sat to be served.

There was no self-selection because the goods were piled on shelves behind the counters and no tills at the point of sale. The assistant would take bill and payment to a central cash desk, and return to the still-seated customer with the receipt.

"That atmosphere was like a club — much less businesslike than now", formal in manners but informal in that Chelsea people regarded it as a local shop in which to come and have a chat to the serving staff.

By contrast, the new shop was light, airy and open plan — "at first we did feel rather vulnerable". But it was the excitement rather than the shock of the new that Miss Spanier remembers.

"It was staggering and very, very, modern ... a beautiful building ... we were extremely proud of it." But not all the curious peculiarities of the store were discarded with the old buildings. Some of the experiments of the Thirties such as the children's library were shortlived, while others, such as the Polyfoto department and theatre ticket agency, lasted for many years. There was a secretarial office which did the typing for customers and an estate agency which sold properties and arranged insurance. One desk took orders for coal deliveries and another organised funerals. In 1938, a livestock department was opened selling squirrels, rabbits, monkeys, fish and rare birds.

Through this catalogue of apparent eccentricity, which was further extended during the Fifties with the kennels for shoppers' dogs, runs a theme as relevant to the Peter Jones of the 1980s as to the one of the 1880s: service to the local community. It remains a local corner shop, even if that corner has a worldwide clientele.

Mr Geoffrey Pilgrim, department manager of china and glass, reflected on the fierce loyalty to the typical Peter Jones customer: "It is a family shop. We cater for generations of customers from the cradle almost to the grave. The tradition is built through school, 21st. birthday celebrations, weddings, and handed from mother to daughter, father to son. Even when customers emigrate they keep the export department very busy."

Peter Jones also insists that their shop and their customers are unique and have special tastes and requirements. It is certainly true that parts of the assortment sell particularly well at Sloane Square, and there is a local buying for the antique department and what Mr Pilgrim calls "local selection" of designer dresses, jewellery and sterling silver. But the abiding symbol of Peter Jones's uniqueness is its arrangement of trading areas. How many department stores displace well-tryed "impulse buys" such as cosmetics and small leather goods from the ground floor to make way for china and glass, furnishing fabrics and linens? The fact that the arrangement works so successfully — and has done so since 1936 — demonstrates the extent in which Peter Jones is still a local store rooted in a firm tradition.

The Symons Street building was largely unaffected by the 1936 rebuilding, and its 19th. century facade now has a preservation order on it, as

does the Mackmurdo building at 25 Cadogan Gardens which was added in 1939. It was designed by the Australian architect A. H. Mackmurdo in 1893 for Mortimer Mempes, an Australian painter and friend of Whistler, in a style strongly reminiscent of 17th. and 18th. century Dutch architecture.

Writing in *The Gazette* of 27th. February, 1982, the archivist, Mrs Lorna Poole, says "Many of the features which can still be seen had a specific function: the larger-than-usual doorways were said to have been designed to allow for the passage of large canvasses, and there was also an exterior hoist to lift paintings up and through windows on the upper storeys. The long windows were designed to admit as much light as possible for the painter, and a small mirror which is still poised above an upper window was so angled that when Mempes was working he could look into it and scrutinise would-be visitors before deciding whether to be 'at home' to them or not."

The interior of the house has been integrated into Peter Jones and is now used mainly for management offices.

*See illustrations, pages 36 and 37.*

## *Let sleeping policemen lie*

This autumn, anybody walking through the backstreets of Chelsea from, say, Oakley Street to Sloane Square by way of Redesdale Street and St. Leonard's Terrace would have been witness to what might be called Chelsea's Revenge.

For years, the citizens of those two streets had been plagued by speeding traffic. Often at its worst in the early morning, when young men in fast cars were hurrying to work in the City and making use of this alternative route between the Embankment and the King's Road, the streets became a race-track. After dark it could be as dangerous, particularly for any elderly person daring enough to cross the road. Danger of collision was augmented by the snarl of powerful engines that recalled Brand's Hatch.

But on these autumn mornings all was suddenly peace. Those same motorists were still eastward bound but now they drove slowly and gently and the regular rocking movements of their cars explained why. The Sleeping Policemen were on parade, all nine of them from Flood Street to Cheltenham Terrace.

As most will know — and more will soon discover — the term "sleeping policeman" had been given to a ridge raised across the road to enforce a speed limit. Any motorist driving too fast will give his car — and its driver — a very nasty jolt indeed. The only option is to drive slowly and carefully and that is what they have been doing in Redesdale Street and St. Leonard's Terrace since September.

# *A memento of Chelsea's Maritime School*

by Simon Bendall

In 1777, a group of public-spirited persons banded together to found a maritime school on the banks of the Thames in Chelsea, with a view to qualifying young scholars to serve as officers in the Royal Navy. The school occupied Ormonde House on the corner of what is now Ormonde Gate and Royal Hospital Road, although at that time this site was known as Paradise Row. The house itself had been built at the end of the seventeenth century but gained its name from Mary, wife of James, second Duke of Ormonde, who lived here from about 1730 to 1733. It was a long house with eight windows facing across Paradise Row to the stables of the Royal Hospital, with a garden behind in which was erected a fully-rigged vessel large enough to enable twenty-four boys to exercise in the masts and rigging.

The school took twenty-six scholars from the age of eleven or twelve until the age of fourteen, when they would then have entered the navy as midshipmen. They were under the instruction of a naval lieutenant who taught them seamanship. In addition they were taught English, French, and Mathematics, and their Drawing Master was no less a person than John Thomas Serres, later Maritime Painter to George III and son of the famous maritime painter Dominic Serres.

The founders did not expect the Maritime School to be immediately successful, but they hoped that within a few years their institution would rival the Royal Naval Academy at Portsmouth. They pointed out the advantages of their school and its situation by commenting on their rivals:

Christ Church Hospital took only citizens of London and provided no practical work.

Greenwich Hospital took the sons of poor seamen only whereas they gave preference to the sons of Naval officers.

Hatton Garden School "makes some artists for the sea, but their number is very inconsiderable".

The Royal Foundation at Portsmouth took thirty scholars "more advanced in life" with more expense for their friends which the founders of the Chelsea school aimed to avoid.

The school was set up by subscription, the sum of £2,2s qualifying the donor as a governor of the school for a year and 20 guineas as a governor for life.

The leading light of the school appears to have been the celebrated philanthropist Jonas Hanway. He was born at Portsmouth in 1712. At the age of seventeen he was apprenticed to a merchant in Lisbon where he resided between 1729 and 1743, latterly in business on his own account. In 1743, he returned to London and went into partnership with a merchant in St. Petersburg. On an expedition from St. Petersburg to Persia he underwent such adventures that upon his return to London in 1750 he wrote a celebrated book recounting his experiences.

During his time in Russia, Hanway had come into an inheritance which enabled him to devote himself to philanthropic causes for the rest of his life. Although much of his popular fame rests upon his introduction of the umbrella into general use, his attack upon the practice of tipping, and his attack upon the custom of drinking tea (regarding which he crossed swords with Dr. Samuel Johnson), much of his attention was directed towards the young. He advocated the use of Sunday schools, laboured for the protection of young chimney-sweeps, and for the welfare of the infant parish poor. Of particular interest to us is the fact that as early as 1756 he had been interested in ensuring a supply of youthful recruits for the Royal Navy, being one of the founders of the Marine Society which, in the first six years of its existence, had fitted out over 10,000 recruits. As a mark of public favour, he was, in 1762, appointed a commissioner of the Victualing Office, the nature of the post being, no doubt, indicative of his well-known nautical interests. Hanway was single-minded, as we have seen, pursuing his interests obsessively, sometimes beyond the bounds of common sense. Although he wrote on many subjects, his nautical works included *The Sea Lad's Trusty Companion* (1778), *The Seaman's Christian Friend* (1779), *Prudential Instruction to the Poor Boys fitted out by the Corporation of the Maritime Society* (1778).

From the very beginning Hanway was the Maritime School's treasurer. This position was one of importance for, apart from dealing with all matters financial, he took the chair at school meetings when the president or vice-president was absent, superintended the work of the masters and secretary, and reported to the School Courts or Committees on the good or evil conduct of the masters and servants. Judging by the style of his writings, he seems to have been the author of the various rule books and pamphlets published from time to time extolling the school. Hanway seems, in effect, to have been the most senior official present in the day to day running of the school.

The memento of the Maritime School described below is both personal and fascinating. It is a medal, the dies of which were engraved by Kirk, issued in 1762 to commemorate all the happy events of that year. The obverse depicts a profile bust of George III. On its crowded reverse are references to the birth of the Prince of Wales (the future George IV); the conquest of Martinique and the ensuing occupations of Tobago, St Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenada; Lord Amherst's recovery of St. John's, Newfoundland; Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick and the Marquis of Granby's defeat of the French forces at Graibenstein; Colonel Burgoyne's taking

of Valencia de Alcantara; Pocock and Albemarle's capture of Havana; and the capture by three frigates off Cape St. Vincent of the *Hermione*, a Spanish ship which yielded prize money of £544,648,1s,6d. Around the edge of the medal are engraved the words "Mr. John Mason Lewis at the Mar: Sch: from his affect: friend J. Hanway Esq.". Hanway's choice of this particular medal as a gift for his friend was doubtless due to the anchor depicted in the centre of the reverse, a most suitable motif for someone connected with the Maritime School. The medal was originally copper; Hanway had the edge engraved, the medal pierced for suspension, and then the whole piece gilded.

Who was John Mason Lewis? Although not present in the list of school subscribers published in 1779, by 1781 there appears a Colonel Mason Lewis who donated a sufficiently large sum to warrant his appointment as a life governor of the Maritime School. The Army Lists show a Robert Mason Lewis who joined the 10th Dragoons in 1758 and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on 23rd January, 1781. Unfortunately no Christian name is given for the colonel who was a life member of the school, but in any case the recipient of Hanway's gift was undoubtedly a civilian and presumably a relative of the colonel, given the unusual name and its connection to the school.

By 1784, it seems that the school was unable to maintain itself on a purely maritime basis, for a publication for 1785 describes it still as "the Maritime School" but "lately transferred by the Governors of the Institution to Isaac Dalby, Mathematics Master and Henry Fox, English and French Master and now opened by them for the admission of pupils on their own account". The curriculum had become more general, and pupils were now prepared not only for the Navy but also for the Army and the Universities. In fact, the Maritime School shortly changed its name to Ormonde House Academy.

It may be possible to see in this transformation from a purely maritime school to a more regular form of academy reference to the ill-health of Jonas Hanway. It was in the year 1783 that he resigned from his post as Commissioner of the Victualling Office, and, although he remained an active author to the end, he died three years later in 1786. The whole burden of founding and running the Maritime School, together with soliciting subscriptions, seems to have fallen on Hanway's shoulders, and when he faltered, the special maritime nature of the school in Chelsea failed as well.

*See illustrations, page 38.*

## *The Hunchback of Cheyne Walk: truth or travesty?*

### *The haunting history of Crosby Hall*

by Jeremy Potter

Early in the present century Crosby Hall was moved stone by stone and beam by beam from its 15th-century site in the city of London to stand, somewhat incongruously, on Chelsea embankment. It was intended as the centrepiece of a newly-located London University which, however, preferred to stay in Bloomsbury.

