

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
REPORT

1996



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*The wood engraving of Chelsea Old Church on the title page
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The Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Society

was held at the
Hall of Remembrance,
Flood Street, Chelsea, S.W.3
on Wednesday 20th November 1996

Sir Simon Hornby, President of the Society, took the Chair at 6.30pm.

The President thanked everyone for coming and warmly welcomed Councillor John Corbet-Singleton, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and the Mayoress. He also welcomed Mr. Michael French, Executive Director of Planning and Conservation, Mrs. Angela Darwin from the Kensington Society and Mr. Michael Plumbe from the Fulham Society.

The Minutes of the 1995 Annual General Meeting were approved and signed by the President.

There had been five vacancies on the Council. Richard Maurice had retired and was not standing for re-election. Mark Dorman, Eileen Harris and David Sagar were retiring under Rule 4 (10) and were offering themselves for re-election. Leonard Holdsworth had been proposed and seconded and was standing for election. All four were elected unanimously.

Mr. Ian Frazer, Honorary Treasurer of the Society, presented his Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1995. These were received by the Meeting without comment. The President thanked Mr. Frazer for all his work throughout the year.

No Resolutions had been received and Mr. David Le Lay, Chairman of the Society, was asked to deliver the Council's Annual Report. Commenting on the Report, Professor Sir Hugh Ford asked that further development of the bar at 223 King's Road should be opposed. Mr Andrew Hamilton, Honorary Secretary (Planning), replied that it would be. Mrs. Ann Ballestero said that she had drawn the Society's attention to proposals for damming the Thames in Chelsea. The Chairman replied that a letter had been written to the Chairman of the River Thames Society opposing the

proposal. Mr. Bill Haynes said he was Chairman of the Waterways and Navigation Committee of the River Thames Society and would like a copy of the letter. He said that many members supported the idea, though he thought it was neither practical nor desirable. Mr. Russell Burlingham emphasised the suitability of a Museum and Art Gallery as a Millennium Project. Mr Michael Plumbe, Honorary Secretary of the Fulham Society, enumerated a number of problems in common to both Societies: over-development, e.g. Fulham Football Ground, Imperial Road Gas Board site, Harrods' Repository. He said that inter-borough and cross-borough communication was poor and, though they were members of HACAN, there was little enthusiasm for opposing Terminal 5. Mrs. Lesley Lewis asked for clarification regarding the Sydney Street Hotel Inquiries. These were explained by the Chairman. Mr. Hector Quine thought that the removal of the gravestones from Brompton Cemetery to turn it into a park would be a notion for the Millennium. The Chairman said it was not actually in Chelsea and Mr. French said that the Cemetery was owned by the Royal Parks who were currently preparing proposals. Mr. French explained about an Article 4 Direction to control telephone kiosks; he said that approaches from the Borough to the Government Office for London had been rebuffed on the grounds that restriction would stifle free enterprise. Mrs. Sheila Donaldson-Walters drew the attention of the meeting to the Chelsea Art Society's 50th exhibition in July in the Old Town Hall.

Under Any Other Business, Mrs. Lesley Lewis said that she had hoped to acknowledge all the latest donors to the Thomas More Picture Appeal, some of whom had given twice or even three times.

There being no further business, the President closed the Meeting, thanking the Officers and Council of the Society for the work they had done during the year. There were about 140 members present.

Chairman's Report

The Council

Earlier this year the Council co-opted Dr. Paul Knapman.

Richard Maurice, who has been a member of the Council for the last eight years has decided not to offer himself for re-election. We thank him for his help to the Council, particularly his expert knowledge of matters relating to charities and fund-raising. His close links with the Chelsea Arts Club, of which he is Honorary Secretary, have also been invaluable.

The Council has recently adopted guidelines relating to the membership and delegated powers of its Planning Sub-Committee.

Membership

The current membership of the Society is 1,110, a significant increase on last year.

Affiliations

The Society is a member of the Civic Trust, the London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies, the River Thames Society, West London Traffic Reform and the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise.

Publications

The 1995 *Annual Report* of the Society included, for the first time, some colour illustrations. As always it was widely admired and we thank again our Honorary Editor, Tom Pocock, for another excellent Report.

We also thank Michael Bach for editing the Society's *Newsletter*, which is also much valued by the membership, as well as acting as useful publicity for the work of the Society.

Activities

1. Winter Lectures

Our seventeenth season of lectures comprised three lectures on a variety of topics related to Chelsea.

On 6 February, John Mallet lectured on 'Nicholas Sprimont and his Chelsea Porcelain Vases'. His main subject was a recently discovered painting, the only one known to exist, of the founder of the Chelsea China factory; but he also showed us slides of amazingly baroque Chelsea vases, of the gold anchor period.

On 6 March, we had a lecture from John Earl on 'London Music Halls'.

He explained how music halls had their beginnings as singing and dining clubs in public houses and how they developed into theatres such as the former Chelsea Palace of Varieties which once stood opposite Chelsea Old Town Hall.

On 27 March, Stuart Corbyn gave us a lecture on 'The Cadogan Estate', tracing the development of Chelsea from the earliest times up to the present day. The high quality of refurbishment work produced by the Estate in recent years was especially impressive.

As usual, these lectures were held in the Small Hall of Chelsea Old Town Hall and were all very well attended.

2. Unveiling of the picture of The Thomas More Family Group

The Trustees of the Thomas More Picture Trust kindly invited all of the Society's members for the unveiling, by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Paul Warrick, on 27 February of this important painting which had originally been given by the Society to Crosby Hall in memory of its founder, Reginald Blunt. The installation of the painting, in pride of place in the Main Hall at Chelsea Old Town Hall, represented a very satisfactory culmination of four years of anxiety about the future and the physical condition of the painting. What at one time seemed to be intractable problems were solved with great skill and tireless effort, principally by one person, namely, Mrs Lesley Lewis, our Honorary Vice-President.

The unveiling, which was attended by some 250 people, was a most joyous occasion and the Society was very pleased to provide refreshments.

3. Chelsea Action Planning Project

During the week commencing 22 April eight students from the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, under the guidance of two of their tutors, assessed the possible future development of four sites in the ownership of the Brompton Hospital, between King's Road and Fulham Road, and prepared urban design proposals. The timing of the project coincided with the publication, by the Royal Borough, of a Planning Brief for these sites. A 'Project Shop' was set up at 186a King's Road and members of the public were welcomed to 'visit and assist' the students at any time. In addition, a 'Community Planning Forum' was held on one evening. The students consulted with local residents' associations, the Royal Borough and the Royal Brompton Hospital.

The students presented their proposals at the Chelsea Gardener on 29 April to about 100 invited guests and members of the public. In the limited time they had to get to know Chelsea and to assimilate the many difficulties associated with these sites, we considered that the students produced some interesting urban design concepts. A brochure of the proposals was later produced by the Institute.

This event was organised by the Society in association with the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture. We were very grateful to the Chelsea Gardener for hosting the presentation of proposals and especially grateful to the Cadogan Estate for making a shop in the King's Road available for the whole week.

This was a new venture for the Society which was successful, not only in producing ideas for sites in Chelsea whose future have for many years been of considerable concern, but also in providing publicity for the Society and its work.

4. Chelsea Residents' Associations Meeting

The meeting this year was held in the Hall of Remembrance on 16 May. Councillor Desmond Harney OBE, Chairman of the Royal Borough's Planning and Conservation Committee, was present to answer questions with the help of his Executive Director, Mr. Michael French. This was one of the last engagements of Councillor Harney as Chairman of the Planning and Conservation Committee and thus provided an ideal opportunity for us to thank him for the very fair-minded way he had carried out the duties of this most onerous office.

5. Chelsea Festival

The 1996 Chelsea Festival was held from 2-8 June.

a) 'Who Lived here?: The Blue Plaques of Chelsea' Exhibition

This exhibition was held in the Small Hall of Chelsea Old Town Hall from 3-8 June. A Private View of the exhibition, sponsored by John D. Wood, was held on the evening of 3 June and was attended by the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor John Corbet-Singleton. We estimate that the exhibition was visited by some 1,300 people, it was highly praised and considered to be a great success.

A special committee comprising members of staff of Chelsea Public Library and members of the Council of the Society was formed to organise this event; a good example of the borough and the Society working together.

Special thanks are due to the Cadogan Estate, the exhibition's sponsors, without whom this exhibition would not have been possible.

b) Guided Walks

The Society again organised Guided Walks as part of this year's Festival, as follows:

- 2 June: Chelsea Park
- 3 June: Working Class Chelsea
- 5 June: Hans Town
- 7 June: Sweetness and Light in Glebe Place

All the walks were conducted by the Chairman of the Society and they were, as usual, well attended.

6. Summer Meeting

To mark the centenary of the death of William Morris, this year's Summer Meeting was held in 'the cathedral of the Arts and Crafts Movement' – Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street. Roderick Gradidge, an expert on this period of art history, in which William Morris played such an important part, gave us a talk about the history of the church, followed by a guided walk around its principal artefacts. We were also fortunate to hear the church's magnificent organ played by the organist. The evening ended with a buffet supper being served in the church.

The future role of this parish with its magnificent Grade I building is again in doubt; our visit convinced many of us that every effort should be made for this prominently situated church to be kept open during the week, enabling its treasures to be appreciated by residents, shoppers, office workers and tourists.

7. Visits

The Council decided this year that it would be good for the Society to organise visits to places of interest, for the benefit of members. The first such visit, to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, took place on 7 November. The demand for tickets was such that a further visit is to take place on 21 November. We are most grateful to Jenifer Miller for agreeing to organise this new activity for the Society.

Chairman's Activities

The Chairman has carried out the following activities during the course of the year:

1. Leading a guided walk entitled 'The Modern Movement in Chelsea' for the National Trust on 6 July and 3 August.
2. Leading a guided walk for the Georgian Group on 27 August entitled 'Georgian Battersea'.
3. Leading a guided walk on 2 October for the Friends of the Royal Academy entitled 'Artistic Chelsea'.
4. Giving a talk on the history of Chelsea to The London Sketch Club on 25 October.

Development Plans Advisory Group

Ever since the early 1970s, the Royal Borough had a special advisory committee which considered planning matters affecting conservation

areas. The Chelsea Society was proud to be one of the organisations represented on this committee as it gave us an opportunity to explain our views to members of the Planning Committee, within the formal structure of a committee meeting. We were therefore very disappointed when earlier this year the Royal Borough decided to disband this Group.

The Borough proposes to replace it with two new Planning Forums. We are extremely pleased that Andrew Hamilton, Hon. Secretary (Planning) of the Society, has been elected as Chairman of the South Area Forum. We do however have doubts as to the likely effectiveness of this new Forum. These include the large area with which it will be concerned (up to the Cromwell Road) which is well beyond the area of interest of the Society, the infrequency of meetings (only two each year) and whether many members of the Planning and Conservation Committee will attend.

Planning Applications

The Planning Sub-Committee of the Council of the Society, under the chairmanship of Andrew Hamilton, our Hon. Secretary (Planning) has made a total of 108 representations during the past year. There has been an increase in the number of important schemes, notably in the historic heart of Chelsea.

The Society supported the Royal Borough on three separate occasions at Appeal against either planning refusal or enforcement action.

Among significant representations were the following:

1. 114 King's Road, SW3

We opposed the shop front designs for the Reiss Building at 114 King's Road; the end result is for everyone to see in terms of a singularly inappropriate modern glass shop front applied to a period brick building and, incidentally, totally contrary to the Council's own guidelines.

2. 17 Oakley Gardens and 21 Cheyne Walk, SW3

The Society opposed an extension to the house in Oakley Gardens and the breach of the Tudor Wall, and subsequently supported the Local Planning Authority when the Cadogan Estate appealed the decision. The Secretary of State dismissed the Appeal.

3. 229/235 King's Road SW3

The Society strongly opposed proposals for development of the former premises of Nichols Bros., behind two of the oldest surviving buildings in the King's Road. This scheme included a block of flats and a large restaurant. Revised proposals have subsequently been submitted which are marginally more sympathetic but still involve increasing the size of the restaurant by 570%. The Society continues to oppose the application.

4. 1b Lamont Road, SW10

There have been a series of applications for redevelopment of these studio buildings. The latest involved conversion to nine houses and one flat which the Society considered to be over-development – as in the case of previous applications.

5. 6/16 Old Church Street, SW3

This involved redevelopment of the old Fraser & Ellis building in a very important location in the heart of Old Chelsea. The scheme, designed by John Simpson, was considered sympathetic but concern was expressed about the traffic generation in Lawrence Street.

6. Chenil Galleries, 181/184 King's Road, SW3

The Society supported the Council on Appeal against refusal to grant consent for conversion from Gallery to A3 (Restaurant Use); The Secretary of State has now dismissed the appeal, which is a significant decision for other similar 'change of use to restaurant' applications in retail locations – of which there are presently a considerable number.

7. 61/62 Cheyne Walk, SW3

This major scheme involves the redevelopment of the old Cheyne Hospital for Children to provide 19 apartments and houses, with basement car parking. Number 62 Cheyne Walk, badly damaged in the last war and dating from 1686, will be converted into a private house. The scheme has been designed by Assael Architecture for Berkeley Homes and whilst the Society expressed some reservations about the detail of design and density of the scheme, the overall concept was welcomed. Nevertheless we expressed concern about the implication for traffic generation in Lawrence Street – particularly given the adjoining Fraser & Ellis redevelopment.

8. Sydney House Hotel, 9/11 Sydney Street, SW3

In this continuing saga, the Society supported the Local Planning Authority on Appeal against refusal to allow a swop of hotel use with another property within the Borough, but sadly the Secretary of State allowed the Appeal. We are extremely pleased that the Royal Borough is seeking leave to challenge this bizarre decision in the High Court.

9. 300 King's Road, SW3

This involves a proposed change of use from a Bank (A2) to a Restaurant (A3). The Society has objected strongly to the application and is concerned that this could set a precedent for other redundant bank branch offices. Similar applications have been submitted in respect of 243/245 Fulham Road (next to the Queen Elm public house) and at 352a King's Road, on the corner of Beaufort Street. The Society's Hon. Secretary (Planning)

recently addressed a meeting of the Planning & Resources Committee of the Royal Borough to argue against this development which was recommended for approval by Planning Officers. We were delighted that the Planning and Conservation Committee recently decided to refuse permission.

10. South Kensington Station, SW7

The Society viewed the latest proposals for redevelopment of this station which were considered to be an improvement upon earlier proposals, but we considered the architecture to be over-fussy.

