

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY  
REPORT

2001



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

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## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea*

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## *The Annual General Meeting Of The Chelsea Society*

held at the  
Hall of Remembrance, Flood Street, Chelsea, SW3  
on Wednesday 21st November 2001

The Rt. Hon the Lord Kelvedon, President of the Society, took the Chair at 6.30 pm.

He opened the meeting by welcoming members and especially the Society's guests, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Tony Holt; the Leader of the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Merrick Cockell; the Cabinet Member for Planning and Conservation, Councillor Barry Phelps and the Executive Director of Planning and Conservation, Mr. Michael French.

The President signed the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd November 2000 as a correct record.

The Society's Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Ian Frazer, then presented his report and accounts. These were received by the meeting.

No resolutions had been received and Mr. David Le Lay, the Society's Chairman, delivered the Council's Annual Report to Members.

Questions were then invited from the floor. The Reverend Leighton Thomson asked about the future of the old Public Library in Manresa Road. The Chairman replied that the building had reverted to the Royal Borough after being let to King's College. It would not be used for a museum (as the Society had hoped) but its future was unknown. Councillor Merrick Cockell said it was hoped to be retained for educational use. It was, of course, Listed.

Ms McKinlay queried the reference to Battersea Power Station and David Le Lay replied that the reference had been to Battersea Park where Wandsworth Borough Council wished to build ski slopes and extended car parking. Being Chelsea's nearest public park, the Society opposed these developments.

The Society's Honorary Secretary for Planning, Mr Terence Bendixson, drew to the attention of members the exhibition of the Second Stage of Lots Road Power Station Redevelopment.

Councillor Merrick Cockell, in connection with the Borough reorganisation, said that Planning Control, and other quasi legal functions of the Borough remained unchanged.

There being no other business, the President drew the meeting to a close. About 120 members were present.

# Chairman's Report

## President

I should like to thank the President, Lord Kelvedon, for the interest he has taken in the work of the Society and, on a personal level, for the help he has given me during this first year of his presidency.

## Membership

The current membership of the Society is 1,235, an increase of 33 on last year.

## Affiliations

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

## Awards

The Society has been short-listed by the London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies for an award for its achievements over the last two years. We have been chosen because of our active promotional activities such as the 'Future of Chelsea' conference, our exhibitions and our King's Road Study; it is recognition of the Society's proactive approach to promoting Chelsea.

## Publications

The Annual Report of the Society for the year 2000 included interesting articles about Chelsea's history as well giving details of the Society's work over the past year. We are grateful to our Hon. Editor, Jane Dorrell, for another splendid Report.

The Society published two Newsletters this year, edited by Michael Bach. These newsletters, as well as being sent to members of the Society are also delivered to all the members of the Council of the Royal Borough and we know from comments received that most Councillors read them from cover to cover.

A further reprint was made this year of the card featuring a reproduction of the view of Chelsea from the Thames painted by Canaletto in 1747; the card was left blank inside for purchaser's own message.

The Society now has a web site that can be reached on [www.chelsensociety.org.uk](http://www.chelsensociety.org.uk)

## Activities

### 1. Winter Lectures

Our twenty-second season of lectures was arranged by Tom Pocock. They were held in the Small Hall of Chelsea Old Town Hall and were well attended.

On 19th February, which marked the beginning of London Fashion Week, Ian Cox, Director of Studies at Christie's Education, gave us a fascinating lecture, entitled "The Passing Parade – Two centuries of fashion along the King's Road". It was especially interesting to see how 'punk' fashion, started here in Chelsea by Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren, was firstly popularized by the young un-employed but then became adopted, in modified form, by the rich; Ian Cox considered that to be the first time fashion had made that particular transition.

On 28th February the lecture was called "The Lost Rivers of London – The Westbourne, Chelsea Creek and beyond". This was given by John Richardson, historian and publisher of various books about London (as well as our own annual Report)

The lecture on 5th April also had a river theme for it was called "From Chelsea to the Cherwell with Three Men in a Boat – The Victorian River of Jerome K Jerome". The lecturer was Christopher Matthew, broadcaster and humorist, and a member of Chelsea Old Church. The lecture included excerpts from a film made for television by Mr. Matthew in which the famous journey made by the three men in a boat was re-enacted by him and other well known personalities – with equally amusing mishaps.

