THE CHELSEA SOCIETY REPORT

1998



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The wood engravings of Chelsea Old Church on the title page and page 24 are by Hugh Krall

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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

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CHELSEA RARE BOOKS

9 Elmstead Close, Totteridge, London N20 8ER Telephone 0181-445 9492 Fax 0181-492 0470 was held at the Hall of Remembrance, Flood Street, Chelsea SW3 on Wednesday 18th November 1998

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

Sir Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Councillor Barry Phelps, Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Conservation Committee, Mrs Ian Frazer, Ward Councillor for North Stanley Ward and Mrs Ethne Rudd, Honorary Secretary of the Kensington Society.

The Minutes of the 1997 Annual General meeting were approved and signed by the President.

The President reported that under Rule 4(9) of the Constitution three members of the Council were due to retire. Of these Mr. Michael Bach and Mr. Jonathan Wheeler were standing for re-election. Hon. Christopher Guest was not standing for re-election. Dr Paul Knapman had been coopted onto the council in March 1996 and was standing for election. Mr. William Bell proposed and Councillor John Corbet-Singleton seconded that the above should be elected, which was carried unanimously.

Mr Ian Frazer, the Society's Honorary Treasurer, presented his report and accounts for the year ending 31st December 1997. These were received without comment and the President thanked Mr. Frazer for his excellent report.

No resolutions had been received and Mr. David Le Lay, Chairman of the Society, delivered the Council's Annual Report. Mr Morgan Edwards asked what the Society's views were about the development of 'Chelsea Village' on Chelsea Football Ground, which included a hotel and restaurants. The Chairman replied that neither 'Chelsea Village' nor Chelsea Harbour' were in Chelsea and though the Society had commented in the past the most recent proposals had not been referred to the Society. Councillor Mrs. Ian Frazer said that there was a Public Inquiry in progress at which

the Royal Borough was represented. Mr. Morgan Edwards also pointed out that conservation areas did not provide the same degree of protection as listing. The Chairman replied that conservation area status was better than nothing and that additional protection could be provided by the imposition of an Article 4 Direction. Mrs. Victoria Press asked if the Society was aware of a 15-metre high development in Battersea Park. The Chairman said that the planning sub-committee would obtain details. Mr. William Bell asked what were the night flying restrictions, to which the Chairman replied that they were very complicated but that quiet could only be expected between midnight and 4am. In response to a query about the V & A extension, Councillor Barry Phelps defended the Council's decision to grant consent which had been arrived at objectively in spite of local opposition and the adverse report of the officers. Professor Ralph Turvey suggested that a directory of members with their addresses, telephone numbers and qualifications would be useful to the Society in obtaining technical expertise. The Chairman thought that members would object strongly to having their addresses published. Sir Michael Harrison asked if the extension of parking restrictions to 10pm was acceptable. Councillor Mrs. Ian Frazer said that the scheme was for a trial period and subject to public consultation. Mr. Tony Tuck representing the Battersea Society thanked the Chelsea Society for their response to planning applications in Battersea and referred also to the over exploitation of Battersea Park. Mrs. Ethne Rudd wished to thank all those who had objected in writing to the Princess Diana Memorial Garden which had resulted in the proposals being modified. Councillor Barry Phelps said that the Council was constantly battling against change of use to restaurant but was challenged on appeal. He also warned that high rise buildings on Lots Road Power Station site might be the only alternative to keeping the existing building.

The President announced the retirement of Mr. Tom Pocock as Editor of the Annual Report, an office he had held with spectacular success for 16 years and presented him on behalf of the Society with a framed aquatint, *Battersea Reach*, by Hugh Krall.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting, thanking Mr. Le Lay and the Council for their work throughout the year. About 110 members attended the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Membership

The current membership of the Society is 1,242, which is a very satisfactory increase of 167 during the year.

The Council

The Planning sub-committee of the Council, under the chairmanship of Andrew Hamilton, comprised Michael Bach, Jane Dorrell, Mark Dorman, Eileen Harris, Hugh Krall and Nigel Stenhouse.

Stuart Corbyn was co-opted as a member of the Council for a further term.

Affiliations

The Society is a member of the Civic Trust, the London Society, the London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies, West London Traffic Reform, the River Thames Society, the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise and, a new society, the West London River Group. The Society is a participating member of the Royal Borough's Visitor Management Strategy.

Publications

The 1997 annual Report of the Society, for the first time, had all its illustrations in full colour. The articles were, as usual, of great interest and contributed to making our annual report one of the best publications of its kind. We are most grateful to Tom Pocock who has now edited our report for many years.

During the course of the year we published an index of our annual reports covering the years 1927-1996. This booklet is for sale to both members and the general public at a cost of £10 per copy.

The Society produced two Newsletters in 1998 which stimulated a lot of interest amongst members. We are indebted to their editor, Michael Bach, for all the work he puts into these newsletters.

Activities

1. Winter Lectures

Our nineteenth season of lectures was again held in the Small Hall of Chelsea Old Town Hall. All the lectures were well attended.

On 3rd February, Sue Minter, the Curator of Chelsea Physic Garden, gave us a lecture entitled "Which Doctor?". She showed us that the Physic

Garden is not just one of Chelsea's most attractive and historic gardens but a centre in the increasingly important field of using plants in the manufacture of modern drugs and other medicinal remedies.

On 3rd. March, John Casson gave us a lecture about his parents, Sybil Thorndike and Lewis Casson and we learned what it was like to have been part of the family of one of this century's most famous theatrical partnerships. We were all entranced by how his parents' character was so strongly reflected in John's own theatrical skill and warmth of personality. A blue plaque to Sybil Thorndike has been fixed to no. 6 Carlyle Square since the lecture.

On 2nd. April, Philippa Bernard, former joint proprietor of Chelsea Rare Books, conducted for us a survey of books about the history of Chelsea. It was interesting to learn how there is a comparatively large number of books on Chelsea, many more, for example than about our far larger neighbouring parish, Kensington.

2. Visits

The Society organised 3 visits during the course of the year, all of which included appropriate refreshments:

On 23rd April there were two visits to Chelsea Old Church when the new verger there, Michael Angus, gave a talk on the history of the church and the families who are commemorated in its monuments.

On 8th July the Society had a guided tour of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

On 30th September there was a guided tour of Old Battersea House, which contains the Forbes Magazine collection of Victorian paintings. Simon Edsor of the Fine Art Society gave a talk on the history of the house and the collection, paying particular attention to artists who lived in Chelsea, including Evelyn de Morgan and her husband, William, the ceramist.

We are extremely grateful to Jenifer Miller and Valerie Thomas who organised these visits which were sold out. Indeed, these daytime and early evening visits, which are necessarily restricted to a relatively small number of people, have become so popular that many members are disappointed when they fail to secure tickets.

3. The Future of Chelsea: a Millennium Conference

This was the first occasion on which The Chelsea Society has organised a conference. It took place on Monday 20th April, at Chelsea Town Hall, and lasted all day, with funch and other refreshments included. It was generally considered to have been a great success, about 120 people attended and they seemed to have found the day both instructive and enjoyable.

Our President, Sir Simon Hornby, was an excellent chairman; we were fortunate in having the Minister for London, Nick Raynsford M.P., to address us at the beginning of the day; all of the speakers had spent considerable time in preparing challenging speeches on the theme of the conference; the discussion sessions were very lively; we succeeded in attracting a diverse audience representing most facets of Chelsea life and the time-keeping and general organisation went off very smoothly.

As can be imagined, a tremendous amount of planning was needed in order to achieve this success. A specially formed sub-committee of the Council of the Society met regularly during the six months before the Conference and the Society also employed a professional organiser to make all of the detailed arrangements. The Society was grateful for the valuable cooperation and support it received from the Royal Borough.

The Conference generated a great deal of publicity both for Chelsea and for the Society. It has inspired us to form a new working party comprising residents, shopkeepers, property owners and local Councillors who will formulate ideas to influence the future character of the King's Road. Another sub-committee of the Society is looking with renewed vigour at the possibility of re-establishing a museum and arts centre for Chelsea. It is the Society's intention to hold a similar conference in the year 2000.

4. 'Inigo Jones to Peter Jones' exhibition

This exhibition, which traced the history of the King's Road from the seventeenth century to the 1960s was jointly organised by the Society and the Royal Borough's Libraries and Arts Service as part of this year's Chelsea Festival. It was held in the Small Hall of Chelsea Old Town Hall from 31st. May until 7th. June. We estimate that it was visited by about 2,500 people. The exhibition was much admired and appreciated by both local people and visitors.

On the evening of 1st June a splendid Private View of the exhibition was held at which the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Jonathan Munday and the chairman of the Chelsea Festival, John Corbet-Singleton, publicly expressed their appreciation of the exhibition.

The Society is extremely grateful to Messrs, Lee & Pembertons who were the main sponsors of both the exhibition and the Private View.

5. Summer Meeting

This year's meeting was held on 30th June and took place in Carlyle Square. Our principal guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough, Councillor and Mrs. Jonathan Munday. A marquee was specially erected for the occasion and a buffet supper with wine was served. It was a great pleasure for those who are not fortunate enough to have access to a private square to be able to enjoy this beautiful garden and to realise how much larger and even more attractive London squares seem when viewed from within. We were most grateful to the residents of Carlyle Square for giving us permission to use their square for our Summer Party.

Some 140 members and their guests were present.

Council's Activities

Our representative this year on the panel of assessors for the Royal Borough's 1998 Environment Awards was Patricia Sargent who reported an enjoyable and interesting day, with some Awards going to Chelsea projects.

On 19th November 1997 the chairman was invited by the Mayor and Mayoress to attend at the Town Hall at the planting of a tree to commemmorate the Golden Wedding of the Queen and Prince Philip, followed by a reception attended by Royal Borough residents celebrating their own Golden Wedding anniversaries.

On 27th January the chairman attended a party at the Town Hall to mark the retirement of the Mayor's Secretary, Mr. Roger Barker.

On the 5th February the chairman attended a reception given by the Cadogan Estate at the Carlton Tower Hotel.

The chairman led a guided walk entitled 'Artistic Chelsea' for the National Art Collections Fund on 29th and 30th April.

On 16th May the Chairman attended a reception at Chelsea Physic Garden to mark the centenary of the London Sketch Club.

On 19th May the chairman was invited by Sir Simon and Lady Hornby to the Chelsea Flower Show and to tea in the president's tent

The chairman led a guided walk entitled 'Chelsea Village' for the National Trust on 23rd July and 13th August.

Also on 13th August, the Council were given a guided tour of a new house at 42 Glebe Place by its architect, James Gorst.

On 28th September the Council were invited by the Cadogan Estate to view no. 123 Sloane Street, probably the best preserved Henry Holland house in Hans Town and also no. 84 Cadogan Square, one of the best houses in this square of magnificent houses.

On 11th November the Chairman was invited to the Mayor's annual Reception at the Town Hall.

Gifts to the Society

Ernest Biggin, a member of the Society, has presented us with an engraving, dated 1756, of the Royal Hospital.

Mrs. Henry Blunt, the widow of a descendant of our founder, has given the Society a watercolour by Reginald Blunt's mother, of the garden of the former Chelsea Rectory in Old Church Street.

Planning Policy

We supported the principle of a strategic planning authority for London.

We submitted comments on a High Buildings policy prepared by the London Planning Advisory Committee. In line with our long held view, we thought a much more restrictive policy than was being proposed should be adopted. We submitted comments on the Royal Borough's Visitor Management Strategy.

The Society has given support to the West London River Group, which is trying to persuade the government that it should prepare a Thames Landscape Strategy for that part of the river stretching from Kew Bridge to Chelsea Bridge, such as has already been prepared for the stretch from Hampton Court to Kew Bridge.