11. Former Knightsbridge Crown Court, Hans Crescent, SW1

The Society felt that Harrods' proposals amounted to a major car park, restaurant, and increase in offices, in an area designated principally for residential use. In addition, the access ramps for the car park would have implications for traffic circulation.

12. Imperial Wharf Site, SW6

Although outside the Society's boundaries, we felt that the enormous amount of development proposed would impose an unacceptable burden on the local infrastructure, especially the King's Road.

13. King's College, 552 King's Road, SW10

Planning permission has now been granted for massive redevelopment of this historic site, to which we have always objected. This almost certainly marks the death knell of the long and hard fight by the Society to preserve the fine setting of the Listed buildings on this site, preferably in educational use.

On a more positive note, I would like to mention recent developments which we feel will enhance the borough.

1. Elmfield House, Neville Terrace, SW7

This new house has been built on an in-fill site in a traditional style and marries very well with adjoining period terraces.

2. Royal Brompton Hospital North Block, Fulham Road, SW7

Development work has now started on this major scheme which should greatly enhance the old hospital buildings and remove the ugly temporary structures in Foulis Terrace.

3. Theo Fennell, Fulham Road, SW3

This new shop with offices over is a significant improvement to the building it replaced and forms an attractive 'visual stop' to Sydney Place.

4. Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, SW3

In spite of objections by the Society about loss of public access, there is no doubt that the traditional design and very high quality materials of this building will, when completed, be a major improvement to the Embankment, in stark contrast to the redevelopment of Battersea Flour Mills on the opposite bank.

Battersea Flour Mills Inquiry

The Society was naturally extremely disappointed by the outcome of this important Local Public Inquiry in which the Inspector recommended the granting of consent for a 20-storey glass building next to St Mary's Church, Battersea. It was clear from his report that the Inspector was a lover of modern architecture and of tall buildings and it is difficult to understand how, bearing in mind the issues which this Inquiry was to address, he came to be selected for this particular Inquiry.

Now that the old Battersea Flour Mills has been demolished, we in Chelsea can, for a brief period, enjoy views of St Mary's Church from the Chelsea riverside – as they might have been, had Wandsworth Council's own guidelines for the development of the site been followed.

King's Road

The Royal Borough has at last completed a traffic management study of the King's Road with a view to carrying out improvements for both pedestrians and motorists. The proposals of the Consultants employed by the Borough are eagerly awaited.

Meanwhile, several new telephone companies are busy erecting a multiplicity of telephone kiosks along the whole length of the road, leading to unacceptable visual chaos. The Borough is virtually powerless in controlling the activities of these companies for at the time of the privatisation of telephones, the planning privileges previously enjoyed by British Telecom were extended to any telephone operator. We have suggested to the Borough that they take out what is known as an Article 4 Direction to control these kiosks.

Aircraft Noise

We all know that over the past ten years the disturbance caused by aircraft noise to our daily lives in Chelsea has become intolerable. At the Public Inquiry into the building of Terminal 4 the Inspector stated that in his view the aircraft noise then being suffered by the residents of West London was unacceptable in a civilised country; he therefore imposed a limit on the number of flights at Heathrow. This limit has since been lifted by the Government with the consequence that there has been a 50% increase in flights since the opening of Terminal 4. Heathrow is now one of the few

airports in this country with no limit on the number of aircraft using it.

Terminal 5 would virtually double the size of Heathrow; if it were built there would inevitably be further increases in the number of flights, particularly in night-time flights which are particularly distressing; this is in spite of claims about quieter and larger aircraft.

The Society has lodged evidence in opposition to Terminal 5 at the Public Inquiry now being held and we are considering appearing before the Inquiry when it considers the subject of aircraft noise in July next year. We have joined the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (HACAN) and have taken part in joint meetings with the Kensington Society and HACAN to see how we in Kensington and Chelsea can help to make our voice heard on this crucial aspect of the quality of life we enjoy in this part of London.

Earlier this year the Royal Borough's officers prepared a report in which they recommended that the Council should formally oppose Terminal 5. Unfortunately, councillors did not follow this advice, for the inexplicable reason that they considered Terminal 5 would bring added prosperity to the Royal Borough. Whatever happened to the Council's overriding aim to protect and enhance residential amenity – as outlined in its recently adopted Unitary Development Plan?

We have asked for an urgent meeting with the Leader of the Council in an attempt to persuade her that the Royal Borough should look again at its policy in respect of Heathrow Terminal 5.

Licensing Hours

The Home Secretary is currently considering extending the opening hours of public houses until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and extending 'Special Hours Certificates' for nightclubs and discotheques until 3.00am on Saturday/Sunday mornings. Bearing in mind that one of the greatest nuisances to residential amenity in the Borough is the problems associated with pubs and clubs, especially late at night, it will be no surprise that we are completely opposed to any further relaxation of licensing hours. We are glad that, in this matter, the views of the Royal Borough and the Society are as one and we have given full support to the courageous stand against Government policy which the Borough is taking.

Quality of Life

Many changes have occurred in recent years which have had a damaging effect upon the quality of life enjoyed by the residents of an inner city neighbourhood such as Chelsea. Some of these result from changes made by Parliament, others result from an absence of any clear Government policy. Many of these have already been referred to in this report. They include the liberalisation of licensing laws and shopping hours, the lack of

control over private operators of telephone kiosks and cable TV, the failure to take effective action in reducing traffic on our roads and in our skies and the level of pollution in the air we breathe. Whilst none of these matters is, in itself, of earth-shattering importance, their cumulative effect is becoming intolerable. For this reason, it is vital that an amenity society such as ours be constantly vigilant and should protest at each and every assault upon our quality of life.

The Millennium

The Society would like to mark this significant date by initiating and sponsoring a project in Chelsea. The opening of a Chelsea Museum and Cultural Centre, about which we have dreamt for some time, would be an obvious idea; others might include the commissioning of a new piece of public sculpture, the creation of a new public garden or some other civic improvement. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, we would like to hear of them.

David Le Lay

The residents ask more questions

Another meeting of Chelsea residents' associations, arranged by the Chelsea Society, was held at the Hall of Remembrance in Flood Street on 16 May 1996. Councillor Desmond Harney, Chairman of the Planning and Conservation committee, and Mr Michael French, the Executive Director of that department at the Town Hall, answered questions; Mr David Le Lay, Chairman of the Society, took the chair.

On most issues, residents and the Council representatives found themselves allies but, at the time, no final conclusions had been reached. All agreed on the urgent need to limit the size of large new restaurants in Chelsea, Councillor Harney describing this issue as "a big city problem". He added that restaurants, pubs and takeaways should be more clearly defined in their different roles.

All also agreed that aircraft noise - whether airliners bound for Heathrow or helicopters operating from Battersea - were a serious nuisance. Residents opposed the building of a fifth terminal at Heathrow but Councillor Harney said that, although there had been heated debate on this within the Council, it had been decided not to oppose it provided access to the airport by public transport was

improved. On helicopter noise, the Chairman pointed out that, while commercial helicopters were supposed to fly over the river to limit the noise nuisance, this did not apply to those operated by the police, the armed forces and the royal family.

Traffic remained a problem. While many 'rat-runs' through Chelsea had been effectively closed, that through Britten Street, Burnsall Street and Astell Street to the King's Road remained. Strategy for the future of the King's Road was to be decided in 1997 and the residents called for the widest possible public consultation on this. The Cromwell Road 'Red Route' was to be established in 1997 as was that covering the Earls Court one-way system and the Embankment.

Asked whether reports from the public to the Council on air pollution by dirty exhausts were followed up, it was admitted that although they were the Council had no powers to take effective action against those responsible. There was disappointment at confirmation that the Council was not considering subsidies for a new attempt to establish river buses, which were much needed and had briefly been operated successfully although not proving commercially viable without initial subsidy.

Amongst other issues discussed at the meeting were the cases of Cadogan Pier and Crosby Hall under private ownership, the chaotic forecourt of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, the St Mark and St John site, the future of Battersea power station, redevelopment of the river end of Old Church Street and in Cheyne Walk. Often, Councillor Harney and Mr French could only say that the Council was aware of a problem and were making enquiries, or planning action. "Be patient," Mr French told the meeting, "Keep us informed because you are the eyes and ears of the council."

The Thomas More Painting finds a new home

The British Federation of Women Graduates' Charitable Foundation and the Chelsea Society together formed in 1994 a charitable Trust to hold the picture in perpetuity in the Royal Borough, and placed it on loan in Chelsea Old Town Hall, following the loss of its previous location in Crosby Hall. As Chairman of the Trustees I am pleased to report and comment on the unveiling of the picture in the Old Town Hall by the Mayor, Councillor Warrick, on 27 February 1996.

I opened the proceedings by thanking all those who had contributed so generously, in cash or services, to the success of a project which had taken three years' effort and cost about £40,000, and I especially mentioned several Trusts and individuals. In the present report it is impossible for me

to include a long list but, as this huge picture presented correspondingly huge practical difficulties, I will concentrate on those. I particularly note the way the Royal Borough staff tackled them (even taking out the front door of the Old Town Hall), and how devotedly the restorer, Mrs. Wendy de Beer, worked on her mentally and physically demanding task.

The Mayor welcomed the picture as being especially relevant to the past of Chelsea as well as being a demonstration of its community spirit. He went on to ask the porters to remove the baize-lined screens and reveal the picture, remarking that you always wanted to know what was on the other side of the 'green baize door'! It was indeed a revelation, entirely in scale and in keeping with the Hall's listed interior, and, to those who had seen it in the course of restoration, almost incredibly brought back to real magnificence.

Mrs. Nancy Catchpole OBE, Chairman of the BFWG Foundation, then spoke. She stressed the affection which Crosby Hall residents had always felt for the picture, and the relevance of More's learned daughters to women's education. The Foundation had felt it essential to find it a new home in Chelsea and had made an initial fight to get the restoration started, pending the results of the public appeal. Mr. David Le Lay, Chairman of the Chelsea Society, then wound up the formal proceedings by paying a tribute to me which I much appreciated, and to all who had helped. He then invited the audience of about three hundred to drinks provided by the Chelsea Society. The Society has of course played a crucial part throughout, and in 1950 had bought the picture and given it to Crosby Hall in memory of the Society's founder, Reginald Blunt. It was specially delightful to be entertained by them to a very pleasant party which would, I feel, have appealed to the sociable side of Sir Thomas More's character.

The above report is not quite the end of the matter. I think it is necessary to bring up to date the story of the painting and its slightly later copies; recent research has shown that some of the traditions, accumulated over four hundred years or so, may be ill-founded. For instance, our copy cannot have been commissioned for More's daughter, Cicely Heron, because her husband, Giles, was executed for treason in 1540 and apparently had no descendants living in the 1590s, when the copies were made. Ours came from Heron Hall, certainly, but this had long lost any connection with the Heron family. One of the seventeenth-century sources was in Low Dutch and it is only with a new translation, 1994, that some old confusions have been cleared up. The loss of the original painting in a fire on the continent in 1752 was not known until the present century, leading to long-standing confusion between the location of the original and the copies. So it goes on but I am working on it and hoping to produce further instalments and ultimately a more complete account. Watch this space!

Lesley Lewis

A Wish for the Millennium

by Andrew Hamilton

There is much talk of Millennium Projects at the present time, but if the Government are genuine in wishing to improve the quality of life in urban areas during the 21st century they seem to have overlooked one obvious suggestion.

Air pollution from road traffic in Central London has now reached chronic proportions. The South East Institute for Public Health recently predicted high levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates during sunny, still weather. The Department of the Environment, in its Natural Air Quality Strategy has outlined plans for local authorities to close entire streets in cities if pollution soars to unacceptable levels. Toxic exhaust fumes in Kensington and Chelsea are amongst the worst in the country and a rising incidence of asthma sufferers in young and old alike is inextricably linked to air conditions. Slowly but surely we are being poisoned by a lethal cocktail of pollutants and yet the 20th century's love affair with the car shows no sign of abating.

In 1956, there were nearly 4,000,000 motor vehicles on Britain's roads: there are now 25,000,000. If there is to be any improvement in the 21st century, the answer must lie with public transport. However, the only prospect of relief for us in Chelsea may be the remote possibility of the Chelsea/Hackney Underground Line. By 2001 we are even likely to be denied the pleasure of the much loved Routemaster bus because it doesn't comply with modern regulations. But travel to Amsterdam, Brussels or Zurich and you will find a system of public transport which is almost as old as the century and yet cheaper and greener than either underground trains or diesel buses.

Tramways were first proposed in Chelsea in 1878 when inhabitants of Cheyne Walk met at the Pier Hotel to protest about the proposed tramway along the Embankment and what was then known as the Queen's Road (the length of road from the Royal Hospital to Cheyne Walk). By 1933 the network of tramways had expanded to 167 miles of track within the LCC. area of which 123 used the conduit electricity supply system hidden in a central channel in the road. The trams themselves were very versatile in using either overhead current or the conduit supply and carried 85 passengers in comfort. They became familiarly known as the 'people's transport' with a standard sixpenny fare to anywhere after 6p.m. Route 34 travelled through Chelsea, Clapham, Camberwell, Elephant and Castle and Blackfriars. Sadly the

writing was on the wall even before trams were given a temporary reprieve during the Second World War. The more flexible trolley buses were phased in, only to be replaced in the early 1950s by diesel powered buses. Many of the trams travelled their last route to the 'tramatorium' in Woolwich, where they were broken up for scrap metal.

Today, however, trams are making a comeback. European cities which have happily retained their tramways are busy upgrading their systems and trams still feature in many of the new popular tourist destinations of the east European capitals. Indeed, trams have been successfully introduced to Manchester and Sheffield in Britain but the only tramway proposed for London is for Croydon. Trams are now being re-introduced to Paris linking St. Denis in the north to Bobigny in the east. Smaller, lighter tram systems have been developed for urban areas which are cheap to build and operate. Unlike capital-intensive underground systems, tramways can be developed quickly and cost-effectively. Given the choice, most people would prefer to travel above rather than below ground.

If ever there was an ideal candidate for millennium funding it would be the re-introduction of a tramway system for London which would at a stroke wean people from their cars and transform the quality of life in the capital.

(See Illustrations page 37)

When Chelsea Green was Chelsea Common

Talk of a vanished, fondly-remembered Chelsea is encouraged at the regular meetings of East Chelsea Community Contact, which works with elderly people, often members of old Chelsea families, in what is now such a fashionable residential district.