The hall, with its splendid roof and oriel window, is all that remains of Crosby Place, the tallest house in the city in John Stow's day, with a palatial 110-ft. frontage on Bishopsgate Street. It was built in 1466 for Sir John Crosby, grocer, alderman and merchant of the Staple. He was a stalwart supporter of the house of York who, as Sheriff of London, was knighted by Edward IV at "bridge foot" in 1471 for his defence of the city against the Bastard of Fauconberg. After half a millennium the alabaster effigy on his tomb in St Helen's, Bishopsgate, may still be seen wearing a collar decorated with Yorkist emblems of roses and sunbursts — symbols of his eternal loyalty.

On his death in 1475, Crosby Hall passed into the possession of the King's brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. The duke was at that time "lord of the north". As Edward's viceroy he governed England from the Trent to the unruly Scottish borderland, establishing his headquarters in the Yorkshire strongholds of Middleham, Sheriff Hutton and Pontefract. When he visited the south on official business, Crosby Place was his London residence and he lived there in May and June, 1483, during the brief period of his Protectorship after his brother's death.

Today the hall belongs to the British Federation of University Women and is in use as the refectory of a hall of residence for female graduates from overseas studying for higher degrees at London University. Except at meal-times it is normally open to visitors, who — if they are historically minded — may sit and ponder on what may have been argued, aloud or in whispers, within its walls when occupied by members of Richard's household and affinity during that fateful summer of 1483. Should the Protector, or should he not, deprive his young nephew, proclaimed but not yet crowned as Edward V, and ascend the throne himself? And if he did not, what would happen to them all after the boy King's coming of



age, when they would be exposed to the vengeance of his mother and her kin — the Woodvilles, whose putsch against the Protector had temporarily failed? The precedents were ominous. After losing power, two previous Protector dukes of Gloucester (Thomas and Humphrey) had been murdered and their followers disgraced.

The dilemma was resolved miraculously (some suspected a shade too miraculously) by John Stillington, Bishop of Bath and Wells, a former Chancellor of England and (as it was also suspected) previously what would today be described as head of the nation's security services. Stillington revealed, perhaps in this hall, a secret which could never be revealed while Edward IV lived: he had been (so he said) a witness when Edward plighted his troth to Lady Eleanor Butler. The King's subsequent marriage to Elizabeth Woodville was therefore invalid and their children illegitimate. So it may have been in this hall too that Richard of Gloucester was first acknowledged as the true heir to the throne and hailed as Richard III, by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland.

Some years later Crosby Hall was occupied by another Chancellor, Sir Thomas More, and his second wife, Alice. Sir Thomas's residence in Chelsea is better known, and it was a curious coincidence when the hall was moved there. Even more curiously, More yields second place only to Shakespeare as the most influential disseminator of the Tudor myths about Richard's misdoings and deformity — myths because the fate of his nephews remains unknown and the famous hunchback was posthumously awarded (as proof of villainy). So it is an irony of history that the King's hall and the Chancellor's statue should have come together, almost within spitting distance, so long after their deaths — both at the hands of the Tudors.

In 1983, the quincentenary of the King's accession to the throne was celebrated by the 4,500 members of the Richard III Society, who believe him to have been much maligned. To them the man who has been described as "the last English King of England" was honourable and courageous, noted for his piety and, in Francis Bacon's words, "a good lawmaker for the ease and solace of the common people". They see him not as the Shakespearean monster, but as a victim of character assassination by traitors and regicides seeking to excuse their crimes and mortal sins. His vilification is seen as among the most vivid of illustrations that history is the winners' version of what happened.

During the quincentenary, King Richard was commemorated at Fortheringhay, where he was born; at Middleham, his home in the north; at Gloucester, on which he bestowed a much prized charter; at York, whose "good lord" he was; in the Guildhall of the City of London, from which he received support throughout his reign; at Bosworth, where he was killed "fighting manfully in the thickest press of his enemies"; at Leicester, where he was buried; and at Crosby Hall. These commemorations were led by the Society's Patron, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, who is the only person ever to bear the same name and title as the King.

His Royal Highness came to Crosby Hall on 11th. October, 1983, and unveiled a fine memorial to his predecessor. It is a full achievement of Richard III's arms — the royal arms of England with supporters of wild boars in place of the now familiar lion and unicorn. The boar was a symbol of bravery and the King's chosen badge, worn by his followers. Commissioned by the Society from Richard Epsom, a young wood-carver, these arms are brightly painted and gilded. They measure some six feet across and hang prominently above the medieval fireplace facing the main doorway of the hall: a handsome tribute to a far from forgotten King, over whose deeds and character controversy still rages.

*Loyaulte me lie* was his motto — in English, *loyalty binds me*. To an astonishing extent it binds many to his memory today and they will also have been pleased if this, their memorial makes a contribution, however tiny, to the richness of Chelsea's present and past.

*Jeremy Potter is the author of Good King Richard? An Account of Richard III's Reputation 1483-1983 and has been Chairman of the Richard III Society since 1971. The Society's General Secretary, Elizabeth Nokes, is a Chelsea resident and will be pleased to supply information about the Society to anyone writing to her at 4 Oakley Street, SW3 5NN.*

## Skyline

by Guy Topham

The view from Chelsea is being changed more drastically than it has for a century. Down on the Embankment, which Carlyle considered the finest promenade in Europe, the skyline is already transformed.

Upstream, against the sunsets which Turner painted, the pride of place, which had been occupied for so long by the four chimneys of Lots Road power station, had been usurped by the tower-block of flats above the Chelsea Harbour development, which some have likened approvingly to the campanile of San Marco in Venice. Across the river, between Battersea Bridge and St. Mary's church, the warehouses that Whistler once described as "palaces in the night", have been replaced by the low-rise flats of Morgan's Walk. Also on the south bank, opposite Crosby Hall, stands an office block faced with reflecting glass and a few hundred yards down-river an enormous block of flats has risen to block out the charming view of Albert Bridge against the sky that could be seen from Chelsea Embankment.

Battersea Park is not sacrosanct. Although many find the Japanese pagoda a handsome and amusing folly in the tradition of London parks,

a proposal to build a vast theatre, seating more than three thousand, has been narrowly defeated. Then, of course, there is Battersea power station, which has dominated the south-eastern skyline for half a century with its great chimneys. This is to be converted into a gigantic entertainment complex under present plans and there is a proposal to top each of its four chimneys with a gold plastic flambeau.

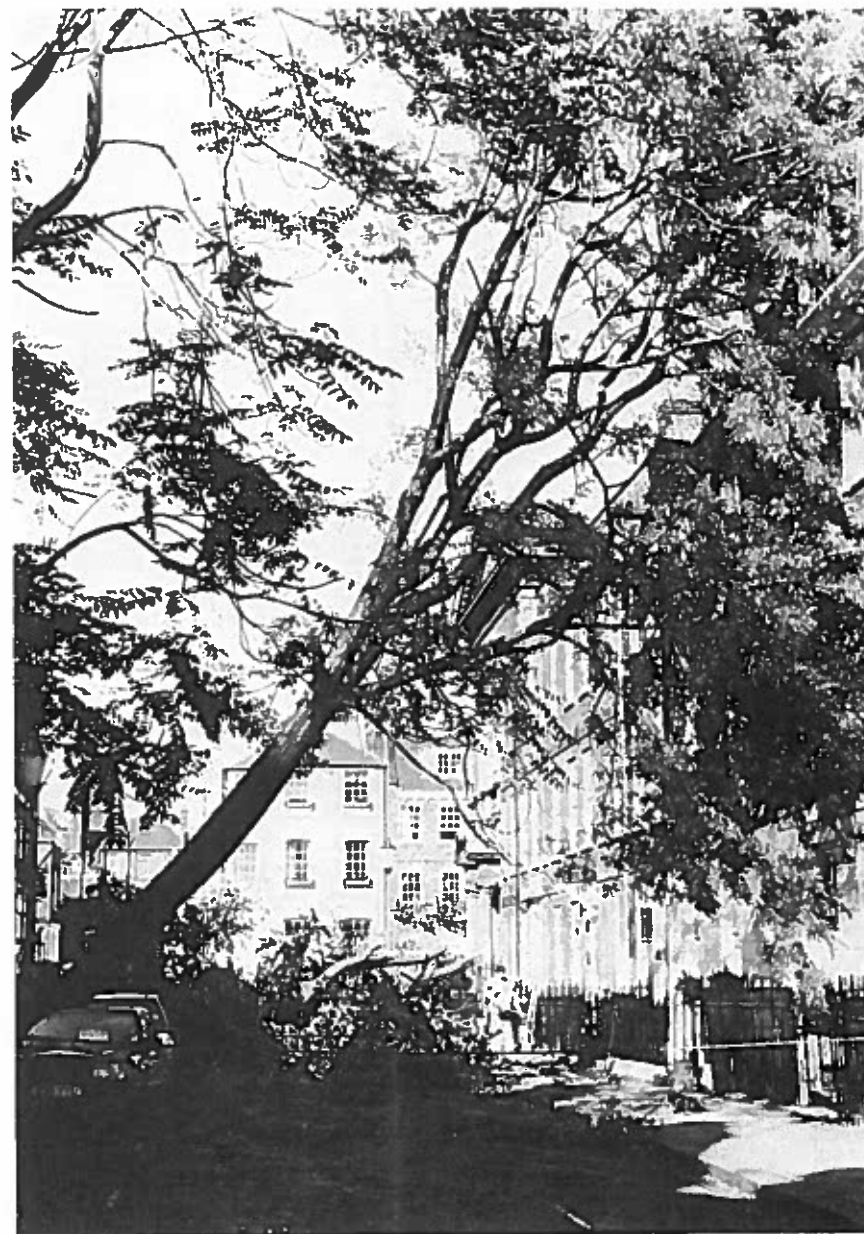
Acceptable or unacceptable, these intrusions into Chelsea's skyline have one thing in common: they are not the work of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, nor was their approval necessary for their introduction. They have been approved by the planning committees of the boroughs of Hammersmith and Wandsworth on behalf of the relevant districts of Fulham and Battersea. But the great view of the river and sky that they enhance or spoil belongs to Chelsea.

But before we criticize our neighbours, we should consider our own record on the north bank. Chelsea may still be regarded as one of the most charming parts of London, rightly chosen more than a century ago as the artists' quarter of the capital. But we have not always cherished our inheritance as we should.

Nothing has been built on the Battersea riverside that equals in sheer boorishness what Chelsea has allowed to happen at the other side of Albert Bridge. Pier House, that vast lump of expensive flats - mostly inhabited, it seems, by foreigners in need of a London *pied-à-terre* — is out of scale with the Cheyne Walk it despoils and out of character with Chelsea. Where this monument to architectural and environmental vandalism now looms, once stood the charming early Victorian Pier Hotel and, next to, it the row of Georgian houses with slightly later facades, including the quintessence of the artists' café, The Blue Cockatoo. Pier House itself was built by Wates, the developers, but the site was sold to them by the Cadogan Estate by whom the land had been inherited from Sir Hans Sloane.

Other environmental vandalism must be laid at the door of successive borough councils. Some say that the World's End Estate has been both an environmental and social disaster. But, whether that accusation is justified or not, all must mourn the destruction of the Chelsea streets that had to make way for that cluster of redbrick towers, notably Blantyre Street, the archetypical Chelsea street in the view of those who remember it.