### 2. Visits

The Society's visits continue to be extremely popular. This year they were organised with the usual attention to detail by Valerie Thomas.

On 28th March and 25th April we visited the Ismaili Centre at South Kensington, an un-compromisingly modern building by a distinguished English architect, which is nevertheless firmly rooted in traditional Islamic design.

On 20th September and 3rd October visits were made to the Institute of Cancer Research in the Fulham Road.

Refreshments were served during the course of the visits.

### 3. Chelsea Residents' Associations Meeting

This public meeting was held in the Hall of Remembrance on 8th May. Councillor Barry Phelps, Chairman of the Royal Borough's Planning and Conservation Committee and Mr. Michael French, his Ex-

ecutive Director, were present to answer questions from a packed hall. It was a very lively evening and, as usual, ended with wine provided by the Society.

#### 4. *'Places of Worship in Chelsea' exhibition*

This exhibition, which was held as part of the Chelsea Festival for 2000, illustrated all of the places of worship in Chelsea, both past and present. It was held from 17th to 29th June at 5 Sloane Terrace, the former Christian Science Church

The exhibition was organised by a special sub-committee of members of the Council of the Society and of the Royal Borough's Libraries and Arts Service. As well as loans from the Royal Borough, visual material and artifacts were also loaned from the existing places of worship. We are very grateful for all the help, most willingly given, that we received from the churches and Synagogue of Chelsea.

This exhibition was not just a reminder of the important part played by religious worship in Chelsea but provided new and fresh insights into its social history, especially during the nineteenth century, which was dominated by religious fervour. The comprehensive catalogue that accompanied the exhibition provides a useful record of this successful project.

The exhibition's sponsors were the Cadogan Estate who generously paid for the reception at the private view of the exhibition on the evening of 18th June. The Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Tony Holt, accompanied by Councillor Mrs. Ian Frazer, were our special guests and the Mayor, and the Chairman of Chelsea Festival, Councillor John Corbet-Singleton kindly addressed the gathering.

#### 5. *Summer Meeting*

This year's meeting was held at Brompton Cemetery, on 25th July. This was an unusual venue but, at 40 acres, is one of the largest open spaces on Chelsea's doorstep. It attracted about 140 members and their guests, some of whom had never ventured into the cemetery before, in spite of having lived in Chelsea for most of their lives. The success of the evening was in no small measure due to the considerable help we received from the Friends of Brompton Cemetery who organized informative guided tours, provided stewards, and helped in negotiations with The Royal Parks, the owners of the cemetery. Special thanks for all this are due to the Chairman of the Friends, Mr. Arthur Tait.

We were also fortunate that it was a perfect summer evening and we were able to eat a splendid buffet supper outside. We are grateful to Valerie Thomas who organised the catering arrangements.

We were honoured to have the Mayor of the Royal Borough,



*The Society's summer outing at Brompton Cemetery*

Councillor Tony Holt with us who once again kindly addressed the meeting.

#### *Planning*

Our representative on the panel of assessors for the Royal Borough's Environment Awards for 2001 was David Foord. We were also represented on the panel that recommended projects in Kensington and Chelsea for Civic Trust Awards, in this case by Leonard Holdsworth.

The Society's planning sub-committee regularly meets to look at all applications submitted within Chelsea. The committee this year comprised Michael Bach, Patricia Burr, Jane Dorrell, David Foord, Eileen Harris, Hugh Krall, Nigel Stenhouse and Samantha Wyndham, under the chairmanship of Terence Bendixson. We are most grateful to Terence and his committee for the work that they have done during the year; theirs is often a difficult task yet it is vital to the work of the Society.