Some of these memories have been published in *Chelsea Echoes: Memories of Chelsea Residents* and those of Elsie Cockram are:

"When I was young in the 'Twenties, King's was a lovely road where you could buy small amounts of anything and were offered a taste of different cheeses. Back then, the Chelsea Palace offered a good night out for 3d. in the gallery and there was also three cinemas.

"Chelsea Common (or Green) had more shops. We had a fish and chip shop, an eel and pie shop, a small drapers shop, a greengrocers, a chemist, a barbers and ladies' hairdresser and a working man's café for a good dinner.

"The launderette on the Common today is owned by the same family; in the 'Twenties their grandparents ran a cafe there. As Chelsea Common is 'common land', years ago cows used to graze on it."

At home in Cheyne Row

Robert Robinson,
*the broadcaster and writer, muses on the
old house where he and his family have
lived for nearly forty years*

When we were going to get married Josée looked at me and said, "We'll have nice times." Then we thought about somewhere to live. Ken Pearson (a journalist friend) brought the property section of *The Sunday Times* into my office from the printer one Saturday morning while we were going through the proofs, and I thought I'd got a day's start on everyone. We went to Cheyne Row and stood on the doorstep of the house we'd picked out and a lady with a rather vague look opened the door. "Oh dear, there's a queue for it already, actually." When we went away, Josée said, "She's got a collecting box for the Crusade of Rescue. She's a Catholic." So we dropped her a line. Said we were getting married at the Church of the Holy Redeemer at the end of the road. She was still looking vague when we went back. "It worked," she said. "Do you think it's immoral, letting you queue-jump?" "Certainly not," I said, and we've lived there ever since.

Charles Vyse the potter had a studio next door and when he fired his kiln Nick, our first baby, got Mr Vyse's smuts all over him as he slept in his pram in the garden. Mrs Ingrams who had let us have the house lived in the one next door, the other side. She was Richard Ingrams's mother and called him 'Ditch'. Josée asked her why. "Oh," said Victoria, "he's *so* dirty." Alphonso de Zuluetta was the parish priest. One day over the garden fence we heard him talking to Mrs Ingrams: "I invited Dame Edith Sitwell to open the bazaar," we heard him say, and then there was a pause. "I asked her because of course they lived in Carlyle Square." Another pause. "She hasn't replied." Pause. "I didn't like to say travelling and expenses paid. I thought she'd be offended." Pause. "I'm *rather* afraid I may have addressed it to Dame Edith Evans." Alphonso was somewhat bleak. He told me of a parishioner who collected pictures of the Archbishop of Canterbury. "Only he sticks pins in them." Pause. "I shouldn't like anyone to think I was encouraging him." When the tree on the other side of the road fell over and smashed all our front windows, the journalists from the evening papers showed up and Zu was there to fill them in on background. "It was a Tree of Heaven," he told them, then thinking this needed a little colour, and looking up the road to Carlyle's house, said, "Planted by

Carlyle." Then, a bit shiftily, "In person." He told them Maurice Baring had lived in our house, and how Belloc would come over from Cheyne Walk with Chesterton. Though I may be suffering from false-memory syndrome when I hear him add, "And they'd end the evening with a sing-song." After the scribes had gone, Zu said, "I hope they got all they wanted." I said, "You're not the man to send them away empty handed."....

The deeds of the house date back to 1709. The Row was built by two men, a bricklayer called Oliver Maddox and a carpenter called John Clarkson. They'd bought the land from William, Lord Cheyne, and it was a strip called The Pindle – it had been the bowling green and orchard attaching to a pub called The Three Tuns, on the corner of what is now Cheyne Walk and Cheyne Row. The planks of our floors at ground level came from the timbers of decommissioned ships lying at the end of the road in the Thames: they are broad, not all of the same width, and of a deep honey colour. When we had the surveyor look round the place he said the walls were twice as thick as they need be, and I told him why: Maddox and Clarkson were churchwardens at Chelsea Old Church, and living among the people who bought their houses, couldn't afford to skimp the work. Many a time I walk up the wide staircase that takes its slow easy rise through the house and remember it was old fashioned even on the day it was put in – balusters and banisters and newel posts were held in store for years until there was a call for them, and our staircase was made up from stock that had come off the lathes in William and Mary's day. It's the southernmost house in the terrace and it bears a plaque: 'This is Cheyne Row, 1708'. But here's the conundrum: did Maddox cement the stone plaque into the first house he built, or the last?

Our house was originally numbered 1. But just because the first house up from The Three Tuns was numbered 1 it doesn't follow it was the first to be built. They might have started at the other end. The date on the first deed is 1709, but the Row is dated 1708. Why is the deed a year later than the house? Did Lord Cheyne provide the capital for Oliver Maddox as an investment, only signing over the land when the job was done and the bricklayer, having sold a few leases off-plan, could pay him back, plus interest? But can you put up a terrace of ten soundly built houses inside a year? Or perhaps two years if they began at the start of one year and were finished at the end of the next (but would they start building in the winter? Not ideal, cold and wet, but there was plenty of cheap labour in Queen Anne's day). And one more thing: builders in the eighteenth century sometimes kept the end house for themselves. But which end?

Oliver Maddox was the driving force. I'm guessing this because his name comes first in the deeds, and because bricklayers are the top craftsmen; John Clarkson as carpenter came second, his name in the deeds appears after the bricklayer even though alphabetically it should come first (no law stationer, engrossing the deed, would have overlooked this, unless

there were reasons). And there's evidence that the bricklayer brought the capital into the business because thirty years after the houses were built there is a lease granted to a fishmonger - 'ffishmonger', to be precise - called Broughton, and the owner of the lease is called Westerband, but his first name is Maddox - Maddox Westerband. Why does he carry Oliver's patronym as his given name? Theory: because Oliver's sister had married a chap called Westerband, and this sister prudently christened her first son Maddox after his uncle, since Oliver was childless - Maddox had expectations.

Some nights when I stand on the pavement and look up at the end of the house in the lamplight I find it easy to see the open land that lay either side of the Row and people strolling down the half-built street to take a wherry across to Battersea to buy lettuce from the market gardens. And when I climb up to bed I know Maddox Westerband looked out of the same back window I do, across the tops of the mulberry trees that still grow in the gardens that his uncle Oliver carved out of the orchard of The Three Tuns. To the south-east, beyond the Tudor wall of the Cheyne Row gardens, he'd see the house that once belonged to Thomas More's bailiff; I see the gable end of it, though Maddox's view of the river is gone. And if he turned his gaze thirty degrees to the right he would see, a quarter of a mile away, the tree tops and the long wall of the Physic Garden, with the river beyond it; he might think how convenient to have been willed a house that was so close to his work. For Maddox Westerband was an apothecary, as the deeds record.

But the little conundrum I start with is unsolved. Do you put a plaque on the first house, or on the last? In private life, bricklayers are as excitable as anyone else, but not while they're laying the bricks. Would Oliver have hastened to proclaim a Row that he had yet to build? Surely not. So our house was last? On the other hand, he might have wanted to make it clear the work had begun, that this was no longer a bit of green that customers from the pub were free to stroll about on and pick a few mulberries: 'This is Cheyne row, 1708' - a building-site, trespassers will be prosecuted. So our house was first?

An extract from Robert Robinson's memoirs, Skip All That, published by Century £15.99.

Back from the wars

In an article about John Simpson, the foreign affairs editor of the B.B.C. and war correspondent, Elizabeth Grice wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* on 3 December, 1996: "It has been a bad year for horrors. One way of unwinding when he gets back is to sit in Chelsea Old Church and look up at the 18th-century monuments, letting the violence and suffering ebb away. 'It is quiet and peaceful, somewhere you can sort things out without the need to worry about great spiritual questions [Simpson says]. It is not exactly a religious experience but there is great calmness.'"

The Man who was Nicholas Sprimont

A Chelsea detective story

by Guy Topham

Mystery has always surrounded Chelsea porcelain. The origins of its earliest products and the make-up of the industrial and artistic partnerships that produced them have never been fully understood. Until recently, the exact whereabouts of its factory between Lawrence Street and Old Church Street was debated and no pictorial record of its appearance has been found.

Another mystery was the dominant figure of those mid-18th century years, the Flemish Huguenot silversmith and porcelain manufacturer, Nicholas Sprimont, who seems to have become the sole proprietor after 1757. No portrait of him was known, excepting a miniature said to have been painted of him as a young man but never authenticated and, in any case, lost in a burglary.

Surely "Mr Sprimont, the sole possessor of this rare Porcelaine Secret", as he was described by a contemporary, who mixed constantly with artists, must have had his portrait painted? But, if so, no portrait was known.

Then, twelve years ago, John Mallet, then Keeper of Ceramics at the Victoria & Albert Museum, saw a photograph of a Georgian 'conversation piece' painting. It bore an attribution of Johann Zoffany and showed a man identified as Captain Wynn, connoisseur, with two ladies and he noted that there were several vases in the picture, which he at once recognised as being 'Chelsea' and from the later period when the gold anchor mark was used. Later, he saw the photograph again at the Courtauld Institute's Witt Library but it now seemed obvious to him that the man in the painting could not have been a collector because two of the six vases in the painting were undecorated - and, indeed, a third had been only partially decorated - and would not have been sold as such; indeed, one of them had been partially decorated but the enamelling, or gilding, which would have been applied last, had not been added.

Mallet was intrigued and looked harder at the origins of the painting and its attribution. All the experts on paintings, whom he consulted,

were dismissive of the attribution to Zoffany, whose style is better understood today than in 1932 when the picture had passed through Christie's saleroom and even those auctioneers described it merely as by "Zoffany", without the first name they would have added had they been convinced of his authorship; moreover the identification of the man as Captain Wynn seemed to have arisen only after that auction, probably by an unconvincing comparison with a portrait of Wynn that occurs in another painting that also bore an attribution to Zoffany in the 1930s but which is now known to be by Cosway.

Now Mallet allowed a suspicion that had lurked in his mind since he had first seen the photograph but had held back with scholarly discipline. This was that the man in the painting was Nicholas Sprimont himself.

Having identified the vases in the painting as having been produced in about 1760, he knew that Sprimont would then have been aged forty-four, the approximate age of the painted figure. The man in the picture was somewhat corpulent, was seated as if physically inactive and had swollen legs; Sprimont was known as being "lame" and suffering from "a lingering disorder".

But who could the two women have been? One stood behind his chair, resting a protective hand on his shoulder in the manner of a fond wife, so could she be Ann, whom he had married in 1742? And could the younger woman be his sister-in-law Susanna, of whom he was known to be extremely fond? All three are soberly dressed - at a time of sartorial ostentation - which would befit a well-to-do Huguenot family.

Then, two years ago, Mallet was telephoned by Errol Manners, the Kensington dealer in ceramics, who said that he had just bought a painting with Chelsea porcelain connections while in New York. This was clearly the painting that Mallet now believed to show Nicholas Sprimont. Mallet told Manners what he had deduced and at once got in touch with principal London museums, urging them to buy it. Now he made further deductions: in 'Sprimont's' hand was a pair of scales, which would indicate that he was 'in trade' and might be an allusion to his earlier work as a silversmith.

The sitter seemed to have been involved with the Chelsea porcelain factory and Mallet then considered other possibilities. Could he have been Francis Thomas, the manager who had been accused of financial improprieties at the time of his death at the age of forty-five in 1770? Thomas's gravestone - one of the few relics of the factory's presence in Chelsea - can still be seen in the south aisle of Chelsea Old Church, although its inscription has been almost indecipherable since the bombing of 1941. But the vases dated from 1760, when Thomas would have looked much younger than the man in the painting and, in any

case, he, as manager, would hardly have been shown looking so proprietorially at his vases.

Or could it have been William Duesbury, who acquired the business from Sprimont? But a known silhouette portrait of Duesbury is nothing much like this painting and, in any case, he had introduced new neo-classical designs of vases and would hardly have been painted with his predecessor's stock. So, Mallet - and the museum curators - were convinced that the painting must be that of Nicholas Sprimont.

But now a new problem arose. Although it was now known that the artist was not Zoffany, it was also known that the sitter was probably Sprimont and this, naturally, increased its value. So much did its price rise that the museums declared that they could not afford it and the painting has returned to a private collection in the United States.

Yet now those who believe that Chelsea manufactured the loveliest porcelain ever produced can put a face to the man who made it.

John Mallet lectured to the Chelsea Society on his discovery of the painting in 1996. He has also written a full account of the discovery of this picture entitled 'A painting of Nicholas Sprimont, his Family and his Chelsea Vases' in *Les Cahiers de Mariemont, Numéro Spécial en Hommage à Mireille Jottrand*. Vol. 24/25, pp 76-95. Musée Royale de Mariemont, 1996.

(See illustration, page 39)

What's New at the Library 1996

Additions to the Chelsea Library

Local Studies Collection

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| COHEN, WILLY | <i>Henry James: The War Years 1914-1916</i>
MA Thesis, Hunter College of the City
University of New York. (1964) |
| COUSINS, DONALD | <i>Michelin Building: A Building Study</i>
Architecture Degree Project, Kingston
University. (1996) |
| DENNY, BARBARA | <i>Chelsea Past</i>
Historical Publications. (1996) |

Another mystery: the missing Canaletto

Walking through the magnificent Jacobean rooms at Blickling Hall in Norfolk, the eye of the visitor from Chelsea may be caught by a painting over the chimneypiece in the west turret bedroom. It is at once familiar yet unrecognisable. The eighteenth-century artist has painted a river scene on canvas about three feet square. Beyond the river, red-brick houses stand among trees but none strike a chord of recognition.

But it looks like Chelsea and it is. It is a painting by Giovanni Antonio Canale - usually known as Canaletto - the bicentenary of whose birth falls next year. When one member of the Chelsea Society recently asked a guide to the house about the painting he was told that what he saw was only half of the original. The other half - showing the highly recognisable Royal Hospital and the Rotunda in Ranelagh pleasure-gardens - being in, of all surprising places, Cuba.

So he telephoned the National Trust to ask more about it and, perhaps as a result of this enquiry, the strange story emerged in national newspapers a few days later. This was that there was a mystery: half a great painting was in Blickling, the other half in Havana.

Since then, the National Trust's authority on pictures, Alistair Lang, has been looking into the picture's past and hoping to influence its future. He believes that it was painted on commission when Canaletto was in London in 1751 but the patron changed his mind and the artist was left with a painting measuring eight feet by three, an awkward shape. In July of that year, he exhibited it in a studio off Golden Square in Soho but, it seems, it did not sell and, perhaps in desperation, he himself may have cut it in two.

