

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY  
REPORT

1997



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*The engraving of Chelsea Old Church on the title page  
is by Hugh Krall*

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## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

### *President*

SIR SIMON HORNBY

### *Vice-Presidents*

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA  
THE RT. HON. ALAN CLARK M.P.  
THE EARL CADOGAN, D.L.

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### *Hon. Treasurer*

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MR. ANDREW HAMILTON, B.SC., F.R.I.C.S.

### *Hon. Secretary (Membership)*

MRS. PATRICIA SARGENT

### *Hon. Editor*

MR. TOM POCOCK

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AND RESIDENTIAL MOORINGS

## The Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Society

was held at the  
Hall of Remembrance, Flood Street, Chelsea SW3  
on Wednesday 26 November 1997.

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

Sir Simon welcomed members and guests to the meeting particularly the Mayoress, who had arrived in advance of the Mayor who would be arriving later.

The Minutes of the 1996 Annual General Meeting, which had been circulated with the Annual Report for 1996, were approved and signed by the President.

The President reported that Mrs Jacky Green had retired from the Council. Mrs Valerie Thomas, who had already been helpful to the Society, had been nominated and seconded and was elected to the Council unanimously. There had been no nominations for the second vacancy on the Council.

Mr Ian Frazer, the Honorary Treasurer of the Society, presented his report and accounts for the year ending 31 December 1996. These were received by the Meeting. The Hon. Treasurer said that in future the Charity Commission would require an independent auditor and he appealed for suggestions for anyone who would act in this capacity. Mrs Lesley Lewis asked whether the Charity Commissioners' requirements caused extra trouble. The Hon. Treasurer replied that in general it was only a question of rearrangement. There being no other questions, the President thanked the Hon. Treasurer for all his hard work and excellent report.

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, Mr Basil Waters asked if the traffic in Old Church Street could be controlled and, secondly, if more flowering

20<sup>th</sup>  
Century  
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Design Show

1990 - 1998

arts & crafts  
art nouveau  
art deco  
1950's chic  
psychedelic 60's  
modern design

March  
12 - 15

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Kings Road, S.W.3.

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shrubs could be planted in the streets. In reply the Chairman said that the borough had so far been unwilling to introduce any of the standard traffic calming devices such as chicanes or sleeping policemen. The departure of Fraser and Ellis, the plumbers merchants, might change the situation as the site would become wholly residential. Regarding street trees, the Society promoted the London plane for its tolerance to street conditions and ability to bring light down from above. On the same subject Mr Terence Blood asked if more ginkos could be planted as these had been successful elsewhere. Councillor Ian Burlingham thought that a museum was a more suitable subject for the millennium than a conference. The Chairman replied that the Society had very much in mind the promotion of a museum which would include a research centre, space for exhibitions and a computerised index. Mrs Nesta Macdonald drew attention to the late Miss Margot Eates' contributions regarding aircraft noise. The Chairman said that Margot Eates would be referred to in the Society's evidence to the Terminal 5 public inquiry and that it had been largely through the group that she had led that alternating runways had been introduced, giving Chelsea some respite. The development of Terminal 5 could lose Chelsea this benefit and there could be increased pressure for night flights. Councillor John Corbet-Singleton commented on the excellent past exhibitions mounted by the Society and drew attention to the 1998 Chelsea Festival which would be held in the first week in June. Mr Denys Hawthorne said that BT appeared to be free to dig up pavements without let or hindrance. The Chairman replied that BT and the other cable companies had, since privatisation, inherited the rights of public utilities in this respect. The Duchess of Hamilton said that she had heard that sound absorbing bitumen could be used which reduced noise by 50%. Councillor Mrs Ian Frazer, as Chairman of the Borough's Traffic Committee, responded that she had not heard of it but would enquire.

Mr Jeffrey Frost asked whether the Society would consider objecting to the noise of music and fireworks emanating from events in Battersea Park. The Chairman replied that, providing such noises did not go beyond 11pm, it would in his opinion be unreasonable to object to such events. Under any other business, Mrs Lesley Lewis said that a booklet clarifying the tangled web surrounding all the copies of the Thomas More family group painting would be published during 1998.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting, thanking Mr David Le Lay and the members of the Council of the Society for their work throughout the year. There were about 120 members present.

## *Chairman's Report*

### *The President*

This is the third annual meeting to be chaired by Sir Simon Hornby and under our rules he is permitted to serve for a further three-year term. I am pleased to be able to report that, at the invitation of the Council, Sir Simon has agreed to be our President for another three years.

### *Vice-Presidents*

Earlier this year, the seventh Earl Cadogan died. He was the Society's President from 1944-62 and had been one of our vice-presidents since 1990. He was a generous benefactor to the Society over many years and recently took a personal interest in the exhibition mounted by the Society on the life and work of his illustrious ancestor, Sir Hans Sloane. We are delighted that the eighth Earl Cadogan has agreed to be a vice-president in succession to his father.

Since 1982 Sir Nicholas Scott had also been a vice-president; he was invited to serve the Society in this way, as the Member of Parliament for Chelsea. When he ceased to be our Member of Parliament, Sir Nicholas felt that it was no longer appropriate for him to continue as a vice-president. The new Member for Chelsea (the constituency is now called Kensington and Chelsea) the Right Hon. Alan Clark M.P. has agreed to be a vice-president of the Society in place of his predecessor.

### *The Council*

Jacky Green, who had been a member of the Council since 1994, resigned in January of this year, for personal reasons. We are grateful to her for all that she has done for the Society during her time as a member of the Council.

### *Membership*

The current membership of the Society is 1,115, virtually the same as 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 1996 Annual Report of the Society, which once again featured several colour illustrations, was much admired for which all thanks are due to our honorary editor, Tom Pocock.

The Council has decided to commission the publication of a comprehensive index to all its annual Reports, which have been published every year, except 1946, since its foundation, 70 years ago.

The Society produced two Newsletters this year. These were very widely read and much appreciated by members. We are most grateful for all the hard work put into their publication by their editor, Michael Bach.

## *Activities*

### **1. Winter Lectures**

Our eighteenth season of lectures was again held in the small hall of Chelsea Old Town Hall and they were all very well attended.

On 5 February, Donald Insall, one of this country's leading conservation architects, and a member of the Society, gave us an illustrated lecture on projects completed by his firm. We were much impressed with the transformations of historic buildings brought about by the sensitive stripping away of unsympathetic additions.

On 5 March, Merlin Holland, Oscar Wilde's only grandson, gave us a lecture about his famous forebear with the intriguing title of *Killing One Peacock with Two Stones*. Mr. Holland not only knows his subject well, which one would expect, but he has perceptive insights into the complexities of what might be called the Wilde saga.

On 26 March, Alastair Laing, adviser on pictures and sculpture to the National Trust gave us a lecture about the exciting discovery of a panoramic view of the Chelsea riverside painted by Canaletto in 1747. This painting is presently in two halves, with one half in Norfolk and the other in Cuba. There is however a good chance that the two halves may be reunited, temporarily, for an exhibition next year.

### **2. Visits**

The Society organised six visits during the course of the year, all of which were sold out. We are extremely grateful to Jenifer Miller and Valerie Thomas who have initiated and organised these activities.

On 21 November 1996, there was a further visit to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

On 24 April there was a visit to Chelsea Harbour with a guided tour

of the outdoor sculpture exhibition, a talk about Chelsea Harbour by its architect and ending with tea at the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

On 22 May a visit was made to the Royal Borough's recycling centre at Cremorne Wharf. This visit was repeated on 5 June.

On 24 July there were two visits to the Moravian Burial Ground.

On 16 October there was a guided tour of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, looking at its fine collection of works of art.

On 31 October there were two visits to the garden of the former Chelsea rectory in Old Church Street.

### **3. Chelsea Residents' Associations Meeting**

The meeting this year was held in the Hall of Remembrance on 3 June.

Councillor Bryan Levitt, 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, as always, a lively meeting and an opportunity for residents to air their concerns on a variety of issues directly to the two most important people in the Planning and Conservation department of the Royal Borough.

### **4. Summer Meeting**

This year's meeting was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters in the King's Road. Our principal guest was the deputy mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Jennifer Forsyth, who was accompanied by Councillor Alastair Wood.

We were given a brief history of this important Chelsea institution by its director, Brigadier William Marchant-Smith, followed by a guided tour of the main buildings of historic interest. Unfortunately, much of the interior of the original buildings has, over the years, been drastically altered in its adaptation to new uses. Where original features remain, for example the main stairs, one can appreciate some of the simple grandeur of the buildings erected in 1800 as a home and school for the children of soldiers in the regular army.

The evening ended with the serving of a cold buffet supper with wine. Some 170 members and their guests were present.

## *Council's Activities*

Ever since the Royal Borough introduced its annual Environmental Awards, the Society has been asked to nominate a person to join the panel of assessors. Our representative this year was Leonard Holdsworth.

Andrew Hamilton, our Hon. Secretary (Planning) represented the Society as the 'lay assessor' on the panel which selects Civic Trust Awards.

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

1. Leading a guided walk entitled *Gardens in Chelsea* for the National Trust on 10 July and 7 August.

2. Talking to a group of Uzbek delegates from the Mahalla Foundation on 30 April as part of their Study Visit looking at community relations in this country.

### *South Area Planning Forum*

The Forum is intended as a substitute for the previous Development Plans Advisory Group, in which amenity societies such as ours had an opportunity to discuss local issues with councillors and officers. Only one meeting of the South Area Forum has been held over the past year and sadly, only one member of the planning committee attended. The Society continues to doubt whether the Forum as currently constituted will be effective.

### *Planning Applications*

The planning sub-committee of the Society, which comprises eight members of the Council, under the chairmanship of Andrew Hamilton, our Hon. Secretary (Planning), made a total of 152 representations during the past year, an increase of 44 over 1996.

The planning sub-committee has reluctantly had to write on two occasions during the last year to the Royal Borough to express concern about certain reports to the Planning Services Committee by officers which either ignored local opinion altogether or attempted to subvert the committee's decision with subjective officers' opinions. This is a tendency which we hope will be resisted by councillors.

It is interesting to note that the Society opposed no fewer than thirty applications to build conservatories – principally on the ground that the proposals were in conflict with the Unitary Development Plan.

The Society supported the Royal Borough in respect of eleven planning appeals against either planning refusal or enforcement action.

Four representations were submitted in respect of applications outside the Borough. We objected to the Millennium Tower at the Baltic Exchange, the Shell oil terminal site in Wandsworth and the proposal to build two additional stories on top of Sir Norman Foster's riverside building at 22 Hester Road, Battersea. The Society however supported in principle the proposals for Battersea power station, subject to the resolution of transportation issues.

The sub-committee supported five applications during the year, these included:

#### **1. Waldron House, 57-63 Old Church Street, SW3**

This is the brutalist concrete building opposite the Rectory in Old Church Street. We supported the proposed change of use from offices to residential. The increase in value of residential property over the last twelve months has brought about a significant number of applications for such change of use and this is generally welcomed by the Society. In the case of Waldron House however, the Society was disappointed that the local authority did not encourage the applicant to consider replacing the existing facade with a more appropriate alternative.

#### **2. 248-250 King's Road, SW3**

The sub-committee was delighted to support in principle the refurbishment of the Old Register office and the building immediately at the rear fronting on to Sydney Street. The Society has campaigned for many years to have these buildings brought back into use although the committee resisted the extension of the proposed restaurant at basement level and the entrance onto Dovehouse Green.

During the year the Society continued to resist extension of restaurant uses along the King's Road and other major thoroughfares. This included:

#### **3. 229-235 King's Road, SW3**

This is the former Nichols Builders Yard where the sub-committee considered no less than five separate applications and successfully persuaded the local authority to refuse consent for the demolition of two listed buildings.

#### **4. 300 King's Road, SW3**

In February of this year the Society successfully persuaded the Borough to oppose the conversion of the disused NatWest bank at 300 King's Road, on the corner of Old Church Street, from banking hall to pizza restaurant. However, in a recent bizarre decision, the Department of the Environment inspector overruled the local authority in allowing an appeal by the applicants. This was in spite of 79 individual objections from local residents and amenity societies. The Society recently pointed out the hypocrisy of the Department of the Environment in seeking public consultation on planning applications and then ignoring local opinion at appeal. This application has national as well as local significance because of the large number of bank and building society branch offices currently being closed and converted to alternative uses.