The Society hopes that during the present review of its Unitary Development Plan, the Royal Borough will be persuaded to tighten up its chapters in relation to change of use from retail and banks to restaurants. The Society feels that the pendulum has swung too far in the direction of encouraging new restaurants and other late night establishments at the expense of amenities for local residents. The Council's planning policies must address the cumulative impact of successive new restaurants.

Planning Applications

A total of 140 representations were submitted during the year, including 10 to the Department of the Environment in respect of Appeals, in support of the Local Planning Authority. Applications within the last year included:

1. 300 & 312 King's Road

The Sub-Committee strongly opposed change of use from bank branch office to restaurant in the case of both 300 King's Road on the corner of Old Church Street and 312 King's Road on the corner of Beaufort Street.

Unfortunately, in the case of 300 King's Road, whilst the Council supported the Society's views, the Secretary of State overturned their refusal on appeal. We can only attribute this to the fact that the Council's own officers had previously recommended the application for approval. This inevitably undermined resistance to the second application at 312 King's Road and pizza restaurants are now trading from both establishments.

2. 229-235 King's Road

This was the old Nichols Builders Yard. The Sub-Committee has lost count of the number of applications submitted by the owners of this building but there were no fewer that four during the current year. Thankfully one of the more obnoxious schemes was rejected by the Local Planning Authority but the Society still considers the proposals represent over development of this congested site.

3. Peter Jones

An application was submitted to substantially extend this listed building, largely through filling-in internal light wells and extending at roof level. On the whole, the Sub-Committee felt that the proposals had been handled sympathetically.

4. 66 / 70 Park Walk, SW10

An application has recently been submitted to demolish some early 19th century cottages on this site and erect a new block of flats with additional housing at the rear.

Whilst not in a conservation area and therefore vulnerable to this type of development, the Sub-Committee felt that the cottages represented a valuable and picturesque reminder of Chelsea's small scale domestic buildings. The Society had no objection in principle to development at the rear but felt that the proposal was at too high a density and the design of the new buildings was particularly weak.

5. Harrods, Knightsbridge

The Sub-Committee opposed the application for a helicopter landing pad on the roof as we considered this would cause unacceptable noise and potential danger to nearby residents.

The year was notable for a number of applications considered outside the boundaries of the Sub-Committee in Chelsea but which were believed to nevertheless impact upon the Royal Borough.

Included in these were the following:

Battersea Bus Garage & Albion Wharf, Hester Road, Battersea The Sub-Committee and the Society have been campaigning vigorously to oppose the proposals by Hutchinson Whampoa to build a 20-storey block of luxury flats opposite Chelsea Old Church. Indeed, when we discovered that Wandsworth Borough Council had omitted to officially notify residents in Chelsea about this development, the Society, at its own expense, circulated information to all households likely to be affected by the proposals. After several revised schemes, the architect, Sir Norman Foster, has subsequently reduced the height of the building to 16 storeys. The Sub-Committee still considered this to be grossly in excess of Wandsworth's own development guidelines, which recommends that new developments along this part of the riverside should not generally exceed 9 storeys. Sadly this application is a direct response to the lamentable decision by the previous Secretary of State, Mr. Gummer, to allow Lord Rogers to build a 20storey block of flats beside Battersea Old Church, which is currently under construction.

We have been informed by the Government Office for London that an Article 14 Direction has been served by the Secretary of State in respect of this application and the Society hopes that he will call in the application for a Public Inquiry.

2. Imperial Wharf, Fulham, London, SW6

This is another enormous scheme bordering upon Chelsea Harbour which includes two 20-storey blocks, 10,000 sq.m.of restaurants and car parking for no fewer than 2,000 cars. The Sub-Committee was vehemently opposed to this over development and particularly the height of the riverside blocks. Also, the Sub-Committee felt that the impact of traffic generated by the scheme upon existing infrastructure would be intolerable.

This application was refused by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and an appeal by the developers is due to be held in the new year.

3. Gargoyle Wharf, York Road, Battersea

Another substantial scheme proposed for the Battersea riverfront, next to Wandsworth Bridge, involving yet more tower blocks ranging between 10 and 20 storeys. As in the case of Albion Wharf, Wandsworth seem reluctant to impose their own development guidelines on the height of riverside developments and the hope must be that the Secretary of State will similarly call in the application for a Public Inquiry.

It would not be an understatement to say that these proposals, combined with the others currently pending in Battersea, would completely transform the southerly views from Chelsea and dominate the sky line.

4. 'The Spiral', Victoria & Albert Museum, Exhibition Road

The Sub-Committee viewed this proposal for a new building on the site of a the former boiler house, proposed by the Victoria & Albert Museum, to designs prepared by the architect Daniel Libeskind. The scheme included the demolition of a stone screen, listed grade I. The Committee was unanimous in considering the scheme totally inappropriate to its context and in addition extremely inefficient in its use of space internally for museum display.

Although this scheme has managed to gain the support of the arts and architectural establishment, all of the local amenity societies shared our view that this scheme was unacceptable. Planning officers of the Royal Borough recommended to Councillors that the scheme failed to comply with the adopted Unitary Development Plan, it was therefore contrary to Council policy and should be refused permission. However, the elected Councillors decided to ignore both the views of residents and the advice of their officers and granted permission.

Planning Briefs

The planning sub-committee submitted representations in respect of 3 Planning Guidance briefs issued by the Royal Borough as follows:-

1. Lots Road Power Station

This power station, which generates electricity for the London underground, is likely to become redundant in the near future. The Sub-Committee did not believe that the existing power station structure should necessarily be retained but was concerned about density and the height of any replacement buildings.

2. King's College, Manresa Road

King's College have reportedly sold this important block of buildings between Carlyle Square and Chelsea Square, which are scheduled for redevelopment as luxury flats and housing. The Sub-Committee welcomed the Royal Borough's Design Guidelines but felt that the Brief should be extended to include the Grade 2* listed former Chelsea Library building and the adjoining Lightfoot Hall hostel, which we understand are likely to be vacated by King's College at the same time.

3. Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road

Again, the Sub-Committee supported the main principles in the draft guidelines but expressed a preference to see the main Headquarters' building reserved for educational use rather than residential. The Sub-Committee was also anxious to see the open spaces within the site, including the running track, retained and with increased public access.

King's Road

During the course of the year the Royal Borough's improvements to the King's Road have been advancing apace. The Society has supported the works now being executed and has been impressed by the quality of materials and street furniture which are being used, in particular, York stone paving, ornate cast iron bollards and new junction treatments where side streets enter King's Road. We look forward to the completion of this work, without interruption, along the whole length of the King's Road.

West Chelsea

In 1988 the Royal Borough turned down a request from the Society for the creation of a new conservation area covering that part of the former Gunter Estate bounded by Netherton Grove/Slaidburn Street to the east, Gunter Grove to the west, Fµlham Road to the north and King's Road to the south. Earlier this year we decided to again put forward this proposal for which we gained invaluable support from residents and local Councillors. We were delighted when, at their meeting of 6th July the Planning and Conservation Committee decided to accept our proposal in full. We hope that at long last this marks the end of the depredations wrought upon this area.

particularly to its fine villa-style properties, through lack of conservation area status.

Aircraft Noise

On 23rd December of last year, the chairman of the Society gave evidence to the Terminal 5 public inquiry 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. The Inspector included a walk through Chelsea on the afternoon of 30th June as part of site visits to experience aircraft noise in various parts of London.

The Society has always believed that, whatever the Inspector may recommend after gathering evidence at the longest public inquiry ever, the final decision, which is for the government, will be made on political rather than environmental grounds. Various announcements from the last government led one to believe that they were likely to approve Terminal 5 and it is a source of considerable regret that the present government would seem to have the same view.

The restrictions on night-time flying at Heathrow, originally established in 1993 were due for review this year. The Society made representations to the effect that there should be an immediate and complete ban on flying at Heathrow between 11pm. and 7am. The government decided to allow the present restrictions to continue for a further year.

We must maintain pressure to ensure this issue is taken seriously, as many still believe that Chelsea does not suffer from aircraft noise.

The Millennium

We have made some progress in our plans to promote the erection of a major piece of public sculpture at the junction of King's Road with Park Walk, outside The Man in the Moon public house; though insufficient progress has been made to be able to report any further details. Unfortunately we have experienced one major setback in that, whilst the Royal Borough is keen to promote more public sculpture, it envisages this being largely within Kensington and has declined to contribute towards the cost of this project, other than in carrying out the improvements to this area which form part of its overall improvements to King's Road.

Mr. President, this is the report of the Council of The Chelsea Society in its seventy-first year.

David Le Lay

The Chelsea Conference – a look into the future

On 20th April 1998 more than a dozen of the most distinguished and active people concerned with Chelsea gathered at the Old Town Hall to offer their views to a large and attentive audience at an all-day conference on the future of Chelsea. Under the chairmanship of Sir Simon Hornby, the President of the Chelsea Society, they heard Nick Raynsford, M.P., the Minister for London; Alan Clark, M.P. for Kensington and Chelsea; Martin Linton, M.P. for Battersea; Joan Hanham, Leader of the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; Marcus Binney, President of Save Britain's Heritage; Stephen Bayley, the architect, who had been involved with the Millennium Dome: Vicky Heyward, Executive Director of the Royal Court Theatre; Tim Waterstone, founder of the Waterstone bookshops; Spencer de Grey, architect and senior partner of Foster & Partners; Mary Quant, fashion designer; Sir Terence Conran, designer and restaurateur; Graham Holmes, the traffic planner, who had worked on schemes for the King's Road; Stuart Corbyn, Chief Executive of the Cadogan Estate and a member of the Council of the Chelsea Society; and David Le Lay, the chairman of the Chelsea Society.

All agreed that Chelsea faced great changes but the qualities that made it so attractive had to be preserved: as Tim Waterstone said, "All I want from Chelsea is more of the same." How this was to be achieved was discussed with eloquence. Nick Raynsford stressed the importance of the future Greater London Authority (and the elected Mayor), which would be responsible for the environment, security, health, culture and strategic planning of London. Martin Linton was specific in objecting to the new high-rise developments along the Battersea and Wandsworth shores of the Thames calling for a strict adherence to a maximum of nine storeys. Marcus Binney said that the most beautiful view in London was from the centre of Albert Bridge, looking towards Chelsea but it was "not at all good" if looking towards Wandsworth. "Green Architecture" – the planting of trees to hide unsightly buildings – should become a positive strategy.

Stephen Bayley said that Chelsea had "one of the best urban environments in the world" but it had to change as well as be preserved. "Modernism is not a style, it is an attitude, making the most of contemporary possibilities", he said, "Chelsea is not founded in historic details but in the generalities".

Alan Clark was apprehensive about the future G.L.A., to which he was opposed; he wanted more encouragement for artists and writers, who upheld Chelsea's "tremendous legacy of artistic endeavour"; "Chelsea belongs to the world", he said and the Chelsea Society helped prevent the pressures from taking their toll. Vicky Heyward also wanted more support for the arts, suggesting a new cultural centre at Lots Road and, perhaps, the re-introduction of a Chelsea pageant.

The problems of communication and transport occupied the speakers. Joan Hanham said that the needs of residents must be balanced with those of commerce and entertainment. The new Chelsea-Hackney line was years away but other forms of transport might be needed in order to restrict cars and this might include the use of the river for transport. She disagreed with Sir Terence Conran and Mary Quant, who advocated the building of underground car parks as a means of getting cars off the streets; if built beneath squares, the trees would be destroyed; in Paris, they had only been built beneath exceptionally wide streets. Stuart Corbyn agreed with Joan Hanham that residents should show more sympathy for the needs of the retail trade. Tim Waterstone said that he would like the King's Road to become more of "a high street with less boutiques and restaurants and more shops that served the residents". In discussion it was said that, although there were more than fifty residents' associations in Chelsea, there had been difficulty in starting one trade association.