The halves were eventually sold. The half now at Blickling passed through the hands of several owners before being bought by the Marquess of Lothian of the day, who hung it at Blickling. When the eleventh Marquess left the mansion to the National Trust in 1940, the picture went with it. The half now in Havana was sold at auction in 1802 and finally went to the United States, where it was bought by a Cuban collector, from whom it passed to the National Gallery of Cuba.

Now Alistair Lang is hoping to arrange both halves to be shown together in a special exhibition to celebrate Canaletto's bicentenary either at the National Gallery in Havana, or the National Gallery in London.

(See illustrations, page 38)

A cup of coffee with Don Saltero

by Basil Waters

My most treasured book on Chelsea is *Old Chelsea*, sub-titled *A Summer-Day's Stroll*, whose American author, Benjamin Ellis Martin, wrote with great charm, and deep knowledge on the subject, towards the end of last century. The book's illustrator was Joseph Pennell, and the publishers in 1889, were T. Fisher Unwin of 26 Paternoster Square, London. To give an idea of the author's erudite, and warm prose, I quote verbatim below his historical background to the present No. 16 Cheyne Walk, still-known as Don Saltero's, the name appearing until recent times in black painted italics on one of its entrance pillars.

Mr Martin writes:

"There was an Irish servant of Sir Hans Sloane, one Salter, who established himself in 1695 as a barber in a little house in Cheyne Walk which stood on the site of the present Nos. 17 and 18: 'six doors beyond Manor Street,' contemporary papers say, and I have no doubt this is the correct site. Salter was a thin little man, with a hungry look as of one fond of philosophy or of fretting; and Vice-Admiral Munden, just home from years of service on the Spanish coast, dubbed him, in a freak, Don Saltero, a title he carried to his death. He took in all the papers, and had musical instruments lying about – he himself twanged Don-like the guitar – that his customers might divert themselves while awaiting their turns. His master had given him a lot of rubbish, for which his own house had no more room, as well as duplicates of curiosities of real value in the Museum in Bloomsbury. To these he added others of his own invention: the inevitable bit of the Holy Cross, the pillar to which Jesus was tied when scourged, a necklace of Job's tears; and, as the little barber rhymed in his advertisements in 1723, just after De Foe had set the town talking with his new book –

Monsters of all sorts here are seen
Strange things in Nature as they grew so;
Some relics of the Sheba Queen,
And fragments of the famed Bob Crusoc.

"So that 'my eye was diverted by ten thousand gimcracks on the walls and ceiling,' as Steele puts it in the *Tatler*, describing a Voyage to Chelsea. For Don Saltero's museum, barber's shop, reading-room,

coffee-house had become quite the vogue, and a favourite lounge for men of quality. Old St. Evremond was probably among the first to be shaved here; Richard Cromwell used to come often and sit silently – 'a little, and very neat old man with a most placid countenance, the effect of his innocent and unambitious life.' Steele and Addison and their friends were frequent visitors 'to the Coffee House where the Literati sit in council.' And there came here one day about 1724 or 1725, a young man of eighteen or twenty years, out for a holiday from the printing-press at which he worked in Bartholomew Close – Benjamin Franklin by name, recently arrived from the loyal Colonies of North America, and lodging in Little Britain. He had brought with him to London a purse of asbestos, which Sir Hans Sloane, hearing of, bought at a handsome price, and added to his museum. To this museum he gave the young printer an invitation, and probably told him about Don Saltero's. It was on Franklin's return from there – the party went by river, of course – that he undressed and leapt into the water, and, as he wrote in his letters, 'swam from near Chelsea the whole way to Blackfriars Bridge, exhibiting during the course a variety of feats of activity and address, both upon the surface of the water, as well as under it. This sight occasioned much astonishment and pleasure to those to whom it was new.'

"It is a far cry from Dick Steele to Charles Lamb, yet the latter too makes mention of the 'Don Saltero Tavern' in one of his letters; saying that he had had offered to him, by a fellow clerk in the India House, all the ornaments of its smoking-room, at the time of the auction-sale, when the collection was dispersed.

"This was in 1807, and the place was then turned into a tavern; its original sign 'Don Saltero's, 1695,' in gold letters on a green board – swinging between beams in front, until the demolition of the old house only twenty years ago.

"This house was kept, in 1790, by a Mrs. Mary Jacob, a New England woman, and I have seen a letter from her to her brother in America in which she says, in her old-fashioned spelling: 'I keap a Coffe Hous, which I can Scarcely macke a bit of Bred for myself, but it Ennabels me to keep a home for my Sons.' This letter is prized as a relic by the family, none of whom have any notion of how 'Polly Cummings' – her maiden name in New England – found her way to Chelsea and to Don Saltero's!"

The author ends his book with the following words: "The puffing tug shrieks and puts to flight these vagrant fancies of an American, sentimentalizing in Chelsea; and so ends his stroll, his returning footsteps echoing the words of Goethe, and reminding him that, after all, 'You find in Rome only what you take there.'"

Derek Watson Moves On

During the fourteen years that Derek Watson was Rector of Chelsea, he managed to influence many facets of local life. One of his earlier but highly visible and long-lasting works was the restoration of St Luke's Church in Sydney Street. This daunting - to many overwhelming - task was led by Derek: raising £1.5 million, overseeing the building work, the safety of the tower and the overall refurbishment - all of which took several years to complete. When the crypt was cleared, the forgotten finials were found and restored to their proper place at the sides of the main roof. It was astonishing what a pleasing balance these fragile objects gave to this listed building. The refurbishment of the crypt area has provided much-needed space for the Parish Office and local voluntary organisations.

The next task was the union of Christ Church with St Luke's. This was instigated by Derek, helped by the clergy at Christ Church, and today means not only bigger congregations but also as many as five services on Sundays and additional weekly services. St Luke's congregation is drawn from a wide area, whereas Christ Church has a strong focus around the school - although it is probably the good sermons which have a strong appeal. Both churches from time to time join fellow Christians of different traditions through the East Chelsea Community Contact organisation and other activities.

About four years ago, when Derek was speaking to an East Chelsonian, he found they knew nothing of the World's End and South West Chelsea. This was the spark which started the annual summer Chelsea Festival, in which the aim is to represent the many aspects of Chelsea life. As chairman of the organising Festival committee, Derek was able to achieve this aim. Through our chairman, the Society has contributed to the Festival by imaginative exhibitions at the Old Town Hall, such as this year's Blue Plaques Exhibition.

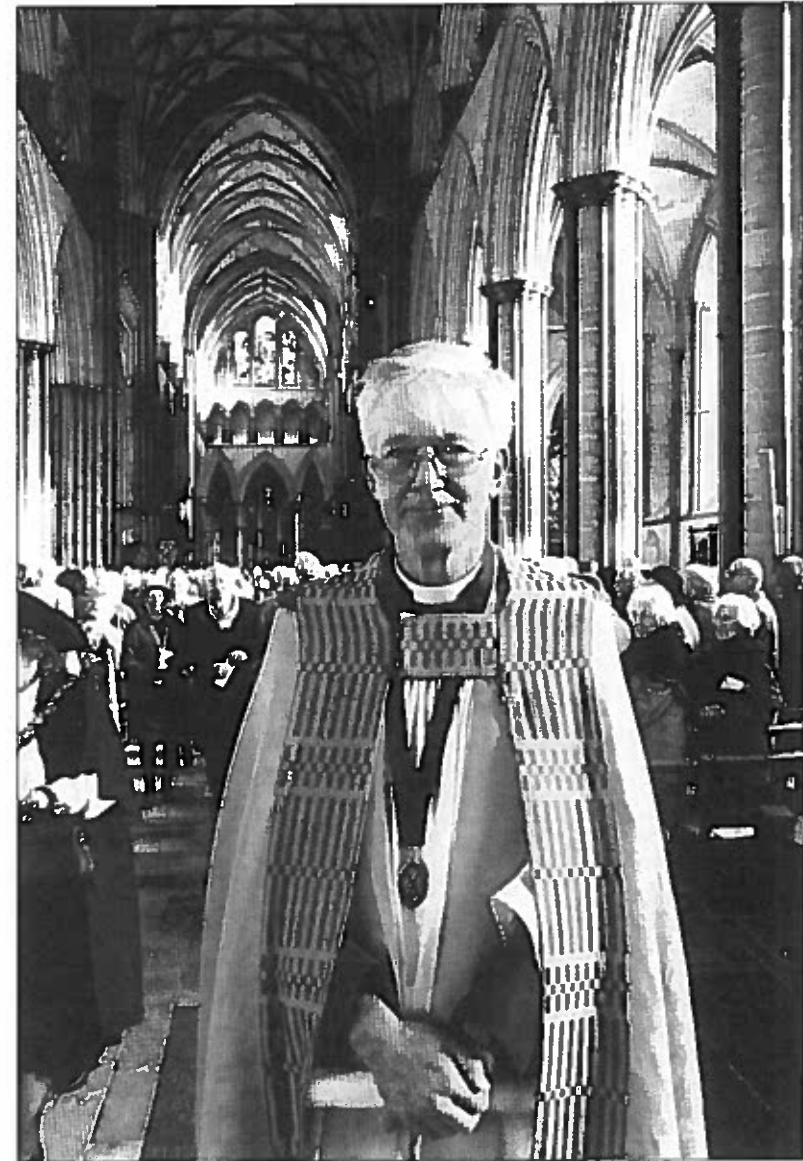
Derek is a member of the Society and was for some time a member of our Council. We hope he will retain his interest in Chelsea through the Society.

When Derek left to take up his new appointment as Dean of Salisbury, on which we heartily congratulate him, we trust that the beautiful spire of Salisbury Cathedral is in good shape and that as Dean he will not have to again deal with such a large restoration project.

Derek will be missed by a great many people - having influenced the Chelsea scene for over a decade. The Society sends its sincere good wishes to both him and Sheila, who was herself ordained and took services during their time here, for much happiness and success in their new life.

Joan Hayes

(See illustration opposite)

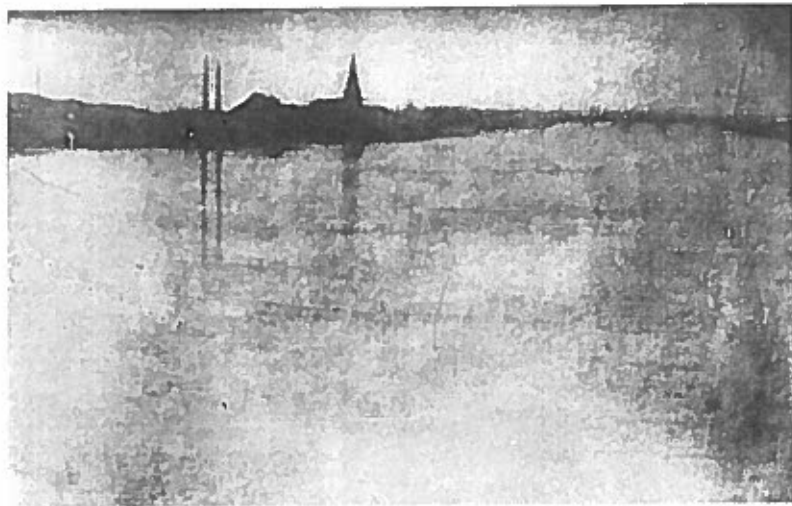


From Sydney Street to Salisbury: The Very Reverend Derek Watson, formerly Rector of Chelsea, in Salisbury Cathedral after his installation as Dean on 23 November, 1996. (See opposite.)

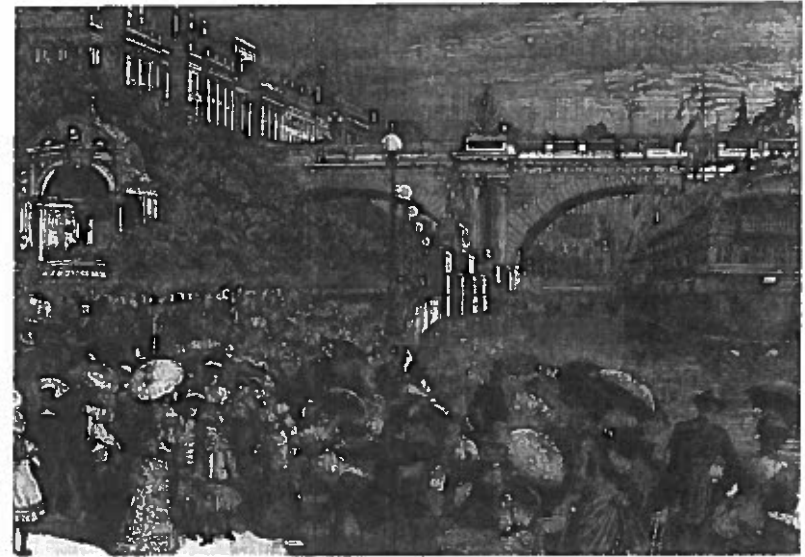
Photograph by courtesy of the Salisbury Journal.



Lost: the famous view of St. Mary's Church, Battersea, from Chelsea, more fully revealed after the demolition of the flour mills but soon to be lost by the building of Lord Rogers' twenty-storey tower of luxurious flats.



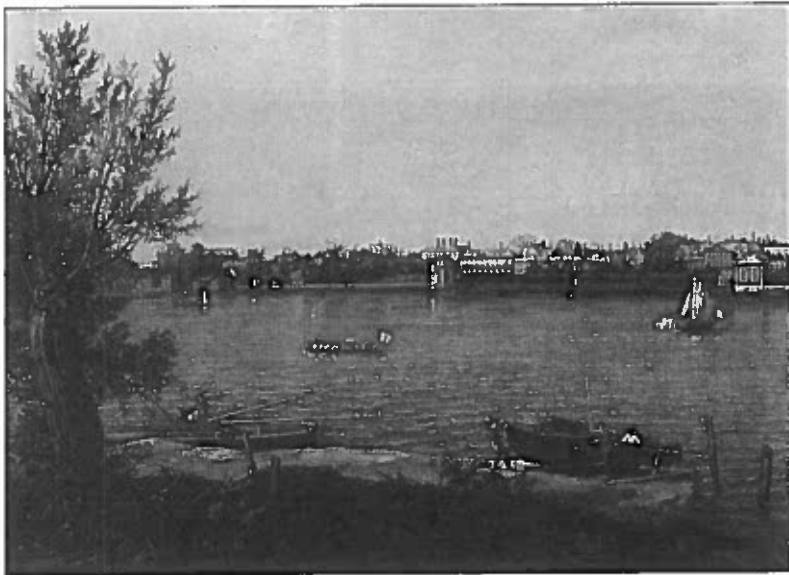
*Remembered: the same view painted, c.1870, by the Chelsea waterman-artist Walter Greaves after a similar painting by his friend Whistler. Reproduced in Joseph and Elizabeth Pennell's *The Whistler Journal* (1921); now owned by a member of the Chelsea Society.*



'The Thames Embankment as it might be: A Suggestive Sketch'. A fanciful Victorian engraving (c.1875) of the new riverside corniche as the artist imagined.