So what of the future? What will happen to the Old Rectory and its once-lovely garden now that it appears to be back on the property market? And to the former Kingsley School, which adjoins it and was sold to the Libyan Government by the Inner London Education Authority? Most worrying of all, will the proposed road needed to relieve the miseries of those living along the one-way traffic system through West Chelsea and Earls Court be allowed to funnel its torrent of lorries and cars on to Cheyne Walk? If so, will that last century of struggle to save our bank of the Thames from exploitation and despoilation by developers have been in vain?



*Cheyne Row, 16th October, 1987. Scene Two: later that day. The aftermath of the great gale left dramatic scenes in many Chelsea streets. In this one, cars were crushed and a Queen Anne house damaged when a tree of heaven was uprooted. Emergency services functioned effectively and Cheyne Row was opened to traffic later in the day.*



*Aux barricades! Next morning many Chelsea people had to scramble over fallen trees that blocked their streets. This was one of two which barricaded both sides of Oakley Gardens.*



*The morning after. The bust of Dame Sybil Thorndike by Epstein bowled off its plinth in her son's Chelsea garden. Happily it was undamaged, (left) although struck by a falling tree.*



*The Diamond Jubilee gift. Mrs. Lesley Lewis, retiring Chairman of the Chelsea Society, which was celebrating its 60th. anniversary this year, presents an outsize cheque for £31,000 to Dr. David Jamieson, Chairman of the Trustees of the Chelsea Physic Garden. The presentation, marking the Society's 60th. anniversary, took place during the summer meeting at the Hurlingham Club.*



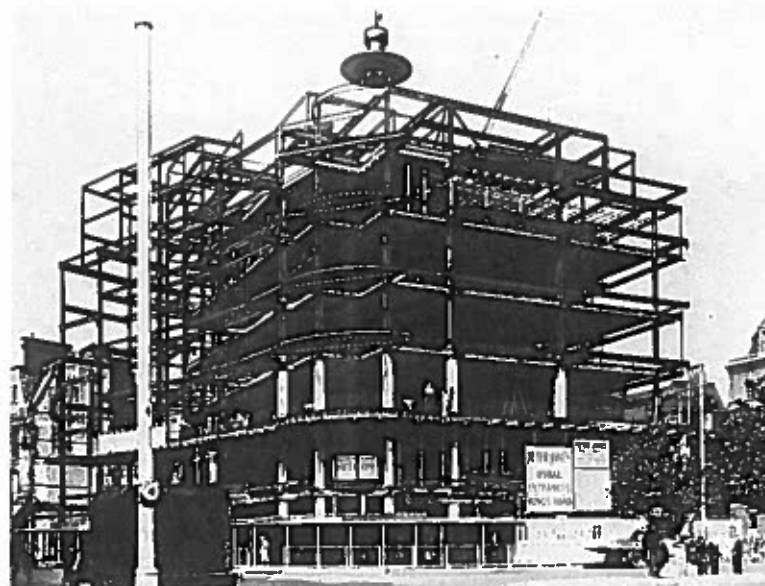


PETER JONES'S ESTABLISHMENT, BLOOMSBURY SQUARE.

*The shop on the corner. Peter Jones as it appeared in the 1890s.*



*The Chelsea emporium. The interior of Peter Jones at the turn of the century.*



*The shape of things to come. The girders rise more than half a century ago to form the now-familiar cliffs of the elegant store that seemed so avant garde in the 'Thirties (see page 22).*



*Peter Jones today. Familiar to generations of Chelsea families, the shop wears its years well and could easily have been a product of post-war taste.*





*A memento of the Maritime School. The profile bust of King George III on the medal struck by Jonas Hanway in 1762.*



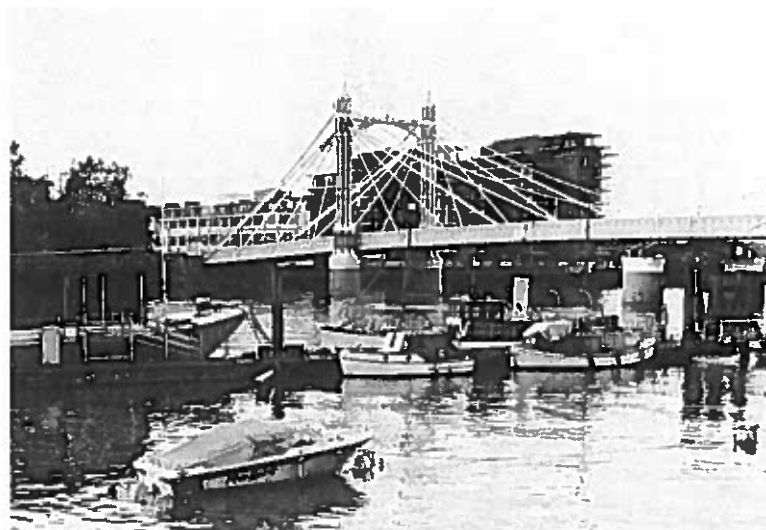
*The reverse of the medal commemorating the events of that year, including the final victories of the Seven Years War.*



*Ormonde House at the end of the 18th. century. The charming old building that once stood at the corner of what is now Ormonde Gate and Royal Hospital Road, as seen in the water-colour in the collection at Chelsea Library (see page 26).*



*The changing riverside. The new view of Whistler's Reach from the Chelsea end of Battersea Bridge. The tower and flats on the Chelsea Harbour development have arisen on redundant industrial land (see page 31).*



*A familiar view lost. The tracery of the suspension girders of Albert Bridge are no longer seen against the sky when viewed from Chelsea Embankment, now that a massive block of flats has arisen on the Battersea shore.*



*Chelsea visitor. The young Dutch diplomatist Lodewijk Huygens, whose stay in Chelsea during the Commonwealth is described in extracts from his journal on page 42.*



*Chelsea resident. The portrait believed to be of Reginald Blunt, Founder of the Chelsea Society, painted by Walter Greaves; recently purchased for the Society (see opposite page).*

## *Our Founder found*

Happening upon an October issue of the *Antique Trade Gazette*, the Editor of the *Chelsea Society Report* was leafing through the pages of advertisements for sales when his eye was caught by one for Sotheby's saleroom in Chester. It was a page of small photographs of pictures, furniture, silver and ceramics to be auctioned on 4th and 5th November and amongst them was one of a late Victorian, or Edwardian, portrait, entitled simply, *Portrait of a Gentleman in a Black Coat*. What made it interesting was that the artist was Walter Greaves.

Now any work by Greaves, the Chelsea waterman who became a friend and pupil of Whistler's and a remarkable painter in his own right, is interesting. But in this case, the fascination was in the identity of the sitter. He was a man in early middle age with a heavy, dark moustache; he held a book in his hand and, on the wall behind him, was a painting of Thames barges, very much like those by Walter Greaves. The portrait was clearly signed by Greaves, but who was the man in the black coat whom he had been commissioned to paint?

Walter Greaves is best known for his paintings, drawings and etchings of Chelsea and the river but he also painted portraits of Whistler and Carlyle as well as of his own brother Henry and his sister "Tinnie". The man in this portrait appeared prosperous and educated and suddenly the Editor remembered photographs once seen of a man looking just like this one. It was Reginald Blunt!

He, of course, was the founder of the Chelsea Society and the author of many books about Chelsea. He is known to have befriended Walter Greaves, who was often poor and sometimes close to starvation, so what would be more probable than that Blunt would commission his friend to paint his own portrait?

The Chairman of the Society was excited by the news and, a few days before the sale, she travelled to Chester and saw the portrait. It was in need of cleaning but otherwise in reasonably good condition. She left a substantial bid at the saleroom and, on 6th November, news came that she had been able to buy the portrait for less than the auctioneer's estimate.

While the painting is undergoing restoration by Mrs. Joy Woolley of Chichester, investigations into the provenance of the picture, and a search for final proof of the sitter's identity, are in progress. In the next issue of the *Report*, the results of this and news of the future plans for the picture will be given together with a reproduction of the restored portrait and an account of the life and work of Reginald Blunt.

*See illustration opposite.*

# *A Dutchman in Commonwealth Chelsea*

Introduced by Arthur Grimwade

In December, 1651, the young Lodewijck Huygens, third son of the Dutch poet and statesman Sir Constantine Huygens, came to England as a junior member of a special mission of Dutch diplomats. Before he left, his father gave him paternal advice, including the keeping of a diary and taking pains to learn English by mixing with the right people and even worshipping in the English church. His journal, edited and translated by A. G. H. Bachrach and R. G. Collmer and published for the Sir Thomas Browne Institute by the Leiden University Press in 1982, contains fascinating glimpses of Commonwealth England light-years before Samuel Pepys put his shorthand diaries on paper and yields some valuable information about the Chelsea of the day.

It transpires that Huygens first visited Chelsea in the January following his arrival and that in February some of the party went to view the Duke of Buckingham's house, where the mission took up residence in March. The Sunday following, young Huygens, in pursuance of his father's commands, went to church in Chelsea and in the afternoon visited Sir John Danvers' son in the house nearby.

His diary gives brief views of Chelsea at the time of Oliver Cromwell by a young diplomat, staying in a country that was in a state of "open hostility" to his own. Amongst his neighbours were Sir John Danvers, who had signed the death warrant of King Charles I, Thomas Lister and Bulstrode Whitelocke, both members of the Council of State of the Republic. Chelsea also offered pleasant relief with its social visiting, its pretty girls and long sermons in its riverside church. In pages filled with news of crisis and war, are written the following extracts:

*Wednesday, 17th January, 1652:* In the morning I rode out on horseback with Captain Morgan and Mr. Schaep. We first saw Hyde Park, about half an hour from the City. It is about four English miles in perimeter, mostly open, except on one side where there are many trees. There are still a great number of deer and roes, in droves of hundreds. More or less in the centre there is a summerhouse, started by the late King and not finished because of the war; at present it stands there untended and in utter decay. Elsewhere there is a house, which we did not see, where the ladies, who in the summer come daily in hundreds of coaches, are offered refreshments. After leaving the park by a different way than we had entered, we passed through two or three reasonably pretty villages ... In riding past we saw many stately mansions of the nobility; one, that of the

beheaded Earl of Holland, seemed rather beautiful. Next we arrived in Chelsea, a pleasant little village on the Thames, where many of the gentle class retire in summer, as one also can tell by the many splendid houses round there. Among others there is one of the Duke of Buckingham's now presented to Lord Lister and President Whitelocke. Just then there was nobody there, so that we could not look inside. On the outside it was well worth seeing; it has two big courtyards in front before one reaches the house. To the right is Mr. Mayerne's where he lives, but as it was almost noon we did not want to call, although I did have a message for him and his wife. We had our compliments tendered to them in passing, however. To the left of Buckingham's there is Sir John Danvers' house, also rather beautiful. Just outside Chelsea we saw a big house on the river which now belongs to the Republic and which still holds many Scottish prisoners. Near the city we passed yet another house; it belonged to Lord Goring. The countryside we crossed was beautiful and enjoyable and slightly hilly. The soil consisted of sand mixed with clay, a little stony. The roads were deep and dirty. In going out we met numerous horses and carts going in the direction of London. They sometimes put eight or nine horses in a row to one cart and an outrider to manage them....