It was stressed that Chelsea needed a social mix to maintain its quality but, while Joan Hanham said that the Council tried to address that, Alan Clark said that there was "no such thing as workable social housing". There should be a drawing together of the residential and commercial factions, it was generally agreed: businesses might sponsor prizes for artists and even offer the empty upper floors above shops to artists at low rentals; there should be a museum/art gallery/arts centre/.

Speaking for the Chelsea Society, David Le Lay said that it supported the new London-wide authority and stressed the importance of strategic planning on such important issues as the development of the river and its banks.

Profit and loss

Tom Pocock muses on causes lost and won, listed in the index to the Chelsea Society Report.

Skimming through the newly-published index to the Report* – the first since it began publication in 1927 – the lists of names began to form themselves into an accounting of profit and loss. The Chelsea Society's past victories and defeats fell into the line, combining the record of change with my own memories, which broadly coincide with that time-span.

Social change was outside this sort of book-keeping because no amount of resolutions passed by the Society, the Council, or anybody else within Chelsea could have had much effect upon that. The marvellous social mix of the pre-1950s all social and economic groupings jumbled within a square mile, bound together by the cement of the classless artists and writers, who had given Chelsea its cachet, have been largely swept away by social and economic tides. The comradeship arising from the shared danger, hardship and sorrow of war has also passed with history. But the streets and buildings remain — or do not, as the case may be — and it is these that remind us what we have lost and what we have gained.

A positive approach suggests that profit should be considered before loss. So, looking through this index, what gains during these past seventy-one years come to mind? Well, there's the Physic Garden, then a secret garden behind a high wall but now open to visitors and often the setting for the social life of Chelsea yet still fulfilling its historic botanical tasks. There is the National Army Museum in Royal Hospital Road, a magnificent collection by any standards and housed in what reminds me of a fort on some farflung Asiatic frontier, stormed or defended by the men commemorated inside. There is St Luke's Church, restored to shine and soar above the rooftops north of the Kings Road.

Dovehouse Green, once a grubby little graveyard with a resident population of meths-drinkers, is now a handsome, much-needed open space in the middle of Chelsea. Peter Jones, rebuilt

in 1936, towers above Sloane Square like the prow of a Cunarder. Victorian hospitals have been rebuilt: the Brompton in Sidney Street shows that hospitals can be architecturally compatible with their surroundings, and while, surely, nobody could admire the industrial bulk of the Chelsea and Westminster, at least it houses a magnificent hospital.

Loss tends to be remembered more vividly than gain, and often with bitterness, particularly when the destruction was due to commercial decisions taken by Chelsea's historic landlords. The charming Georgian houses and shops of Lombard Terrace – and the Café Lombard itself - that faced the river beside the Old Church, went just before the war but there is some consolation that they could not have survived the bombing. There is no such consolation for the loss of the Pier Hotel, the Blue Cockatoo restaurant and the row of Georgian, Victorian-fronted, houses at the corner of Cheyne Walk and Oakley Street that were replaced in the 'Sixties by the elephantine bulk of the Pier House flats. Who remembers, I wonder, that where the Danish Embassy - the pile that looks as if a Modernist architect had built it out of brown plastic on that Sloane Street corner - now stands, stood the house where Whistler and his mother first stayed in Chelsea with his brother-in-law Seymour Hayden and where he painted The Music Room? Thinking of Whistler, can forgiveness ever be accorded the rich young man who bought the White House - the studio house built to his specification in Tite Street - only to knock it down?

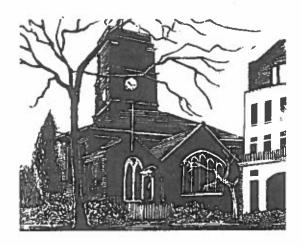
When a theatre goes, a light is extinguished as anyone who remembers the effect of the demolition of the St James's Theatre had upon the district of St James's, which it had illuminated for so long. So it was with the Chelsea Palace and even those who never ventured inside the barn-like auditorium of that florid Victorian musichall on the corner of the King's Road and Sydney Street will surely know what I mean. So it was with the Classic Cinema on the corner of Markham Street for there it was that so many of us were introduced to the early classics of the cinema.

But past losses are now being dwarfed by horrors over which the people of Chelsea, although directly effected, can have little or no control. On the opposite bank of the Thames, once painted by Whistler and always the backdrop to the beauty of our own riverside, the two most successful titled architects of our day are responsible for gargantuan ziggurats of expensive flats and offices, which will block out our sky for the next century. Sometimes all is not lost in disasters. No more poignant example could be found in the lifetime of the Society than the loss and resurrection of Chelsea Old Church. Almost obliterated by two huge parachute mines in 1941, its broken monuments were gathered together and, despite initial opposition from the Diocese of London, it was triumphantly rebuilt to resume its life in the heart of Chelsea. The final touch is now likely to be applied with the rebuilding of the post-war, utility parish hall and vicarage to designs worthy of their position.

The sale of Crosby Hall, which had been the property of all Londoners, to a private individual and the consequent loss of public access was an act for which Mrs Thatcher's government, which decided the policy, and the London Residuary Body, which implemented it, must bear the blame. Yet only a private individual with an architectural obsession and the necessary means, could have recreated as its setting a Tudor palace just across the river from the Modernist monsters proliferating on the Battersea shore.

Then there was the loss of independence in 1964 and, with it, the Town Hall that was the social and political heart of Chelsea. Yet, thanks in good measure to the vision of the happily-remembered borough councillor, John Yeoman, the building became a splendid library and its halls are in constant use.

Perhaps, one day the Chelsea Society's dream of a Chelsea museum and arts centre will join the list of victories, which will eclipse the record of defeats.



The family life recalled by a blue plaque

On 1st October 1998 JOHN CASSON unveiled an English Heritage blue commemorative plaque on the wall of 6 Carlyle Square recording the residence there of his mother Dame Sybil Thorndike, the great actress. She and her husband, Sir Lewis Casson, lived there with their four children from 1921 to 1932, during which time she achieved fame acting in St. Joan, which George Bernard Shaw had written with her in mind as its star. Life with the Cassons in Carlyle Square was described by John Casson in his book Lewis and Sybil, which was published by Collins in 1972 and from which these extracts are taken with the author's permission

Carlyle Square runs off the north side of King's Road and the rather bigger houses on the west side back on to Old Church Street. It is a typical London square, with a garden surrounded by spiked iron railings, to enter which one requires a key purchased with one's subscription to the Gardens Committee. Lewis and Sybil soon found it an admirable place in which to say over their lines, much to the astonishment of the other residents until they got used to it.....

There were six Cassons, Grannie, who now came to live with us, Vi, the girls' nursemaid, Old Cook and a house-parlour maid. How we all fitted in, Lord knows, but fit in we did and liked it. I don't remember any of us getting in each other's hair. The exceptions, of course, were Lewis and Grannie, who somehow never quite seemed to hit it off. Donnie was terrified of Lewis when he was in 'one of his moods', which meant that he was trying to think, and he used to get awfully impatient with her when she wanted to have 'cosy little chats', which was with anyone in sight. Kiff [John's brother, Christopher] and I used to play a game of arranging to get Lewis and Grannie in a room together and then going out and listening at the door while they sparred with each other.

But it is rather incredible that somehow Lewis could do his production planning on the dining-room table, and Sybil could go through her parts with her usual gusto without apparently being put off by the rest of the household. Of course they were never at home in the evenings. Dinner was at 6.15pm and at seven they were off to the theatre. Kiff and I left the house every morning at about 8.15am to travel by bus to school at Wimbledon and we got home at five. This meant that if we wanted any help with our homework from Lewis, and I for one very often did, then it had to be done in the hour before dinner. Being actors, and therefore not getting to bed till late, they rarely rose before nine and usually had breakfast in their dressing gowns. But just after eight we would go into their bedroom to say 'Good morning' and to collect our bus fares for the day. This time was also a sort of reserve time in case homework had proved to be more difficult than had been thought. There was

many a morning during the first two years at Carlyle Square when poor Lewis was called by me at seven o'clock and asked to wrestle with the problems of ablative absolutes in Latin or of running water into plugless baths in mathematics. He used to struggle up to the surface cursing, not me, but the school for not teaching me the things for which he thought he was paying the fees. Sybil with long hair down her back would sit up and make soothing noises to us both to keep the peace and avoid 'waking Grannie' in the next room

For Sunday lunch we always had one of those enormous sirloins with a great wodge of undercut underneath. Lewis didn't seem to carve it so much as attack it as a personal enemy. And then there was an equally huge apple pie to follow served by Sybil with the same gusto as she serves everything. In fact when I saw her play Mrs Squeers in the film of *Nicholas Nickleby* in 1947, and she was ladling out the gruel to the young pupils at Dotheboy's Hall, I couldn't help thinking of our Sunday lunches at Carlyle Square.

In the late spring of 1921, the four of us were at home recuperating from chickenpox. We were upstairs in the nursery on a fine sunny morning when we heard the ear-splitting noise of a klaxon horn. We rushed to the window and saw, drawn up at the pavement, what could only be described now as a gigantic bath on wheels, though at that moment it looked like a splendid motor-car with Lewis sitting in the driving seat. It was a 1916 Maxwell, which Lewis had that day bought from an army disposal dump for a little over a hundred pounds. You never saw such a car! The hood was folded up in a flapping heap, the only protection from the wind was a solid straight sheet of heavy, very breakable glass, the upholstery had been cruelly treated for years and the whole outfit was painted a bright yellowy-brown, which was whimsically described on the licence as 'buff'. But she was lovely.

We all rushed to the front door and, chickenpox quarantine notwithstanding, piled into the car and demanded to be given a spin round London. Lewis had stopped the engine by now but he wasn't going to miss the chance of showing off his purchase. Out he climbed and began to turn the startinghandle in the front. Ten minutes later, with a noise like a most irregular machine gun and a cloud of thick black smoke out of the back, the engine started. Lewis ran round, jumped quickly into his seat lest the engine were to stop again, engaged a grinding gear and we were off in 'our car', for a tour round Battersea Park with the wind blowing in our hair. South of the park Lewis coaxed the machine up to the wildly exciting speed of 35 miles per hour, but I fear it was more than this automotive elderly lady could stand and she spluttered back along the Embankment with two cylinders out of action. In the next couple of weeks at a little garage off the Fulham Road, Lewis stripped the engine down to the last nut, cleaned out the carbon, hand-ground the valves, poked about in the magneto, fiddled and tickled the carburettor and then put the whole lot together again

We were growing up a bit by now and could take some interest in grownup conversation. There were lots of words that we didn't understand, and which we would giggle about whenever they cropped up, but somehow the enthusiasm, the feeling of pioneering, the drive towards theatrical mountain tops, got through to us. Words like 'personality', 'symbolism', 'dramatic significance', 'emotional tension', 'imagination', 'discipline' were hurled across the table like bombs, conveying no intellectual meaning to us at the time but nevertheless sinking emotionally into our unconscious to emerge years later, certainly in my own case, as we shall see, as theatrical knowledge.

It was not only at breakfast that these conversations went on, and not only to the family. Relations, friends and acquaintances would be invited in to the evening meal, and better still, because there was no pressure of time, to Sunday lunch or Sunday supper.