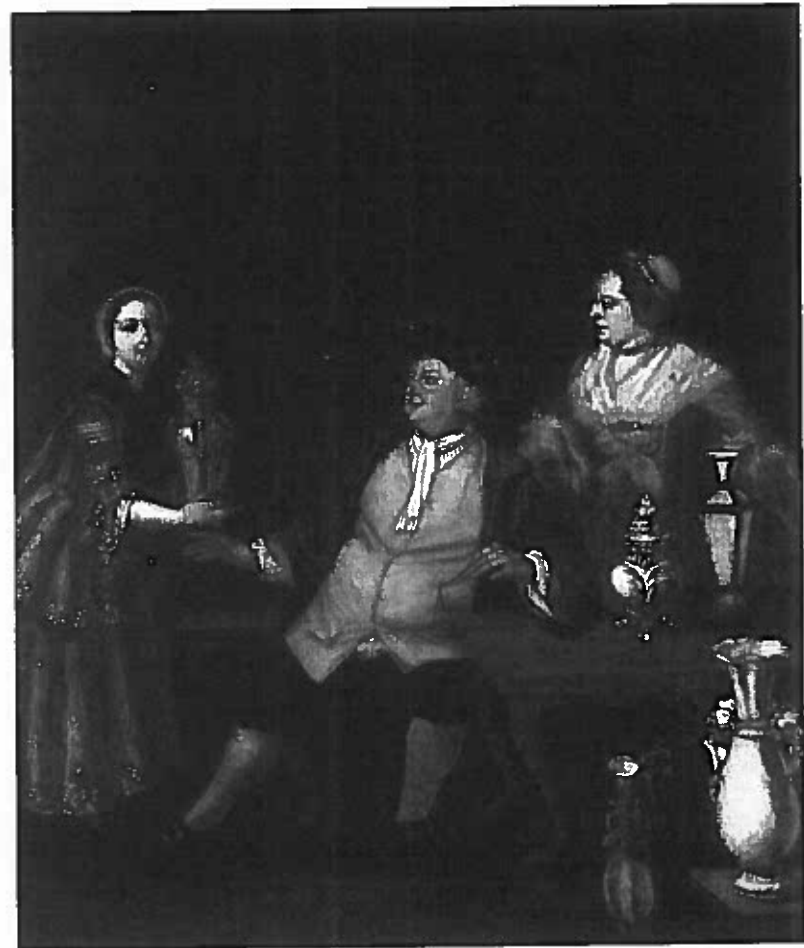
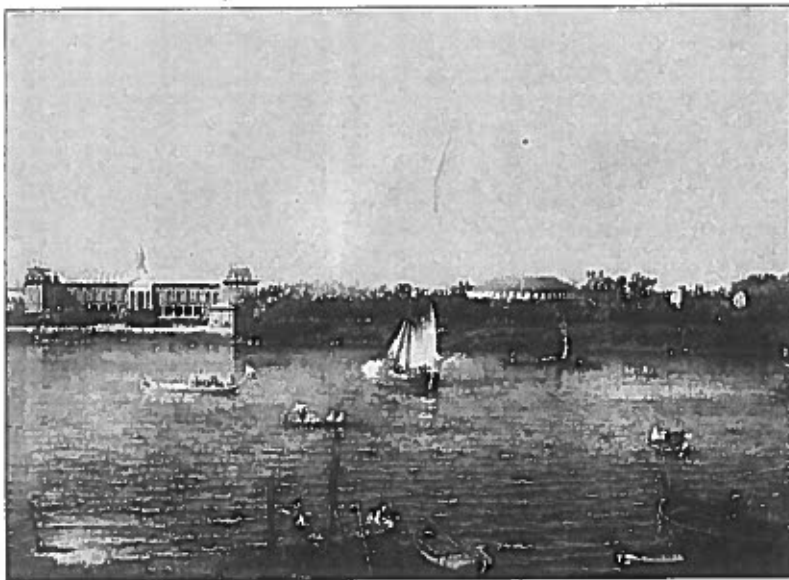


Any hope of a renaissance? Trams crossed Battersea Bridge to Beaufort Street – as seen here – even after the end of the Second World War. (See page 23)



Divided by the Atlantic: the two halves of the Canaletto painting of Chelsea. Above, the half now hanging at Blickling Hall in Norfolk; below, the half now in the National Gallery of Cuba, which shows the Royal Hospital and the Rotunda in Ranelagh pleasure-gardens. The halves may be temporarily reunited to celebrate the artist's bicentenary next year, either in London or Havana. (See page 31)

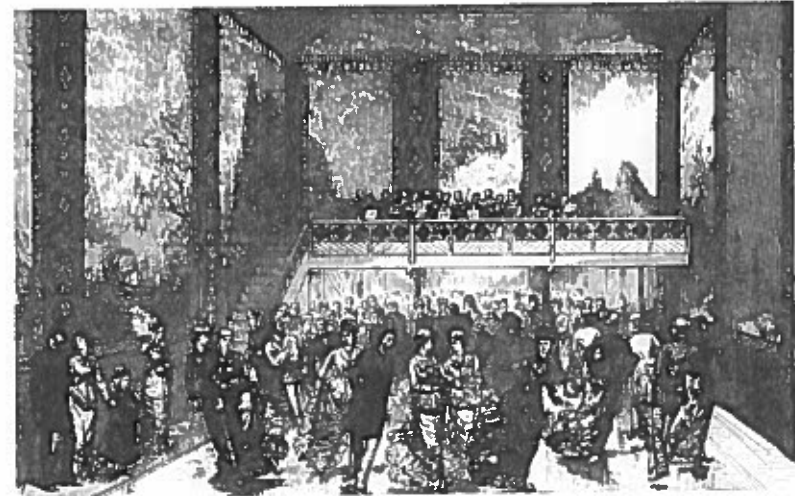
Photography by courtesy of the National Trust, the National Gallery of Cuba and Rex Features.



Was this man the genius of Chelsea porcelain? Has John Mallet, the great authority on ceramics, found a lost portrait of Nicholas Sprimont? The detective story that led to his discovery is told on pages 28-30.



A forgotten Chelsea artist remembered. The work of William Robert Hay (b.1886) was the subject of an exhibition, 'Children and Other People', presented by Anthony Mould and Thomas Williams at the Harari and Johns Gallery, St. James's. Above, two of his young models (c.1920); below, the view of Lawrence Street from his studio at the corner of Justice Walk in 1923. (See page 56.)



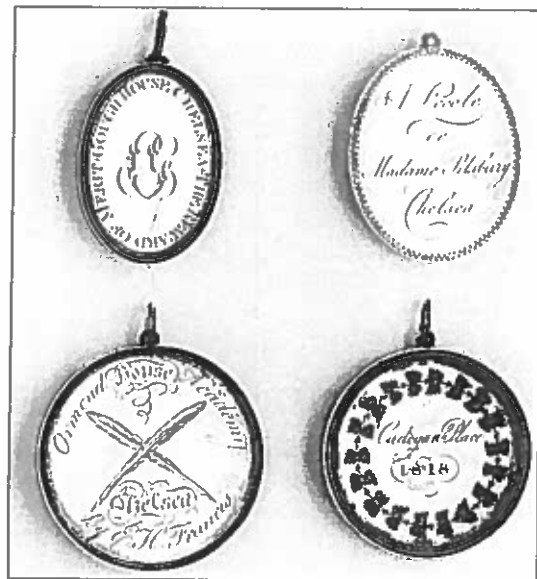
Not remembered, even by the oldest inhabitant. The Glaciarium skating-rink as seen in the Illustrated London News in 1876. Opened by John Gamgee in Milmans Street as a rival to another, established a year earlier on the corner of Royal Avenue, he boasted of its 'real ice'. An illustration from Chelsea Past. (see page 55).



Remembered by the over-sixties. The roofed Underground station at Sloane Square in the 1920s with the Westbourne river flowing through its pipe above the lines. The roof was destroyed in the November, 1940 bombing. Another illustration from Chelsea Past.



The forgotten schools, described in Simon Bendall's article (see opposite), remembered by the medals they struck. Undated medal from Gough House, hallmarked 1812-13 (top left in both illustrations); Mrs Pillsbury's school, Lawrence Street, undated (top right in both illustrations); Writing prize from Ormond House Academy, 1815 (bottom left in both illustrations); Cadogan Place school, 1818 (bottom right in both illustrations).



The forgotten schools of Chelsea

by Simon Bendall

The salubrious village of Chelsea with its "sweet air" was a popular site for private schools in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. How many has perhaps not hitherto been appreciated.

A document of prime importance is the manuscript book entitled *Population Book of St. Lukes Parish, Chelsea, Middlesex, 1801*, which is held in the Chelsea Public Library. This lists every householder, street by street, giving the number of families living in each house together with the number of males and females and how many of the residents are engaged in trade or agriculture.

There are eight schools specifically listed – that is, with the word "school" after the householder's name. The details given, for example, for "Thomas Pemberton (school)" are a single family, only two resident males and seventy-two females, none of whom are engaged in trade and agriculture. In checking through the *Population Book*, there are a further sixteen addresses which have the same criteria, (i.e. one family and many more either males or females than might normally be expected in a single family, none of whom are engaged in trade or industry), but without being designated schools. Since there is independent evidence for eleven of these sixteen establishments as well as for one not in the *Population Book*, there seems little doubt but that in 1801 Chelsea contained over two dozen schools.

There are a number of entries in the *Population Book* which may represent very small schools for which we have no corroborative evidence. The entries "Garden Row. John Mowatt. 1 family; 1 male; 11 females" and "Hans Place. James Trant. 1 family; 1 male; 9 females" are typical of several. Some comparable entries are definitely not schools – a titled householder lists eight females but these will certainly have been his wife, daughter(s) and servants.

All girls' schools were conducted by women and boys' schools by men. The only apparent deviation from this rule seems to have been the school of Dr. Weedon Butler (see below). Some schools were very small, with perhaps only a dozen pupils. The largest school was Mrs Pemberton's ladies' boarding school in Gough House which lists seventy-two females. It should be noted that this figure would include

Mrs Pemberton and other female staff who lived in so that the number of pupils may only have been in the mid-sixties.

Cross referencing with the Poor Rate book does not add much. Only two of the establishments are noted as being schools and although the population is listed street by street, street numbers are very rarely given. It should be noted that the street numbers of 1801 are not the same as those of today.

The schools are listed below in three categories: those described as schools in the *Population Book*; those in the *Population Book* not so described; and schools not in the *Population Book*. The entries in the *Population Book* run through Chelsea from west to east.

I. Listed as schools in the *Population Book*

Little Cheyne Row

Thomas Edwards, school; 1 family; 47 males; 6 females.

Listed in Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1805-7 as "Edwards, Thomas, academy, Little Cheyne Row". By 1829 the school was run by the Rev. D. Felix. Beaver calls the establishment "Cheyne House". The Rate Book gives no street number but does indicate that Edwards occupied two houses.

Paradise Row

Thomas Pemberton (school); 1 family; 2 females; 72 females.

Entered in Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1805-7 as "Pemberton, ladies boarding school, Gough House, Chelsea, 1s." and in Holden's *Directory* for 1811, where the directory was divided into two sections – trade and private – the entry "Mrs. Mary Pemberton, Gough House, Paradise Row, Chelsea" appears in the private section although the school was still operating. The "1s." in the earlier entry indicates that a subscription fee of a shilling was paid for the directory which retailed at 20 shillings.

Gough House was one of the more famous and long-lived of Chelsea schools. Davies and Walters, in *Tickets and Passes of Great Britain and Ireland*, say that a Mrs. Greenhole kept a boarding house at Gough House. She is listed in Barfoot and Wilkes' *Directory* of 1793 as keeping a "Ladies Boarding School" in Chelsea. Mrs Pemberton was running the school by 1801. The Pembertons had obviously been living in Chelsea for some time since Mr. Pemberton had acted as Master of Ceremonies at an event in Ranelagh Gardens in 1792.

Thomas Pemberton had been a Clerk in the service of the East India Company and died in Gough House in 1801 "after a long and tedious confinement to his room". Mrs. Pemberton died in 1815, aged 77. She was described as "this blameless, modest, diffident and excellent woman.... Many a husband owes to her more than common care the happiness of his own existence, and the greatest ornament of his family; for, emulous of so mild and sweet a pattern, her numerous pupils are qualified and well instructed for all the duties of domestic society. Amiable by nature, virtuous by habit, religious by principle, Mrs. Pemberton lived and died a Christian."

Her daughter continued to run the school until at least 1827. Later it became a boys' school run by Dr. Wilson.

There exist at least seven silver medals issued by the school, ranging from 1789 until 1827 (see p.42)

Durham Place

John Oiseau, a school. 1 family; 12 males; 5 females.

This was Durham House Academy. The *Population Book* gives the address of Mr. Oiseau's school as Durham Place but Beaver says that Durham House was in Smith Street facing Burtons Court.

Apparently the school was not remarkable until it fell into the hands of M. Clement, a French gentleman of considerable merit who "succeeded in putting it on a respectable footing". He had died by the time Faulkner published in 1829 and was succeeded before 1818 by another Frenchman, Dr. Granet, who continued M. Clement's plan of education. Dr Hector Granet's was the only school that advertised in Johnstone's *Directory* of 1818, where his school is described as a "Classical and Commercial Academy". When Faulkner wrote, the school had 40-50 pupils noted as "sons or nearly related to the nobility" who were prepared for the public schools and the military and naval Colleges.

Wilderness Row

John Simpson, a school. 1 family; 34 males; 3 females.

In Holden's *Triennial Directories* for 1802-4 and 1805-7 appears the same entry: "Simpson, John, Naval and Commercial Academy, Clarence House", with a shilling subscription in the first directory. In Holden's *Directory* for 1811 the entry merely reads "Simpson, John, schoolmaster, Clarence House, Chelsea" in the trade section. The school was continued as Clarence House Academy by a Mr Law who subscribed to the 1829 edition of Faulkner's *Historical and topographical Description of Chelsea and its Environs*.