*Saturday, 3rd February.* The Ambassadors and some of our party rode to Chelsea to have a look at the Duke of Buckingham's mansion, as part of it (namely, that which had been given to President Whitelocke for life) was to let. Messrs. Van Vliet, Van der Hooze, and I took a pair-of-oars near Somerset House and went to meet the Ambassadors there. The said part of the house would have been large enough for the Ambassadors themselves and suitable, too; but for us it would have been on the small side. Most of its walls were still covered with President Whitelocke's tapestries, and part of the rooms were panelled in wood with gilt edgings which looked attractive. From a platform on top of the house there was a beautiful view over the surrounding countryside. When the Ambassadors had gone again, the three of us went to visit an English gentleman, the son of Sir John Danvers, who lived in the neighbourhood in a very neat and symmetrically-built house. He also showed us the garden behind the house, which is very orderly too, and which in its design corresponds with the house, so that when standing at the end of the middle path of the garden, one can see the river right through the house. Most of the paths are planted with ten- or twelve-foot cypress and the rest with thyme and rosemary and other greenery.

In the middle of the court is a large open space where in summer people play bowls, which is a very common exercise hereabouts. In a very small and pleasant summer-house, which has mirrors all round, we found some rare trees and herbs which are kept here in winter without any heating. A carnation was already starting to bloom. He also showed us a pot where in summer the *herba mimosa* comes up, which contracts its leaves when touched. This young gentleman, people say, will have an income after his father's death of at least 80,000 guilders per annum; moreover, he is very well educated and has been in France a long time, although he cannot be



more than twenty years of age. He had a tutor with him and another gentleman, both agreeable people. We drank a cup of sack and returned to our boat, and with it went to London....

*Sunday, 10th March.* Vliet and I went to the English Church in Chelsea and there heard a sermon which the preacher mostly read from a little book. Sir John Danvers' son told us this afternoon that this curacy or parsonage (as they call it here) was still worth about two or three hundred pounds a year and that the afore-mentioned preacher did not usually preach but that until now he had had a curate under him. These, however, had been dismissed everywhere by order of Parliament. Sir John Danvers with his family was in the church here as well, with a number of young ladies whom we did not know yet.

When we came home, we were still in time to listen to a good deal of our chaplain's sermon.

In the afternoon at about four o'clock we went and visited Sir John Danvers' son with Mons. Rosin, who had been his tutor. First we heard a famous organist by the name of Gibbons play on a little positive organ positioned there and which had to be pumped by foot. After him we heard a young gentleman sing some English songs while the aforesaid organist played the bass. We walked in his garden and then home again, where we went to see Mr. Schaep and his company and spent the rest of the evening talking there. Mr. Cats was not well today and spent the whole day in bed.

*Wednesday, 13th March.* After listening to the sermon, we drove out with Mr. Cats to a Lady Finch, who has a beautiful home near Kensington about half an hour from Chelsea. When we were near her house, Mr. Cats sent me ahead to tell my lady that one of Lord Finch's good friends would pay his respects, but she begged to be excused, saying she was not well.

When I came back I found Mr. Cats gone to one or two fountains which were nearby and which supply all the villages in the neighbourhood with water. The first, which was nevertheless the main one, was merely a little house with a round basin inside and crystal-clear, standing water, for all that I could see. But another one, not far from here, was more beautiful, although we were told that it originated from the first one. There was a small round house about 25 or 26 feet in diameter on the outside made of hard stone, and inside it was all white marble; and herein again was a round basin, also of marble, in which water bubbled continuously in a heavy flow from four pipes. This was even clearer than the first one. These had cost Lord Finch more than £100 to be constructed. Both of them belonged to Lord Finch. We were taken to a third one as well; it was very clear too, although it was not so artfully made as the other two. This one supplied our house at Chelsea and some others in the neighbourhood with water. Apart from these, several small square houses stood scattered in the fields, which were also springs of water and were connected with the three large sources mentioned above.

At about one o'clock we came home again. When we had dined, we took one or two pairs-of-oars on the river with Mr. Cats and Mistress Havius and we rowed up the river first past Battersea, then across Fulham and Putney, and then went ashore somewhat further on about four miles from Chelsea. We walked there a little while in a meadow where a long row of elm trees was planted; having spent about half an hour there, we rowed home again.

*Saturday, 30th March.* In the morning I had myself rowed to London, went ashore at St. Paul's Wharf.... We took to the water at Westminster stairs and were rowed to Chelsea with a waterman's wife, who dressed almost like a lady.

*Sunday, 31st March.* We heard a sermon at home and partook of the Lord's Supper. In the afternoon we heard an English sermon in the village. When that was over, we went and looked at some monuments and epitaphs, some of which are rather beautiful, although the little church was austere. Among others, we found one of More's, which he had erected for his two wives and himself when he was still alive; he lived here in Chelsea where Sir John Danvers' house is now. When we came back home, we heard yet another sermon towards evening.

*Tuesday, 2nd April.* In the morning I rowed to Chelsea and, after changing my clothes, went to see Mr. Cats, with whom I talked for an hour and a half or so about all our public and private affairs. Then I took leave again and went by water (after a very light breakfast) to London. First I went to Mr. Nevill's.... His daughters had waited a long time for me to ride to Fulham with them and had called at Chelsea in the evening, but I had not been there.

*Tuesday, 14th May.* We dined at Kingston where we saw a regiment that had to go west to be embarked for Ireland. Towards five o'clock, having crossed the river for the third time from Putney to Fulham by ferry, we arrived at Chelsea having been away for two days less than five weeks. We went immediately to see the Ambassadors whom we found in good health, except for Mr. Schaep who, while riding in Hideparke [Hyde Park] had fallen from his horse and had hurt his arm so badly that he kept to his rooms for several days....

*Thursday, 30th May.* Back again in Chelsea we found a sentinel at the rear gate by which we entered, and we heard straightaway that there were two companies of cavalry at the front gate that faces the river. The Ambassadors showed us an order from the Council of State brought to them by the lieutenant of the cavalry, which stated that the Council, having had warning of a battle at sea between the English and Dutch fleets, had found it advisable for the Ambassadors' safety and to protect them against the insolence of the populace, which might be enraged by this news, to send them these guards. All evening here we knew nothing else about the engagement.

[Next day, they heard news of an action between Blake and Van Tromp.]

*Saturday, 1st June.* Back in Chelsea I had the opportunity to see Tromp's letter, which recounted how he had been attacked by the English Admiral first, intending to run counter to some ships coming from the Straits of Gibraltar filled with more than £5,000,000 worth of cargo. From the start the English had only 15 vessels to his 30. When they were within musket range of each other, the Englishman fired two shots which he answered with another shot instead of lowering his flag as the Englishman demanded, who thereupon fired all his guns on that side and we then did the same. Most of the other circumstances tallied except that the English, fearing that one of the two vessels (that they had taken at a distance from the fleet) would sink, being so badly holed, took their men off it and left it to return with four or five of our men to our Admiral. When the battle had commenced, 12 other English vessels came to aid their fleet and fought the rearguard of ours. Mrs. Strickland and many other people came to see our Ambassadors this evening. Part of the mounted guard was removed and replaced by some infantry. They had sentinels at all the approaches to the house and caused a great deal of trouble not only to letting anyone in when it was a little late, but also quite often in letting our own people out, to the extent that one had reason to suspect that it was a bit more intentional than they pretended.

*Tuesday, 4th June.* It was about nine o'clock when I returned to Chelsea; nevertheless, I went to visit Sir John Ogle again as I had promised. When I prepared to leave, his man came and informed him of the arrival of a very pretty girl, who had come to stay in the same lodgings that afternoon. At this, having first pressed me to go and see her and offer her his services and his room, he sent his man to ask whether it would be inconvenient if he came to pay his respects. She sent back word that she would consider it a great honour but that she was much displeased at not having a place suitable for receiving him, etc. We went there all the same, and found a beautiful and well-dressed young lady; her name was Mrs. Price, and her husband had been a Colonel in the King's army. She had come with a little child, who was ill, and a nurse; some cousin or other had brought her here and had departed again. We stayed and talked for half an hour and returned home well satisfied....

*Friday, 7th June.* Our guards took a fancy again to not letting any of our people go out without giving him a soldier for company. Thereupon Mr. Osten and I were sent to the officers, who after a long debate said they had received an order to that effect. This I reported, and they sent a horseman to Whitehall to enquire what they should do; and, at his return they let us know that it had been a mistake and that passage would be free as before. Mr. Van Vliet and I then had them invited to come take a draught of wine with us, but they excused themselves for that evening....

*Saturday, 8th June.* Mr. Cats went out in his coach and I on horseback; after passing Folham and Hamersmith [Fulham and Hammersmith], we reached Kinsington [Kensington] and went to visit a school for young girls, some 60 in number, who come here to learn all sorts of pursuits. A

little one, ten or twelve years old, played the lute, another sang. Afterwards Mr. Cats returned home, and I went for a ride again in Hideparke [Hyde Park], where I stayed until eight o'clock, as I had met some people there.

*Sunday, 9th June.* I heard two sermons in English. Towards evening, Mrs. Price, the young lady whom I had met the other day with Sir John Ogle, came for a walk in our courtyard. I went to meet her and took her into our garden, where we walked another half an hour, whereupon I took her home and stayed chattering a while longer....

*Tuesday, 11th June.* Mr. Nieuwpoort, who had decided to return to Holland, came to Chelsea to fetch the dispatches he needed. Sir Oliver Fleming came to bring an order from the Council of State for an English vessel to transport him. They had refused him a Dutch man-of-war, which had been stopped in the River [Thames]. That evening news also reached us about 10 other warships or ours having been seized in various seaports, such as Yarmouth, Newcastle, Milford Haven, the Downs, and Hull, from where Captain De Liefde had written a letter to the Ambassadors which I brought to them. Towards evening, I went to Mrs. Price's and there met a cousin of hers who went away while I chatted until it was time for supper.

*Thursday, 13th June.* I went by water from Chelsea to the Steelyard, where I met Mr. Aysma, the Head Steward, and Lamain; with them I went to the Exchange to meet Gale, but he was not there, nor at his house, after which I stopped looking for him. After dinner at an ordinary, I went to Mr. Nevill's, where I found three of his daughters about to go to Fulham, whereupon I accompanied them. We went to the school for young ladies, which is very well known and well filled with young gentlewomen of every rank and age, some 18 or 20 years old and often very pretty. It just happened to be the day of the week on which they usually dance, so that we saw them all together in a hall at this exercise. Afterwards we went for a walk in their garden with three or four who were acquainted with Mr. Nevill's daughters; one of them, a certain Mistress Draper, was a very pretty girl. After taking his company back to London, I returned to Chelsea by water.

*Sunday, 16th June.* I went to an English sermon twice and after that, with Mr. Clement, to Mrs. Price's, but she was ill....

*Wednesday, 19th June.* We had a day of Prayer, the Londoners having theirs as well. Yet we saw several people leaving for Chelsea and the neighbourhood who would not join them in prayer.

*Thursday, 20th June.* We rose at four o'clock in the morning and went by water to Greenwich.... One my way back to Chelsea by water with the Head Steward, I was spotted and hailed by Mr. Nevill and his wife and daughters, taking a stroll on the riverside. I had myself put ashore and accompanied them almost as far as Westminster, where, putting me in their little boat to enable me to take another at the steps of Westminster in order to return, we met a lady in a boat all by herself who was also going to Chelsea. I availed myself of this opportunity, and, having asked

her permission, stepped over into her boat and took her there. She was staying with Lord Lisle, our nearest neighbour.