It is now much clearer to me that there was a new theatrical Jerusalem being planned in those days and at those meals, and I wish I had been more aware of what was being said. Now it is only some of the people that I remember and the atmosphere of excitement that surrounded them. Edith Evans was a frequent visitor and it was best when she was the only guest. Lewis's thrusting logic and disciplined thought underpinned by immense artistic sensitivity and insight, Sybil riding her bounding imagination like a battle-charger galloping over everybody, but making them get up and gallop too, and Edith's gorgeously orchestral voice commanding attention by its more smoothly flowing magic, was all like watching and hearing not a play but a kind of Olympian circus.

Sometimes the talk gave way to music and Sybil would go to the piano and bring another sort of magic to life. Her face becomes quite different when she plays the piano and takes on an entirely ageless look. When I first read Bernard Shaw's Back to Methuselah I pictured the Ancients not as withered old ascetics who knew all the answers but as something like Sybil when she is playing the piano. It is the sort of look which makes one believe a person has grown physically bigger as well as spiritually wiser. And it is that part of the character of Sybil that Epstein captured in his magnificently powerful bronze of her. The bronze was made some years after this time, but when it came to Carlyle Square it had to stand on a plinth high enough to make the head appear to belong to a person eight feet high. In the house at the time there was another head of Sybil beautifully moulded in a perfect geographical likeness. And it never came alive at all. If you had actually met the Epstein head on a dark night you would have run screaming for help, but it is alive with the inner fire of Sybil. It fills anyone who looks at it with a feeling of tremendous controlled violence. [Now in the National Portrait Gallery]

But it wasn't all theatrical talk. There were fine old high jinks on Sunday evenings with everyone joining in family charades or some other sort of skylark. During these early years in Chelsea the four of us used to work up short plays together which were played on Sunday evening to an audience consisting of Lewis, Sybil and Vi. Lewis and Sybil never took part in these performances or had any say in how they were produced. They were just told to be ready to see them at a specified time. Only when any of us burst into song did we call for help and then Sybil at the piano would become our orchestra.

Our 'stage' was always the dining-room at the back of the house, the drawing-room at the front the auditorium, and the folding doors between them the 'curtain'. We operated this 'curtain' by an elaborate arrangement of strings and pulleys, which invariably jammed at the critical moment and one of us had to break off the action to free them. We must already have instinctively absorbed some of the professional actors' outlook because we all felt acutely embarrassed whenever anything went wrong with the show, and there was many a court of inquiry in the nursery afterwards if there had been any sort of a hitch in our show. Not that our parents minded in the least. They were the most superb audience I have ever played for, both of them always sitting there with rapt attention on their faces - or at least giving a superb performance themselves of rapt attention. Sybil usually maintained her audience rôle rather better than Lewis. I shall never forget Lewis's attempts to conceal his mounting merriment as an unexpected snag upset the smooth running of the production. The worse the situation became on stage, the more did his sides ache as his laughter built up inside him.....

Finally, our Carlyle Square childhood was over and we were all moving off on our separate ways. Lewis, Sybil, Kiff and Ann were sailing in a few weeks for Egypt where they were to start their tour, and after which Ann was to return home while the other three went on to Australia. There was a feeling of adventure and great beginnings in the air, and the world seemed to me to be a most exciting place on that crisp January morning.

What I couldn't have known was that 1932 marked the end of another and rather longer chapter for Lewis and Sybil, and perhaps especially for Sybil. It was not just the end of their climbing. They had by now reached a high plateau of theatrical and artistic success. Before them stretched the splendid pastures in which they would wander, explore and indeed rampage for many more years than they had spent in climbing up there

It would be absurd to say that either of them had come to the end of their creative life and yet somehow there weren't going to be any more great leaps forward. When they came back to England again, Lewis began to move away from producing towards acting and sometimes I wish he had only been an actor.

Sybil was to go on playing a wonderful variety of parts and would bring to each of them her own special brand of explosive and unquenchable fire. She would go on growing in the skill and craft of her trade and bringing to it an ever-deepening sensitivity and understanding. Though she was to continue holding to her own special motto of 'With the help of my God I will leap over the wall', there weren't going to be quite so many walls to leap over and the walls weren't going to be so high.....Lewis and Sybil had by now become great people of the theatre. They would go on to become great people of the world.

(See illustrations page 41)

Review

The Thomas More Group Portraits After Holbein by Lesley Lewis for the Thomas More Picture Trust (Gracewing Fowler Wright Books, £4.99)

For the first time, all five Thomas More family group portraits 'after' Holbein have been printed together in colour, alongside the original draft sketch now at Basle, for ease of comparison. This booklet is thus a 'must' for anyone interested in Thomas More and his descendants and in the way in which the latter cherished his memory through many natural hazards and the injustices arising out of their recusancy. They did this through the family portrait copies and one is inclined to accept Lesley Lewis' suggestion that the group portrait became almost an icon. The copies may have been commissioned with that in mind. One is amazed at the way, when houses went up in flames, or were otherwise demolished, the group portraits within them seemed to survive. It is particularly sad, therefore, that when the original watercolour (distemper on cloth, came to rest with the Bishop of Olmutz (now in Czechoslovakia), it should have been finally destroyed in the eighteenth century when the episcopal palace was burnt down. One would love to know how and why the bishop acquired it: it shows perhaps the enormous reputation Thomas More had on the continent and, indeed, internationally as he has today.

Lesley Lewis takes the reader on a detailed tour of the related drawings and explains how they fitted with the original family portrait. There is an introduction to the copies in general and then to each copy individually, with information on the family context. She gives a chapter on Rowland Lockey, which will be new to most people. Her arguments in favour of the group of copies being commissioned from him in about 1593 is very persuasive and supported by recent, new, technical information. She ends with the National Portrait Gallery and the Chelsea copies.

There are of course still many gaps in the story and, hopefully, other people will come forward with fresh information to fill them: the booklet is, in some sense, a detective story and a rather fascinating one. This reviewer admits that until she read the author's description of Holbein's original watercolour, she had no idea of the lightness, sparkle and vivid immediacy it must have possessed and the original sensation it must have caused. Alas, one can only imagine these qualities, for the copies cannot reproduce them in oil.

This booklet is certainly a valuable addition to the Thomas More literature and most enjoyable to read. (One small correction needs to be made: the author has mistakenly named Walter Byrd, musician as having married a More descendant; it should be Christopher Byrd.)

Rosemary Rendel

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A heart transplant for Chelsea

Plans for a new parish hall and vicarage for the Old Church at the heart of Chelsea are being considered and are likely to be presented to the Council's Planning Committee in 1999. Designed by the distinguished architect John Simpson, who favours the classical tradition, they would replace those rebuilt in the 1950s after the bombing of the Old Church in 1941.

The architect's office tells us, "The new frontage along Old Church Street would be made up of a new four-bedroomed house and the parsonage, which forms the corner of the new development closest to the church. The new church hall is arranged behind the terrace, just visible from Old Church Street and behind the parsonage. It is designed around a small cloister-like space between the hall and the church, providing a useful external space that could be used together with the hall. The design is traditional and maintains the character of the street with the use of brick, stucco and stone."

The new parish hall would be suitable for a variety of functions, particularly wedding receptions, and would be accessible for the handicapped; the development would include underground car-parking. The overall effect would be to preserve the looks of the oldest part of Chelsea with the Old Church standing slightly farther from its adjoining buildings than at present.

(See illustration page 42)

Correspondence

Sir, The internal rebuilding of the Royal Court Theatre and its planned reopening next year will be rightly applauded as are its traditions of encouraging new playwrights and the avant-garde. But let it be hoped that its management recognise that it is also a community theatre and that, while theatre-goers in West London – and particularly in Chelsea – may appreciate plays with moral messages and gritty realism, they also want the traditional products of the theatre; comedy, tragedy, the re-interpretation of great plays of the past, something for the young and for the middlebrows; that is, entertainment.

Andrew Jervis, Oakley Street, SW3

From the Marquess of Anglesey

Sir, Oh! Dear! Who was Lady Sibyl Colefax, eh? [Lion's Corner House, 1997 Report] I knew well, years ago, a Lady Colefax and she lived at Argyll House. Could this be the same person?!!

Careless, that's what you've been!!

Anglesey, Plas Newydd, Anglesey

From Lord Dunboyne

Sir, Praise be to Simon Bendall for drawing attention to the invaluable manuscript, Population, St Luke's Parish, Chelsea, 1801 [The Forgotten Schools of Chelsea, 1996 Report]. But his reference to Cheyne Walk does need correcting. WEEDEN, not Weedon, please! Joseph Weeden of New Romney, Kent, was "surety" at Weeden Butler's baptism in 1742. Again, 21 males, 6 females (not vice versa) is actually written in the manuscript. The number of pupils there rarely exceeded 25 at any one time (Gentleman's Magazine, 1810, Part 2, page 624). This remarkable school was housed in what is now No. 6 Cheyne Walk, which surely deserves a blue plaque, subject, of course to the occupier's consent.

Dunboyne, Ormonde Gate, S.W.3

At last we remembered them One man's mission is fulfilled in Chelsea

Just after a quarter to eight on the morning of 3rd July, 1944, Turk's Row and Sloane Court East, just off Lower Sloane Street, presented a busy scene. American soldiers were trooping out of the flats, where they were billeted, and into the street where lorries waited to take them to their day's work. A few were women and most belonged to 130 Chemical Processing Company, which was being held in London in readiness for an outbreak of gas warfare with Germany as the Second World War reached its climax, for the Allies had landed in Normandy less than a month before.

At that moment the jet engine of a V1, launched from the Pas de Calais cut out over the Thames and the flying-bomb began its sharp descent into Chelsea. It dived steeply over Ranelagh Gardens and the ton of high explosive in its nose-cone exploded at the junction of Sloane Court East and Turk's Row.

An eighteen-year-old Chelsea boy, Bill Figg, heard the explosion. He was on his way home while in the process of transferring from the RAF to the Army and he hurried towards the rising cloud of smoke and dust to be one of the first on the scene. What he saw remained fixed in his memory: the wrecked buildings, spilling their walls, ceilings and contents into the street; the smashed lorries; and the broken bodies. When the heavy rescue team arrived they estimated that seventy-four Americans and at least three civilians – some said ten – had been killed; among the dead was a Canadian officer, also billeted in the flats.

Londoners were being killed by the hundred that summer, there was strict censorship – particularly as to the sites of what were called 'incidents' so as to confuse the enemy's aim – and this horror quickly passed into history. It would be remembered by those who had lived in Chelsea at the time that a lot of Americans had been killed in Lower Sloane Street but it was not publicly recorded. When, in 1991, the Chelsea Society erected a memorial plaque in Dovehouse Green, that commemorated Chelsea's 457 civilian dead of the Second World War but not those in the armed forces of the Allies.

It then seemed that the only Londoner who remembered the event of 3rd July 1944 was Bill Figg. He had become an electrical engineer and his hobby was local history and the photographing of the changing Chelsea scene. But his memory of 1944 and what he planned to do about it was more than a hobby, it was a dedication. He was determined to find out more about the Americans who had died that morning. He found contemporary Civil Defence reports and a list of casualties' names. But his efforts to discover more about the unit to which they belonged – its name and number had never been published – by writing to authorities in Washington drew a blank. He received sympathetic replies – including several from the White House – but either the question was referred elsewhere, or he was told that one terrible incident among so many did not warrant either the time and effort in research, or the allocation of funds for specific commemoration.

Eventually Bill Figg came to a conclusion. He himself would arrange the commemoration. So, during 1998, he completed what seemed to be all the research that was possible, himself designed and had made the stone memorial plaque and paid for it; with the help of friends, he arranged for guards of honour from the Territorial Army, pensioners from the Royal Hospital and the British Legion, standard-bearers and buglers to attend an unveiling ceremony.