The precedent directly applies to a similar application at 352a Kings Road on the corner of Beaufort Street; again the sub-committee has supported the Royal Borough on appeal and a decision is awaited.

#### **5. 350 King's Road, SW3**

The year saw the completion of Sir Terence Conran's Bluebird restaurant complex along the King's Road – marred only by an unsightly and unauthorized plant room on the roof where the local authority are now taking enforcement action.

The Society continues to be opposed to the loss of artists' studios in Chelsea and the sub-committee objected to two applications for conversion of artists' studios to residential at 1 Beaufort Street and 1 Draycott Place.

The Society also objects to the loss of traditional pub signs and names – many of which have historic connotations. Two recent cases were the Cross Keys in Lawrence Street and the Phoenix in Smith Street

Revised proposals were submitted for the re-development of South Kensington station which were considered an improvement over previous efforts, although reservations remain over the architectural treatment of the Pelham Street elevations.

### *Applications for listing of buildings*

The Society often makes application to the Department of National Heritage that certain buildings in Chelsea should be listed as being of architectural or historic interest. During the last year we made the following applications:

#### **1. 300 King's Road, SW3**

Our application that this former Natwest Bank be listed was turned down.

#### **2. The former Wesleyan Chapel, Justice Walk, SW3**

We are collecting historical information with a view to proposing this building for statutory listing. It was in use as a chapel and Sunday school from 1843 to 1903.

### *Planning Briefs*

There are still major re-development sites within Chelsea and it is now the normal practice of the Royal Borough to prepare planning briefs for such sites. These documents, which are submitted for public consultation, have in recent years become quite sophisticated and a

great improvement on those previously produced.

The Society submitted extensive representations in respect of the planning brief prepared by the Royal Borough for the King's College sites in Manresa Road. These important buildings are scheduled for disposal by King's College in two years time as part of a major private finance initiative project involving other significant sites within the Borough, including the former College of St Mark & St John at 552 King's Road. There is considerable local concern about how these important sites might be redeveloped, including, as they do, the Grade II listed library building and Lightfoot Hall hostel. The Society will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The Society also made comments in respect of the planning brief for the re-development of Clearings I and II, in Draycott Avenue.

The re-development of Lots Road power station is also planned in the near future and a planning brief for this major site is presently being prepared by the Royal Borough.

### *King's Road*

In March, the Royal Borough's long awaited traffic management study of the King's Road was published. We supported the proposals in principle as it seemed to us that they would bring about improvements for both pedestrians and motorists, and many of the suggestions in our own King's Road study of March 1994 had been taken on board. Since then the proposals have been considerably watered down under pressure from other residents' groups and some of the key features have been lost.

The study also included proposals to alter traffic management in several residential streets near to the King's Road, though these were completely independent of the King's Road proposals themselves. We did not make any comment on these 'local' proposals.

The King's Road proposals, as amended, have now been approved, and the proposals for residential streets have been either abandoned or substantially revised.

The Chelsea Festival, which was not held this year, will, in 1998, include an exhibition, mounted by the Chelsea Society, jointly with the library, entitled *The King's Road: Inigo Jones to Peter Jones*. It may be possible in the exhibition to illustrate the Royal Borough's alterations which should by then have reached a more advanced stage.

### *West Chelsea*

The Society has for many years been mindful of the particular environmental problems suffered by West Chelsea, especially the area north of the King's Road where the urban fabric is of equal merit to that



found in many other, more fortunate, parts of the Royal Borough. The area is of course dominated by the Earls Court one-way system and it is this which has led to the downward spiral into neglect and depredation.

The Society has recently made two proposals to the Royal Borough which would reverse this trend.

We have suggested that the Royal Borough, which owns all of the roads which make up the Earls Court one-way system, should investigate the possibility of these roads reverting to two-way working. We believe that this simple move would, at a stroke, provide a remedy to the intolerable living conditions which are presently endured in this part of the Royal Borough.

We have also proposed that the Royal Borough create a new conservation area covering the former Gunter Estate, being bounded by Netherton Grove/Slaidburn Street to the east, Gunter Grove to the west, Fulham Road to the north and King's Road to the south. This is an area which, in spite of the depredations wrought upon it through lack of conservation area status, retains much of its architectural unity including many of the fine villa-style properties that made up the original Gunter Estate. We put forward a similar proposal in 1990 which was, in our view, quite unreasonably turned down by the Royal Borough; but in the light of the recent inclusion of large parts of Earls Court into adjoining conservation areas, we are hopeful that there is now a more enlightened attitude within the Borough and that our proposal, which is supported by the two local ward councillors, will now find favour.

### *Aircraft Noise*

In January, we attended a meeting with the leader of the Royal Borough and the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee at which we pointed out that the Royal Borough appeared to us to have changed its attitude to the proposed construction of Heathrow Terminal 5 from the representation it made in November, 1993, when it broadly followed the advice given by its officers and opposed Terminal 5, to that made in February 1996 when, against the advice of officers, it approved the construction of Terminal 5, subject to certain provisos.

We asked whether the Royal Borough would be appearing at the public inquiry when the topic of noise was discussed and also whether they would consider commissioning a noise survey in Chelsea as a means of countering the claim by the British Airports Authority that, as Chelsea did not suffer from aircraft noise, it was not necessary for them to conduct noise surveys there. The Royal Borough turned down this latter request and we were also informed that they would only be

making written representation to the inquiry.

We have kept in close contact with HACAN, the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, throughout the year and have found them to be exceedingly helpful to us.

The Society will be appearing at the Terminal 5 inquiry to give evidence of the unacceptable level of aircraft noise currently experienced in Chelsea, especially from night time flying, and objecting to the increase in noise that would result from the construction of Terminal 5.

### *Greater London Authority*

Ever since the demise of the GLC we have felt the need for a strategic planning authority for London. So we welcomed the Government's plans for an elected mayor and assembly and have responded in detail during the consultation period. We have suggested that the mayor be elected by a majority vote of Greater London Borough voters and that the assembly should consist of one member for each of the 32 London boroughs. We have also suggested that the GLA should take over the functions of the Government Minister for London, the London Planning Advisory Committee, the Government Office for London and the Traffic Director for London and so avoid duplication and additional bureaucracy.

### *The Millennium*

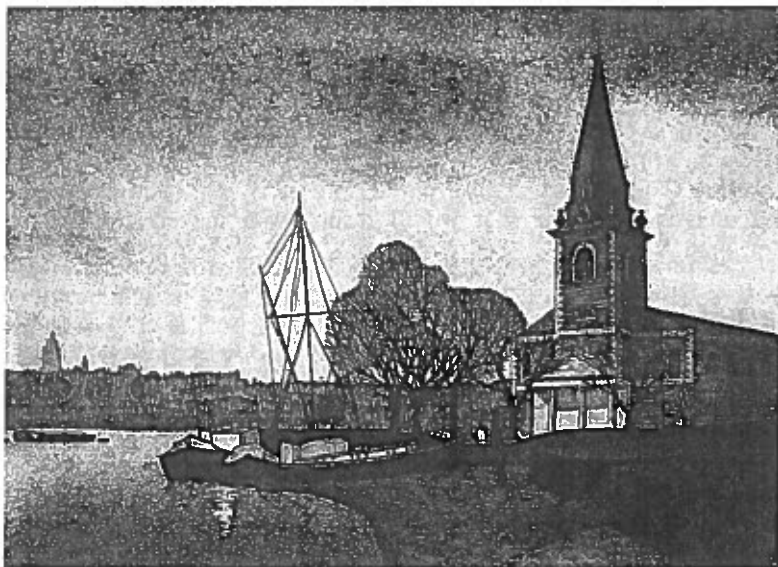
The Society is planning to celebrate the Millennium in two ways.

We plan to promote the erection of a major piece of public sculpture at the junction of King's Road with Park Walk, outside King's House and The Man in the Moon public house.

We also plan to stage a one-day conference on 'The Future of Chelsea' sometime next year, hopefully just before the proposed referendum on the government's proposals for a mayor for London. We hope to attract some well known speakers to this conference which will consider matters such as planning, licensing and restaurants, shopping, traffic, open spaces, leisure activities and our artistic heritage. We see this as a pro-active venture on the part of the Society to help all who have an interest in Chelsea to manage inevitable future changes rather than slip into them imperceptibly. We hope that the conference will appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

Mr President, this is the report of the Council of The Chelsea Society in its seventieth year; if there are any questions, I shall be pleased to answer them.

**David Le Lay**



*Farewell to a view. St Mary's Battersea, as we will never see it when the Rogers' tower block is built. An etching by Hugh Krall.*

### *The residents' associations meet again*

Another meeting of representatives of Chelsea residents' associations was held on 3 June 1997, in the Hall of Remembrance, Flood Street. It was attended by Councillor Bryan Levitt, chairman of the Planning and Conservation Committee of the Royal Borough, and Mr Michael French, the chief executive officer. David Le Lay, chairman of the Chelsea Society, took the chair and more than forty representatives attended.

The looks of Chelsea was a recurring theme in the questioning. There was criticism of the plethora of 'street furniture', including the fast-breeding telephone kiosks, bins and traffic signs. Worries about the spread of large restaurants in the King's Road, the consequent noise and the effect of parking in the side-streets were also aired.

Aircraft noise again became an issue with criticism aimed at the Council for failing to take a more robust stand against Battersea heliport and the proposed new terminal at Heathrow.

Traffic was prominent amongst the other issues raised, particularly the current studies and schemes and the problems of residents' parking.

## *A year to remember*

*Spirits rise in Chelsea when one of us becomes Mayor at the Town Hall in Kensington.*

*John Corbet-Singleton looks back at his year in office which ended in 1997....*

It is a great honour to become mayor. We did the usual 600 or so things, starting with few preconceptions, no great plan, just a desire to keep up the standard of earlier mayors. It was exciting and slightly daunting, but I had the advantage of long experience on the council and we had lived in Chelsea for about 45 years. The next advantage was that I was part of a well-oiled machine. Roger Barker, the mayor's secretary, and his team had been looking after the mayoralty for years.

In Kensington and Chelsea the mayor is expected once elected to be completely apolitical. He chairs council meetings during his year and is chosen, not always unanimously, by his fellow councillors. He has experts beside him - the town clerk and the chief legal officer - and he has a fairly comprehensive script from which he can depart but the tramlines are fairly clear. It is, I think, more a matter of tone of voice, of handling, rather than of great expertise.

The mayor also has a deputy mayor, chosen by himself, so likely to be compatible and I had chosen particularly well in Cllr Priscilla Frazer. In the background there is also a mayor's chaplain - in my case a perfect one in Dr Peter Elvy. Between them and the secretary and his team, this makes up the mayoral family.

Mayors slip easily into this, but particularly need guidance on protocol in the field and the macebearer provides advice discreetly and expertly. Another bonus is to be driven about by wonderful drivers in a rather unusual car, a vintage Rolls Royce.

I was in fact a little apprehensive about the ceremonial side of things but we grew into this. Protocol, cholesterol and alcohol are said to be the three mayoral enemies and, with occasional lapses, they were all kept at bay. There aren't all that many heavy meals, more the danger of grazing. If you go to several things in a busy day, you accept cakes, canapés and, yes, glasses of wine at rather frequent intervals!

I put on half a stone, but six weeks after the end of my mayoral year I'm nearly back to normal. My wife was more self-controlled.

You get incredibly tired, you are on parade to a greater or lesser extent more or less continuously. You do your prep; you write your 'thank-you' letters, you dress up, you are invested with chains and you

listen to a great deal of advice and some special pleading. At the end you are exhausted, one year is enough.

But what a year!

We are a royal borough and you get opportunities to meet the royal family. Not everyone sits next to the Queen, as I did at the Chelsea Flower Show; not everyone has the privilege of being with the Queen Mother, as we did as she visited a school and gardens; not everyone goes down Kensington High Street with royalty - the wrong way with outriders!

So there have been excitements. There have also been a large number of no less important, more local tasks. I planted trees, cut ribbons and cakes. Mayors also spend a great deal of time in churches, attending many kinds of services. In our case we attended the consecration of the new Bishop of Kensington, the Rt. Rev. Michael Colclough.

Schools are also most important along with youth activities. We enjoyed this aspect particularly, cheering on our successful footballers in the youth games, watching expertly-run play-groups, going to all sorts of drama, music and arts events for the young. Our Youth Service is wonderful and we also enjoyed the vibrancy and spectacle of the Notting Hill Carnival.