*Saturday, 22nd June.* Back at Chelsea we watched a funeral of a sister of a merchant named Beck, who lives here in Chelsea. All the girls of the neighbourhood walked with the men, and 10 or 20 held the corners of the pall covering the bier. When they had carried it into the church, a minister delivered a funeral sermon that lasted an hour, and afterwards the body was buried. All the girls who had attended the funeral were given a pot of marmalade for their pains.

*Sunday, 23rd June.* I went to hear an English sermon in the morning and intended to go back after dinner; but some pretty Chelsea girls came to listen to our sermon. After a walk with them in our garden, I took them to our church and then to their house with Thiens and Clement. Later I again went to see Mrs. Price, but there I was sent for....

*Wednesday, 3rd July.* In the evening I went to see Mrs. Lye, a very charming lady living in Lesser Chelsea. I went with her and Mrs. Casselton to see Mrs. Thomas; but since she had to leave us because of the arrival of her mother (who had come to stay with her daughter for couple of days), we went to our house to listen to three or four lovely girls singing rounds....

*Saturday 6th July.* Two messengers came from The Hague with urgent orders for the Ambassadors to return to Holland....

*Wednesday, 10th July.* When I had all my belongings ready and everything necessary for my departure. I left Chelsea with my horse....

*See illustration, page 40.*

## Nelson in Chelsea (cont.)

More about Lord Nelson's connection with Chelsea through the education of his niece, Charlotte, at Whitelands House girls' school in the King's Road, came to light when I was preparing to write my biography *Horatio Nelson*. Amongst letters written by Charlotte to her mother, Sarah Nelson, in Norfolk — and now belonging to Sir Nicholas Bonsor, M.P., a descendant of the family — were several describing his interest in the school, which he visited while travelling between the Admiralty and Merton Place, the house he began to share in 1801 with Sir William and Lady Hamilton in Surrey. He could combine this with a call on his old friend of West Indian days, Dr. Benjamin Moseley, then the senior physician at the Royal Hospital.

Nelson found Charlotte "very much improved ... in every respect a very charming girl" and expressed his pleasure to the headmistress of the school, Miss Veitch, who was presumably related to the celebrated family of Chelsea nurserymen. To the girls' delight he had asked her to give them a day's holiday and Charlotte told her mother, "Miss Veitch gave us apple pies, also custard and then negus to drink my uncle's health. Miss Veitch gave us the toast, it was, 'Lord Nelson — may his future years be as happy as his past have been glorious.' How proud I am to have the approbation of my most glorious, victorious, virtuous uncle..."

Tom Pocock

## I remember . . .

Miss Tilby remembers Chelsea at the turn of the century and the following brief memories were recorded and published in *Solo*, the magazine of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Central Alarm System organisation:

"My father was a cowman. There were forty cows to be milked twice daily, the sheds were just here in King's Road. The cows were fed on all fresh vegetables from Covent Garden market every day. A big van delivered vegetables and molasses cakes for the cows food. Full cream milk was fourpence a quart, skim milk twopence a quart. We could buy potatoes 3 pounds for a penny. Pot herbs for a halfpenny would give you enough for a good stew. I was only fifteen years old and I had to look after a family of seven with my father. My mother had died but she taught me how to budget the money. My father's wage was 23 shillings weekly and he was up at 4 o'clock in the morning to start the milking. Milk was delivered twice daily in cans, covered with tightfitting lids.

"The cows were taken back to the country every four weeks. My father had a drovers stick, and he and his mate drove the cows to Vauxhall Station all along the Embankment, and brought back forty cows to the sheds. Though he was up all night, he carried on with his work without a grumble.

"For a penny you could get on a steamer at Battersea Pier and have a ride to Battersea Park. This was the usual thing to do on Sundays. Bus rides were a halfpenny and horse-driven. You pulled a string to stop where you wanted.

"It was a lovely life in Chelsea, everyone friendly and happy, I remember."

## Reviews

### Books

**Kensington and Chelsea** by Annabel Walker with Peter Jackson (John Murray, £15).

In compiling this book the authors' intention "has been to trace the architectural and social development of Kensington and Chelsea: to describe the physical growth of the two villages and show how they attracted different kinds of inhabitants at different times...." This they have done through a series of more or less discreet, but pleasant and informative essays on salient aspects of what were once the two separate boroughs. Thus in the Kensington part there are pieces on, for example, Holland House, the Ladbroke Estate, the Kensington Canal and the Railways, St. Mary Abbots, Burial Grounds, the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gardens, the Brompton Oratory, Kensington Palace and the Melbury Road artists' colony; while the Chelsea section has essays on, amongst other topics, riverside palaces, the Physic Garden, the Embankment and three bridges, the Royal Hospital, Ranelagh Gardens, eighteenth-century establishments, The Pheasantry, the river, Cremorne Gardens, the Flower Show, and modern Chelsea.

Hardly less important than its text are the book's 223 admirable black-and-white illustrations. These are mainly of architectural and topographical subjects, but there are also portraits, maps and a selection on social themes. Whilst the largest number of pictures comes from the collection of one of the authors, Peter Jackson, there are contributions from many other sources including the local history libraries at Chelsea and Kensington, the V. & A., the National Portrait Gallery, Sir John Soane's Museum, the Public Record Office and the British Library. All but a few of these illustrations are unfamiliar. Many of them would, however, have been collected in vain had it not been for the exceptionally faithful printing of Hazel, Watson and Viney. To reproduce without any filling in the fine line engravings from *The Builder* and *The Illustrated London News* is an achievement both exceptional and welcome.

The book's appearance gains from its lay-out as well as from the variety of its illustrations and the quality of its printing. But the procrustean design-grid according to which each page unvaryingly consists of, approximately, two-thirds text and one third illustration space, has the drawback that if pictures are to be near their reference, as they are, some appear smaller and others larger than would ideally be desirable.

It may perhaps be objected that the conjunction of Kensington and Chelsea is as unnatural inside the covers of a book as it was widely thought to be in civic terms when the boroughs were forcibly united. To that the authors would reply that the two neighbours share a common boundary

in the Fulham Road and that they have much in common besides. It might further be added that there is a precedent in William Gaunt's *Kensington and Chelsea* (but in that case two earlier books had been reprinted as one). No doubt the real reason why the boroughs have here been treated together is the commercial one that the market for the book has thereby been increased. And there is nothing wrong with that consideration if, as is likely, there would in the alternative have been no book at all.

Although the authors' approach is social they have largely rejected on the grounds of over-familiarity the anecdotes through which, more than through description, the character of places and people is revealed. Anyone who is interested can find the relevant books in the libraries, the authors say. No doubt they may, if not on the open shelves.

There is compensation, however, for any lack of anecdotalism in the often surprising *faits divers* which frequently divert the reader. To mention one or two:

The first escalator in the country was introduced, at Harrods, as early as 1898. There, in order to anticipate any possible ill effects on nervous customers, an attendant was posted at the top "armed with sal volatile and brandy". The District Railway was similarly cautious when the first Underground escalator was opened, actually at their Earl's Court Station. On that occasion "a man with a wooden leg known as 'Bumper' Harris was retained to spend all day riding on the escalators to demonstrate their safety."

As a part of its subject the book naturally traces the transformation of country, and later market-gardens, into palaces, country houses, streets and squares. The process is high-lighted, as the centuries pass, by such facts as that Domesday Book records a vineyard in Chelsea; that in 1834 Mr and Mrs Carlyle looked out from the back of their Cheyne Row house on to hayfields; that as late as the 1860s a farm survived in the Earl's Court Road; and that up to the present century game was regularly shot in the wide-spreading grounds of Holland House and at one such shoot, in 1905, a woodcock was bagged.

Two further items of this surprising nature are, that Queen Victoria is quoted as approving the design of the recently completed Albert Hall on the grounds that "it looks like the British Constitution"; and that there is a quotation from the work of an American writer: Moncure Conway's *Travels in South Kensington*. South Kensington in 1882, the date of Conway's book, seems to have been a *terra incognita* indeed.

Two such curiosities concerning Chelsea may also be mentioned. One day in the 1840s, of course before the Embankment was built, the Thames ran so low that people were able to cross to Battersea without taking off their shoes and stockings. Some years earlier, but not far from where the Thames was crossed dry-shod, the eccentric Dr. Monsey, who was physician to the Royal Hospital, was in the habit of extracting "his own teeth when necessary by tying cat-gut to a bullet at one end and to the tooth at the other, and firing his pistol."

However hard they try, authors, printers and publishers are never able to eliminate all literals and errata from their books. This particular book retains more than a score of them, which is by no means an excessive number by present-day standards. All the same, "Walter" (for "Charles Algernon") Swinburne on succeeding pages does seem particularly unfortunate. The compiler of the excellent index has got things right in this respect.

The Chelsea Society is amongst those whom the authors thank for their help. Past numbers of this periodical have proved similarly valuable. Perhaps, then, we may share in the commendation (1705) by John Bowack of "the Honourable Worthy Inhabitants' of Chelsea" — for "their Extraordinary Civility, and Condescension, and their kind and facetious tempers, living on a perfect Amity among themselves."

Samuel Carr

### **Chelsea Seen from its Earliest Days by John Bignell** (New and enlarged edition. Hale, £14.95).

The photograph on the jacket of John Bignell's book shows a familiar scene. It is St. Leonard's Terrace, looking east. There is the Victorian pillar-box on the corner and that row of prim, flat-fronted Georgian houses overlooking Burton's Court. But there are a few differences: the gas-lamps are like those now being restored to Chelsea and the traffic is horse-drawn, which is not. And the three ladies crossing the road and wearing flowered hats are hitching up their long skirts to avoid the muddy cobblestones. The photograph was taken a century ago.

The poignant charm of this collection of Chelsea photographs is that it records not only what we have lost but what we have preserved and how it has changed. Two photographers are pre-eminent: James Hedderley, who photographed our streets and their people from the 1860s to the 1880s, and John Bignell who was most active in the same task in the 1950s, but, happily, is still with us and aiming his camera.

It is appropriate that the book should concentrate on those two periods because they marked the effective beginning and end of Chelsea's time as the gently bohemian artists' quarter in London. After the Fifties came the dreadful "Swinging Sixties", the rape of the King's Road by ephemeral commerce and the Mayfairization of the residential streets.

Much of what we have lost since Hedderley's day is now too distant in time to mourn with any sense of realism. The old riverside with its wooden fence and trees along the bank and its rickety houses tottering at the water's edge are no longer remembered by anybody and can be regarded as part of history. Probably nobody can remember The Vale, when it was a leafy cul-de-sac of Regency villas, although a few can recall Dr. Phene's bizarre, statue-encrusted house in Oakley Street. But many of us

can remember King's Parade and the Pier Hotel and when Lot's Road power-station was a noble edifice with four chimneys dominating the view of the river, looking west. We can remember the World's End before it was razed to make way for the new council flats and a completely new and far less agreeable way of life.