Initially, the United States Embassy agreed to send officers from its staff together with a chaplain; then, hearing that a small metal memorial disc had been set in the pavement of Turk's Row by an American citizen in 1997, they felt their presence was unnecessary and withdrew. However, the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Dr. Jonathan Munday, agreed to unveil the memorial and the Rev. Prebendary Leighton Thomson, the former vicar of Chelsea Old Church, agreed to conduct a short service.

And so it was that on the afternoon of Sunday, 4th October, the police cordoned off Turk's Row – probably for the first time since July, 1944 – and a crowd collected. The ceremony that followed – the military parade, the prayers, the speeches, the Last Post and Reveille bugle calls and the unveiling was an event to remember. Usually such occasions are the consequence of official action by government or council; rarely are they the result of one individual's dedication. This ceremony grew from the grass-roots of Chelsea. Fifty-four years on, Bill Figg's terrible memory flowered in a generous and moving act of commemoration.

(See illustrations pp 35-36)

Smith, G.C., is also remembered

Chelsea's own forgotten war hero may finally be given his due. Anthony Smith, who was awarded the George Cross for heroism in rescuing survivors from the bombed Guinness Trust flats in the King's Road on 23rd February, 1944, lies in an unmarked grave in a West London cemetery and it is now hoped that he will be suitably commemorated.

His story had been put together by members of the Royal Marines Association at Hanworth and its President, Ian Moore, who has written to the Editor. "Anthony Smith had been a Royal Marine," he writes, "he served in the First World War in the Dardanelles and on the Western Front and was badly wounded at Arras. A bursting shell removed the fingers of his right hand but this did not prevent him from returning to his family trade as chimney-sweep and working as a cobbler. At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Civil Defence Heavy Rescue Squad in Chelsea.

"In February 1944, when the four-storey block of flats was hit, with heavy loss of life, two floors collapsed and a blazing gas-mains set fire to the wreckage, which became an inferno. Mr Smith dug his way into the debris and found a man trapped in the basement. Trying to extricate him, he found their way blocked by a wall of fire but, although almost overcome by smoke, burrowed his way through the wreckage and brought the man to safety. Despite the smoke and fumes he went back into the burning ruins to spend another hour rescuing a woman in danger of drowning when a burst water mains threatened to flood the basement, where she was trapped. He then comforted her by assuring her that he had been able to save her handbag!"

"Mr Smith was awarded the George Cross – the civilian equivalent of the Victoria Cross – in the *Royal Gazette* of May 1944. He was elected a Freeman of the Borough of Chelsea on the same day as Captain William Philip Sidney, V.C., the future Lord de Lisle and Dudley, and as such performed the opening ceremony at a new community centre in the borough. In 1962 he was among 70 winners of the George Cross and 150 winners of the Victoria Cross present at a commemoration ceremony in London. Mr Smith died a bachelor in 1964, aged 70, and was buried in an unmarked grave.

"Now the Royal Marines Historical Society and the Royal Marines Association have investigated his story and are keen to ensure that this war hero is appropriately remembered. Therefore, as President of my branch of the Association, I am writing to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to seek their help in raising an appropriate memorial to one who was clearly a most notable citizen of Chelsea."



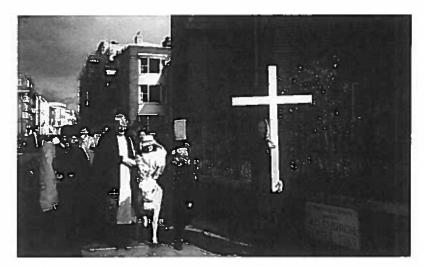
In remembrance: The Mayor, Councillor Dr. Jonathan Munday, at the unveiling of the memorial to 74 American soldiers, who were killed in July, 1944, in Turk's Row, on 4th October, 1998. (See pp 32-33)



Then: the scene in Sloane Court East and Turk's Row on 3rd July, 1944, after the VI flying-bomb had exploded.



Now: the Rev. Prebendary Leighton Thomson, former vicar of Chelsea Old Church, conducts the service of dedication in Turk's Row; Mr. Bill Figg, who inspired the memorial, is on the right.



Spring service: The Rev. Dr. Peter Elvy, vicar of Chelsea Old Church, leads the congregation of the children's service in the annual donkey parade on Palm Sunday, 1998.



Summer soirée: David Le Lay, Chairman of the Chelsea Society, addresses the Mayor and guests at the Society's summer meeting in Carlyle Square.



Festival time again: the opening of the Chelsea Society's King's Road exhibition, Inigo Jones to Peter Jones, in the Old Town Hall on 1st June, 1998. Councillor John Corbet-Singleton, Chairman of the Chelsea Festival, with the Chairman of the Chelsea Society and the Mayor.



Uta Thompson, custodian of Carlyle's House, and her husband Leslie, admiring a water-colour of Chelsea Rectory garden by Frances Blunt, wife of the former rector, presented to the Society by Mrs. Leonie Blunt,



The opening party: guests crowd the small hall of the Old Town Hall to see the exhibition of the past and present King's Road illustrated by seldom-seen pictures, maps and relics.



Opening time: the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Dr. Jonathan Munday, standing by the King's Road fashion display to declare the exhibition open.



The Millennium Conference: Nick Raynsford, MP, Minister for London, delivering the first of the speeches on the future of Chelsea. (See pp 20-21 and the Chairman's Report)



Famous face, famous name: Mary Quant, queen of King's Road fashion arrives at the Old Town Hall to take part in the Millennium Conference.
(Photographs: Evening Standard)



Remembering Chelsea's theatrical royalty: the late Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson outside the Town Hall on polling day, 1964.



Commander John Casson, a member of the Chelsea Society, unveiling the plaque to his mother outside 6 Carlyle Square on 1st October, 1998.

And below, a name to remember: the English Heritage plaque to Dame Sybil Thorndike in Carlyle Square; she also lived at 74 Oakley Street and 98 Swan Court. (See pp 25-28)





Something old: a survivor of the original 18th-century Sloane Street, No. 123, possibly designed by Henry Holland, which has been restored by the Cadogan Estate.



Something new: part of the new Painter's Yard development on the site of the Fraser and Ellis office and warehouses in Old Church Street.



Something for the future: a drawing of John Simpson's design for the proposed new vicarage (right) and parish hall for Chelsea Old Church with a new four-bedroomed house. (See page 30)

Victorian Chelsea 1 Chandeliers, balloons and discipline for the poor

By Arthur Grimwade

The appearance in the catalogue of a second-hand bookseller I patronise has led me to acquire what must be a considerable rarity - possibly, after Faulkner's History of Chelsea of 1829, the oldest account of the borough's past. Chelsea in the Olden and Present Time by one George Bryan was, as its title page states "published by the Author, 4 Alfred Cottages, Camera Square, Kings Road. May be had of booksellers. 1869." In a mock-modest preface the author writes: "Some persons probably have thought that such an undertaking should have devolved on an individual possessing greater literary attainments, and occupying a higher position in the parish than I do in it. To this impression I willingly give my assent. But this has not been the case; and the length of time since Mr Faulkner published his History of Chelsea induced me, in the decline of life, to undertake the present task. It must not be forgotten that Chelsea is my native parish and that moreover in early life I composed in type a great portion of Mr Faulkner's first edition and was also employed as the printing-office reader of his edition in two volumes". He goes on to say, "That the intelligent working-man and persons of limited means might possess the work, I published a certain number of copies at a very great sacrifice. Local histories can only have a small circulation and the price charged for them must be regulated by the probable number that will be sold".

The charm of the volume is that interwoven with formal history, probably mostly adapted from Faulkner, are Bryan's personal memoirs extending back from 1869 for nearly seventy years, as when writing of Chelsea Old Church he begins with his childhood memory: "Living at the other part of the parish, we had to go across what was then called 'the Common', situated to the east of the present new St. Luke's Church, a portion of which was at that particular time covered with new-mown grass to dry previously to being carried away. Most young persons love to toss and tumble about the hay when such an opportunity is afforded them, and I felt as delighted with the sport as others of my own age".

In writing of the Old Church he has a paragraph headed "Spring Tides. Taken to Church in a boat". He continued, "A circumstance occurred at the church, about the year 1809, of a singular character. There had been some very high tides during the week and on the Sunday morning the waters rose several feet against the southern boundary wall which rendered the use of a boat necessary to convey those who resided in the vicinity of Battersea Bridge to the church". Another paragraph records a burglary at the church in 1827 when plated flagons, chalices and salvers were stolen together with the Communion table cloth, brass branches from the pulpit and chandeliers. A second robbery followed the next February when the chandeliers, brass curtain rods and cushions also vanished. Retribution followed for the criminals. A reward of £100 was offered by the Secretary of State, whoever was meant by this, and £70 by the parish for the discovery of the robbers "who were soon after taken, tried at Newgate and condemned to be transported for life".

In a chapter loosely headed "Lindsey House, the Moravians, ete", Bryan introduces his readers to a remarkable inhabitant of Chelsea: "Patrick Gibson, aged III years, lived in a house near the Old World's End Tavern. For many years this remarkable man was a purser in the Navy in the reign of George III and on all occasions he was invariably found in the thick of the battle, fighting with the utmost bravery". At this point one begins to wonder how inventive the veteran was. Bryan goes on: "He assisted in conveying General Wolfe off the field and served under Lord Nelson at Trafalgar. William IV, when Duke of Clarence, visited him at Chelsea and took great interest in his affairs. He resided in the parish 20 years and died in 1832 at the remarkable age of 111 years".

In the middle of a lengthy description of St Luke's Church, Bryan relaxes with an amusing incident which at the time must have been thought another matter. Having mentioned that "The church was for some years lighted with oil-lamps in the three really magnificent chandeliers, but for a long time gas has been very judiciously substituted", he goes on: "A circumstance occurred at nearly the end of the Sunday Evening Service which occasioned great excitement amongst the congregation and it was feared would be attended with loss of life, but fortunately only one elderly person was seriously injured. These chandeliers were lowered by means of a windlass and men from the contractor for lighting the oil-lamps had to attend and lower them both before and after Divine Service. It was the practice to lower the chandeliers on a signal given at the belfry door as soon as the organist commenced 'playing the congregation out', but on this occasion it was a sermon in aid of a charity and the organ was only played previous to the singing of a hymn for the collection. This caused the mistake. Some of the congregation in the galleries, perceiving that one of the chandeliers was

unsteady and slowly descending, rushed forward to make their exit, which created great confusion and alarm. Dr Wellesley, the Rector, although not officiating, immediately explained the circumstances, and soon afterwards the alarm was allayed and the service continued. The lighting of these oillamps was attended with great expense and much labour. A considerable saving is now effected by the introduction of gas, labour on Sunday is lessened and the dirt occasioned by the trimming of the lamps obviated".

Another version of this dramatic event was published in the St Luke's Parish Magazine in 1920 from the reminiscences of one T. Mozley. This begins with the arrest of a pickpocket during the sermon and he then paints an even more vivid picture of the panic following the descent of the chandeliers. "Downstairs the whole congregation sprang, not to the pew doors but across the backs of the seats, bounding with amazing activity from one back to another. They flew like autumn leaves suddenly caught by the wind. It was only when they got nearer the doors they stopped and found nothing the matter. They then returned to their seats looking rather foolish."