Worse moments included being late on two occasions - once to be awaited by the Bishop of Oxford and Lord Soper at an ecumenical service in a Methodist church - and once to meet the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Bramall, a field marshal, covered in medals - at an export award ceremony for the Designers' Guild.

We made a particular effort to support a charity through fund-raising. This was the Macmillan Pembridge Appeal for a cancer care centre in North Kensington. We managed to raise £25,000 through a coffee morning with Felicity Kendall and a concert and supper in the mayor's parlour.

There is so much else. Did you know there is a world-famous judo club in the borough - Budokwai in South Kensington? Were you aware of the importance of the reserve forces with headquarters at the Duke of York's barracks in the King's Road. You cannot know all about the musical societies, the garden guilds, the art exhibitions and above all, the innumerable charitable events for young and old, for good causes of every kind. As mayor you see the lot.

The list goes on, seemingly, for ever and at the same time the Royal Borough is the home of so many interesting, talented and cosmopolitan people. Add to this the amazing amount of voluntary work carried out, and it makes one feel humble and proud.

*Adapted from the Kensington & Chelsea Times.*

## *... and now, Roman Chelsea!*

### *An exclusive report on a remarkable discovery*

*Everybody knew that Chelsea was ancient. Yet there was surprise during the summer of 1997 when archaeologists discovered on the mud flats off the western end of Cheyne Walk the remains of what they believed to be the 8th century wharf used by the Saxon King Offa. So when other archaeologists excavated development sites in the oldest part of Chelsea around the Old Church, they expected to find more Saxon remains and did so. What they did not expect was to discover something much older. ALISON KAIN, the archaeologist who worked on part of the sites, reports on their findings .*

An archaeological excavation was undertaken in April and May of this year, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The excavation took place in the back garden area, away from the street frontage, where Victorian cellars had removed any layers which may have been of archaeological interest. Archaeological remains in the garden area had been protected by a build up of garden soil, up to two metres thick. This soil was carefully removed by mechanical digger under the supervision of an archaeologist, until the archaeological layers were reached. These were then excavated by hand in stratigraphical order from the latest to the earliest remains. This enabled a history of the site to be pieced together in chronological order once the excavation had been completed.

The local natural geology consists of terrace gravels and sands which rise up from the modern river Thames. These would have formed an attractive focus for human activity from prehistoric times. Little archaeological excavation has been undertaken, however, so our understanding of the past use of the area by ancient man is minimal. This excavation therefore has provided a rare and important opportunity to understand more about the area's history. The only evidence of prehistorical activity were six flint blades of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. These were found within pits and ditches of later date, so were not in situ but suggest prehistoric man used this area for hunting.

The village of Chelsea is not usually thought of as having Roman origins, so the excavation of two pits, containing pottery sherds of Roman date was unexpected. The sherds recovered from these pits have been dated to the 3rd century AD and identified as storage jars. A ditch, mostly removed by the cutting of a later ditch, also contained

a variety of Roman pottery sherds in its fill. These included vessels manufactured at the Alice Holt Roman kiln site in Surrey, with a combed lattice decoration. A fragment of Samian with decorative motifs of a hunting scene around the base and has been dated to the period of Julius II – Julianus I (c. AD 225-250). Fragments of Basalt lava, often imported by the Romans to make mill stones, were also found in the fill of this ditch. A group of 11 post holes are thought to be the remains of a timber structure. Some of the post holes contained pottery fragments which may date to AD 650 to 750. This would make them of Middle Saxon date, possibly earlier than Lundenwic (in the modern Aldwych/Covent Garden area) where Saxon pottery known as Ipswich were commonly found, dating that settlement to cAD 750-850.

A north-south aligned ditch, with a break in the middle, thought to be an entrance way, followed a similar alignment to the Roman ditch. The pottery in this ditch, however, has been dated to the Saxo-Norman period. Some of the sherds were from cooking pots dated by their shape to AD 1050-1350. This Saxo-Norman ditch and its Roman precursor are thought to have been boundary ditches; the presence of the post holes and pits of Roman and Saxon date all occur to the eastern side of these ditches which suggests that the ditches formed an enclosure of small settlement or farmstead preserved below the warehouse now undergoing renovation into flats.

In the medieval period the area of the excavation lay within the back gardens of houses fronting onto Church Lane (now Old Church Street) so little evidence for activity in this period was found. Early post-medieval remains were found, synonymous to back gardens prior to the introduction of municipal services in the 19th century. These consisted of bricklined cess pits and soakaways which have been dated by the bricks to the 15th to 19th centuries. Several rubbish pits were also excavated which can be dated to the early 18th century from the tobacco pipe fragments and decorated Delft pottery found in them.

The results of this excavation will be published in the *Surrey Archaeological Journal* once full analysis of the finds have been completed.

The archaeological work on this site was co-ordinated by Alison Kain of CgMs Ltd and the fieldwork was undertaken by a team of archaeologists, supervised by Shahina Fariad of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This archaeological project has been funded entirely by Weymark Ltd.

(See illustrations, pages 38-39)

## *The Autobiography of a Tree*

### *An anthropomorphic fantasy*

By Tom Pocock \*

I lay on the grass at the edge of a copse above the Pen Ponds in Richmond Park beneath the spreading branches of my parent chestnut a shiny brown conker, one day old. It was September, 1932, the school holidays were over and there were few people about. But it was a Saturday and a picnic party approached, spread a rug on the grass and began to eat their sandwiches. There was an old lady in her eighties, her daughter and son with his wife and his little boy aged seven.

Having no other children to play with, the small boy began roaming about and soon he saw me, my green shell split open and my nut-brown skin gleaming within. He picked me up, pulled off the prickly green shell and put me in his pocket. There had been stories of atrocities perpetrated against conkers such as myself; small boys, like this one, would drill holes through a conker, thread it on a string and smash it against another, which had been similarly treated and was held by another boy; whichever conker survived the impact would make its tormentor the winner.

But my little boy was kind. He took me back in his father's Morris Cowley to Battersea, where in a flat overlooking the trees of Battersea Park – some of them distant relations of mine – he put me in a little glass vase half-filled with water. Before long I felt the stirring of my roots, soon they broke through and my life as a tree had begun.

There was excitement in the Battersea flat because the family was moving. The father was going to work for the BBC in the new Broadcasting House and wanted to live somewhere on bus routes to the West End; the little boy was to go to Mr Gibb's school in Sloane Street.

I was apprehensive that I might be left behind, or discarded, but I was not. The boy carried me across Albert Bridge to Chelsea and, that following year, planted me in the corner of the garden of what was then known as 31 Oakley Crescent.

It was quite a large garden, around a corner house, and my neighbouring plants were the same as I would have found in most London gardens in those days: blue irises and mauve lilac. There were flowerbeds within Victorian edging tiles and these were soon planted with herbaceous flowers and edged with catmint because the lady of the

house was a keen gardener and was soon to win the first prize for a front garden from the Chelsea Gardens Guild. There were three other trees in the garden – small limes – and to these the lady added a laburnum either side of the gate. Near me, they paved a square around a white-painted garden vase, which, I heard, had once stood in the Cremorne pleasure-gardens nearby. The boy kept several tortoises in the garden and then a pair of hedgehogs, which nested under the lilac and produced a family of three.

There was much more human activity in the garden than there had been when the house had been one-room lodgings and a tailor's workshop. The lady had once lived in a cathedral close and, in summer, embarrassed her son by having breakfast served in the garden – the sun gleaming on polished silver – in full view of passers-by. A hammock on a wooden stand was set up on the paving and the boy and his friends would swing in it, or just lie and stare at the sky.

There was little traffic in Oakley Crescent – or as it was now renamed, Oakley Gardens; with my house re-numbered 14 – and few passers-by. In summer there would be the Walls ice-cream man on his tricycle and the boy would put a card printed with a large blue 'W' in the window, inviting him to stop and sell him his favourite Choc Bar. On winter weekends, the muffin man would walk past, balancing on his head a tray of muffins and crumpets covered with a green baize cloth and ringing a hand-bell. Then there was a gypsy who slowly walked along the road with a basket of lavender on her arm, slowly turning, and singing, "Who will buy my sweet lavender" in a rich voice. On winter nights, a middle-aged man and his wife would wheel a harp down the street on an old pram, set it up under the gas-lamp on the corner and play and then the lady would come out to give them money and mugs of tea.

Across the street, outside the pub, the Phéné Arms, where, so I heard, there was a huge portrait of Queen Victoria on the wall, the costermongers would arrive on Saturday evenings, having rattled down from Hampstead Heath in pony-carts on their way home to Battersea. A barrel-organ would be jangling by the kerb outside and soon the costers would be prancing about in their pearly suits to *Knees Up, Mother Brown*.

Sometimes there were social events in the garden. Not long after I had been planted, the other trees were twice decorated with strings of little flags to celebrate the "silver jubilee" of one King and the coronation of his successor. There was a wedding reception, too, for a handsome young couple; the voice of the bridegroom had often been heard through the open drawing-room window, when he read the news on the wireless, and his name was Alvar Lidell.

There were other familiar sounds from that big, polished, push-button wireless. As the boy reached adolescence and left for school at

Westminster each morning wearing a top hat and a tail coat, he would in the evening listen avidly to the warbling of a young American singer called Deanna Durbin, with whom he imagined he was in love. Occasionally, the father would tune into a German station and, through what they called the "atmospherics", came the ranting of a speaker named Hitler.

Because of this there was worry in the family. Each summer, formations of silver aeroplanes had flown over Chelsea on exercises in defending London against enemies but these were now replaced by others that flew over in the dark, filling the night with the throbbing roar of their engines. In 1938, there was particular worry and the family went to the Town Hall to be fitted with gas-masks. Next morning, they tried them on in the garden to photograph each other, giggling.

Then the family left and the house stood empty. More aeroplanes flew over and there were fires all round me. After a few years I saw the boy again, now wearing khaki, but he was walking past and did not live in the house any more. But he looked over the fence, smiled and remarked how well I was growing. He did return to Oakley Gardens soon afterwards and, for many years, lived just across the street. I noticed that when he walked past with a girl he would boast that he had planted me when I was little more than a conker. As the years passed and I grew taller, he stopped this and ignored me because this would have showed that he was at least thirty years old.

Eventually, the boy moved to the other side of Oakley Street but he still walked past, now with a wife and two little girls. I was now taller than the houses around me, although I had once been severely lopped, and am what is called a 'listed tree'. I am grateful to those now living in the house that they have not applied for permission to cut me down, although my leaves must darken their rooms in summer. The garden around me has changed with fashion and is now shrubs planted in gravel, although the three limes and one of the laburnums still keep me company.

Each September, the man who was once a boy in Richmond Park, comes by himself, looks up at my branches and down at the road below. He is looking for my conkers. When he finds a particularly shiny, well-shaped one, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. He takes it home and plants it in a flower-pot of earth in his gardens; now he has a little plantation of my offspring. When my saplings are big enough he gives them to friends in the country. I am told that my family now extends to Norfolk, Buckinghamshire and Shropshire. This is one of the consolations of age, at sixty-five.

*\*who was the boy in Richmond Park*

*(See illustration p.41)*

## Birthday treat

The 75th birthday of a Cambridge baker might not seem a cause for celebration in Chelsea until it is remembered that Fitzbillies of Trumpington Street has for three-quarters of a century been the unrivalled creator and purveyor of the Chelsea bun.

An article in the 1971 issue of the *Report* described the sticky, spicy glory of this product and the secret recipe so jealously guarded by the then proprietors. About five years ago, Fitzbillies changed hands but, happily, the new owners maintain the tradition. George and Penny Thomson are Canadian and American respectively but his forebears were bakers and he abandoned a career in films to return to their noble art and particularly to the baking of the Chelsea bun.

Chelsea buns, originally created by Captain Hand at the Chelsea Bun House in the eighteenth century, have been almost extinct in their native territory for many years. So, to counter this lack of experience, it should be explained that the bun is fashioned from light dough, sprinkled with raisins, which is then curled like a snail and soaked in delectable molasses made from a secret recipe. As Captain Hand's promotional jingle ran,

*O flour of the ovens! a Zephyr in paste!  
Fragrant as honey and sweeter in taste!  
As flaky and white, as if baked in the light,  
As the flesh of an infant, soft, doughy and slight.*

Now, buns of which Captain Hand would be proud – albeit mahogany-coloured rather than white – are still sold daily to hungry undergraduates and greedy dons, more than three hundred on a busy day. They are also mailed around the British Isles and flown all over the world.