John Bignell's camera recalls with fond intimacy the lost studio-life of Chelsea and you can almost smell the turpentine and cheap sherry when looking at his photographs. He shows us the Chelsea Palace music-hall in its last, seedy days and the King's Road when it was lined with shops selling the necessities of life and traffic could flow comfortably up and down. He shows us some of the people who gave Chelsea its character amongst them Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson smiling at us as they always did.

But this is not a sad book. The book brims with happy memories — our grandparents' memories and our own — and reminds us as much of what we have saved as what we have lost. One can never be reminded too often of the human miracle of saving and rebuilding Chelsea Old Church; we still have many tree-shaded streets, many fine buildings and, of course, the river to reflect the light that Turner and Whistler painted. Because it tells us how lucky we are, John Bignell's book is both a balm and a stimulant that should be given space on every Chelsea bookshelf.

Tom Pocock

### **Horatio Nelson by Tom Pocock (The Bodley Head, £15)**

It is said that a well-stocked library on Napoleon would contain at least 1,000 books. Nelson must fall into about the same category. We all know the story. It is a wonderful story about a genius with flaws — vanity and women — among other human failings. He remains an inspiration to us still. Tom Pocock lives in Chelsea and loves it: he is on the Council of the Chelsea Society and helps to produce the publication in which this review is appearing, despite his demurs.

In addition to his writing skills Tom Pocock served in the Royal Navy and was once Naval Correspondent of *The Times*. His hero has always been Nelson. This combination of qualities has produced a magnificent life of this uniquely wonderful man. He writes an exciting and gripping story: his strength lies in his descriptions of battles which seem, as he tells them, easier to follow than land battles. He is at his best as he approaches Trafalgar. He rightly dismisses the absurd bowdlerised theory that, as he lay dying, Nelson said "Kismet, Hardy" rather than the immortal words "Kiss me, Hardy". There is another pretty tale about Hardy. Some years earlier Hardy was due to delay in picking up a man overboard, being overtaken by a faster enemy ship. Nelson could see what was happening and to avoid such a catastrophe, did something exceedingly rash but, in the event, successful, saying as did so "By God: I'll not lose Hardy".

Neil Hughes-Onslow

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

The Society is delighted to welcome new members and all who are interested in Chelsea are eligible to join, wherever they live.

The Subscription is £5 a year for a single member or £7 for a married couple, payable on 1 January. Payment by Banker's Order is very helpful, and subscriptions may be covenanted if desired.

Please apply for a form and additional information to the Hon. Membership Secretary, 10/92 Elm Park Gardens, London SW10 9PE.

## Obituaries Isobel Strachey

Isobel Strachey, the novelist and painter who has died aged 79, was one of the most glamorous survivors of the Bloomsbury Era.

She was first encouraged to write by Henry Green and John Lehmann, who published one of her excellent short stories in Penguin New Writing in 1941. Later, encouraged and romantically pursued by the publisher Jonathan Cape, she started to produce seven novels in which her sharp sense of the absurd mingled with delightful characterisation and lively story-line. *A Summer in Buenos Aires* (1945) told the story of an emotionally inexperienced governess hovering between her widowed employer's offer of marriage and the temptation held out by a dashing Argentinian. *Quick Bright Things* (1953) was another story of a young girl's problems, treated with malicious amusement. Ever aware of changing times *The Perfectionists* (1961) reflected the growing spirit of permissiveness with its picture of two homosexual brothers and their transvestite butler, though it had more than a suggestion of a naughty variety of the Edwardian three-decker novel. Later, she had the rare distinction of having a short story, *The Spotted Dog*, published in *The Tatler* during the editorship of Tina Brown.

Isobel Strachey was born in 1907 at Castle Donington, Leicestershire, the oldest of five beautiful daughters of Ronald Leslie, general manager of the Central Argentine Railway. Many of her formative years were spent in South America and, at 18 she captured the hearts of several members of the visiting MCC team, who nicknamed her "Love in the Mist."

In 1933, she married the painter John Strachey, nephew of Lytton Strachey, and drifted into the world of Bloomsbury and Fitzrovia, living first in Charlotte Street. But seven years later the marriage was dissolved, and she moved to a five-storey house in Oakley Street, Chelsea, where she was to supplement her income by letting rooms. The future head of Trafalgar House, Nigel Brookes, was one tenant in the damp basement.

In the 1960s she reverted to her childhood hobby and took up painting, producing some colourful and amusing portraits which were sometimes compared with the work of John Bratby. The novelist Anthony Powell sat for her in one in the old blue patrols he had last worn as a major in Intelligence during the 1939-45 War, and a more recent subject was the Chancellor's daughter, Nigella Lawson.

A great beauty whose gracefulness increased so much so that she could attract photographers in her seventies, Isobel Strachey had the quiet, ethereal way of speaking which the earliest members of the Bloomsbury Group used in addressing each other, according to the late Lord David Cecil. She never kept a diary or retained letters, and continued to make

friends until the end. Snobbery played no part in this so that one was as likely to meet the man who had come to repair the gas meter in her Oakley Street drawing-room as a newly-famous young literary lion.

Her daughter Charlotte, who died in 1970, inherited much of her mother's character. She was married first to the publisher Antony Blond, who published his mother-in-law's last two novels, and then the political journalist Peter Jenkins.

— reprinted from the *Daily Telegraph* with kind permission of the Editor.

*Isobel Strachey was a Life Member of the Chelsea Society and a familiar figure at Chelsea gatherings.*

## Mr. Eliot Hodgkin

Curwen Eliot Hodgkin died on 30 May, 1987, aged 81. After studying at the Byam Shaw and Royal Academy Schools he became a distinguished painter in oil and tempera, and some of his work was purchased by the Tate Gallery. Most characteristic perhaps among his paintings were small ones of flowers, roots and other natural objects of interesting form, often exhibited at the Royal Academy. Sometimes, however, he was inspired by larger-scale subjects such as bomb-sites, and the writer is the proud possessor of an enchanting view of a half-demolished building in Jubilee Place, Chelsea. Eliot was also a collector of great discrimination and surrounded himself with fine works of art. He left a painting *The Capture of the Golden Fleece* by J. F. de Troye to the National Gallery. His gentle manners tended to mask his firmness of purpose and determination to pursue his own line unregarding of public recognition, though much came his way. He was a devoted Anglican, and he and his wife, Mimi, were generous supporters of many good causes, especially in the arts. Their many friends will remember his entertaining, often refreshingly astringent, conversation and count themselves privileged to have known so kind and gifted a man who remained an essentially private person. During his last years he bore a crippling illness with great fortitude, getting about as long as he could to art exhibitions. He was a Life Member of the Society and spent many years in Chelsea before moving to a flat with a magnificent view in Ladbroke Grove. His wife and son survive him and we are pleased that Mimi is returning at least to the border of Chelsea, in South Kensington. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Lesley Lewis

## New at the Library

The annual list of new acquisitions at Chelsea Library.

### Books and Reports

CHITTY, Susan

*Gwen John, 1876-1939.* Hodder & Stoughton, 1986 (orig. pub. 1981) includes a number of references with a Chelsea link.

CURLE, Brian

*Libraries for All. An illustrated history of Kensington & Chelsea Libraries Service 1887-1987.* Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Libraries & Arts Service, 1987.

ELLIMAN, Michael and  
ROLL, Frederick

*The Pink Plaque Guide to London.* GMP, 1986. A number of sometime Chelsea (and Kensington) residents noteworthy to the "gay" community e.g. Radclyffe Hall, Glyn Philpot are identified.

HALCROW, Sir William &  
Partners Ltd., et al.

*West London Assessment Study. Report on problems.* Department of Transport, 1986.

HILL, Bridget, ed.

*The First English Feminist: Reflections on Marriage and other writings* by Mary Astell. Gower, 1986

HUNT, John Dixon

*Garden and Grove: the Italian Renaissance Garden in the English Imagination: 1600-1750.* Dent, 1986. Includes a brief section on Chelsea gardens.

MARSH, Phyllis

*Chelsea Through the Ages.* Triplegate Ltd., 1984. Intended as a souvenir of Chelsea.

PEARMAN, Robert

*The Cadogan Estate: the history of a landed family.* Haggerston Press, 1986. Useful and long overdue account of the Estate.



PERRY, Ruth

*The Celebrated Mary Astell: an early English Feminist.* University of Chicago Press, 1986. Includes a complete chapter on Mary Astell in Chelsea.

ROY BROOKS ESTATE  
AGENTS

*Brothel in Pimlico.* Halstead & Lowman at Roy Brooks Estate Agents, King's Road. A collection of the extraordinary advertisements — some for local properties — dreamed up by the late Roy Brooks.

SCHONFIELD, Zuzanna

*The Precariously Privileged. A professional family in Victorian London.* O.U.P., 1987. Story of the Marshall family, friends of the pre-Raphaelites, who lived for a number of years in Cheyne Walk.

TRANSPORT, Department of

*Western Environmental Improvement Route. Options Appraisal Report.* Departments of the Environment & Transport, 1987.

WALKER, Annabel with  
JACKSON, Peter

*Kensington & Chelsea. A social and architectural history.* J. Murray, 1987.

## Periodicals

ADAMS, Elizabeth

*Chelsea Fire and Aer. in Ceramics IV* July/August 1986 p94-97. Continues the debate about the Chelsea China factory.

*The Development of Central Chelsea.* Miss Dorothy Stroud, M.B.E. has deposited in the Chelsea Public Library, Reference Section, a typescript describing the growth of the Sydney Street area and its surroundings. Miss Stroud is known as a writer on architecture and landscape gardening.

## The great Chelsea auction

At the request of the retiring Chairman we reprint most of the text of the leaflet announcing the successful auction for the benefit of the Chelsea Physic Garden as a record of a notable occasion.

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN CHARITY AUCTION  
at Christie's South Kensington on 26 March 1987 at 7 pm  
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7

Promoted by THE CHELSEA SOCIETY, Regd Charity 276264  
President: Sir Marcus Worsley Bt. JP, DL.

### PATRONS

The Mayor and Mayoress of Kensington and Chelsea, Mr. Nicholas Scott MBE, MP and the Hon. Mrs. Scott, the Duchess of Beaufort, Rear-Admiral Bevan CB, Lady Bonham-Carter, Countess Cadogan, Sir Hugh Casson CH, KCVO, PPRA, Mrs. Anthony Crossley, Judge George Dobry CBE, QC, and Mrs. Dobry, Mrs. Fenwick, Lord and Lady Gibson, Mr. Alan Gourley, Mrs. Marit Guinness Aschan, Mr. Robert and Lady Dorothy Heber Percy, Mr. Robin Herbert, Lord Hollenden, Viscount and Viscountess Hood CVO, Judge Christopher Hordern QC and Mrs. Hordern, Miss Helen Lowenthal OBE, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein CBE and Viscountess Montgomery, Mrs. John Ormand, Sir John Prideaux OBE, Mr. Raymond Snowden.

### AUCTION COMMITTEE

Chairman, Mrs. Lesley Lewis  
Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Victoria de Luria Press  
Consultant, Mr. Arthur Grimwade

Mrs. Douglas Auchincloss, Mrs. Christopher Bevan, Mr. Michael Bryan, Mrs. Madeline Daubeny, Mr. Mark Dorman, Miss Mary Fisher MVO, the Lady Glenkinglas, Mrs. Edwin Hayes, Mrs. Denis Howard, Mr. Neil Hughes-Onslow, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pocock, Colonel and Mrs. A. Rubens, the Hon. Mrs. Peter William-Powlett, the Hon. Lady Worsley.