We return to Bryan's memoirs, still related to St Luke's. "The Rev G. A. Blunt is the present Rector [father, of course of the Society's founder]. He has evinced the greatest desire to promote the religious, moral and intellectual advancement of the working classes and takes a great interest in promoting the Parochial National and Infant Schools. There is one charitable society of such a humane and practical character that it deserves to be specially noticed. It is called 'The Sick Kitchen'. In a 'Letter addressed to the congregation and parishioners of St Luke's', 1869, Mr Blunt states that it is carried on in a building erected for the purpose in 1861 in the Rectory garden. Its object is to provide nutritious dinners for the poor who are recovering from illness. It is supported by voluntary contributions, the early Communion alms and half the contents of the church boxes. An average of thirty poor people are thus supplied daily for nine months of the year. There is no charge made, the orders being given by the curates and district visitors. The dinners consist of roast meat three times a week, soup, puddings etc on alternate days, beef tea daily.

Bryan then, "at the request of some subscribers to this work", breaks into his own composition of eight six-line verses titled 'Reminiscences of St Lukes', which we will pass by for glimpses of his lengthy description of Kings Road, both past and, for him, present. One of the more entertaining paragraphs is headed "The Chelsea Steam Captive Balloon" and reads "This monster aerial balloon ascends daily, weather permitting, from a part of the grounds known as the Ashburnham estate a little beyond Cremorne Gardens. The balloon itself is 93 feet in diameter and has a cubical capacity for gas of 421,161 ft. It is capable of taking up into the air no less than 30 passengers and is attached to one strong rope

2,000 ft long which passes round a balance-wheel and thence to a large cylinder worked by an engine of 200 horse power. These appliances are all fitted in a kind of amphitheatre from the centre of which the ascents take place. The supposed altitude to which the rope allows ascent is 2,000 feet. but as a rule the height is generally less. The cost of the balloon is stated to be £24,000 and the value of the gas required (pure hydrogen) £600. It is composed of linen and India rubber, made of five thicknesses and is the property of a French gentleman well known for his attachment to scientific experiments". Unfortunately Bryan does not reveal the identity of the inventor of this remarkable creation. However as a tailpiece to his jottings he provides the reader with another aerial event. Headed "Singular Ascent in the Captive Balloon", he writes: "A female inmate of St George's Workhouse, Fulham Road, named Hogg, was asked by Mr Godrich, the medical officer, if, at her advanced age, there was any particular wish he could gratify. Her reply was that she should like to go up in the balloon and see the world once more. Arrangements were made and accompanied by the Matron and a few of Mr Godrich's friends they ascended and after enjoying themselves for some considerable time descended quite safely, the centenarian expressing herself much delighted with the aerial trip".

Turning back Bryan's pages we come to a more youthful matter, entitled "School of Discipline", of which he writes: "This the oldest Reformatory for young girls in London. It was opened by Mrs Elizabeth Fry, who with some Christian friends brought six other children from Newgate to a small house at Chelsea in 1825. Since that time a larger house has been taken in Queens Road West [now Royal Hospital Road] near to Chelsea Hospital and the number of children increased. They are daily instructed in the love and fear of God, carefully trained in all useful branches of housework, needlework and the usual subjects of elementary education. The number of children now boarded, clothed and educated in the school is 42. It is a 'Certified Industrial School' for the purpose of receiving by magistrates' warrants, girls who are either found begging, homeless or frequent the company of thieves, etc. Twenty-one of such in 1869 were under detention. They are paid for by the Home Office, the parents, where possible, contributing to their maintenance. The others are such as need restraint and discipline, and the parents are required to pay sums varying from 6d to 5s, according to their means".

With this sombre picture of Victorian disciplinarianism I close these glimpses of George Bryan's patchwork volume of Chelsea's past,

Victorian Chelsea 2 A rare literary survival

By Basil Waters

It was David Enders, a long-time member of the Society, who showed me *Bits of Old Chelsea*. It was a massive tome, of which he was justifiably proud, and for which he had waited twenty years to purchase, no copies becoming available earlier. I felt both privileged, and fascinated, by the sheer beauty of the book, and, as I turned its thick cartridge-paper pages, with its fine etchings, and splendidly literary commentaries, I thought that it was the loveliest publication on Chelsea I had ever seen.

The title *Bits of Old Chelsea* is, possibly, misleading, because the 'bits' covered seem to embrace all the borough's most attractive, and interesting, past and present areas and sites. The volume, with its thick, crusty, port-coloured hardboard cover and gold title lettering, measuring 12 by 18 inches, and weighing 14 pounds, was published by Kegan Paul Trench Trübner Ltd, Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road, London, in 1893. The edition was limited to 110 copies, of which 100 were offered for public sale. Very few complete copies are believed to exist now, their whereabouts unknown, a market having been established this century for the etchings alone, which were removed from the book, mounted and framed, and sold to the public, each at prices exceeding the original cost of the book. With this information, and fully realising that owners of *Bits* can do what they wish with their books, David Enders, nevertheless, pleads with them to think hard before dismembering them by removing their plates.

The book's series of 41 finely executed etchings of Chelsea scenes are by Walter W. Burgess (1845-1908), in my view a wonderful artist of whom little is known, except that he apparently lived in Chelsea for over 40 years, and died at 8 Paulton's Square. With the Greaves brothers, he immortalised so many of Chelsea's waterside inns and quaint, isolated street corners and alleys. Each etching is accompanied by Lionel Johnson's and Richard Le Gallienne's distinguished, and splendidly punctuated, letter-press descriptions.

The most pleasure from the book, though, came to me from the commentaries; sacrilege, if you like! I love good writing, and, my goodness, I found it in *Bits*: exquisitely clear prose, and always this deeply imbued

love, a passion, for Chelsea's fantastically eventful past, and its vigorous present. Le Gallienne can be humorous too (witness his descriptions of Rossetti's eccentric collection of animals in the poet's garden). I quote from Le Gallienne, in the main, because, like him, I love pubs, but for only an hour at most. He undoubtedly has a strong feeling for them, as the following extracts show:

"Three old inns were the principal distinctions of these two streets – 'The Bell' at the corner of Danvers Street, with its old-fashioned sign half-way across the road; 'The Dog' in Lombard Street, still existing as 'The Rising Sun' and 'The Adam and Eve' on the south side of Duke Street².

"But the most interesting of the three was 'The Adam and Eve', with its walls garnished with fowling-pieces, and its quaint cosy galleries overhanging the river. How good it were at sunset to hail a waterman at Westminster stairs, and tell him to row to 'The Adam and Eve'; at length there, to skip up to a cosy corner of the gallery and sit over one's ale till the stars came out."

I end this note with a voice from the past, when, suddenly, in turning the book's last pages, I saw a reference to Sir Thomas More in Le Gallienne's learned, measured, often serious style:

"More was indeed in Colet's phrase *Britanniae non nisi unicum imperium*; but he is especially a glory of London, and the chief glory of Chelsea in particular. All that it is necessary and appropriate to record here is familiar enough already; but the beauty of More's life and character is such that no reputation can dulf it. In the words of his friend Erasmus: 'his breast was whiter than snow, a man to whom in point of genius none of all the eminent men, whom England has brought forth in the past, or will bring forth in the future, can ever bear the least resemblance'. Chelsea witnessed a home life, perhaps more holy and more happy, than any other recorded in English annals."

Today, David Enders' complete copy of *Bits*; in pristine condition, is safely under lock and key. Small wonder! For me, the book is beyond price.

No longer.

Obituaries

Mrs Elspeth Loasby

Elspeth was born in Edinburgh in 1924, and was a diligent pupil during her school years in Stirling. After school she trained for her chosen career of nursing. She met her future husband, the Rev. Harold Loasby, at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, where she was a nursing sister and he a chaplain. Harold was a widower left with two small boys and two girls between six and twelve years. They married in 1955 and Elspeth was not only a great support to her husband in his Stanmore parish but also took on the responsibility of a ready-made young family to cherish and succour. Before her marriage Elspeth could only cook one dish!

In 1961, Harold Loasby became Rector of Chelsea based at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street. At that time the Rectory was the delightful large, unmodernised Rectory in Old Church Street surrounded by a large garden. Here Elspeth reigned supreme giving unstinting support to the many parish activities acquired by her husband, as well as caring and feeding her young step-family of four plus her own daughter recently born, plus running a large, old-fashioned Rectory which was often used for parish gatherings.

A past curate said that when he was at St Luke's Church under Harold Loasby a particularly bright spot in his week was the Sunday lunch at the Rectory, with all the family present, to which he had a standing invitation. Elspeth had certainly learnt to cook by then.

Harold retired in 1982 and he and Elspeth moved to Oakley Gardens in Chelsea from where they kept in touch with local activities and their many friends. It was during this time that Harold died after a debilitating illness.

Elspeth's sudden death on the 28th December, 1997, was a great shock to her family and friends. She was a very responsive person and always ready to help where it was needed. She will be missed by many people.

Joan Hayes

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² Formerly running along the line of Cheyne Walk, west of the Old Church.

Lady Colwyn writes:

Elspeth Loasby was one of the strongest and most caring people I have known and her neighbours, after Harold died, were all impressed by her strength and determination to continue with a full and enjoyable life.

She was the kindest of neighbours – an extra grandmother to many of the children in Oakley Gardens, who had known her since they were born. Each birthday there was a card on the mat and a small gift - and many was the occasion that I returned from a meeting to find a plastic bag full of lettuce or cabbage leaves hanging on the front door - saved for the children's pet rabbits. She was a key holder for many of us, feeding animals and watering plants when people were away. Her own small garden was a pleasure to her and she lovingly cared for a beautiful hydrangea in a large pot by the front door. For most of us she became a reliable friend and confidant. She always had time to listen and took a real interest in all our lives. It never ceased to amaze me how much she knew about everybody - any exciting news, marriage plans, new neighbours, Elspeth always knew first! Her timekeeping was impeccable. If she had ordered a taxi, she was at the front door with her coat on three minutes before it was due. If she had already left the house in the morning, walking to the local shop to collect her daily newspaper, we knew we were running late.

The gentle sounds of chatter and laughter through the walls confirmed that she loved entertaining. With Harold she had always had frequent lively parties and when Elspeth was left alone, and found dinner parties a strain, she adopted the Au Bon Accuei restaurant as her "dining room" and entertained there. Any new resident in Oakley Gardens was immediately welcomed and invited to the next drinks party to meet everyone. She really is missed and remembered with great affection — she was a central part of a very small community — a perfect neighbour.

Mr John Bignell

John Bignell, who died on 23rd December 1997 at the age of 90 was the traditional Chelsea artist in dashing looks and amiable manner and was, of course, a photographer. Recording Chelsea, he became the John Hedderley of his day. John did not settle in Chelsea until after the Second World War and saw it with a fresh eye, his work encapsulating the Chelsea of the late 'Forties, the 'Fifties and the 'Sixties: first, the empty streets and children playing cricket on sun-dappled

roads; painters drinking Algerian wine in ramshackle studios; the final, tacky days of the Chelsea Palace music-hall; students' bed-sit-ter-land; Chelsea pensioners in the pubs; and latterly, miniskirts and punks in the King's Road.

John Bignell was born in 1907, both his parents died young and he was brought up by relations in Wales and France. Educated at Brighton College, he spent his holidays with an uncle in Paris and Menton but the Welsh side of his family wanted him to take up farming in Wales. In the event, he decided to farm in New Zealand, abandoning the idea on realising that he would have to kill animals. He married his first wife, Maisie, and the first of their two daughters was born in New Zealand. Returning to London, he became a bookseller, then going into a family business as a manufacturing chemist.

After the war he took up photography, at first of weddings and babies, but gradually concentrating on the work that made his name and combining that with photographing fine art for museums and salerooms. He published two books of photographs and held a number of exhibitions, the earliest at the Six Bells pub, which was appropriate to the cheerful, bohemian slightly beery Chelsea that he enjoyed photographing and latterly at the Francis Bartley Gallery.