*Enquiries should be addressed to Fitzbillies, 52 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RG. Telephone 01223 352500.*

## Two Chelsea philosophers

by Bob Barker

There are no blue plaques, yet both authors of what is "considered by many to be one of the great intellectual achievements of all time"<sup>1</sup> lived, and carried out some of this monumental work, in Chelsea. This work was *Principia Mathematica*, the "greatest single contribution to logic since Aristotle"<sup>2</sup>, composed jointly by Alfred North Whitehead and Bertrand Russell.

Russell lived at half a dozen addresses in Chelsea, during three main periods of his life. The first of these was in the early years of this century, towards the end of his first marriage; the second was in the Twenties, at the start of his second; and the third was in the Sixties, during his fourth. He had first rented 14 Cheyne Walk in the autumn of 1902 for six months, when he was aged thirty, and not yet famous, though he was putting the final touches to the work which was to make his name: *The Principles of Mathematics*. This explained how mathematics could ultimately be derived from logic, specifically from set theory, and answered the philosophical riddle of what numbers actually are. Russell had struggled for some years to state his new ideas in a consistent and systematic fashion, but was not fully satisfied with the result, and so had already begun collaborating with his former tutor, Whitehead, on the much more comprehensive and rigorous treatment which eventually became *Principia Mathematica*.

He was unsatisfied at this period for personal as well as for philosophical reasons. He had realised (suddenly, during an afternoon bicycle ride near Cambridge early in February 1902) that he no longer loved his wife Alys, but had not yet worked out a solution to that problem. To complicate matters, not only had he fallen out of love with Alys, but he now felt a strong, if probably Platonic, affection for Whitehead's wife, Evelyn, which had to be concealed from their respective spouses.

The riverside location of Cheyne Walk, however, did provide some consolation. His contemporary letters include such lucid passages as: "This place is singularly beautiful. Alone at night in my study at the top of the house, I see far below me the busy world hurrying east and



west, and I feel infinitely remote from their little hopes and fears. But beyond, borne on the flowing tide of the river, the seagulls echo their melancholy cry, full of the infinite sadness of the sea; above, Orion and the Pleiades shine undisturbed." However, to his friend Gilbert Murray, he confided: "I feel horribly lost here. Only the river and the gulls are my friends."

Over the next decade or so Russell, with or without Alys, rented or stayed with friends at various other addresses in Chelsea and the mansion flats around Battersea Park. For example, in the autumn of 1903 and the spring of 1904, he returned to Cheyne Walk, first at number 13, and then back at number 14; the loveless home was described as "cheerless" and "uncared for" at the time. In the spring of 1905, Russell rented 4 Ralston Street and could write "I have learnt a *modus vivendi* with Alys...." This meant living, but not sleeping, together; neither of them was happy, and much of Russell's energy was now sublimated into what he described as "the absolute unbridled Titanic passion" of his work on the *Principia*.

While living in Ralston Street he dined out, for example, at Sidney and Beatrice Webb's, with such interesting fellow-guests as the actor Granville-Barker, then working as director at the (Royal) Court Theatre, and the current prime minister Arthur Balfour (himself formerly a philosopher and fellow member of Trinity College, Cambridge). By day Russell, in Edwardian moustache and high-necked collar, often enjoyed a constitutional walk around Battersea Park.

T.S. Eliot (later a graduate philosophy student of Russell's and another resident of riverside Chelsea) captured the paradoxical character and social impact of the young Russell famously in *Mr Apollinax*:

"....his dry and passionate talk devoured the afternoon.  
'He is a charming man' -- 'But after all what did he mean?'"

Whitehead's character was somewhat less paradoxical; in Russell's words, he was "very modest", "kindly, rational and imperturbable....calm, reasonable and judicious....", with a "profound and passionate devotion to wife and children" and had "delightful humour and great gentleness". He was, however, something of an absent-minded professor, especially where money and correspondence were concerned. He once said to Russell: "You think the world is what it looks like in fine weather at noon day; I think it is what it seems like in the early morning when one first wakes up from deep sleep".

Until Volume I of *Principia Mathematica* was finally published,

Russell was living largely on his private income, while Whitehead had for more than twenty years held a lectureship at Trinity College, Cambridge; however, in 1910, he relinquished this and helped to have Russell appointed virtually as his successor. By the spring of 1911, Whitehead was living in Chelsea, at 17 Carlyle Square; first lecturing at University College, and then becoming Professor of Applied Mathematics at Imperial College, Kensington in 1914-24.

Upon the completion of the *Principia*, Russell found that: "the long restraint gave way like the bursting of a dam. I found myself overwhelmingly and passionately in love." The sometimes slightly reluctant object of this new passion was Lady Ottoline Morrell, and the Whiteheads, who were not particularly fond of Alys, helped to foster the relationship. Russell asked Ottoline to go and talk things over with Evelyn in Carlyle Square; she subsequently described the experience as: "sitting in a strange elaborate little dining room, talking to a strange elaborate lady, who looked at me with suppressed mistrust and jealousy". At the end of March Russell stayed at the house, from which he wrote Ottoline several passionate letters, and where, on the morning of the 30th (in Ottoline's words): "I had another interview with Bertie at the Whiteheads' house, to say goodbye, and to tell him that it was impossible for me to leave Philip, but he begged me to see him again. His despair weighed on me, and filled me with gloom. I felt it was impossible to cast him off." And Russell wrote to her later that day: "I still feel your arms around me and your kiss on my lips."

The following month, he was staying at the riverside flat of Gilbert Murray at More's Garden, Cheyne Walk, and wrote to Ottoline that Mrs Whitehead said: "we could meet occasionally at Carlyle Square, but not often, because she doesn't want her servants to know, or her son." Although he wrote Ottoline further passionate letters from Carlyle Square in May, and stayed there again in 1913, they did not again use the address as a meeting place.

Volumes II and III of *Principia Mathematica* were finally published in 1912 and 1913. Whitehead alone worked on a fourth volume, dealing with geometry, but never completed it. By 1917 he had moved to 12 Elm Park Gardens, and had parted company both philosophically and on the subject of the War with Russell, who spent the summer of 1918 in Brixton jail for publishing impolitic views about the latter. When he was released, Osbert Sitwell (then living at 5 Swan Walk) "organised a party for him the same evening, when Lady Ottoline Morrell took him to hear.... Bach and Mozart".

Whitehead meanwhile turned philosophically to more metaphysical

questions which owed something to Bergson, for example analysing events in terms of process. This resulted in two quite important books: *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Natural Knowledge* (1919) and *The Concept of Nature* (1920). In 1920-21 he was back in Carlyle Square, although now a few doors down, at No. 14. We can only wonder what this fundamentally quite conventional man made of the goings-on at no. 2, where at the end of 1921 rehearsals were taking place for Edith Sitwell's radical *Facade*, with jazzy music by William Walton. A competing and contrasting noise was made by the local organ grinder, whom Sacheverell Sitwell vividly recalled playing *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* on the pavement outside in 1920 or 1921. Whitehead emigrated to the U.S.A (taking up a professorship at Harvard) in 1924.

Russell had married his second wife, Dora Black, at Chelsea Registry Office on 27 September 1921, six days after his divorce from Alys. By early November they were living at 31 Sydney Street, and on 16 November, in a room on the top floor, their son John was born. A few weeks later Countess Elizabeth von Arnim (third wife of Russell's brother Frank) wrote: "I've seen Bertie several times and his round little wife and their snug and happy little house in Chelsea, full of tiny jackets and pilchers and powder-puffs and cradles, with Bertie looking perfectly blissful." Russell was now almost fifty, and famous, or perhaps infamous. Hence he had had to take the then unusual step of buying the freehold; he could not rent as "I was politically and morally undesirable". Some of the furniture had been brought back by Bertrand and Dora from their stay in China; some of it he had acquired from Wittgenstein.

In 1922 and 1923, Russell stood as the Chelsea Labour parliamentary candidate. George Bernard Shaw considered this a hopeless cause, and wrote: "I suppose it is too late to urge you not to waste any of your own money on Chelsea, where no Progressive has a dog's chance. In Dilke's day it was Radical; but Lord Cadogan rebuilt it fashionably and drove all the Radicals across the bridges to Battersea." ("Dilke's day" would be when he was the Radical MP for Chelsea in 1868-86.) Russell was duly defeated by 8,924 votes in the first election, and by 5,414 in the second. The house was often used as Labour Party Committee Rooms and a *Times* reporter wrote that: "a select body of workers toil zealously in the basement.... the surroundings are pleasantly marked by the owner's good taste." However, a tomato was once thrown through the window, perhaps by a disgruntled Conservative. Meanwhile Alys, who never entirely ceased to love Russell, was living nearby at St. Leonard's Terrace and poignantly "caught glimpses of

him at lectures or concerts occasionally, and through the uncurtained windows of his Chelsea house, where I used to watch him sometimes reading to his children."

Russell turned increasingly to writing as career and on the whole he did his popular, money-making, writing at Sydney Street in the winter, and his more technical work in Cornwall in the summer. Hence the 'lighter' works mostly written in Sydney Street are: *Prospects of Industrial Civilisation* (with Dora, 1923) which was not a great success; a pair of shorter and, in their day, more successful books: *The ABC of Atoms* (1923) and *The ABC of Relativity* (1925); and *What I Believe* (1925).

After the Second World War, Russell succeeded to the family earldom and became for a time almost a member of the Establishment; he gave the first Reith lectures in 1948, and received the Nobel prize for literature in 1950. Alys continued to live in Chelsea (latterly in Wellington Square) and towards the end of her life, in 1949-50, she and Bertrand were able to meet again on friendly terms. She arranged his 78th birthday party, on 18th May 1950, at which, she said, he talked brilliantly for four hours.

Although, after this, he lived mostly in North Wales, Russell and Edith, his fourth wife, kept a Chelsea *pied à terre* at 43 Hasker Street from about 1960 to 1965. Here were a "study full of worn academic books and row upon row of detective stories in glass fronted cases". Even now, Russell did not shun controversy, and in his autobiography he describes returning there in September, 1961, after his second brief term in Brixton gaol (forty-three years after his first, and the result this time of his anti-nuclear activities): "We delighted in our reunion in freedom very early on Monday morning. But almost at once were besieged by the press and radio and TV people who swarmed into Hasker Street."

He was eighty-nine at the time.

<sup>1</sup> Peter Hare: *Oxford Companion to Philosophy*

<sup>2</sup> *Concise Dictionary of National Biography*

(Illustration page 40)

## Veronese in Fulham Road

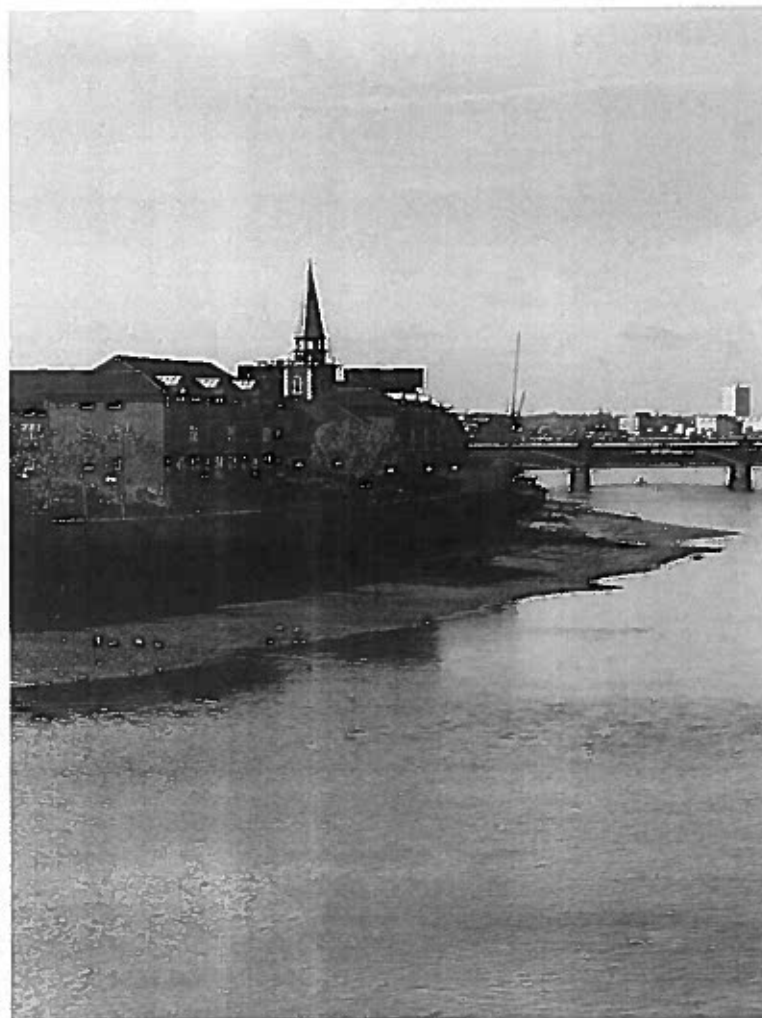
Anybody who has walked through the halls and corridors, or sat in the waiting-rooms, of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital will be aware of its use of art as therapy. The hospital's Arts Project has, under distinguished patronage, made practical and effective use of the visual arts to cheer and comfort those for whom it offers medical support. But anybody who happens to enter its little chapel will see something even more extraordinary. This is the dreamlike experience of entering a church in Venice to be dazzled by a great Venetian painting.