Sloane Street

Ann Vaughan (school). 1 family; 32 females.

Listed in Holden's *Triennial Directory* 1802-4 as "Vaughan, Ann, Ladies Boarding School, 17 Sloane Street, 1s." In the private section of the 1811 directory she is merely listed as "Mrs. Vaughan, 17 Sloane Street".

Sloane Street

Frances Benson (school). 1 family; 15 males.

Not recorded in any directory. This seems generally to be the case with schools of the smaller size. The Rate Book indicates that she resided at No. 29.

Sloane Street

Rev. Evan Harris (school). 1 family; 13 males; 7 females.

This school had been in existence since at least 1788 when it was noted that

the rules of grammar were taught by kindness rather than severity. (VCH Middlesex I, 246). Listed as a school in the Rate Book at No. 32.

Sloane Street

Caroline Satis, (school). 1 family; 22 females.

In Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1802-4 listed as "Satis. Mrs., ladies boarding school, 123 Sloane Street". Listed next to the Rev. Harris' school (q.v.) in the *Population Book*; presumably therefore either next door or opposite to it.

II Schools not so described in the *Population Book*.

Church Lane West

Sarah Dutch. 1 family; 2 males; 27 females

No other record.

South Row

Stephen Freeboro'. 1 family; 1 male; 29 females.

No other record. The Rate Book indicates that Freeboro' occupied two adjacent houses at 17 and 18.

Church Lane East

Thomas Malleison. 1 family; 1 male; 19 females.

In Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1802-4 there is listed "Mrs Malleison's Ladies Boarding School, Prospect Place Chelsea". Church Lane East is west of Lawrence Street while Prospect Place is adjacent to Ranelagh Gardens. Perhaps the school moved between 1801 and 1802. Prospect Place is not even listed in the Rate Book, nor is Malleison listed in Church Lane West.

Lawrence Street

Thomas Pilsbury. 1 family; 43 males; 5 females.

In both Holden's *Triennial Directories* for 1802-4 and 1805-7 it is listed as "Pilsbury, Mrs., Ladies Boarding School, Lawrence Street, Chelsea". A. Beaver's *Memorials of Old Chelsea* states "Monmouth House, or part of it, was occupied as a boarding school by Mrs. Pilsbury. It afterwards fell into Chancery and eventually being in a very ruinous condition, it was ordered to be removed". This occurred in 1835 but Faulkner noted that it was a scene of desolation and ruin by 1829.

It is strange that while the directories describe the school as a Ladies' Boarding School, the *Population Book* lists 43 males and only 5 females. This is probably a clerk's error in writing down the figures in the *Population Book* since boys' schools were generally conducted by men.

The Rate Book indicates that Mr. Pilsbury paid rates on a garden on the Kings Road.

A unique and undated medal exists for the School (p. 42) reading "A L'ecole de Madame Pilsbury, Chelsea" and "Pour L'emulation Francoise [sic], M. Storer".

There had existed a girls' school in Lawrence Street by 1750 run by Mr.

and Mrs. Philips which was popular. The usual subjects were taught "with strict care for sound morals, virtuous principles, and graceful behaviour, at modest rates".

Lawrence Street

Robert Farrer. 1 family; 43 males; 5 females.

Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1802-4 lists this as "Farrer, Robert, academy, Lawrence St., Chelsea". The entry was not repeated in the directory for 1805-7.

Cheyne Row

Hannah Barker and Ann Murray. 1 family; 4 males; 16 females.

This school was entered in the triennial directories for 1802-4 and 1805-7 with the same entry, "Barker and Murray, preparatory school, 8 Cheyne Row" with a shilling subscription for the first entry.

Cheyne Walk

Dr. Weedon Butler. 1 family; 6 males; 21 females.

The Classical School started by Dr. Butler in the late 1770s occupied No. 6 Cheyne Walk which had previously been the sanatorium of Dr. Dominiceti. Dr Weedon had been the amanuensis of Dr. William Dodd until the latter's execution for forgery in 1777. Dr. Butler became the chaplain to the Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria's father. He ran the school until his retirement in 1814 when he was succeeded by his younger son of the same name, who had been his classical assistant since c.1795. Dr. Weedon Butler was listed, without reference to his school, in the private section of Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1805-7.

We have noted that it was unusual for a man to conduct a girls' school and since this was a 'Classical School' and girls were not noted for receiving a classical education at this time, it is possible that the clerk transposed the figures of males and females in the *Population Book*.

Paradise Row

William Garrard. 1 family; 15 males; 4 females.

Holden's *Triennial Directories* for 1802-4 and 1805-7 carry the same entry except that the earlier includes the shilling subscription, "Garrard, William, Navy Academy, Ormond House, Chelsea". This school was founded in 1777 as the Maritime School by a group of people including Jonas Hanway, who seems to have been the leading spirit. Even before his death in 1786 the school had been transferred to two of the masters, Isaac Dalby and Henry Fox. By 1782 Dalby seems to have been replaced by J. Bettesworth since in that year Bettesworth and Fox published a plan for the Naval Academy. Bettesworth was the mathematics and navigation master at the school in 1781 and seems to have later become the sole proprietor but as we can see, it was by 1801 run by William Garrard. Bettesworth must have retired or sold out since he was still living. The Rate Book lists him as living in Paradise Row in 1801. While it still prepared pupils for a nautical career, the curriculum had become more general. The school as Ormond Academy

continued for several years. Illustrated as Fig. 3 is a medal from the academy hallmarked 1815. Faulkner in 1829 noted that "the House has for many years been occupied as a school; and whilst it was conducted by the late Mr. Bettesworth it enjoyed a most distinguished reputation as the best Institution for maritime education. The academy is now successfully conducted by Mr. Francis". It is interesting to note that in the early years of the nineteenth century a Miss Mary Ann Bettesworth ran a preparatory school in Parsons Green.

Beaver noted that when it was the Maritime School, the Captain (head boy) wore a medal inscribed "The Maritime School, Chelsea. The Captain. We hope for Glory". The Lieutenant wore a similar medal.

Chelsea Common and near

Thomas Whiting. 1 family; 54 males; 4 females.

In Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1802-4 he appears as "Whiting, Thomas, academy, Union Row, Chelsea", while by the 1805-7 edition he has become "Whiting, Thomas, Keppel House Academy, Chelsea Common" and in the 1811 directory the same entry except that the address has changed from Chelsea Common to Keppel House Academy, New Brompton. This did not mean a change of address. Brompton Road ran along the north side of what had been Chelsea Common. The school taught a broad course of education including "astronomy, navigation and the whole system of mathematics".

Kings Road and near

Eliza Veitch, 1 family; 1 male; 24 females.

Listed in Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1802-4 as "Veitch, Eliza, ladies boarding school, Whitelands House, Kings Road, Chelsea". There seems to be no record of this establishment in the Rate Books.

Nelson's niece, Charlotte Nelson, was one of some twenty pupils here during these years. There was already a girls' school on the site in 1772 when the Rev. John Jenkins lectured on "Female Education and Christian Fortitude under Affliction". After Mrs. Veitch, the school was run by the Misses Babington, one of whom may earlier have run a school in Sloane Street (see below). The School was bought in 1842 by the Society for the Training of School Teachers and became Whitelands Teaching College.

Whether Mrs. Veitch was related to the family of Chelsea nurserymen is uncertain since the latter family apparently only moved to Chelsea from the Exeter region in 1853. Perhaps she was related to Dr. Veitch who was physician to the Chelsea, Brompton and Belgrave Dispensary. The Dispensary, situated on the south side of Sloane Square, was established in 1812 for the relief of the industrious labourer, artisan and servant.

Wilderness Row

Elizabeth Pengree. 1 family; 4 males; 35 females.

Listed in Holden's *Triennial Directory* for 1802-4 as "Mrs. Pengree, Ladies Boarding House, Prospect House, Chelsea". She subscribed a shilling to the directory of 1805-7 where the entry reads "Pengree, ladies' boarding school, Prospect House, Ranelagh, 1s."

Prospect House, adjacent to Ranelagh Gardens, seems to have been built in the middle of the eighteenth century by Sir Thomas Robinson who was a major shareholder in Ranelagh Gardens. Robinson seems later to have moved to Ranelagh House, which had been built at the end of the seventeenth century by the Earl of Ranelagh. Both Prospect House and the Rotunda at Ranelagh were pulled down in 1805 no doubt necessitating the removal of Mrs. Pengree to Clapham where she appears in Holden's 1811 directory as "Pengree, Mrs., boarding school, Clapham Rise". In the Rate Book she is listed as occupying three houses in Wilderness Row.

Garden Row

Sarah Fernside. 1 family; 3 males; 59 females.

It is strange that there are no other records for such a large establishment. In the Rate Book, Jonathan Fernside is listed under "in or near Greens Row".

Sloane Street

Susannah Stewart. 1 family; 25 females.

No other record. Recorded at No. 31 in the Rate Book.

Sloane Street

Sarah Rhodes Bratt. 1 family; 26 females.

Entered in trade directories until at least 1808, at first as "Mrs. Brat, ladies boarding school, Sloane House, Sloane St. 1s." Later the address is merely given as 48 Sloane St.

Sloane Street

Ann Babington. 1 family; 44 females.

Listed in Holden's *Triennial Directories* between 1802 and 1808 as "Babington, Miss A., ladies' boarding school, 103 Sloane St. 1s."

Possibly one of the two sisters who later took over Mrs. Veitch's school at Whitelands House.

Hans Place

Dominique St. Quentin. 1 family; 1 male; 22 females.

St Quentin is listed in the 1802-4 directory in the private section merely as "St Quentin D., Esq., 22, Hans-place, Sloane St."

146 Sloane Street

The Misses Dubourg's Boarding School, 1816.

In the first quarter of 1816, Francis Dubourg became a tenant at 146 Sloane Street, his two daughters opening a boarding school at that address. One of its first pupils was Edgar Allan, later to become Edgar Allan Poe, who resided there all of 1816 and half of 1817. He had arrived in London from Richmond, Virginia, with his father who had come to open an office of the family firm, Allan and Ellis. At the same time (1816-17), George Dubourg, brother of Edgar's two school mistresses, was employed in Allan and Ellis' city office as a book-keeper and copyist.

There exists a bill for Edgar's second quarter of schooling. Board and

tuition was £7. 17s. 6d. and Mr Allan paid an extra £1. 1s. 0d. for a separate bed. Washing was 10/6d. and 3s. was paid for a seat in the Church. The total was £12. 2s. 0d. The school stood on the site of the Midland Bank at the corner of Sloane Street and Sloane Square.

Many years later Poe used the name Pauline Dubourg as a character in *Murders in the Rue Morgue*.

III. Schools not in the *Population Book*.

Unnamed school in Cadogan Place, 1818

Illustrated by a medal (p. 42) which does not name the school. The star contains a globe, quill pens and other scholastic equipment. The makers were T. and J. Phipps who are known makers of other school medals including those of Gough House and Ormond House on p. 42.

An examination of the quarterly rate books for Cadogan Place for 1818 does not reveal anything. The school does not appear in the *Population Book* since Cadogan Place was not yet built while without knowing the name of the proprietor it cannot at present be found in the trade directories.

Westminster Archives in St. Anne Street, who have been very helpful in my researches, as have the staff of Chelsea Reference Library, advise that the directories will eventually be put on CD ROM when it will be possible to summon up all entries under the heading "school or academy" which should advance research considerably.

Works consulted:

Thomas Faulkner: *Historical and Topographical Description of Chelsea and its Environs* (1829)

Victoria County History of Middlesex, Vol. I. Article on private education.

M.E. Grimshaw, Fellow Emerita of Newnham College, *Pre-Victorian Silver School Medals Awarded to Girls in Great Britain* (Cambridge, 1985).

S. Bendall: 'A Memento of Chelsea's Maritime School' (Chelsea Society Report, 1987).

Tom Pocock: 'Nelson in Chelsea' (Chelsea Society Report, 1987).

Where we live, '41 *A look at Chelsea, outdoors and* *indoors, 55 years ago*

by Andrew Butler

Architect, painter and veteran of the First World War, Andrew Butler was surveyor of bomb damage for Chelsea Borough Council throughout the Blitz. His artist's eye recorded the detail of what he saw and he later described this in his little book, Recording Ruin, published in 1942. Here he writes about the look of Chelsea at that time...

April 13th, 1941

A number of places in Chelsea are beginning to grow on me. These spring mornings bring out their charm. Possibly this is enhanced by the rather deserted look many of the streets and squares have developed; and a kind of dowdiness, due to the omission of its usual painting and touching-up, gives the scene - here and there - a quality which you find in towns recognized as picturesque. I have found that, walking about incessantly in a confined area, I go as often as possible by a route which I like rather than by one which is quite the most direct. This wastes perhaps a minute and a half of government time, but the stimulus it gives me is worth that. For instance, if St. Leonard's Terrace comes between me and an objective - even slightly crookedly - I go along it rather than by the more crowded and noisy King's Road. These Georgian homes, so sharply competed for in the old days, are now resting; and most of them have that drawn-blind and rather stuffed look which suggests that their owners are not dead but eating heartily in their country seats. That patch of garden - often paved and exotically planted - which a number of the houses have in front of them adds to the air of elegant seclusion; and an odd cherry tree or flowering shrub flicks its shadows across the beautiful doorways repeated on half-a-dozen fronts. The houses, too, are never quite the same. They vary considerably in height. But they are uniform enough to make you suspect - though wrongly - a single design for the series. That is as it should be in a street. This one is most agreeable to walk along in the morning. Its aspect is south with a bit of east in it, so that you get all the sun's warmth radiated at you from the mellow brick.

Then there's Swan Walk, that short road by the Botanic Garden which is so like one in a country town where the leading inhabitants reside. Some of the houses there are so individual and so attractive I

wonder always who is inside and imagine them as relatively happy. Or Margaretta Terrace, behind the backs of Oakley Street and so consoling after that dull hard thoroughfare. It gets less sun and air than Swan Walk and no view at all into open space or trees, yet it has the same pleasant feeling and suggests a place where gentle spinster ladies live and even know each other. So does Oakley Gardens round the corner. On a hot sunny afternoon – preferably in August – these stucco houses have just a little of that inviting secret look you get in the small white squares of a French provincial town, where minor officials exchange compliments with their neighbours' wives and the higher clergy doze behind shutters after déjeuner.