He lived with his second wife, Catherine, at the Manse overlooking the Moravian burial ground at the corner of the King's Road and Milman's Street, and his tall, rangy figure, and smiling, bearded face was familiar in Chelsea and at gatherings of the Chelsea Society. He is survived by Catherine, a daughter from his first marriage, five grand-children and three great-grandchildren. His photographic archive has been acquired by Chelsea Library.

Mrs Henrietta Williamson

Henrietta died suddenly on 8th February, 1988. A few days previously she had attended the first Chelsea Society lecture – about the curative powers of herbs cultivated in the Chelsea Physic Garden, a treasure beloved by all her family.

Born at 34 Tedworth Square on 11th May, 1935, Henrietta Marsden-Smedley married David Williamson in Chelsea in 1971; her sons were both born in the Royal Borough, as it had become, Edward in 1972 and Matthew in 1976. Her childhood was affected by the threat and then the reality of the Second World War. She and her brothers were sent at first to her mother's home in Dorset, in the care of their nanny, and from 1940 until 1947 lived in a rented house, Hartley Court, near Reading. In 1947 the family returned to 34 from the wartime scatterings, and the children's association with Chelsea really began.

Her father, Basil Marsden-Smedley, a barrister, born in Chelsea though of a Derbyshire family, had married Hester Pinney, from Racedown, in Dorset, a journalist. Very much a working wife, Hester was editor of the women's page and then a foreign correspondent of the *Sunday Express*, and from 1939 spent many months in Belgium for her paper, escaping dramatically in 1940. Hester told me that when they married in 1927 the Princesse de Polignac, nee Winnaretta Singer, daughter of Isaac, who made the sewing-machine work, and sister of Paris, Isadora Duncan's millionaire, and who when in London lived in one of the beautiful houses in King's Road, offered them her palazzo on the Grand Canal for their honeymoon. But, said Hester, they decided that they could not afford the fares to Venice.

Family legend has it that when she was expecting her third child Hester announced her desire for a 'red-headed daughter'. 'At the instant of birth, the sun shone on her new baby's head and there was a flash of red; her wish had been granted' said Philip Pinney, one of Henrietta's fifteen cousins, who, when asked to give the address at the memorial service at St Mary the Boltons on 4th April 1998, worked phenomenally to put together a summary of her life and the family relationships. Wish or something stronger? Determination is one of the family's strongest characteristics.

For the boys, the standard British pattern of education worked well – prep. school, public schools, university. For Henrietta, it veered from the conventional. She spent a rather unhappy year at the Abbey School in Reading, and some time at school in London, though her principal interest then was not learning, but her pony – she was passionate about riding. In Chelsea, after a while it was arranged for her to study at home; but if her education was unorthodox, it was certainly thorough. She then 'ate her dinners' and was called to the Bar in 1958. (Philip also recorded that she performed the most spectacular cartwheels, which no one could equal. One wonders whether she ever demonstrated them in the Inns of Court.)

Basil – the future 'Mr Chelsea' – was elected to the Chelsea Borough Council in 1928, and to the London County Council in 1932 as one of Chelsea's representatives. He specialised in planning, was on the LCC Improvements Committee, and became an alderman. Curi-

ously he did not join the Chelsea Society until 1933, but was made a member of its Council immediately, and was its chairman from 1934 until his death in 1964, except for 1957–1959, when he was Mayor of Chelsea, establishing a record by being re-elected for the consecutive year, 1958-9. Hester made many visits to the Belgian Congo and elsewhere during Basil's mayoral years. The result was that Henrietta, in her early twenties, had to contrive both to continue her law studies and act as her father's Mayoress when required.

No. 34 Tedworth Square was 'open house' – elastic-sided, always capable of producing a bed, always feeding the five thousand with satisfying meals combined with warmth of welcome, laughter, all practical help and advice, and good talk. Accepting public duties such as being on Councils ran in both families: Henrietta's great-uncle, Christopher Head, who went down in the *Titanic* in 1912, had been Mayor of Chelsea in 1910.

For the next few years Henrietta worked in various legal jobs in England, but from about 1962 on her life was so world-wide peripatetic that there could never be room to print the itineraries of her travels. By 1970 she was, not for the first time, in Australia, whence she returned to England via the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow, then by way of Warsaw, Berlin, and Belgium as her way home.

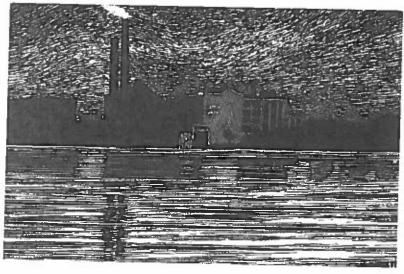
It was in 1971 that, at a concert on the South Bank, she and David Williamson met – a chance remark he made about Poland having caught her ear. The rest is their story.

As their sons attended the Lycée, a day school, where the concentration is on the French academic curriculum, from then on Henrietta completely dedicated her life to their needs. Though not, as was said of her, one of nature's natural filing-clerks, she spent much of her time in her own home, sorting and classifying the masses of family papers stashed away in her mother's house. (Hester died in 1982.) Henrietta's devotion has undoubtedly been a major ingredient in the development of two delightful young men, both of whom are doing brilliantly.

The Chelsea that remains for us to love and cherish is as it is primarily because Reginal Blunt determined to preserve it, and in Basil's time, after the 1939-1945 war, the Chelsea Society fought endless battles. (There was even a move on the part of Authority to make the very place-name 'Chelsea' disappear completely). Henrietta grew up with all that talk going on around her as her daily experience. Her father's professionalism and enthusiasm were the most potent force in halting dreadful threats. On the

creative side, he was passionate about trees, especially trees in streets, and we owe these Chelsea delights in large measure to him. It is fitting that there should be a photograph of his daughter planting one of the many that were added thanks to a subscription raised in his memory — an inspired memorial. We look forward to welcoming future Marsden-Smedleys when they can return to Chelsea.

Nesta Macdonald.



Farewell to Lots Road: the familiar power station – long shorn of two of its four great chimneys – is likely to be demolished and the site redeveloped.

(A wood engraving by Hugh Krall)

The Treasurer's Report

The format of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1997 follows that presented to you last year. This year, however, as I mentioned in my report last year, the figures have had to be independently examined and Mr Guy Mayers, Chartered Accountant, has carried out this task at a cost of £500.

Even so the result for the year is a surplus of £1,683 against a surplus of £879 last year. There were increases in income from subscriptions (no increases in the rates of subscription, though) in interest received and in income from events held, the latter mainly due to the visits to local places of interest organised by Jenifer Miller assisted by Valerie Thomas. On the expenditure side, the annual report cost more because we have extended the number of colour photographs and I hope you feel, like me, to good effect. Direct charitable expenditure increased but included in that total is a one-off charge for the cost of producing an index for the 70 or so annual reports produced so far. The Society is selling this for £10 each and it is a really good 'buy' for those members who have quite a few back numbers.

Turning to the Balance Sheet our funds now total £29,057 which while it sounds quite a substantial sum, would not take us far if we had to brief counsel to support our arguments on a planning matter.

Mr President, I beg to present my report and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1997. If there are any questions I shall be pleased to answer them.

18th November 1998

I.W. Frazer Hon Treasurer

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 276274

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1997.

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 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** Valerie Thomas Jonathan Wheeler MA, Bsc, FRICS

Review of the year's activities and achievements

The Chairman's Report, published in the Society's 1997 Annual Report, contains a full description of the activities and achievements of the Society during the year.

Review of the Accounts

At 31 December 1997, the Society has total funds of £29,057, comprising £19,543 on the General Fund and £9,514on 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 9 December 1998.

D.R. Le Lay Chairman

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

I report on the accounts of The Chelsea Society for the year ended 31 December 1997, which are set out on pages 58 and 59.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43 (7)(b) of

the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - * to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act; and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

(ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Guy Mayers **Chartered Accountant** 5/7 Vernon Yard Portobello Road London WH 2DX

9 November 1998

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1997

	1997 Total Funds	1996 Total Funds
Income and Expenditure	runus	runus
Incoming resources		
Annual membership subscriptions	7,899	7,532
Donations received	100	360
Income tax recoverable on covenants	284	276
Advertising revenue from annual report	725	837
Interest received on General Funds	1,027	917
Interest received on Life Membership Fund	483	465
Income from Chelsea Festival guided walks		200
Income from lectures, meetings and visits	4,702	2,308
Income from sale of Christmas cards and postcards	148	153
Tratal in the second		
Total incoming resources	15,368	13,048
Resources expended Direct charitable expenditure:		
Cost of annual report	4,245	3,938
Cost of newsletters	1,410	1,398
Cost of lectures, meetings and visits	3,659	2,791
Cost of Christmas cards and postcards	5,000	37
Subscriptions to other organisations	78	78
Chelsea Society Action Planning Project		1,332
Cost of indexing the annual reports	1,728	
,	-	-
	11,120	9,574
Other expenditure		
Management and administration of the charity:		
Stationery, postage and miscellaneous expenses	1,028	1,793
Cost of annual general meeting Insurance	333	107
Independent Examiner's fee	704 500	695
independent Examiner's rec	300	
	2,565	2,595
Total resources expended	13,685	12,169
Total I candi eta experided	15/005	12,1119
Net incoming resources for the year	1,683	879
F#	= 41,115,	,
Balances brought forward at 1 January 1997	27,374	26,495
Balances carried forward at 31 December 1997	£29,057	£27,374

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1997

	1997	1996
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,159	2,241
Balance in National Savings Bank account	9,514	9,031
Balance on bank current and deposit accounts	25,669	22,083
	36,342	33,355
Less Liabilities: amounts falling due within		
one year	7,285	189,5
	-	
Net Assets	£29,057	£27,374
Funds:		
General Funds	19,543	18,343
Life Membership Fund	9,514	9,031
•		
	£29,057	£27,374
	====	

Approved by the Council of The Chelsea Society on 9 November 1998.

D.R. Le Lay, *Chairman* 1.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;
 - encouraging good architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and proper maintenance of open spaces;
 - (d) seeking the abatement of nuisances;
 - (d) making representations to the proper authorities on these subjects.