The painting above the altar is indeed by the sixteenth century Venetian master Veronese. His name was, in fact, Paolo Caliari but he was called Veronese because he had been born in Verona although it is to the Venetian School that his work belongs. This is one of six paintings for altar-pieces and organ-shutters commissioned around 1578 for the church of San Giacomo on the glass-makers' island of Murano. Three of them were acquired for Burghley House in 1691 and still hang there, one is in the Barber Institute at the University of Birmingham and the other has been lost.

This one – *The Resurrection* – was bought in Venice by Sir James Wright in 1761 and brought to England; then, for more than a century and a half, it hung in Lowther Castle, the Earl of Lonsdale's seat. Sold in 1947 and acquired by the dealers, Colnaghi, it was bought for the Westminster Hospital in 1950 for what now seems an amazingly modest price of £9,000, of which £2,000 was raised by public subscription. It was then loaned for special exhibitions at the Royal Academy, in Birmingham, in Manchester and at the National Gallery in Athens. When the Westminster closed in 1993, it was brought to Chelsea.

In 1996, the painting was sent for restoration to the studio of Carol Willoughby and Paul Ackroyd, who were advised by the restorer Herbert Lank and the Veronese scholar, Dr Richard Cocke of the University of East Anglia. Restoration has revealed the painting in its original glory and the tradition of rich colour in the tradition of Bellini and Titian. The sight of it lifts the spirits and may help to heal the body.

(See illustration, page 37)



*This view of St Mary's church, Battersea from Battersea Bridge has been enjoyed over the past year and would have been maintained, had the development of the former Battersea Flour Mills been carried out in accordance with the planning guidelines prepared by Wandsworth Borough Council. But the view of the church will soon be obscured by a 20-storey block of flats, designed by Lord Rogers of Riverside, which is to be known as 'Monte Vetro' (mountain of glass).*



*The Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor John Corbet-Singleton and the Mayoress, greeted by Peter Osgood at the opening of the Chelsea Yacht and Boat Company's historical exhibition.  
(See pages 21-2)*

*Builders at work. The new, enlarged Crosby Hall under construction and a crane stands over the developments behind Chelsea Old Church.*



*The Veronese of Fulham Road. The newly-restored painting above the altar in the chapel of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital (see p. 34)*



*Presenting Roman Chelsea. Archaeologist Alison Kain explains the unexpected discovery of Roman pottery in the development site behind Chelsea Old Church ( see pages 23-24)*



*Alison Kain displays some of the Roman pottery fragments found on the site.*



*Pottery from the 17th century (seen here) was what the archaeologists expected to find.*



*Where industrial buildings stood on the Fraser and Ellis site, the shallow ditch (in the far corner) is all that remains of a small Roman settlement.*





*Lion-hunter: Lady Sibyl Colefax, the literary hostess of Argyll House ( see pp. 44-50)*



*Literary lion: Bertrand Russell, the philosopher. (See pp. 29-33)*



*Argyll House in the King's Road, where Lady Sibyl Colefax entertained between the wars (see pages 44-50).*



*From conker to giant chestnut: the tree in Oakley Gardens, planted in 1933 (see pp. 25-7)*



*The vicarage and parish hall in Old Church Street, which may be replaced in 1998.*



*Saved: the oldest shops in Chelsea – Nos. 229-235 King's Road – which have been saved from demolition (see Chairman's Report).*



## Bill Figg's Chelsea Quiz

*Five Chelsea scenes  
photographed during the  
past half-century. Where  
and what are they:  
Answers on p. 74*



A



B



C



D



E

## *Memories are made of this - preserved by Bill Figg and his camera*

As the great and the good – notably the Chelsea Society and enlightened councillors of the Royal Borough – discuss the possibility of a Chelsea Museum and Gallery to match those in Hampstead, Wandsworth and Richmond, Bill Figg has gone ahead and founded his own.

Bill, who comes from an old Chelsea family, is a retired electrician and for many years he daily travelled about the square mile for the London Electricity Board, repairing faults and restoring power. As he did so, he became increasingly aware that the Chelsea in which he grew up was fast changing, if not disappearing. As a boy at St Luke's School – he was also a member of St Luke's choir – he had been befriended by George Buchanan, the coachbuilder of Radnor Walk, who was also an amateur photographer. Buchanan loved photographing Chelsea – his photographs of wartime bomb-damage are important historical records – and he inspired Bill Figg to do the same.

So Bill's camera accompanied him everywhere and, when he was not photographing the changing scene he was collecting its ephemera – press cuttings, theatre programmes, leaflets and so on – and his collection is now stored at his house in Streatham and in a friend's near Sloane Square. Looking through more than two thousand images, one is surprised by the once-familiar, now forgotten, scenes and the way in which Chelsea streets and Chelsea people have changed, particularly in the half century since the war.

Bill is a man of strong feelings and has expressed his anger at the loss of much he held dear by recording it for posterity. His ambitions go beyond this and one of them is to see a plaque set in the wall at the junction of Turk's Row and Sloane Court East to commemorate the seventy-four American soldiers killed there by a flying bomb in 1944.

Some of Bill's photographs were published by Leo and Philippa Bernard of Chelsea Rare Books in *Hidden Chelsea* in 1996 and copies are still available. Now he is wondering what will eventually happen to his collection. Certainly it must be preserved – perhaps becoming central to a Chelsea Museum.

The power of this imagery can be seen in Bill Figg's Chelsea Quiz on the opposite page.

# *Lions' Corner House*

## *Lady Sibyl Colefax's literary salon in the King's Road*

By Kirsty McLeod

Sir Arthur and Lady Sibyl Colefax saw Argyll House "one particular March morning in 1921 – one of those exquisite spring days when London takes on deep blue shadows and high skies, is quite Italian in fact. The almonds were out here and there as we walked – no, rushed down to Chelsea, and there it stood! One look was enough and we were utterly determined to own it." Here, near the river and surrounded by its own gardens, was that rare thing, a country house in London. To Sibyl, who knew it well, "it was always the House at the Corner [which] I passed every Monday morning on my way to a French class in Cheyne Walk. The House at the Corner, so full of interest compared with the stucco monotony of South Kensington from which I came". On this spring morning "its dark front [stood] in blue shadow the great door a striking contrast of grey white". Everything about its architecture seemed individual and graceful: "the carved cornice and balustrade, the lovely bases on pedestals at each corner, the beautiful formal windows below and above, the logical, exquisite proportion of the arches on both floors which held the whole fabric with their simple curve – just an arch springing from a single pilaster". It had, they were to find out, the added charm of having been built in the early eighteenth century by an Italian, Giacomo Leoni di Venezia, who had come to London at the invitation of Lord Burlington around 1720 to help with some of the details of Burlington's new house in Piccadilly. Soon Leoni was building country houses of his own, and altering many others: "beautiful Moor Park in Middlesex", Sibyl claimed proudly in an inventory she made of his work, "the great saloon and splendid outside staircase at Lathom House, now alas pulled down, the great gates at Carshalton – all these and many others bear witness to his genius for bringing Italian spaciousness and proportion into symmetry with English parks and pleasaunces". Leoni left an account of his English work, and at the end of a series of palatial designs is a plan "For a Small Country House", which is described as "upon the King's Road between Chelsea and London. This little house of my invention was

built for Mr John Pierene, grey brick which in my opinion sorting with white stone makes a beautiful harmony".

Leoni's "Small Country House" in London did feel to Sibyl and Arthur as if it could somehow be in the country, with its immense jasmine and huge vine growing in a tangle up the façade, "both probably as old as the house, especially the vine which once bore 140 bunches of sour grapes for us". From the street an iron gateway led into a small paved court with a chestnut tree "shading equally the house next door and the passer-by". There was "an odd little stable yard and low buildings behind the wall – almost like a real country place – and the name 'Doctor Thorne', successor to his father as I learned long after, another solid country touch, on the brass plate on the door". Much to Sibyl's disappointment, she could never claim to have met the doctor, but she had come to know the owner who followed him, and had once "been inside the magic door and had even seen the garden". Moreover, Dame Ellen Terry, who often came to Sibyl's house, had been to see Dr Thorne as a patient. "As she stood waiting in the hall she watched an old man come down the stairs, and as the bent figure disappeared, she was told, 'That is Thomas Carlyle'".

Sibyl was entranced. Every visit to Argyll House made its charm grow more and more overpowering. "There was", she was to recall ruefully later, "always drama in the buying of our homes, and the same characters reappeared – a wicked peer, a beautiful lady and a rich man – and these had to be circumvented, cajoled or defeated. It was an exciting, at times agonizing battle but each time it ended in glorious victory."

They were determined to own Argyll House and "while the struggle went on, we fell more and more utterly in love" with it. Then finally and with great suddenness it was theirs.

Leoni had written that it was "suitable for a small family". "Here", added Sibyl, "a small family love and bless his art." There was the "entrancing problem" of how to make the house liveable without disturbing an inch of its architect's work. "There can be no pleasure", reminisced Sibyl later, "like [that of] loving a house and uniting in every sort of search for the exact things which are to enhance it and yet not interfere in any way with its initial perfection. We were far from purists, and treasures (to us) from France and Italy found their way to very happy places all over the house – 'blessed emptiness' being also observed, one of the cardinal rules!"

Mainly, what needed to be done was both practical and expensive. As it was, the stable and outhouses served for servants' rooms; there was a small, dark, ancient kitchen, and an immense paved cellar. As they explored and planned, the Colefaxes found evidence of earlier houses: a mullioned window in the cellar, a Tudor window, a vaulted

space down a panelled staircase under the hall. Sibyl even had a resident ghost – not that she ever saw him: a black-coated Jesuit from the days in the reign of Queen Elizabeth when “Spanish conspirators were said to have gathered here, hidden in the safety of country lanes and dark nights”.

Now, the huge cellar was turned into an airy kitchen with its window looking out over the garden. The stable, of much later date, made way for an extension housing pantry and storerooms, a luggage lift and better accommodation, including a sitting-room with a view of the garden, for the servants. When it came to the building materials for the annexe, Sibyl’s perfectionist eye established that Leoni had in fact built Argyll House in yellow brick. It was “not a very nice yellow at that”, but nothing would do but that they should follow suit. “Of course all our friends murmured, ‘Must they build in that hideous yellow brick?’ Presently, it ceased to be yellow by the very simple process of adding two hundred years of London soot in two weeks. This was done with a bucket and brush of doctored water and again”, complained Sibyl, “we wondered why people are so fond of judging before they know”.