The Chelsea Society, founded in 1927 to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea, is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee by promoting this Auction of which all the proceeds will be given to the general funds of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

From its foundation in 1673 the Garden was financed and managed from the City of London, first by the Society of Apothecaries and then by the London Parochial Charities. The Chelsea Society therefore had no part in its affairs although we were always on friendly terms with its Curators, visited it, and were well aware of its historic significance. However, in 1983 the Garden was established as an independent charity, open to the public for the first time, and Chelsea people woke to a new responsibility towards it. It is our duty and pleasure now to support its Trustees in every possible way.

One of the principal concerns is of course finance and the garden now needs a very substantial endowment to preserve it as a place of beauty and learning for a public which comes from far and wide, nationally and internationally. The Trustees have already raised over £700,000 towards the £1,250,000 required, and work has started on the rehabilitation of buildings and greenhouses. The Council of the Chelsea Society urges members and all friends of gardens everywhere to join in making the proceeds of this Charity Auction a truly impressive addition to the endowment fund.

### GIFTS

Suitable items will be paintings, drawings, engravings (especially including Chelsea subjects); small sculptures and bronzes; small pieces of period furniture, e.g. trays, mirrors, stools, workboxes etc.; silverware and Sheffield plate, jewellery, objects of vertu; books (first editions), fine bindings, good illustrations (especially horticultural); manuscripts, antique scientific instruments, lace and textiles, wines, glass and porcelain.

Gifts will be received by Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 from 3rd November 1986 to 15th January 1987, 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday inclusive. They will then be catalogued so it is very important that these dates are observed. They will be insured while in Christie's hands.

Please identify objects clearly, giving your name and any information about provenance, local associations etc. on the form overleaf, which should accompany the gift when delivered to Christie's. The names of donors add interest to the Catalogue and we shall be very grateful to all who allow their names to be printed.

Cheques in lieu of objects (made payable to 'Chelsea Society Auction Account') may be sent to Christie's South Kensington with the form overleaf, or to the Chairman Chelsea Society, address below.

#### VOUCHERS

Vouchers for holidays and travel, restaurant meals, hairdressing etc. to be included in the Sale or raffled during the evening will be most welcome and should be sent to the Chairman Chelsea Society, address below.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements from art dealers, shops etc, to appear in the Catalogue are invited. The last date for copy is 15th January 1987 and forms may be obtained from Neil Hughes-Onslow Esq., 32 Godfrey Street, London SW3 3SX. Telephone 01-352 8218.

#### ENTRANCE TO AUCTION

Tickets at £6 per person or £10 for two are available from the Chairman Chelsea Society, address below. After about March 1st she can sell Catalogues at £2, all cheques payable to 'Chelsea Society-Auction Account'. Catalogues will also be obtainable from Christie's South Kensington.

#### VIEWING

For the public - 9 am to 4.30 pm on 26th March 1987

For those attending the Sale - doors open from 6 pm

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Directors of Christie's South Kensington have most generously undertaken to hold this Sale, taking no profit and charging no buyer's premium.

## Question

Mr. J. Sammons, 3 Cheryl's Close, London SW6 2AX, (Tel: 01-631 6347), would be grateful for information, especially personal recollections not to be found in official sources, about the Chelsea Methodist Church dating back to Wesley's time. He points out that Wesley visited the Physic Garden on one of his preaching engagements and had friends among the Moravians.

## Treasurer's Report

It always seems a little strange to be reporting on the finances of the Society some eleven months after the end of the year, but that has always been the custom with the Chelsea Society.

In the year to 31st December, 1986, the surplus was reduced from £1,354 to £160. Annual subscriptions increased by 19% but to some extent this arose from the collection of arrears. The other main sources of income were down particularly, as I forecast last year, the revenue from advertising — a reduction of £300. However, you will be pleased to know that advertising promised for 1987 is of the order of £450. Our expenses increased substantially; again the cost of producing the annual report went up but it seems to me it is always such a good publication, it is well worth doing it well. The other item which added to the increase was the Society's financial contribution to the Physic Garden Appeal which overall totalled £770. Of this, £500 has been charged in the 1986 accounts and the balance will be in the 1987 accounts.

In view of the above and the size of the Society's reserves, I do not think the relatively small surplus for 1986 should cause too much concern and I have sufficient confidence in the strength of our balance sheet not to recommend an increase in subscriptions for 1988. However, may I make the Treasurer's usual plea that if possible everyone complete a banker's order, or pay by cheque, almost immediately?

The accumulated funds now stand at £12,134 — an increase of £600 in the year, and arising from the surplus of £160 and interest of £440 earned on the life membership fund. At the 31st December 1986 the Society held a deferred income re the Physic Garden auction of £2,548 — represented by cash on the special auction deposit account. As you know, the auction was a great success and, after including the Society's financial contribution, a cheque for £31,000 was handed over on Monday 13th July 1987, during the summer meeting.

Finally, may I thank Mr. Peter Oldak for his kindness, once more, in auditing these accounts. This action is very much appreciated.

Ian Frazer  
Hon. Treasurer

23rd November, 1987

**THE CHELSEA SOCIETY**  
**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1986**  
*Income and Expenditure Account — General Fund*

	1986 £	1985 £
<i>Income</i>		
Annual Subscriptions ... ..	2,304.85	1,929.85
Donations received ... ..	270.00	570.50
Surplus on summer meeting ...	25.95	—
Surplus of receipts from meetings over costs of meetings ... ..	61.50	—
Income tax recovered on covenants ...	193.72	232.80
Advertising revenue in 1986 annual report ... ..	412.50	712.50
Deposit interest received ... ..	608.41	531.94
	<u>3,876.93</u>	<u>3,977.59</u>
<i>Less:</i>		
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Cost of annual report ... ..	2,022.81	1,815.90
Stationery, postage and miscellaneous expenses ... ..	827.14	419.24
Cost of annual general meeting ...	253.60	230.65
Subscriptions to other organisations ...	13.50	35.50
Cost of summer meeting ... ..	—	122.42
Donation to Tradescent Garden Trust	100.00	—
Part donation to Chelsea Physic Garden ... ..	500.00	—
	<u>3,717.05</u>	<u>2,623.71</u>
Surplus for the year ... ..	<u>159.88</u>	<u>1,353.88</u>

*Income and Expenditure Account — Life Membership Fund*

Balance of Fund — 1st January 1986 ...	3,187.38	2,761.22
Income National Savings Bank account interest ... ..	440.70	426.16
Balance of fund — 31st December 1986	<u>3,628.08</u>	<u>3,187.38</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1986**

	1986 £	1985 £
<i>Current assets</i>		
Debtors ... ..	808.60	1,681.60
Balance in National Savings Bank accounts ... ..	4,433.90	3,567.03
Balance on bank current and deposit accounts ... ..	8,630.41	8,302.16
Auction deposit account ... ..	2,921.42	—
	<u>16,794.33</u>	<u>13,550.79</u>
<i>Less: current liabilities</i>		
Creditors ... ..	2,011.05	1,920.90
Subscriptions received in advance ...	101.00	96.00
Deferred income re Physic Garden Auction ... ..	2,547.81	—
	<u>4,659.86</u>	<u>2,016.90</u>
Net assets ... ..	<u>12,134.47</u>	<u>11,533.89</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Balance of Life Membership Fund ...	3,628.08	3,187.38
Add: Balance of General Fund		
1st January 1986 ... ..	8,346.51	6,992.63
Surplus for the year ... ..	159.88	1,353.88
	<u>8,506.39</u>	<u>8,346.51</u>
	<u>12,134.47</u>	<u>11,533.89</u>

I. W. FRAZER, *Honorary Treasurer*

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

I have examined the balance sheet and income and expenditure accounts set out above and I certify them to be in accordance with the books and vouchers of the Society.

Dated: 12th November 1987  
London SW10

P. V. A. OLDAK  
*Chartered Accountant*

# CONSTITUTION

1. (1) The Chelsea Society shall be regulated by the Rules contained in this Constitution.
- (2) These Rules shall come into force when the Society has adopted this constitution at a General Meeting.
- (3) In these Rules the expression "existing" means existing before the Rules come into force.

## OBJECTS

2. The Objects of the Society shall be to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea particularly —
  - (a) stimulating interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea;
  - (b) encouraging good architecture, town planning and civil design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and property 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 other persons to be members of the Council.
- (4) The Officers to be appointed under Rule 5 shall also 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. Provided that the first nine members to retire after these Rules come into force shall be chosen by agreement or, in default of agreement, by lot.
- (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 further appointments 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.
- 5A As a Transitional Provision for the purpose of carrying out Rule 5(2) the existing Officers shall continue to serve within the provisions of this sub-rule.

## 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) Until otherwise prescribed under this Rule, the annual subscription and the amount payable for life membership shall continue to be payable at the existing rates.\*
- (4) Members are invited to pay more than the prescribed minimum, if possible.
- (5) Members who pay annual subscriptions are requested to pay by banker's order, unless they are unwilling to give banker's order.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

8. (1) In these Rules "General Meeting" means a meeting of the Society which all members of the Society may attend.
- (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 the Council may think fit.
- (3) General Meetings shall take place at such times and places as the Council may arrange.
- (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 as Acting President.
- (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 two weeks 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, after having given at least a week's notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary, raise any matter not mentioned in the report, if it is within the Objects of the Society.
- (10) The President or Acting President may limit the duration of speeches.
- (11) During a speech on any question any member of the Society may move that the question be now put, without making a speech, and any other member may second that motion, without making a speech, and if the motion is carried, the President or Acting President shall put the question forthwith.
- (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.

## TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

9. (1) The existing Council shall continue to act for the Society until a Council is formed under Rule 4.
- (2) Within five months of the adoption of the constitution the existing Council shall arrange an Annual or a special General Meeting at which the first election to the Council shall be held.
- (3) The existing Officers of the Society shall continue to serve until Officers are appointed under Rule 5.

## AMENDMENTS

10. (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 two weeks before the General 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 before the General Meeting.

## WINDING-UP

11. 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 existing 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.