MEMBERSHIP

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

THE COUNCIL

- 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 Iwelve 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
 - (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 reseind the appointment of an Officer during the term of office for reasons deemed substantial.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

- (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*

- The Council shall presente 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,
 - 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 abead.
- (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 of 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 berein 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

- 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 PAUL V. AITKENHEAD S. G. ALDER ROY ALDERSON MISS A. D. ALDERTON R. ALEXANDER MRS. R. ALEXANDER *LT-Col., J. H. Allason MRS. ELIZABETH AMATE *ANTHONY AMBLER MISS SOPHIE C. M. ANDREAE *THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY MICHAEL ANGUS B.A. 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

LADY JEAN BABINGTON SMITH MICHAEL BACH LADY BAILLIE MRS. LESLEY BAIRSTOW MISS P. 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.C. BARNARD SIR JOHN BARRAN, BT. LADY BARRAN JULIAN BARROW MRS. JULIAN BARROW SIMON BARROW

ADRIAN BARR SMITH

MRS. ADRIAN BARR-SMITH *MRS. DEREK BARTON MRS. ROGER BASSITT PATRICK BATY MISS F. V. BAUMGART SIR PETER BAXENDELL LADY BAXENDELL P. BAYNES MRS. P. BAYNES J.P. *E. V. BEATON MISS AXIA 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. J. 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 MISS CELIA BIGHAM MISS BIRGIT BIHLER MISS SUSAN BILGER MRS. NICOLETTE BILLOT MISS PAMELA BIRLEY *E. W. BISSETT MISSSUSANBLACKWELL T. F. BLOOD DEREK BLOOM MRS. DEREK BLOOM MRS. L. BLUNT MARTIN BOASE MRS. J. B. FLOCKHART BOOTH MICHAEL BOREHAM MRS. MICHAEL BOREHAM MISS JUDITH BORROW *TIMOTHY BOULTON DAVID BOWEN MRS CICELY PAGET BOWMAN

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 MRS. L. D. BRETT R. BRIDGE MRS. R. BRIDGE DR. HELEN BRIGHT MISS E. M. E. BRIGHTEN *SIR NIGH, BROACKES MRS. E. BROADBENT-JONES DIENIS BROODBANK SIR HENRY BROOKE LADY BROOKE N.F.G. BROWN MRS. N.F.G. BROWN *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 P. 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

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
J. CARLETON PAGET

MRS. J. CARLETON PAGET *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., *THE RT. HON. LORD CHALFONT, P.C., O.B.E., M.C. LADY CHALFONT MISS JULIA CHALKLEY M. E. CHAMBERLAYNE MRS. L. CHAMPAGNE DR. V. E. CHANCELLOR THE RT. HON, PAUL CHANNON, M.P. MRS. PAUL CHANNON ROY CHAPMAN PETER T. CHARLTON LORD CHELMSFORD LADY CHELMSFORD CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH CHELSEA YACHT & BOAT CO. LTD MRS CYNTHIA CHEVREAU MRS. J. M. CHEYNE MISS EMILY CHONG *THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS THE RT HON, ALAN CLARK M.P. MISS A. M. CLARKE R. D. CLARKE, F.LA. *R. S. CLARKE MRS V. CLAVER *MISS EDITH M. CLAY, E.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 RICHARD COMPTON MILLER MRS. MAIGHREAD CONDON MRS 7. CONNOLLY MRS. JOYCE CONWY EVANS MISS E. B. COOK

M. BOXFORD

MRS. H. H. COPE MRS. D. H. COPLEY-CHAMBERLAIN JOHN CORBET-SINGLETON Mrs. John Corbet-Singleton STUART CORBYN B.C. CORRIGAN *MRS. P. J. COWIN, B.E.M. MISS ROSEMARY COWLER MRS. E. COX *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 PETER J. DAVIES MRS. SUE DAVIES 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 LUDOVIC DE WALDEN MRS. LUDOVIC DE WALDEN SIR ROY DENMAN LADY DENMAN THE EARL OF DERBY

*DONALD D. DERRICK 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 P. DIXON 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 *THE LADY DUNBOYNE

MISS ANN EDWARDS *O. MORGAN EDWARDS, M.A. *MRS. O. MORGAN EDWARDS *JOHN EHRMAN, E.B.A., E.S.A., E.R. HIST, S. D. ELCOCK MRS. D. ELCOCK *JAMES ELLIS, A.R.I.B.A. *MRS. JAMES ELLIS MISS ADELE ENDERL *DAVIDENDERS LT.-COL. R.M. ENGEL *PHILIPENGLISH GRAHAM ETCHELL MISS EDITH EVANS MRS. C. EVERITT MISS HEATHER EWART MISS LENE EWART

MRS. P. A. DUNKERLY

G.P. FAHY *MRS, IAN FAIRBAIRN MISS A. FAIRBANKS SMITH P. W. FANE CECIL FARTHING, O.B.E., E.S.A. MISS ANN FEATHERSTONE J. F. O. FENWICK MRS. J. F. O. FENWICK MAJOR FENWICK MISS MARGARET FERGUSON DR ERNA FETISSOVA J. W. FIGG *CAPT. E. J. FINNEGAN D. FITZGERALD MRS. D. FITZGERALD MRS, JOAN L. FITZWILLIAMS

ROBERT L. FLEMING MRS. W. W. FLEXNER D.S. FOORD MRS. D. S. FOORD *SIR HAMISH FORBES, BT., M.B.E., M.C. PROFESSOR SIR HUGH FORD MRS. JOY FORREST MRS PAMELA FOSTER-BROWN J.M. P. Fox-Andrews MRS. HEATHER FRANCIS MISS F. J. FRASER, M.B.E. *IAN W. FRAZER, F.C.A. MRS. IAN W. FRAZER *MRS. P. FREMANTLE MRS. R. FREMANTLE MISS CHARLOTTE FRIEZE *JEFFREY FROST P. J. FRY MRS. P. J. FRY MRS. D. M. FURNISS

MRS. SUSAN GASKELL DR. JOHN GAYNER MRS. JOHN GAYNER JACQUES GELARDIN DOUGLAS W. GENT MRS. DOUGLAS W. GENT MISS FARNAZ GHAZINOURI D. F. GIBBS MRS. D. F. GIBBS GORDON GIBBONS, C.A. *LADY GIBSON THE LORD GIBSON DR D. G. GIBSON DENNIS GILBERT MRS S. GINSBERG SIR PAUL GIROLAMI LADY GIROLAMI THE LADY GLENKINGLAS MRS. CATHERINE GLIKSTEN *MISS ELIZABETH GODFREY MRS. ISOBEL M. T. GOETZ P. GOFF MRS. P. GOFF F. J. GOLDSCHMITT MRS. F. J. GOLDSCHMITT *R. W. GOLLANCE CHRISTOPHER GOODGER MISS DIANA GORDON JOHN GOUGH MRS: JOHN GOUGH D. C. GRANT L.L Biol. MISS JANET S. GRANT PETER GRANT MRS PETER GRANT *N. J. GRANTHAM MRS. P.J. GRAY MRS ANN L. GREEN MARTIN GREEN MRS. MARTIN GREEN *MISS MARGARET GREENTREE MISS MAUREEN GREENWOOD J. S. GREIG MRS. J. S. GREIG STEPHEN GRIFFITHS *A. G. GRIMWADE, F.S.A. DAVID GROSE WILLIAM GUBELMANN MRS. WILLIAM GUBELMANN THE HON, C. J. G. GUEST THE HON, MRS. C. J. G. GUEST LADY GUNNING

MISS J. M. HADDON SIMON HALL MRS VERONICA GLEDHILL HALL MISS MARGARET HALLENDORFF JAMES HALLING MRS JAMES HALLING *W. R. C. HALPIN G.R. HAMBER MRS. G.R. HAMBER D. I. A. HAMBLEN, C.B., O.B.E. ANDREW HAMILTON MRS. ANDREW HAMILTON HAMILTON, THE DUCHESS OF PHILIP HAMILTON MRS. PHILIP HAMILTON MISS HERMIONE HAMMOND MRS. PEGGY HAMMOND *R. O. HANCOCK MISS JUDITH HANRATTY MRS. CHARLES HANSARD M. R. HARDING MRS. M. R. HARDING D. L. HARLAND DESMOND HARNEY, O.B.E. MISS V. HARPER DONALD HARRIS MRS. JACKIE HARRIS *JOHN HARRIS, O.B.E., F.S.A., HON, E.R.L.B.A. *MRS. JOHN HARRIS, M.A., PH.D. RICHARD HARRIS ADAM HARRISON DAVID HARRISON MRS. DAVID HARRISON JOHN HARRISON SIR MICHAEL HARRISON, BT. MISS MOLLIE HARRISON MRS FAY HART DAVID HARVEY MRS DAVID HARVEY MISS STEFANIE HARWOOD N. D. HATHERELL MRS. N. D. HATHERELL HARRY HAVEMEYER MRS. H. HAVEMEYER L. C. HAWKES MRS. L. C. HAWKES DENYS HAWTHORNE MRS. DENYS HAWTHORNE *E. L. HAYES

*MRS. E. L. HAYES W. S. HAYNES MRS. W. S. HAYNES MISS ELIZABETH M. HEATHER MRS. JANET HEDDLE *G. A. HENLEY H. N. HENSHAW MRS. H. N. HENSHAW M. E. HESLOP E. J. HESS MRS. E. J. HESS MISS K. A. HEYWOOD-LONSDALE W. F. HICKS, C.ENG., M.INST.E. P. HIGGINS MRS. P. HIGGINS MISS LEONIE HIGHTON MISS JACQUELINE HILL. W. N. HILLIER MRS. W. N. HILLIER *P. D. J. HIPPISLEY-COX FERGUS HOBBS *MRS. ELIOT HODGKIN MAJOR I. S. HODGSON MISS SUSAN HOFFMAN A. F. HOHLER MRS A. F. HOHLER LEONARD HOLDSWORTH MRS. LEONARD HOLDSWORTH STANLEY HONEYMAN MRS STANLEY HONEYMAN *THE VISCOUNTESS HOOD, C.V.O. GAVINHOOPER. ADRIAN HOPE MISS A. ST. CLAIR HOPKIN MISS FAY HORN SIR SIMON HORNBY DR. SUSAN HORSEWOOD-LEE, M.R.C.G.P. D. A. HOWARD MRS. DENIS HOWARD *MISS L.M. HOWARD M. C. HOWARD MRS. M. C. HOWARD *MALCOLMS HOWE MISS DAPHNE HOWESON MISS S. E. HOWESON *D. R. HOWISON MRS, KINGA HOYER MISS CHERYL HUGHES *MRS. EDWARD HUGHES E. F. HUMPHRIES, B.Sc. (ENG.), F.I.C.E. *JOHN R. E. HUMPHRY A. C. B. HUNTER MRS. J. HUNTER GRAY *RICHARD HUNTING NICHOLAS HUSKINSON MRS. NICHOLAS HUSKINSON THE LORD HUSSEY THE LADY SUSAN HUSSEY, D.C.V.O. V. A. HUTCHINS, M.A. MRS. V. A. HUTCHINS

MISS P. J. HUTCHINSON

MRS. SUZIE HYMAN MISS PEGGY E. HYNE

DONALD W. INSALL, O.B.E.
*THE COUNTESS OF IVEAGH

MISS ANITA JACKSON BASIL J. JACKSON MRS. BASIL J. JACKSON SIR EDWARD JACKSON LADY JACKSON MISS SARAH JACKSON C. JACOBS MRS. C. JACOBS J. JACOBSEN *MISS PEGGY JACOBSON CONRADJAMESON *MRS. ANNE JARDINE *THE LORD JESSEL, C.B.E. LIOHNSON MRS, I. JOHNSON DR. D. JOHNSTON MRS. D. JOHNSTON K.B. JONES MRS K.B. JONES ROBERT PIERCE JONES MRS ROBERT PIERCE JONES

NICHOLAS KAYE PROFESSOR W. R. KEATINGE MRS W. R. KEATINGE *MRS. VERONICA KEELING MRS. SALLY KEFF MRS. E. KELLWAY *MISS M. KENNEDY-BELL T. A. KENNEDY-DAVIS THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA THE REV. C. KEVILL-DAVIES MRS. C. KEVILL-DAVIES DR. R. B. KHAMBATTA MRS. R. B. KHAMBATTA M. KIA PAUL H. KIERNAN *MISS F. B. KING MRS. GLORIA KING GORDON KING MRS. MARIANNE M. KING STEPHEN KINGSLEY MRS. STEPHEN KINGSLEY *THE LORD KINNAIRD DENIS KINNELL *JAMES H. KIRKMAN MRS. PENELOPE KIRWAN-TAYLOR DR. PAUL KNAPMAN MRS. PAUL KNAPMAN B. E. KNIGHT MRS. B. E. KNIGHT MISS S. M. KNIGHT MRS. HILARY KRALL

J. G. KRENNING H. KRETZMER MRS. H. KRETZMER MRS BETTY KROES MISS MONICA KUBICOVA

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