Having settled the servants into “their friendly new quarters”, Sibyl took up her paintbrush and turned to the house itself. The hall and staircase had to be repainted “the colour of old ivory which turned out to be as difficult as it sounds easy, and only after days of failure we found that yellow and brown together produced our tone”. The upper arch was “desecrated by a door of that glass described as ‘Cathedral’” but which to Sibyl was “suggestive rather of a lodging house”. This was torn down, as was a Victorian cistern beyond, and the Victorian fireplaces which had replaced the original ones. Happily, the paneling everywhere had been left untouched. It too was painted ivory and a neutral carpet left “a free hand for colour from old rugs, bright curtains and gay chintzes” while “a few pieces of old walnut and lacquer furniture gave a touch of variety to the background of white”. In the dining-room “to disguise the fact that this is one of the smallest rooms ever used for such purpose”, the walls were stripped of nine coats of paint to reveal the natural pine of the panelling, the colour of “a beech wood in October”. The only ornaments were four crystal wall lights and a central chandelier, “the crystals for which had taken long to collect. Their lovely and fantastic shapes glistened and reflected and brought light and life to the plain brown walls”. A Charles II mirror with deep amber glass, and a tortoiseshell-framed one opposite it, reflected the crystals by night and the garden by day. “In a small house”, wrote Sibyl, “nothing gives such a sense of space as the reflected vista and, whatever answer a mirror gives back to the human being, it is always amazingly becoming to inanimate objects.” Hence,

the drawing-room housed “more deceitful mirrors” as well as some capacious armchairs for groups of guests to use “to indulge in that greatest of all luxuries, good talk. And,” continues Sibyl with what seems like a rare flash of self-mockery, “lest this talking seems an obsession – there is always the book-lined library upstairs ready for those who yearn for comparative silence.”

In the pictures in her album of Argyll House, Sibyl’s passion, indeed need for order, is manifest everywhere. In the long hall leading to double doors to the garden, the furniture marches two by two along the walls in identical pairs. A pair of Queen Anne walnut stools covered in the same colour of damask is followed by twin console tables bearing the very same arrangements of flowers with identical mirrors over them. Pairs of vases, pairs of sconces, matching if not identical pieces of furniture – the symmetry is evident in the same way she arranged each room. A few unusual painted pieces bear witness to the fact that Sibyl had an eye for collecting rare and unusual furniture – in the same way, many would have said, that she collected rare and unusual people. On the other hand, nothing in her house was too jarring, too out of the ordinary. Oriental lacquer she loved, but only when it was tamed to the English taste.

At last, after the usual impatience over building delays, they were in. It was spring again: the young almonds which Sibyl with foresight had already planted bore a few flowers. Now the grass was sown and the lawn aerated. Rows of plane trees lined the garden walls so that they could be spared the sight of Victorian buildings near by. In summer the impression was all of green and “leafy darkness” punctuated by “our agapanthus pots from the country and other Italian pots with sweet geraniums and herbs to pull as one passed in and out”. White foxgloves lit up the furthest and darkest corners.

“When one is completely besotted about one’s home”, Sibyl commented disarmingly, “it seems the most natural thing in the world that one wants – presses – every friend to see it too.” Thus, there were endless “*tournées du propriétaire*” in the early days. Breakfasts, even dinners, were taken in the garden, much to the horror of the American-born wife of a diplomat. (‘Oh, my, what an awful light!’) Argyll House was for Sibyl “never a fine house, never a show house”; as the one family home it was much too important to her for that. Decorated in 1921, it remained sacrosanct, and nothing was ever changed in it until 1936 when Arthur’s death meant Sibyl had reluctantly to move elsewhere. As a result, Argyll House had a lived-in warmth, an ease and harmony which many people felt that Sibyl never achieved when she came to decorate houses officially and by commission. Certainly she never ceased to adore it and for fifteen years Argyll House was to be the centre of her life.....

Sibyl had turned Argyll House into the perfect setting for her entertaining. Of all her homes it was the one she loved the most. When she left it she wrote to Bernard Berenson that I Tatti, his villa in Italy, was "the only thing that seems to me home since the great door of Argyll House closed on me and on joy for ever". It was an overstatement – she would continue to give successful and happy parties for her friends after she had left Argyll House. But Argyll House always held the best and brightest memories for her.

How impossible to recapture so many and so many delicious occasions. The tiny company for talk – let's say, Virginia [Woolf] and Ivor Churchill, Noël [Coward] and Arnold Bennett, Desmond [MacCarthy] or H G Wells, Harold Nicolson, Belloc on his day and Geoffrey Scott (now forgotten except by the faithful few). Who can recapture talk – the greatest of all pleasures and also the most ephemeral. Of each and all of these [talks] one says it was the most delicious, or brilliant, or amusing, or profound as the case might be. And then one is led away by the longing to represent each separately in their own setting – Virginia in the high room in Tavistock Square. Duncan and Vanessa, decorations and shelves of books everywhere. Virginia seated in a low chair by the fire – she had the most graceful way of resting back in that chair and as she talked, the beautiful movement of her arms played an accompaniment to her words and her beautiful voice and emphasized all the wit, wisdom and infinite variety and liveliness of all she said.

Argyll House, with its soft colours and mellow furniture, was the ideal background against which Sibyl's guests could look their best, give of their best, and generally relax in the unassuming and homely atmosphere. Once through the "great door" set into its gracious early eighteenth-century façade, they entered a broad hall with double doors leading to the garden at the back. The dining-room also looked out over the garden. Wood-panelled, it had a country-house atmosphere with its cosy window-seats and capacious fireplace. The table of old Italian walnut could seat ten but Sibyl had a top made for it to take fourteen. The glass was also Italian, Sibyl and Arthur having travelled all the way to Murano during the Whitsun holiday of 1914 to buy it. By the outbreak of war it had not arrived and they feared its loss, but it was with them by the end of August along with six cases of champagne ordered from Rheims.

Sibyl's guests were greeted by the redoubtable Norah Fielding, the parlourmaid who had been with Sibyl from the age of eighteen. Deeply religious – she walked to Brompton Oratory every day for 7.30 am Mass – she nevertheless had strong likes and dislikes and was a woman who spoke her mind. Like her mistress, Fielding loved entertaining and had sole charge of Sibyl's Visitors' Book, making sure each and every guest (and she knew most of them personally) remembered to

sign. Noël Coward entered her own private black book when, at tea one day and eager to see a report of a new play, he snatched a letter from Thornton Wilder to Sibyl from Fielding's hand. The parlourmaid, "a bit of dragon", according to Michael Colefax, was not amused and maintained a stiff formality with Noël Coward ever afterwards. A familiar face to all of Sibyl's friends, Fielding was part of Argyll House's indisputably domestic atmosphere. She has her share of immortality through being mentioned in one of the funny anecdotes about Sibyl, namely her famous dinner at which Fielding was heard to announce in swift succession: "Mr Winston Churchill, Mr Max Beerbohm, Mr Yehudi Menuhin".

Fielding announced the guests into Argyll House's large, light drawing-room with its two fireplaces, its books, comfortable chintz sofa and the Steinway baby grand chosen by Rubinstein. They were served either sherry or Poggio Gherardo vermouth from the vineyard near Florence of a Mrs Ross. But Sibyl was almost entirely teetotal, and not much time was spent lingering over drinks. Almost as soon as the last guest had arrived, Fielding announced dinner.....

It may have been some lingering uncertainty about her own efficacy as a drawing-card, but Sibyl was happiest when she had a centre and purpose to her entertaining. When Fred and Adele Astaire first dazzled London's theatre-goers with their singing and dancing, it was in Sibyl's house that they were entertained to a post-first-night reception. In 1936 on George Gershwin's last visit to London before he died, he was coaxed by Sibyl into taking part in a memorable trio. Michael Colefax, who was present, remembers "the large piano stool [with] Gershwin in the middle. Artur Rubinstein on one side and Cole Porter on the right. Either Rubinstein or Cole Porter asked Gershwin from where he got his inspiration. The answer was Wagner. There followed many examples of how he had drawn on Wagner for his ideas". Later Rubinstein played some of his favourite Spanish dances, then around 3 am Jan Masaryk [son of the Czech President and then his country's envoy in London] sang some haunting Czech folk songs. "Afterwards", recalled Michael Colefax, "he was standing by me and suddenly in his white tie and tails stood on his head in the middle of the drawing-room floor. No question of his being intoxicated so I asked him why. He said it was the first time in that year that for three or four hours he had been able to forget the appalling prospects for his country, and for Europe as a whole, because of the menace of Hitler".

Sometimes, however, people were less than delighted to put on performances, impromptu or otherwise, for Sibyl. Ronald Storrs retained rueful memories of "a dinner in Argyll House ruined by being put next to Ruth Draper, with instructions to nag her into one or two turns, she resisting at first firmly and later sternly: a hateful assign-

ment”.

Sibyl's London life centred round its set pieces, her formal luncheon and dinner parties, but there were also afternoons to fill, and the enjoyment of sitting behind a tea-table, dispensing Earl Grey (no milk or lemon) to those of the famous and talented who just happened to be passing by. That she was keen to let no opportunity pass of furthering the cause was admitted by her son. He cites the placing of matches, ashtrays and cigarettes all around the room, almost at every guest's elbow, as evidence that his mother did not want "her" conversations to be interrupted whilst the talker searched his pockets for missing matches. And the writers did come. E. V. Lucas, E. F. Benson, George Moore, H. G. Wells – all were old-timers and tea-timers since the Onslow Square days. When the Colefaxes moved to Argyll House, they were the length of a brisk constitutional from Arnold Bennett in Cadogan Square. At 4 pm precisely he would don his hat and make for the Lyons tea-house in Sloane Square where he would watch the world go by over a pot of tea. Having consumed this ritual cup, he was ready for the real thing at Argyll House, where if, as sometimes happened, he was the only guest, he and Sibyl would retire for tea to her upstairs sitting-room.

"[Sibyl] collected all the intellectuals around her as a parrot picks up beads", criticized Virginia Woolf. Her detractors told the tale of how Mrs Colefax, as a young wife, invited H. G. Wells and Bernard Shaw to dine (on postcards) separately, affirming that each was longing to meet the other. It was the sort of story, apocryphal or not, which infuriated those who disliked Sibyl. Yet others defended her: Vita Sackville-West wrote praising her for being the one person ever to have created a salon in England. Was this true or merely flattery? The argument continued even while Sibyl was still alive, and has been kept going in numerous diaries and memoirs published since. Was Lady Colefax's drawing-room, as *The Times* put it in her obituary, "The last London salon" with "nothing to fear from comparison with the great literary salons of the past"? Or was Argyll House, as Sibyl's critics liked to jest, the notorious "Lions' Corner House", where a consummate lion-hunter, to feed her ego, lured and devoured her prey.

(Adapted from Kirsty McLeod's *A Passion for Friendship*, published by Michael Joseph, 1991).

(Illustration, page 40)

## *When the Navy was here*

By Alan Russett

On Thursday 2nd May, 1891, at eleven o'clock in the morning, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales passed underneath an arch upon which were inscribed the words 'It is on the Navy under the Good Providence of God, that our Wealth, Prosperity, and Peace Depend', to inaugurate the Royal Naval Exhibition in the grounds of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea. The princess opened the Exhibition by turning a golden key in the tower of a model lighthouse "letting free an electric current, which fired a salute and loosed a flag at the summit of the lighthouse in the grounds", a replica of the Eddystone Lighthouse. The royal party then toured some of the displays which were arranged in four main groups: Arts, Navigation, Models and Ordnance. Queen Victoria toured the exhibition a few days later in a small chaise or carriage, pulled by her "faithful ghillie", and spent some time inspecting the 110-ton gun, dubbed 'The Woolwich Infant', one of the marvels of the show, in the Armstrong Gallery, but was unfortunately unable to manage the steps up to the full-scale replica of HMS Victory. Perhaps this was as well, since the realism of the wax-work reconstruction of Nelson's death between decks, created by Mr J.T. Tussaud, provoked adverse criticism in the press. The Queen's route then passed through an iceberg in which were representations of ships trapped in the ice.

The exhibition occupied principally the same area and buildings as the Military Exhibition which had taken place the previous year, still familiar today as the site of the Chelsea Flower Show, but it had been found necessary to incorporate an additional eight acres to provide sufficient room for "the evolutions of Bluejackets and Naval drills and exercises". This space was over what is now Embankment Gardens, then undeveloped, and the grounds behind. The galleries, grouped around the central arena and lake and in the new western area, were named after the naval heroes Nelson, Blake, Benbow and Howe while the Cook and the Franklin, appropriately, housed the navigation section and the ship models. The St Vincent, Armstrong and Camperdown Galleries contained the ordnance. There was also, predictably, a

panorama of the Battle of Trafalgar, and a rich diversity of trade stands and kiosks representing many nautical activities from 'Torpedoes & Electric Exhibits' to the P&O Steam Navigation Co as well as a more terrestrial Model Working Dairy. 'Watering-holes' were, of course, plentiful: the Keppel's Head, Blue Posts and the George, named after Portsmouth pubs.