I like Sloane Street too, though it's rather long. It does a clever trick by starting as a two-sided street then expanding for a quite rural stretch across Pont Street where, again, the morning sun on the broad pavement fortifies you to struggle through the upper vortex with its alluring shops on either side. Rather like Princes Street in Edinburgh, but in a much gentler form and less smitten by the wind. And Hans Place is excellent in shape and size, yet spoilt by the great height of many of its houses, toughly built in a hard red brick with terracotta twiddles. If the note of the mid-Victorian ones – with their four quiet storeys – had been kept, instead of all the loud Edwardian clamour, this would have been one of the best places to live in and to look at in London. Like Carlyle Square, which almost brings it off in a more humble way and well beyond the zone of fashion. For here you get charm based, I am sure, on right proportion between its length and breadth and the relation of both to the height of the houses. Not very distinguished houses, but decent, with jolly rooms to live in. The open end at the south, where buses hurtle past, makes you feel that this square is not a backwater but only a little withdrawn and justly residential. These – and Cheyne Walk, of course – are to me oases in the Borough area. All the rest is dull. One does not look at it; though there are spots where a single building like the Chenil Galleries front or Argyll House or the group in Cheyne Row catch the eye. There are also two notable churches I enjoy.

One is St. Luke's. It is the parish church, built about 1820 in a sort of sexless Gothic. I had never dreamt of looking inside, being discouraged by the smooth skimpiness of the exterior. But I went in today, on the way home, and was surprised. It has an excellent shape and much dignity in its design. Somehow it reminded me of the church of St. Ouen at Rouen, with its chaste loftiness. I should like to spend a thousand or two touching it up and putting a little more colour in its windows. In fact, I admired it very much. But I admire the Albert Memorial – in a mist – and may be wrong.

The other is the Old Church, in Cheyne Walk, with its rusty brick

tower focalizing all the charm of that neighbourhood. Its interior too is delightful, in quite a different way to St. Luke's. I like so much the wide low space almost like a comfortable room; and the monuments and things stuck about rather incongruously heighten the domestic note. This is one of the few buildings in London – like St. James's Palace – about which one is never sure of the date. They may be Plantagenet, or Tudor, or Victorian imitating both; but it matters hardly at all because, as in the case of this church, the colour and texture of its stumpy human shapes, embodying a lot of local English history, are what affects one. It would be awful if it was destroyed, because it would be impossible to re-create all that.

And some places really upset me. Pont Street, a little. They should have done better with all that money. The grey chasms of Elm Park Gardens, too, are certainly not worth dying for, nor the monotonous dimness of Uperne Road. But perhaps the worst is Slaidburn Street – a long narrow cul-de-sac, with tallish houses close together and doors opening straight on the pavement. I had to go there yesterday to see a house. The poor people are so huddled that they have to hang their washing on the stairs. It quite impeded me going up; and, at the top, a fierce chow began attacking me until a woman's voice, from behind the pendent underwear, shouted "Now, now, Winston!" and the dog became friendly. We all felt nice and united after that....

Butler is called to inspect a block of flats, which has been bombed, and he writes:

Take a typical drawing-room in one of these flats, probably belonging to an old-fashioned and comfortably-off couple. The walls covered almost entirely with pictures, chiefly of sentimental value only. A thick carpet with mats on top of it. An elaborate brass fender requiring constant polish. Two sofas, several armchairs and a large number of odd chairs standing about all over the room, most often with elaborate arms and legs inviting dust. One small bookcase, glass-fronted and holding the memoirs of colonial officials and books on shooting. On top of this, two large vases with flowers and five or six framed photographs, standing in echelon. A green lacquer cabinet on a stand with gilt legs, very fine and rich, with a large Chinese pot on it and more flowers in that. Then two occasional tables, both with spindly legs and glass tops and precious things inside – snuff-boxes, rings, little ivory plaques, with a fan or two. And a thing the French call a vitrine – a glass cabinet on legs with rare pieces of china on its shelves and a bit of carved jade or a jewelled and painted box. Finally, a small and elegant writing-table with drawers at each side shaped to its pretty curling front, with a silver-covered blotter on it and behind the blotter

a receptacle for notepaper, delicately made in rosewood. A large ink-pot - well-filled - stood beside that and a big framed photograph of a girl in court-dress, looking happy and signed in a scrawled hand "your loving Marcia." Imagine all that, nice and tidy and dusted daily, with the Colonel's papers properly folded on a small Sheraton table by his chair. And all the pretty things on the mantelshelf - a gilt French clock ticking drowsily with two Bristol vases in support and flickering their hanging lustres whenever the thick door of the room opened and created the suspicion of a draught. Then - just to make it human - an invitation card to a party tucked behind one vase and a box of Egyptian cigarettes lying open, with two - or perhaps three - of them only smoked.

Then visualize it wrecked as I found it. All the plaster off the ceiling, of course; the door just splinters and the windows voids. Plaster off the walls too - bulged inwards by the blast and knocking everything towards the centre of the room, so that the cigarettes on the mantelshelf had met and mingled with the ink from the writing-table in a final mêlée, destroying both. That writing-table, too, had its back broken and its drawers were burst open on the floor, so that I saw - projecting from the usual plaster filth - bundles of old letters, receipts and documents which looked like Securities and Insurance certificates or even Wills. The vitrine, in a French frenzy, had flung itself face downwards, bursting - as it were - in petulant imitation of these splendid bombs, but killing itself and all it contained, so that there was an intermingled mass of Old Chelsea, Spode and Worcester vomited on the carpet. I walked on powdered Sèvres and caught my foot in something hard and cutting which was Marcia's crumpled silver frame and her photograph torn across. The whole muddle was so hateful that - for an instant - I almost hoped the owners of these things had perished too, so as to save them the business of unravelling their affairs as well as discovering what they still possessed.

That was not the only desperate room I saw yesterday....

April 17th, 1941

Well, we copped it last night. That is the verb, I think. I've got worms in the head with all the noise, and my legs won't quite walk....

I bicycled home along the Embankment. It was some relief to get the air from the river then at full-tide; and the swift moving on that wide and empty road pulled me together. But only for a few minutes. The effect of the tonic was dispelled when I saw what they have done to the Old Church in Cheyne Walk. It twitched the heart to look at it; and a small group of people were standing by the barrier across the road like mourners at the grave of Chelsea's first monument.

[Chelsea Old Church was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 1958]

Reviews

Books

**Chelsea Past by Barbara Denny.
(Historical Publications, £14.95)**

Everybody living in Chelsea knows that we walk with ghosts. Sir Thomas More, Tobias Smollett, Thomas Carlyle and artists without number are amongst the illustrious throng that crowd the streets in imagination's eye. Understandably, Chelsea's printed histories from Thomas Faulkner to William Gaunt and Thea Holme give them priority in telling the story of our square mile. But now Barbara Denny has done better than most by combining the historical celebrities with their less famous but also important contemporaries, who were just as responsible for giving Chelsea its qualities.

In the latest volume of Historical Publications' marvellous series of illustrated London histories, Barbara Denny presents a rich cavalcade of characters. Here are the schoolmasters and doctors, industrialists and feminists, architects and actors, heroes and even a couple of traitors, who lived here. Here, too, are long-gone institutions: the Glaciarium skating-rink in the Kings Road, the Chelsea Palace music-hall, the raffish Pheasantry Club, the bowling greens and pleasure gardens.

The illustrations keep pace with the lively text. The interior of the Royal Court Theatre in 1871 will surprise those who know it today; so will Tite Street as Whistler knew it and Lots Road power station looking magnificent with its four chimneys, as some of us remember it; there is Sloane Square station with the glass roof it had before the bombing; there is Dr. Phéné's wildly eccentric house in Oakley Street and much more.

Inevitably, there is a date or two over which one might quibble and an occasional omission one would like to rectify, but Barbara Denny has done Chelsea proud and hers is a work for every Chelsea bookcase.

T.P.

(See illustrations, page 41.)

Hidden Chelsea by J.W. Figg. (Chelsea Rare Books, £5.90)

A sharp and observant eye combined with a deep knowledge of, and affection for, his native Chelsea has prompted Bill Figg to produce a fascinating and original little book that will delight all who share his love of the square mile.

While working as an electrician for the London Electricity Board, he noted the detail in the townscape that most miss or take for granted. He noted and photographed the fading, painted sign indicating an emergency wartime water supply in Elm Park Lane and the still-visible '3d', once the price of a bed in a Lawrence Street doss-house; he recognised the carved faces on the wall of a house in Cheyne Walk and knew the dramatic history of the houseboat on the Thames that had been a wartime motor torpedo boat.

His eye for telling detail, whether it tells a story, or remains a mystery, will sharpen the awareness of all who see his photographs and read his accompanying text. Bill Figg and his publishers, Leo and Philippa Bernard of Chelsea Rare Books, deserve our thanks for adding an enjoyable and piquant awareness to the appreciation of Chelsea.

Exhibition

Children and other People: Drawings by William Robert Hay.
(Anthony Mould and Thomas Williams Fine Art at the Harari and Johns Gallery, 12 Duke Street, St. James's, 7-22nd November.

Until this charming exhibition opened, few more people would have remembered the work of William Hay than could recall the Lawrence Street he painted 1920. There we see a shabby little street with the Cook's Ground School (now the Libyan school) looming above it and a Cockney lady selling vegetables from a barrow. The work on show was, however, as immediate as its period was distant: more than sixty brilliant, delicate drawings of Chelsea children. Old-fashioned their clothes may have been – with their boots, the boys' waistcoats and the bows in the girls' hair – but their fresh young looks and liveliness had been kept alive by Hay's pencil.

The artist, who was born in Glasgow a hundred and ten years ago, was best known as an engraver. He trained at the Westminster School of Art, was later involved with both the Chelsea and Camberwell art schools and, between 1911 and 1923, exhibited at the Royal Academy, the London Salon and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. He worked at a studio in the converted pub on the corner of Lawrence Street and Justice Walk.

The delightful, poignant drawings on exhibition date from the immediate aftermath of the First World War and show Hay to have been a worthy successor to Whistler as a draughtsman and Walter Greaves as a recorder of the Chelsea he knew.

(See illustrations, page 40.)

Obituaries

Mr Tom Hancock

T. H. H. Hancock, as he was officially known, died on 1 December after a long illness. He was devoted to Chelsea and for many years played a prominent role in Chelsea affairs, particularly those of the Chelsea Arts Club and the Chelsea Society.

He was born in 1913, educated at Parmiter's School and then studied architecture at University College, London. During the war he joined the Directorate of General Works at the Air Ministry. In 1945 he worked for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and became one of the first generation of 'architect planners'. In 1947 he moved to Malaya and then in 1950 became Senior Architect of the Public Works Department in Singapore where the projects for which he was responsible included the renovation and repair of the Court and Parliament House. Tom developed a lasting affection for this magnificent complex of classical buildings and in 1986 he wrote a Monograph on its architect, George Coleman.

He returned to England in 1957, buying a small recently constructed house just off Old Church Street, where he lived until his illness forced him to move away, some two years ago. He rejoined the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and was soon promoted to become Principal Planning Architect of London County Council and then of the Greater London Council; a post which he held until his retirement in 1975.

He became a member of the Chelsea Arts Club and was a member of its Council for many years, serving as Chairman for the period 1962-3 and later as Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Trustee. In the 1970s the club was, as in many times in its history, in a precarious financial state and it was a generous loan of £4,000 from Tom Hancock which probably saved it from having to close down. He became unofficial club historian, writing a number of articles about its early history. It was intended that he might write an official history to mark the club's centenary in 1992; unfortunately, he was by this time too ill to undertake the task.

Tom was appointed joint Hon. Secretary of The Chelsea Society in 1959, a post which he held, together with Miss Hilda Reid, for three years; he remained a member of the Council of the Society for a further ten years. His position as one of London's principal planning officers was obviously of immense help to the Society.

He was married three times and is survived by his daughter.

David Le Lay

Judge Roger Willis

His Honour Roger Willis, who died in March at the age of eighty-nine, was a county court judge, presiding over Shoreditch County Court for nearly twenty years. In Chelsea, he was particularly known as Chairman of the Chelsea Gardens Guild for many years and an active member of the Chelsea Society.

The son of a barrister and grandson of a judge, Willis was educated at Charterhouse and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and was called to the Bar in 1930. His general practice was interrupted by war service as a signals officer and four years as a prisoner of war after being captured in North Africa. Returning to his legal work, he spent some time at the Home Office, before resuming practice as a barrister and being appointed to the Bench in 1959, where his reputation for fairness, efficiency and courtesy was enhanced.

In 1933, Roger Willis married Joan Good, who died in 1990; they had two daughters. His interests included the theatre, music, horse-racing, he backed the first and second horses in the Grand National shortly before his death.

Mrs Joan Paterson

Joan Paterson died on 27 March 1996, aged seventy-nine. She had lived in Chelsea for fifty years, latterly at her splendid house at No. 27 The Vale.

Joan's early life was split between England and France: her father was English and her mother French. After being educated in France and England, Joan was brought up at Henley-on-Thames where the family lived in a house overlooking the rowing course. During the war she served as an officer in the A.T.S. and was stationed in Hamburg during the demilitarisation of post-war Germany.

In 1951 she married Ian Paterson a City Chartered Accountant. Their first home was a flat in Cheyne Gardens. Having started a family, Ian and Joan moved to 27 The Vale in 1954 where she continued to live until her death. Joan was a founding member of The Vale of Chelsea Residents Association and remained active on local environmental issues for the rest of her life. She was intensely proud of her Chelsea home which looks east down Mallord Street from its impressive Venetian window.

Joan was a practising landscape architect until the arrival of her two sons, John and Guy. She was particularly creative in the construction of roof gardens where her building and technical training at Reading University stood her in good stead. She was an active painter in watercolours and in oils with an accidental speciality in marine scenes: her husband Ian was a passionate yachtsman and most of the summer was spent on the Solent.

She was a familiar sight in Hamble and Yarmouth and signed her paintings 'The lady in the white hat'. Joan was a familiar figure on the Chelsea scene and will be much missed.

Mr Donald Edgar

Donald Edgar, who died in May at the age of seventy-nine, was the first journalist to identify the changes that overtook Chelsea after the Second World War and established a new, if not entirely welcome, character. As the 'William Hickey' columnist of Lord Beaverbrook's brash but alert *Daily Express*, he described the post-war emergence of social life, to which he reintroduced his readers.