- \*MRS. A. ABLES
- T. K. ABLES
- PAUL V. AITKENHEAD
- \*MISS D. C. ALLASON
- \*LT.-COL. J. H. ALLASON
- MRS. NVALA ALLASON
- MRS. ELIZABETH AMATI
- \*J. A. W. AMBLER
- \*THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
- MISS SOPHIE C. M. ANDREAE
- \*DOUGLAS H. ANDREW
- \*MISS G. P. A. ANDREWS
- \*THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
- J. N. ARCHER
- MRS. VICTORIA ARCHER
- \*MRS. JOHN ARMSTRONG
- \*DAVID ASCHIAN
- \*MRS. M. G. ASCHAN
- MISS D. M. ASHCROFT
- MARTIN ASHLEY
- \*MAJOR A. L. ASHWELL
- THE HON. NICHOLAS ASSHETON
- \*MRS. R. J. V. ASTELL
- \*MRS. PHILIP ASTLEY, O.B.E.
- MRS. DOUGLAS AUCHINCLOSS
  
- MRS. M. J. BABINGTON SMITH
- F. R. BADEN-POWELL
- LADY BAILEY
- GEORGE BARCLAY
- MRS. GEORGE BARCLAY
- D. BARING
- \*D. H. BARLOW
- J. C. BARNARD
- SIR JOHN BARRAN, BT.
- LADY BARRAN
- \*MISS JEAN BARRIE
- JULIAN BARROW
- MRS. JULIAN BARROW
- SIMON BARROW
- \*DEREK BARTON
- \*MRS. DEREK BARTON
- MRS. ROGER BASSETT
- \*MRS. L. BAYFIELD
- SIR PETER BAXENDELL
- LADY BAXENDELL
- DR. J. H. B. BEAL
- MRS. J. H. B. BEAL
- \*MISS VIVIEN BEAMISH
- \*MISS A. M. G. BEATON
- \*E. V. BEATON
  
- \*J. BECKER
- P. BECKER
- ROBERT BECKETT
- MRS. ROBERT BECKETT
- MRS. PATRICIA BEHR, M.B.E.
- \*WILLIAM BELL
- SIMON BENDALL
- MRS. SIMON BENDALL
- M. G. BENDON
- MRS. M. BENDON
- F. C. BENENSON
- MRS. F. C. BENENSON
- MRS. ANNE TREGO BENNETT
- MRS. R. A. C. BERKELEY
- L. BERNARD
- MRS. L. BERNARD
- \*MISS ANNE BERRIMAN
- REAR-ADMIRAL C. BEVAN, C.B.
- MRS. PATRICIA BEVAN
- \*ERNEST BIGGIN
- MISS CELIA BIGHAM
- JOHN BIGNELL
- MICHAEL BIGNELL
- \*MISS W. L. BILBIE
- \*E. W. BISSETT
- MISS C. BLAKE
- \*MRS. G. BLAKISTON
- MISS S. K. BOORD
- MRS. J. B. FLOCKHART BOOTH
- \*LADY BOTTOMLEY
- \*TIMOTHY BOULTON
- MISS MURIEL BOWEN
- A. E. BOWRING
- MRS. A. E. BOWRING
- \*MISS M. D. BOYD
- MISS LOUISE BRACKENBURY
- R. M. A. BRAINE
- MRS. R. M. A. BRAINE
- J. C. BRASS
- MRS. J. C. BRASS
- REAR-ADMIRAL F. B. P. BRAYNE-NICHOLLS, C.B., D.S.C.
- \*THE HON. VIRGINIA BRETT
- MISS E. M. E. BRIGHTEN
- MRS. E. BROADBENT-JONES
- \*LADY BROMET, D.B.E.
- DENIS BROODBANK
- \*MRS. E. BROUGHTON-ADDERLEY
- \*MISS ANTHONY BROWN
- \*J. FRANCIS BROWN, C.B.E.
- \*RICHARD E. BROWN, F.R.I.C.S.

- W. K. BROWN
- MRS. W. K. BROWN
- \*W. M. G. BROWN
- \*MRS. A. BROWNING
- MICHAEL BRYAN
- MRS. MICHAEL BRYAN
- MRS. E. J. BUCHANAN
- SIR JOHN BUCKLEY
- \*MISS HILDA BUCKMASTER
- \*MISS JACINTHE BUDDICOM
- \*RICHARD BURGESS
- IAN M. BURGOSNE
- RUSSELL BURLINGHAM
- \*A. I. J. BURNS
- \*MRS. JAMES BUXTON
- \*THE HON. JULIAN F. BYNG
- RICHARD BYRON
  
- \*THE EARL CADOGAN, M.C.
- \*R. A. W. CAINE
- MISS JUDY CAMPBELL
- SAMUEL CARR
- \*MRS. DONALD CARTER
- \*BRYAN CARVALHO, M.B.E.
- \*MRS. BRYAN CARVALHO
- \*REV. JOHN CARVOSSO
- N. R. CASHIN
- MRS. N. R. CASHIN
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- MRS. JOHN CASSON
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- M. E. CHAMBERLAYNE
- DR. V. E. CHANCELLAR
- THE RT. HON. PAUL CHANNON, M.P.
- MRS. PAUL CHANNON
- THE CHELSEA GARDENER
- CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH
- CHELSEA YACHT & BOAT CO. LTD.
- \*THE LORD CHELWOOD, M.C., D.L.
- MRS. J. M. CHEYNE
- PETER W. CHEZE-BROWN
- \*R. A. CHISHOLM
- \*MRS. R. A. CHISHOLM
- \*THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS
- R. F. G. CHURCHILL
- MRS. R. F. CHURCHILL
- CLAPHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
- CLARENDON GALLERY
- MISS A. M. CLARKE
- N. J. GORDON CLARK
- MRS. N. J. GORDON CLARK
- R. D. CLARKE, F.I.A.
- \*R. S. CLARKE
- W. CLARKE
- MRS. W. CLARKE
- \*MISS EDITH M. CLAY, F.S.A.
  
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- DR. PERCY ELLISON-CLIFFE
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- JOHN COBBETT-MADDY
- MRS. JACQUES COCHÉME
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- NIGEL DARLINGTON
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- \*MRS. OLGA DAVENPORT
- \*ALBAN DAVIES
- \*MISS G. M. DAVIES
- W. E. DAWE
- \*DAVID DAY
- MRS. LAURA KATHLEEN DAY
- \*DR. JOAN S. DEANS
- MRS. ANNE DE BALLESTERO
- \*ROBIN DE BEAUMONT
- MRS. N. DE BELLAIGUE
- DAVID DE CARLE
- MRS. DAVID DE CARLE
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- MRS. DAMON DE LASZLO
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- \*CHRISTOPHER DICKMAN
- \*MRS. DOROTHY DIX

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C.M.G., Q.C.

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MRS. BETSY DRAKE  
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\*MRS. ERIC DUGDALE  
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\*T. V. S. DURRANT

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\*Q. MORGAN EDWARDS, M.A.  
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\*MISS A. POWELL EDWARDS  
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\*JOHN EHRLMAN, F.B.A., F.S.A.,  
F.R.Hist.S.

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S. S. EUSTACE  
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\*MRS. C. FORDE

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MISS EILY GAYFORD  
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THE LADY GLENKINGLAS  
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MRS. ISOBEL M. T. GOETZ  
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\*AUBREY GOUGH, T.D.  
MISS NANCY GOW, M.B.E.  
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F.R.C.G.P., M.A., M.B., B.CHIR.

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ROBIN GRANT  
\*N. J. GRANTHAM  
VICE-ADMIRAL SIR JOHN GRAY,  
K.B.E., C.B.

MARTIN GREEN  
MRS. MARTIN GREEN  
\*MRS. MARGARET GREENTREE  
MISS MAUREEN GREENWOOD  
\*R. P. GRENFELL  
MISS A. M. GRESHAM-WELLS  
\*A. G. GRIMWADE, F.S.A.

MISS J. M. HADDON  
MRS. M. O. HALLIDAY  
\*MAJOR E. D. HALTON  
ANDREW HAMILTON  
MRS. ANDREW HAMILTON  
\*R. O. HANCOCK  
\*T. H. H. HANCOCK F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.  
P. HANSEN  
MRS. JUDITH HANSEN  
M. R. HARDING  
MRS. P. M. HARLEY  
DESMOND HARNEY, O.B.E.  
\*JOHN HARRIS, O.B.E., F.S.A., Hon.  
F.R.I.B.A.  
\*MRS. JOHN HARRIS, M.A., Ph.D.  
JOHN HARRISON  
SIR MICHAEL HARRISON, BT.

MISS MOLLIE HARRISON  
HARRY HAVEMEYET  
MRS. HAVEMEYET  
DENYS HAWTHORNE  
MRS. DENYS HAWTHORNE  
\*E. L. HAYES  
MRS. E. L. HAYES  
W. S. HAYNES  
MRS. W. S. HAYNES  
\*S. A. HENLEY  
MRS. P. H. HESELTINE  
\*ANTHONY HIPPISEY-COXE  
\*P. D. J. HIPPISEY-COXE  
MISS S. H. HISS  
FERGUS HOBBS  
\*MRS. ELIOT HODGKIN  
MAJOR I. S. HODGSON  
STANLEY HONEYMAN  
MRS. STANLEY HONEYMAN  
\*THE VISCOUNTESS HOOD, C.V.O.  
\*FELIX HOPE-NICHOLSON  
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MRS. D. A. BUXTON HOPKIN  
MISS A. M. HORNBY  
DENIS HOWARD  
MRS. DENIS HOWARD  
\*MRS. I. M. HOWARD  
\*MALCOLM S. HOWE  
MISS DAPHNE HOWESON  
\*D. R. HOWISON  
MISS KATHLEEN F. HUBBLE  
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\*NEIL HUGHES-ONSLow  
E. F. HUMPHRIES, B.Sc.(ENG.), F.I.C.E.  
\*JOHN R. F. HUMPHRY  
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\*RICHARD HUNTING  
M. J. HUSSEY  
THE LADY SUSAN HUSSEY, D.C.V.O.  
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\*MRS. BRIDGET HUTH  
MISS PEGGY E. HYNE

\*THE COUNTESS OF IVEAGH

BASIL J. JACKSON  
MRS. BASIL J. JACKSON  
MRS. J. JACOBSON  
\*MISS PAMELA JACOBSON  
\*MISS PEGGY JACOBSON  
\*MRS. ANNE JARDINE  
\*MRS. H. A. TREGARTHEN JENKIN  
\*THE LORD JESSEL, C.B.E.  
SIR ALEXANDER JOHNSTON  
LADY JOHNSTON  
MISS JO JONES  
\*P. L. JOSEPH

MRS. JOSEPHINE KAMM  
\*MRS. VERONICA KEELING

MRS. GABRIELLE KEILLIER  
JOHN E. KEMP  
MRS. JOHN E. KEMP  
\*MISS M. KENNEDY-BELL  
THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF  
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA  
PAUL H. KIERNAN  
\*ALLAN R. KING  
\*MISS F. B. KING  
GORDON KING  
MRS. GORDON KING  
MRS. J. D. KING-LEWIS  
\*THE LORD KINNAIRD  
\*JAMES H. KIRKMAN  
MRS. CYNTHIA KIRKPATRICK  
LADY KIRWAN  
MRS. PENELOPE KIRWAN-TAYLOR  
B. E. KNIGHT  
MRS. B. E. KNIGHT  
MRS. M. B. KONSTAM  
\*HUGH KRALL

\*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  
\*GEORGE LAYTON  
MISS ELIZABETH LEADER  
LAURIE LEE, M.B.E., F.R.S.L.  
\*JOHN LEHMANN, C.B.E.  
\*DAVID LE LAY  
\*MISS F. M. LENEY  
DR. R. D. G. LESLIE  
MRS. R. D. G. LESLIE  
\*MRS. LESLEY LEWIS, F.S.A.  
\*SIR DAVID LIDDERDALE, K.C.B.  
ROBERT N. LINSLEY  
GWYNETH LLOYD  
MRS. DAVID 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  
MISS HELEN O. LOWENTHAL, O.B.E.

VICTOR A. LOWNES  
 MRS. VICTOR A. LOWNES  
 MISS ELIZABETH LOWRY-CORRY  
 \*MISS L. LUMLEY

\*E. C. MACADAM  
 \*LORD MCALPINE OF WEST GREEN  
 \*A. R. H. MACDONALD  
 \*MRS. A. R. H. MACDONALD  
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