The organization of the exhibition had attracted all the great and the good of the naval establishment. Under the patronage of the Queen and presidency of the Prince of Wales, the council consisted of no fewer than 268 members, supported by twenty-two general and special committees, including local committees at Devonport and Sheerness, the former presided over by the Duke of Edinburgh, second son of the Queen, who was C-in-C at Plymouth. The German Emperor, KG, Hon. Admiral of the Fleet, was not included among the vice-presidents, but was presented with a gold-embossed presentation copy of the catalogue. However cumbersome the organisation may have appeared, it was nevertheless effective, for the opening took place only eight months after the first meeting of the general committee.

The catalogue runs to 600 pages and is a compendium of naval history and anecdote in itself. It lists a total of 5,355 items exhibited, 4,052 being in the categories Historic Loan Collection, Miniatures, Plate, Official Papers, Snuff Boxes, Decorations, Medals etc., Swords, Sculpture, China and Glass and Relics. Among the items lent by the Queen in the last group was No. 3319: "The bullet that caused the Death of Admiral Lord Nelson". The impression is that there had been much ransacking of attics and dusting off of treasured heirlooms to produce such a host of artefacts. There was a bewildering range, as well as some duplication: from the curious, No. 3058: "The green silk scarf presented to Sir Francis Drake by Queen Elizabeth" to the ghoulish, No. 3243: "Russian butcher's knife found in the Russian trenches at Sevastopol", and from the painterly, No. 625: *The Bombardment of Algiers, 1816* by George Chambers to the severely practical, No. 2968: "Christian's (one of the Mutineers of *The Bounty*) thimble". One of the rare acknowledgements of women in that very masculine world was No. 3172: "Pair of gold earrings as given to the wives of the Commanders after Lord Howe's victory, 1st June 1794". Of local interest was No. 2114: "A frame containing (1) a print representing St James's College at Chelsea, which stood on the site of the present Chelsea Hospital; (2) A Farthing Token, unique, of Chelsea College. Obv. 'Chelsey Colledge Farthing 1667'. Rev. A view of the College." This token is described in the new edition of *Boyne's Trade Tokens*, vol II p814, from the present, the only known

specimen. The Navigation section contained a wide historical array of charts and instruments, including John Harrison's first two time-pieces and the watch with which in 1761 he finally won the £20,000 reward offered by the Board of Longitude for an accurate sea-going time-keeper.

There was a profusion of naval portraits including, for example, no. 681, Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort (1774-1857), the explorer, who gave his name to an Arctic sea and a scale of wind-speeds. But Nelson memorabilia inevitably predominated, from buttons and buckles to locks of hair and note-paper. One of the most original, and no doubt, valuable, was No. 3098: "The Nelson Cenotaph, made of the 84 guineas which were found in Lord Nelson's purse at the time of his death" (Plate 4). Finally, as a last example, a relic which survives to this day: the fore-topsail carried by HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar was on display as a back-drop to one of the ordnance exhibits. Recently the subject of a conservation project, it is now at Portsmouth awaiting a new home.

The exhibition continued throughout the summer and closed in October. There was a full programme of events, in addition to the naval drills, which included mock battles between model warships on the lake. Meanwhile, "on payment of 6d each", visitors were admitted to see the firing of the Maxim Automatic Machine Gun at 600 rounds per minute (No. 5325). Less lethal and more in keeping with the fair-ground atmosphere was No. 5354, the Shooting Gallery, where visitors fired over water at a representation of Crusoe's Island, across which numerous animals and birds were "kept in motion by Machinery".

Perhaps, in retrospect, the intriguing question is why, for such a demonstration of naval sophistication, there was no floating exhibit on the Thames, alongside the exhibition site. The number of bridges downstream and the rise and fall of the fast-flowing tidal stream presumably frustrated the best efforts of nautical ingenuity.



## Obituaries

### Earl Cadogan, M.C., D.L.

William Gerald Charles Cadogan was born at Culford, his grandfather the fifth Earl Cadogan's house near Bury St. Edmunds, in 1914 on February 13th, a date that led him to regard 13 as his lucky number. He was brought up at Culford and at his father's London house in Grosvenor Street rather than the imposing town house that his grandfather had built, Chelsea House at the north end of Cadogan Place. From engravings of Chelsea House that were found recently, he recalled as a very small boy standing in the cavernous white marble hall.

Educated at Eton and Sandhurst, he succeeded to the earldom, as seventh earl, at the age of nineteen on his father's death in 1933, just 220 years after his ancestor, Sir Hans Sloane, had bought the Manor of Chelsea. Although he was commissioned in the Coldstream Guards in 1934, Lord Cadogan resigned his commission in 1936 to be more involved with the management of the Chelsea estate, which at that time covered approximately a hundred acres. His father's death gave rise to substantial death duties and, contrary to the advice of his 'men of business' to sell the Chelsea estate and retain Culford, Lord Cadogan argued in favour of selling Culford and most of the contents and obtained a substantial mortgage to enable the retention of Chelsea. He recalled with considerable pleasure the final payment made to the mortgagees in 1976.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Lord Cadogan joined the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, serving in the Middle East (being awarded the Military Cross at the Battle of El Alamein) and then in the Italian campaign, retiring in 1946.

After the war, Lord Cadogan became enthusiastically involved with many Chelsea and national organisations, including the Chelsea Society of which he became president. He was a member of Chelsea Borough Council, being elected the last Mayor in 1964 before unification with Kensington, his grandfather having been the borough's first Mayor in 1900. As patron of the livings of Holy Trinity in Sloane Street, St Luke's in Sydney Street and joint Patron of Chelsea Old

Church, he took a keen interest in all three churches. He created a housing trust to provide accommodation for people with a particular connection with Chelsea.

Lord Cadogan devoted much of his time to the Freemasons, first holding office in 1954 with the United Grand Lodge of England and being Pro-Grand Master from 1969 to 1982. He was actively involved with the Salvation Army for many years and was one of the last hereditary trustees of the British Museum, reflecting Sir Hans Sloane's collection forming part of the basis of the museum. A Steward of the Jockey Club, Lord Cadogan owned a number of horses, racing over sticks as well as on the flat.

Lord Cadogan divided his time between Chelsea and Perthshire, where he bought an estate in 1946. He is survived by his second wife, Bunny, and, from his first marriage, three daughters and a son, Viscount Chelsea, who is now the eighth Earl Cadogan.

S.C

### Mrs Cuthbert Orde

A large congregation gathered at Christ Church, Chelsea, on 27 May 1997 for a service of thanksgiving for Alex (Alexandra) Orde. It included many relatives and descendants but others were there who reflected her many-sided talents and activities, and her gift for friendship. All there must have been remembering delightful personal relationships, often going back over many years, because she was as good at keeping friends as making them.

Alex spent her childhood and youth in America and graduated in mathematics through Bryn Mawr College and Barnard College in New York City. Her excellent education made her a most efficient secretary to several of the societies to which she afterwards belonged. She flew with her first husband (Alex Kinloch), before the war, and went on to become a competent glider pilot. She was also a good golfer, playing frequently at the Wimbledon Park Golf Club, of which she was women's secretary. She combined these outdoor activities with a love of art and literature, herself writing poems of which one, *The Little Church*, was printed in the leaflet of her thanksgiving service.

Alex's friend and near neighbour, Miss Ida Cole, has written a note which brings out her personality: "Alex was a great *'doer'*. We went

to the King's Club Air Race at White Waltham, near Maidenhead, where she had been asked to look after people called VIPs ; also to the much-lamented Banking Hall at Harrods to help with some promotional activity of the Chelsea Society, and to Penny Pocock's house to pack the first ever Chelsea Society Christmas cards. She attended Council classes on dressmaking and cookery, specialising in chili con carne. Loving entertaining, she allowed conversation at her lunch parties to be 'serious and earnest' but at dinner it must be 'light, frothy and witty'. However, I always thought that the thing she loved best of all was her annual Christmas tea party for about twenty-five foreign students from Chelsea College at her lovely flat in Cadogan Square. Tea was served with sandwiches, mince pies and the traditional cake, which she cut, attired in her embroidered jacket with its black trousers. She gave this as one of the City Parochial Foundation Governors of Chelsea College, an appointment she took over from Hester Marsden-Smedley. In 1983 she was made a Fellow of the College until her death this year. I am sure many lasting friendships were forged at these parties. We shall all miss her very much – she was great fun."

I knew her first at 5 Durham Place, a house which she shared with her second husband, Cuthbert Orde. He was a distinguished war artist, particularly for the Royal Air Force, and the large studio at the rear of the house contained many of his paintings, which she afterwards gave to museums and galleries concerned with flying. After his death she used the studio as a working-and-entertaining room where she dispensed much hospitality until moving to continue this in a flat in Cadogan Square. She was honorary secretary of the Chelsea Society from 1966 to 1971 and although others, including myself, acted with her on planning matters, she bore the main burden and gave great support to the Chairman, Noël Blakiston.

Alex had two daughters from her first marriage and they, with several grandchildren, were there with her friends to celebrate the ninety years of a life which had enriched so many others.

Lesley Lewis

## Mrs Ildica Post

Ildica Post, who died on Sunday 19th October 1997, was a good friend to Chelsea, and to Christ Church parish in particular.

She was born in India to a distinguished military family, and herself served as a WAAF officer during the war. Thereafter she married

Anthony and lived with him in a handsome house in Durham Place. She often travelled with him when his work took him abroad, and at home they entertained generously amid a remarkable collection of early Italian paintings. They moved some years ago to Cheyne Place where Ildica was able to indulge her artistic interests by creating a very pretty and much admired town garden

This skill led her to create and vigorously superintend the gardens around Christ Church. Nothing would do but the best. Four feet down for a rose bed, then layers of new earth and manure. Thereafter the church won first prize in garden competitions with monotonous regularity. For this and for what she did to care for the interior of the church she will be remembered by a grateful congregation.

Her enterprise extended beyond the parish. She initiated teas in the Chelsea Physic Garden on summer Sundays, and was an active Friend of King's College Hospital, prepared quantities of food for the Christ Church bazaar – but a list of everything she did would be too long. During her long life in Chelsea shared so happily with Anthony she showed great kindness and hospitality to those around here.

In her last years Ildica was much disabled but with great courage and gallantry she got about refusing all assistance. She was an indomitable old lady with a wonderful and life-enhancing smile.

Peter and Vickie Macnair

## Philip Turner

Philip Turner, who died on 20th September, at the age of seventy-nine, could be seen as the quintessential Chelsea artist. Usually concealing his talents as a sculptor and painter in oils and water-colour behind a genial, gentlemanly bohemianism, he drew his wide circle of friends from all walks of life, particularly in the days when the old artists' quarter was so happily mixed socially.

After school at Marlborough College, Turner studied art at the St. Martin's and Slade schools and in the studio of the sculptor Leon Underwood. In 1940, he enlisted in the Berkshires and fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Greece, being wounded twice and never seeking a commission. It was characteristic of his gentle nature that, when his war ended in Austria, he should seek relaxation in fishing for

trout in mountain streams, tying his own flies from the feathers of stuffed birds found in his billet.

Returning to London, he gained an art teacher's diploma at London University and, until his retirement, taught part-time in art schools, including those at Farnham, Willesden, Ealing and Harrow. In 1957, he married Elisabeth de Stroumillo, the travel writer, with whom he had three daughters.

Hoping to live in Chelsea, he found residential studios so expensive that he bought a condemned stable at the corner of Cheyne Walk and Blantyre Street, demolished it and began building his own studio-house, his materials coming from houses under demolition, off skips and even from the river. After two years it was habitable and he added a third floor after the rest of Blantyre Street had been demolished to make way for the World's End Estate. His wife's account of the building of their house appeared in the 1982 issue of the *Report*.

Turner became best known for his sculpture in metal, notably bronze, mid-way between the figurative and the abstract. One critic described his "extraordinary transformation of traditional forms into fluid, ascending or windswept lines and broken, eroded panels of metal gives his work a disturbing individuality".

His commissions included a bronze altar piece and a figure of St. Ethelreda for Ely Cathedral and a Virgin and Child for St. Mary's Church, Primrose Hill. He exhibited in many one-man and mixed shows and his work was regularly shown at the Stephen Bartley Gallery in Old Church Street. Philip Turner is survived by his wife, two daughters and two grand-daughters.