Edgar, who lived for almost half a century in Elm Park Gardens, was a Londoner and, after a brief pre-war spell in the City, had been mobilised as a Territorial soldier in 1939 and sent to France. Taken prisoner at St Valéry in 1940, he spent the next five years in a prison camp. On his return, he was awarded a two-year scholarship to Oxford and then entered journalism on the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mail* before joining the *Daily Express* at the height of its success. As 'William Hickey' he became a familiar figure at social and state occasions. A tall, handsome, high-mettled man, he became one of the most striking characters in Fleet Street; when travelling there from Chelsea to work on Sunday, he would wear well-tailored tweeds as if visiting from his country estate.

In 1956, Edgar became a foreign correspondent, reporting the Suez war, the Cyprus troubles and the war in Algeria, then, moving to the *Evening Standard*, he edited 'The Londoner's Diary' with taste and perception. A hard-working journalist, Edgar was a volatile man with emotions close to the surface and there were occasional upheavals in his career. He moved to public relations, working for Texaco at the time of exploration for oil in the North Sea and, when he retired, friends wondered how he would settle down to a quiet life in Chelsea.

Yet Edgar's long retirement was an example of the constructive use of such time, supported by his wife and daughter. He wrote several volumes of memoirs and then set himself projects such as the study of German, Russian and French culture, reading the relevant history and literature, listening to the music and discussing his ideas with friends.

T.P.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995 show a deficit of £760 compared with a surplus of £6,995 for the previous year. The main reason for the difference is the splendid special donation of £6,000 received in 1994. We have, as required, continued to use the Society's funds to good effect in support of: -

- § An improved Annual Report insofar as coloured photographs were included for the first time.
- § Costs incurred in appearing before the Battersea Flour Mills Public Enquiry to oppose the proposal for a 20-storey building to be erected in front of St Mary's Church.
- § A contribution towards the legal costs for securing the Thomas More picture for the borough, now hanging so successfully in Chelsea Old Town Hall.

On the general expenses side, the cost of the Newsletter was higher, due to an increase in the number of pages and, as I mentioned last year, the members of the Society's Council now have some protection against a claim for slander or libel at a cost of £999. The balance in the accounts of £115 represents the Civic Trust's general insurance cover for Civic Societies. The reduction in the cost of stationery, postage, etc arises because the 1994 figure included just under £2,000 for 'Join Now' leaflets.

The Council has again decided to dispense with an audit, since the totals of income and expenditure remain below the limit at which an audit is required. Next year, the rules change again and the accounts will have to be independently reviewed.

Mr President, I beg to present my report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995. If there are any questions, I shall be pleased to answer them.

20 November 1996

I.W. Frazer
Hon. Treasurer

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1995 Income and Expenditure Account - General Fund

Income	1995	1994
	£	£
Annual Subscriptions	7,053	6,882
Donations received	1,160	6,767
Income tax recoverable on covenants	269	219
Advertising revenue from 1995 annual report	887	862
Deposit interest received	786	377
Surplus on Chelsea Festival guided walks	573	534
Surplus on sale of Christmas cards	141	507
Excess of receipts over expenditure from meetings	---	302
	<u>10,869</u>	<u>16,450</u>
Less: Expenditure		
Excess of expenditure over receipts from meetings	696	---
Cost of annual report	4,410	3,495
Stationery, postage and miscellaneous expenses	2,224	4,186
Cost of annual general meeting	459	644
Subscriptions to other organisations	103	81
Cost of newsletter	1,569	577
Insurance	1,114	---
	<u>10,575</u>	<u>8,983</u>
	294	7,467
Less: Special Projects		
Cost re Battersea Flour Mills Public Enquiry	554	---
Contribution to Thomas More Picture Appeal	500	472
	<u>1,054</u>	<u>472</u>
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	<u>£(760)</u>	<u>£6,995</u>

Income and Expenditure Account - Life Membership

Balance of fund - 1 January 1995... ..	8,100	7,660
Income: National Savings Bank Account Interest	466	440
	<u>8,566</u>	<u>8,100</u>
Balance of fund - 31 December 1995	<u>£8,566</u>	<u>£8,100</u>

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995

	1995		1994	
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Debtors		2,365		1,921
Balance in National Savings Bank account		8,566		8,100
Balance on bank current and deposit accounts		21,252		21,173
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		32,183		31,194
Less: Current Liabilities				
Creditors	5,608		4,300	
Subscriptions received in advance	80		105	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		5,688		4,405
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Net Assets		<u>£26,495</u>		<u>£26,789</u>
 Represented by:				
Balance of Life Membership Fund		8,566		8,100
Add:				
Balance of General Fund as at 1 January 1995		18,689		11,694
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(760)		6,995
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		17,929		18,689
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		<u>£26,495</u>		<u>£26,789</u>

Approved by the Council of The Chelsea Society on 23 September 1996.

D.R. Le Lay, *Chairman*
I.W. Frazer, *Honorary Treasurer*

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

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

OBJECTS

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

MEMBERSHIP

- 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

- There shall be a Council of the Society which shall be constituted in accordance with these Rules.
 - The Society shall elect not more than twelve members of the Society to be members of the Council.
 - The members of the Council so elected may co-opt not more than four further persons to be members of the Council.
 - The Officers to be appointed under Rule 5 shall in addition be members of the Council.
 - 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 the Objects of the Society.
 - 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.
 - The Council shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.
 - 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.
 - Three of the elected members of the Council shall retire every second year, but may offer themselves for re-election by the Society.
 - Retirement under the last preceding paragraph shall be in rotation according to seniority of election.
 - Casual vacancies among the elected members may be filled as soon as practicable by election by the Society.
 - One of the co-opted members shall retire every second year, but may be again co-opted.

OFFICERS

- The Council shall appoint the following officers of the Society, namely:-
 - a Chairman of the Council,
 - a Vice-Chairman of the Council,
 - an Honorary Secretary or Joint Honorary Secretaries,
 - an Honorary Treasurer, and
 - persons to fill such other posts as may be established by the Council.
 - 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.
 - The Officers shall be eligible for re-appointment to their respective offices.
 - Nothing herein contained shall detract from the Officers' right to resign during their current term.
 - By Resolution of a majority of its members the Council may rescind the appointment of an Officer during the term of office for reasons deemed substantial.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

- 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.
 - The Council may appoint persons, who need not be members of the Society, to be Vice-Presidents.

SUBSCRIPTIONS*

- 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.
 - 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.
 - Members may pay more than the prescribed minimum, if they wish.
 - Members may pay annual subscription by banker's order or by Direct Debit.
 - The Society may participate in the direct debiting scheme as an originator for the purpose of collecting

subscriptions for any class of membership and/or any other amounts due to the Society. In furtherance of this objective, the Society may enter into an indemnity required by the Banks upon whom direct debits are to be originated. Such an indemnity may be executed on behalf of the Society by officials nominated in an appropriate resolution.

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

AMENDMENTS

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

WINDING-UP

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

* The current rate is £10 annually payable on the 1st January. The annual husband-and-wife rate is £15.

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. ABELES
 RICHARD ADKINSON
 PAUL V. AITKENHEAD
 S. G. ALDER
 ROY ALDERSON
 MISS A. D. ALDERTON
 R. ALEXANDER
 MRS. R. ALEXANDER
 *LT-COL. J. H. ALLASON
 C. ALLEN
 MRS. C. ALLEN
 MRS. ELIZABETH AMATI
 *ANTHONY AMBLER
 MISS SOPHIE C. M. ANDREAE
 *THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
 MRS. C. ANNUS
 JOHN ANTCLIFFE
 MISS MARY APPLEBEY, C.B.E.
 P. ARBON
 MRS. P. ARBON
 J. N. ARCHER
 ROBERT ARMITAGE
 MRS. ROBERT ARMITAGE
 MISS J. ARMSTRONG
 *DAVID ASCHAN
 *MRS. M. G. ASCHAN
 *MRS. D. ASHCROFT
 THE HON. NICHOLAS ASSHETON
 *MRS. PHILIP ASTLEY, O.B.E.
 DR. STEPHEN ASTLEY
 MISS KATE ATTIA
 MARSHALL AVERBACK

LADY JEAN BABINGTON-SMITH
 M. BACH
 W. J. COOPER BAILEY
 LADY BAILLIE
 MRS. LESLEY BAIRSTOW
 MISS J. K. BAKER-WILBRAHAM
 M. T. BALLISAT
 MRS. M. T. BALLISAT
 D. BARKER
 MRS. D. BARKER
 MICHAEL BARKER
 MRS. MICHAEL BARKER
 DR. R. BARKER
 MRS. VALERIE BARKER
 *D. H. BARLOW
 THE REV. KEITH BARLTHROP
 J. M. BARNARD
 SIR JOHN BARRAN, BT.
 LADY BARRAN
 JULIAN BARROW
 MRS. JULIAN BARROW

SIMON BARROW
 ADRIAN BARR-SMITH
 MRS. ADRIAN BARR-SMITH
 *DEREK BARTON
 *MRS. DEREK BARTON
 MRS. ROGER BASSETT
 MISS F. V. BAUMGART
 SIR PETER BAXENDELL
 LADY BAXENDELL
 MISS AIXA BEAUCHAMP
 THE REV. GERALD BEAUCHAMP
 MRS. ANNE BEARN
 *E. V. BEATON
 MRS. A. E. BEAUMONT-DODD
 *J. BECKER
 MRS. P. M. BECKER
 ROBERT BECKETT
 MRS. ROBERT BECKETT
 MRS. M. K. BEDDOW
 MRS. MARY BEEVOR
 MRS. PATRICIA BEHR, M.V.O., M.B.E.
 *WILLIAM BELL
 SIMON BENDALL
 T. G. BENDALL
 M. G. BENDON
 MRS. ANNE TREGO BENNETT
 D. R. BENNETT-JONES
 MRS. R. A. C. BERKELEY
 L. BERNARD
 MRS. L. BERNARD
 MISS ANN BERNE
 MICHAEL BERNSTEIN
 MRS. MICHAEL BERNSTEIN
 *MISS ANNE BERRIMAN
 MRS. RITA BERRY
 REAR-ADMIRAL C. BEVAN, C.B.
 MRS. C. BEVAN
 *ERNEST BIGGIN
 MISS CELIA BIGHAM
 JOHN BIGNELL
 MISS BIRGIT BIHLER
 MISS SUSAN BILGER
 MRS. NICOLETTE BILLOT
 MISS PAMELA BIRLEY
 *E. W. BISSETT
 MISS SUSAN BLACKWELL
 T. F. BLOOD
 DEREK BLOOM
 MRS. L. BLUNT
 MARTIN BOASE
 MRS. J. B. FLOCKHART BOOTH
 MICHAEL BOREHAM
 MRS. MICHAEL BOREHAM
 MISS JUDITH BORROW

*TIMOTHY BOULTON
 DAVID BOWEN
 M. BOXFORD
 MRS. M. BOXFORD
 PROFESSOR E. BOYLAND
 MRS. A. BOYLE
 SEAN BOYLE
 R. M. A. BRAINE
 MRS. R. M. A. BRAINE
 J. C. BRASS
 MRS. J. C. BRASS
 MRS. S. M. BRAYBROOK
 REAR-ADMIRAL F. B. P. BRAYNE-NICHOLLS,
 C.B., D.S.C.
 DANIEL BRENNAN
 MRS. DANIEL BRENNAN
 MRS. L. D. BRETT
 R. BRIDGE
 MRS. R. BRIDGE
 MISS E. M. E. BRIGHTEN
 *SIR NIGEL BROACKES
 MRS. E. BROADBENT-JONES
 *LADY BROMET, D.B.E.
 DENIS BROODBANK
 *MRS. E. BROUGHTON-ADDERLEY
 *W. M. G. BROWN
 MICHAEL BRYAN
 MRS. MICHAEL BRYAN
 A. A. G. S. BUCHANAN
 MRS. E. J. BUCHANAN
 MISS M. BUCKLEY
 MRS. M. P. BUDD
 P. J. BULL
 J. H. S. BURGESS
 *RICHARD BURGESS
 MRS. KATRIN BURKE-SMITH
 RUSSELL BURLINGHAM
 REAR-ADMIRAL R. H. BURN, C.B., A.F.C.
 MRS. R. H. BURN
 *A. I. J. BURNS
 MALCOLM BURR
 MRS. MALCOLM BURR
 MRS. J. P. BURT
 R. M. BURTON
 MRS. R. M. BURTON
 MRS. D. E. BURTT
 F. A. BUSBY
 MRS. JOHN BUSS
 *MRS. JAMES BUXTON
 *THE HON. JULIAN F. BYNG
 R. W. BYNG
 P. J. BYRNE
 MRS. P. J. BYRNE
 RICHARD BYRON
 *THE EARL CADOGAN, M.C.
 *R. A. W. CAINE
 SIR JACK CALLARD
 LADY CALLARD
 MRS. PATRICIA CAMERON
 DONALD CAMPBELL

MISS JUDY CAMPBELL
 DAME FRANCES CAMPBELL-PRESTON
 *MRS. DONALD CARTER
 *BRYAN CARVALHO, M.B.E.
 *MRS. BRYAN CARVALHO
 MISS J. V. P. CARVILL
 *REV. JOHN CARVOSSO
 N. R. CASHIN
 MRS. N. R. CASHIN
 JOHN CASSON, O.B.E.
 DR MARY CATTERALL
 CAPT M. K. CAVENAGH-MAINWARING, D.S.O.,
 R.N.
 *THE RT. HON. LORD CHALFONT, P.C., O.B.E.,
 M.C.
 LADY CHALFONT
 M. E. CHAMBERLAYNE
 MRS. L. CHAMPAGNE
 DR. V. E. CHANCELLOR
 THE RT. HON. PAUL CHANNON, M.P.
 MRS. PAUL CHANNON
 LORD CHELMSFORD
 LADY CHELMSFORD
 CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH
 CHELSEA YACHT & BOAT CO. LTD
 ANDREW CHEYNE
 MRS. ANDREW CHEYNE
 MRS. J. M. CHEYNE
 *THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS
 MISS A. M. CLARKE
 R. D. CLARKE, F.I.A.
 *R. S. CLARKE
 *MISS EDITH M. CLAY, F.S.A.
 MISS L. N. CLAYSON
 MISS VALERIE CLAYTON
 MRS. JOY CLEMENTS
 LADY B. M. CLIEVE-ROBERTS
 *MRS. M. R. COAD
 MRS. VICTORIA COBB
 JOHN COBBETT-MADDOY
 M. R. COCKELL
 J. BRUNEL COHEN, O.B.E., D.L.
 F. C. COLCORD
 MRS. F. C. COLCORD
 MISS IDA COLE
 *W. N. COLES
 DAVID B. COLLENETTE, M.C.
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