T.P.

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 276274

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1996.

#### Constitution and Objects

The Chelsea Society was founded by Reginald Blunt in 1927. The Society's objects are to protect and foster 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.

The full Constitution and Rules of the Society, together with the Annual Accounts, are printed in the Annual Report, published in January each year, a copy of which is sent to every member.

#### Trustees

The Trustees of the Society are the Council constituted under the Society's Rules, which is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Society. The Council appoints Officers for certain posts. The current Officers and other Members of the Council are:

#### Officers

David Le Lay RIBA, FRSA (Chairman)  
Nigel Stenhouse (Vice-Chairman)  
Hugh Krall (Hon. Secretary)  
Ian Frazer FCA (Hon. Treasurer)  
Andrew Hamilton Bsc, FRICS (Hon. Secretary, Planning)  
Patricia Sargent (Hon. Secretary, Membership)  
Tom Pocock (Hon. Editor)

#### Other Members of the Council

Michael Bach Bsc, Msc, MS  
Stuart Corbyn  
Mark Dorman  
Jane Dorrell  
Jacky Green  
Hon. Christopher Guest MA (Cantab) AADipl, RIBA  
Dr Eileen Harris MA, PhD  
Joan Hayes  
Leonard Holdsworth  
Dr Paul Knapman MB, BS, DMJ  
Jenifer Miller  
David Sagar  
Jonathan Wheeler MA, Bsc, FRICS

#### Review of the year's activities and achievements

The Chairman's Report, published in the Society's 1996 Annual Report, contains a full description of the activities and achievements of the Society during the year.

#### Review of the Accounts

At 31 December 1996, the Society has total funds of £27,374, comprising £18,343 on the General Fund and £9,031 on the Life Membership Fund. These are considered available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Society.

Approved by the Council of the Chelsea Society on 17 November 1997.

D.R. Le Lay  
Chairman

# The Treasurer's Report

In October 1995, the Charity Commissioners laid down the format (effective from 1 January 1996) in which the annual accounts of charities should be produced and so the accounts you have before you, for the year ended 31 December 1996, run to three rather than two pages. The Trustees of a charity are now required to report to the members under certain predetermined headings and these tell you the history and objects of the charity, the names of the Trustees and a review of the accounts. The review of the Society's activities and achievements are, as always, given so succinctly at this meeting by the Chairman and printed thereafter in the Annual Report.

The sources of income are as for last year, with a total of £13,048 (1995 £15,449), mainly due to a drop in donations and a reduction in income from lectures and other meetings. However, expenditure was also less than last year. The special project this year – the Chelsea Society Action Planning Project – related to the collaboration with the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture to examine the four major sites controlled by the Royal Brompton Hospital, between the Kings Road and the Fulham Road.

After including the income from the Life Membership Fund, there was a surplus for the year of £879, compared with a loss of £294 last year.

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. However, the accounts will have to be independently reviewed next year.

Mr President, I beg to present my report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 1996. If there are any questions, I shall be pleased to answer them.

17 November 1997

I.W. Frazer  
Hon. Treasurer

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1996

	1996 Total Funds	1995 Total Funds
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>		
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Annual membership subscriptions	7,532	7,053
Donations received	360	1,160
Income tax recoverable on covenants	276	269
Advertising revenue from annual report	837	887
Interest received on General Funds	917	786
Interest received on Life Membership Fund	465	466
Income from Chelsea Festival guided walks	200	573
Income from lectures, meetings and visits	2,308	3,505
Income from sale of Christmas cards	153	750
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>13,048</b>	<b>15,449</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Direct charitable expenditure:		
Cost of annual report	3,938	4,410
Cost of newsletter	1,398	1,569
Cost of lectures, meetings and visits	2,791	4,201
Cost of Christmas cards	37	609
Subscriptions to other organisations	78	103
Chelsea Society Action Planning Project	1,332	
Cost re Battersea Flour Mills Public Enquiry		554
Contribution to Thomas More Picture Appeal		500
	<b>9,574</b>	<b>11,946</b>
<b>Other expenditure</b>		
Management and administration of the charity:		
Stationery, postage and miscellaneous expenses	1,793	2,224
Cost of annual general meeting	107	459
Insurance	695	1,114
	<b>2,595</b>	<b>3,797</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>12,169</b>	<b>15,743</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>(294)</b>
<b>Balances brought forward at 1 January 1996</b>	<b>26,495</b>	<b>26,789</b>
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 December 1996</b>	<b>£27,374</b>	<b>£26,495</b>

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1996

	1996	1995
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	2,241	2,365
Balance in National Savings Bank account	9,031	8,566
Balance on bank current and deposit accounts	22,083	21,252
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33,355	32,183
<b>Less Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,981	5,688
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£27,374	£26,495
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Funds:</b>		
General Funds	18,343	17,929
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Life Membership Fund	9,031	8,566
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£27,374	£26,495
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Approved by the Council of The Chelsea Society on 17 November 1997.

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

## CONSTITUTION AND RULES

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

### OBJECTS

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

### MEMBERSHIP

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

### THE COUNCIL

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

### OFFICERS

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

### PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS\*

7. (1) The Council shall prescribe the amount of the subscriptions to be paid by members of the Society and the date on which they are due, and the period in respect of which they are payable.  
 (2) Membership of the Society shall lapse if the member's subscription is unpaid for six months after it is due, but may be restored by the Council.  
 (3) Members may pay more than the prescribed minimum, if they wish.  
 (4) Members may pay annual subscription by banker's order or by Direct Debit.  
 (5) 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  
MISS J. ABEL SMITH  
RICHARD ADKINSON  
PAUL V. AITKENHEAD  
S. G. ALDER  
ROY ALDERSON  
MISS A. D. ALDERTON  
R. ALEXANDER  
MRS. R. ALEXANDER  
\*LT-COL. J. H. ALLASON  
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  
LADY BAILLIE  
MRS. LESLEY BAIRSTOW  
MISS CLAIRE BAKER  
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  
\*E. V. BEATON  
MISS AIXA BEAUCHAMP  
THE REV. GERALD BEAUCHAMP  
MRS. A. E. BEAUMONT-DODD  
\*J. BECKER  
MRS. P. M. BECKER  
ROBERT BECKETT  
MRS. ROBERT BECKETT  
MRS. M. K. BEDDOW  
MRS. PATRICIA BEHR, M.V.O., M.B.E.  
\*WILLIAM BELL  
SIMON BENDALL  
T. G. BENDALL  
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  
MRS. DELIA BETTISON  
REAR-ADMIRAL C. BEVAN, C.B.  
MRS. C. BEVAN  
\*ERNEST BIGGIN  
MISS CELIA BIGHAM  
JOHN BIGNELL  
MISS BIRGIT BIHLE  
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  
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  
 SIR HENRY BROOKE  
 LADY BROOKE  
 \*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  
 MRS. P. 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, D.L.  
 \*R. A. W. CAINE  
 MRS. PATRICIA CAMERON  
 DONALD CAMPBELL  
 MISS JUDY CAMPBELL  
 MRS. JOY CAMPBELL KEMP  
 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  
 W. W. CASSELS  
 MRS. W. W. CASSELS  
 JOHN CASSON, O.B.E.  
 S. CASTELLO  
 MRS. S. CASTELLO  
 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  
 MRS. CYNTHIA CHEVREAU  
 ANDREW CHEYNE  
 MRS. ANDREW CHEYNE  
 MRS. J. M. CHEYNE  
 \*THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS  
 THE RT. HON. ALAN CLARK M.P.  
 MISS A. M. CLARKE  
 R. D. CLARKE, F.I.A.  
 \*R. S. CLARKE  
 MRS. V. CLAYER  
 \*MISS EDITH M. CLAY, F.S.A.  
 MISS L. N. CLAYSON  
 MRS. JOY CLEMENTS  
 LADY B. M. CLIEVE-ROBERTS  
 A. G. CLOSE SMITH  
 \*MRS. M. R. COAD  
 MRS. VICTORIA COBB  
 JOHN COBBETT-MADDY  
 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.  
 MRS. D. B. COLLENETTE  
 BRIG. J. C. COMMINGS  
 RICHARD COMPTON MILLER  
 MRS. Z. CONNOLLY  
 MRS. JOYCE CONWY EVANS  
 MISS E. B. COOK  
 MRS. H. H. COPE  
 MRS. D. H. COPLEY-CHAMBERLAIN  
 JOHN CORBET-SINGLETON

MRS. JOHN CORBET-SINGLETON  
 STUART CORBYN  
 B. C. CORRIGAN  
 MISS LINDA COULTHARD  
 \*MRS. P. J. COWIN, B.E.M.  
 MISS ROSEMARY COWLER  
 MISS OLIVIA COX-FILL  
 \*DR. DAVID CRAIG  
 MISS ROSEMARY CRAIG  
 \*SIR MICHAEL CRAIG-COOPER, C.B.E., T.D., L.L.  
 MISS P. CRAXFORD  
 MISS ELIZABETH CRICHTON  
 T. L. CROSTHWAIT  
 MRS. T. L. CROSTHWAIT  
 MARTIN CULLEN  
 MRS. MARTIN CULLEN  
 IAN CURROR  
 MRS. IAN CURROR

MRS. ELMA DANGERFIELD, O.B.E.  
 A. E. DANGOOR  
 MRS. A. E. DANGOOR  
 MISS SYLVIA DARLEY, O.B.E.  
 NIGEL DARLINGTON  
 \*MRS. MADELINE DAUBENY  
 \*MRS. OLGA DAVENPORT  
 DR. SERENA DAVIDSON  
 A. M. DAVIES  
 MRS. A. M. DAVIES  
 \*ALBAN DAVIES  
 MRS. C. DAVIES  
 MRS. J. A. DAVIES  
 MISS P. JANE DAVIES  
 PETER DAVIES  
 P. M. DAVISON  
 MRS. P. M. DAVISON  
 DR. MICHAEL DAVYS, V.R.D.  
 MRS. SUSIE DAWSON  
 \*DAVID DAY  
 MRS. LUCIENNE DAY  
 MRS. LAURA KATHLEEN DAY  
 \*DR. JOAN S. DEANS  
 \*ROBIN DE BEAUMONT  
 MRS. WENDY DE BEER  
 MRS. ERIC DE BELLAIGUE  
 DAVID DE CARLE  
 MRS. DAVID DE CARLE  
 N. E. DE GRUCHY  
 MISS JOCELYN DE HORNE-VAIZEY  
 DAMON DE LASZLO  
 MRS. DAMON DE LASZLO  
 MRS. VICTORIA DE LURIA PRESS  
 JEREMY DE SOUZA  
 MRS. JEREMY DE SOUZA  
 SIR ROY DENMAN  
 LADY DENMAN  
 THE EARL OF DERBY  
 \*DONALD D. DERRICK  
 MISS JOAN DERRIMAN  
 DR. N. W. DESMIT  
 MRS. N. W. DESMIT

P.G. DEW  
 MRS. P.G. DEW  
 MISS C. DEWAR DURIE  
 LEWIS DEYONG  
 MRS. LEWIS DEYONG  
 \*CHRISTOPHER DICKMAN  
 W. F. DINSMORE  
 MRS. W. F. DINSMORE  
 \*MRS. DOROTHY DIX  
 MRS. P. DIXON  
 \*HIS HONOUR JUDGE DOBRY  
 MISS I. J. DODGSON  
 DAVID W. DONALDSON, D.S.O., D.F.C.  
 IAN DONALDSON  
 MISS SHEILA DONALDSON-WALTERS, F.C.S.D.,  
 F.R.S.A.  
 \*G. M. DORMAN  
 MRS. JANE DORRELL  
 MRS. NOREEN DOYLE  
 MRS. BETSY DRAKE  
 \*MRS. P. DRYSDALE  
 \*MRS. ERIC DUGDALE  
 \*THE LADY DUNBOYNE  
 MRS. P. A. DUNKERLY

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### *Answers to Bill Figg's Chelsea Quiz:*

- A) The preserved facade of the Pheasantry after the demolition of 1979.
- B) King's Parade. The western end of the Georgian terraces that ran from Carlyle Square to Dovehouse Street until bombing and post-war demolition.
- C) An escalator on its way into Peter Jones.
- D) Beaton's, the baker on the corner of King's Road and Bywater Street.
- E) Trumpeters on the roof of the arcade during Founder's Day celebrations at the Royal Hospital.



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