Some of the more important representations that the sub-committee has made during the year are:-

#### *Lots Road Power Station*

The closing down of Lots Road Power Station and its conversion into flats promises to be the biggest change in the use of land in Chelsea since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sir Terry Farrell's design for Circa-dian includes twin towers of 39 and 25 storeys beside the river, which,

with the re-used turbine hall and other buildings, would give over 700 flats. The Society is not opposed to the change of use of the main building but made strong representations against piling so many people onto a site that is so poorly served by public transport. We also opposed the towers for their greedy domination of the airspace of nearby residents, for promising to cause wind turbulence on the riverside walk and for furthering the 'Manhattanisation' of Chelsea Reach. Paradoxically the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment has given its blessing to the towers seemingly against the conditions set out in their guidance on tall buildings. No decision is expected until 2002.

### *Brompton Hospital*

In the foreseeable future the Brompton Hospital is going to join St Mary's at Paddington Basin. In March the Borough Council published a Planning Brief for consultation on how the site might be redeveloped. The Society welcomed the retention of most of the existing redbrick and stone-dressed facades, we opposed the location of a new secondary school opposite St Luke's Church (a site in Hortensia Road was thought to be more suitable) and indicated how a new garden square might be created behind the façade of the Chelsea Women's Hospital.

Major uncertainties remain about what will happen to this huge site because, as we know from Lots Road Power Station, Council guidelines carry no legal sanctions and developers can, and often do, disregard them. What, for instance, will be the fate of the Cardiothoracic unit in Sydney Street? It may be new but, as civic design, it thumbs its nose at the 19th century form of Sydney Street. Can these ill manners be redressed? Perhaps at greatest risk are the offices of the Poor Law Guardians at the corner of King's Road and Sydney Street. These are good quality Victorian and Edwardian civic buildings that complement Chelsea Old Town Hall. Despite repeated efforts, the most recent of which was in July, we have failed to get them 'listed'.

### *Loss of Pubs*

In the 1960s many of the public houses in the King's Road were converted into shops or restaurants as retail values soared. Now, with the ever-increasing value of residential property, there is a steady stream of applications to turn pubs into houses. The former 'Beehive' in Chelsea Manor Street has been given permission to be redeveloped as a terrace of four houses; a proposal for residential use of the Phene Arms was recently made but has, happily, been withdrawn

and the Blenheim in Cale Street, with its fine Victorian façade, is also proposed for conversion into a house. The Moore Arms in Cadogan Street and the Resident in Smith Street are also under threat of residential conversion.

All this has taken everyone by surprise. It was assumed that pubs were there forever. The Council's Unitary Development Plan accordingly contains no policy by which the conversion of a pub can be challenged.

For those who live close to public houses that are proposed to be converted to residential use, such a change will often be welcomed; yet the corner pub is an intrinsic and special part of the residential character of London. The Phene Arms, for example, with its garden, shows how pubs can provide valuable outdoor amenities and be an important element in the street scene. If the closure of pubs was accompanied by a reduction in drunkenness and loutish behaviour, it might be seen as a benefit; but this unfortunately is far from the case.

The Society is urging the Council to arm itself with powers to resist any more conversions. This could be done, by issuing supplementary planning guidance with a view to ultimately amending the Unitary Development Plan.

### *Former Duke of York's School*

The Cadogan Estate's adaptation of part of this former school, last used as the Headquarters of the Territorial Army, continues apace and, in September, the Society's Council was kindly invited to view progress. We were impressed by both the size and the high quality of the new development adjacent to the King's Road.

Our main concern during the year was a planning application for a proposed entrance for huge lorries at the junction of Franklin's Row and St Leonard's Terrace. This entrance is required for the delivery and removal of boxy prefabricated buildings (soaring tents are sadly a thing of the past) for temporary fairs and exhibitions. The Society objected to this new entrance as it felt the large vehicles it was designed to accommodate would be incompatible with the amenities of nearby residents.

### *King's College, Manresa Road*

Developers who create 15 or more dwellings are, under the Royal Borough's current planning policy, obliged to provide some affordable housing – which is usually managed by a housing association. The developers of the King's College building ingeniously circumvented this by creating 14 huge flats, some of which were of around 500 sq.m. floor space and with no less than 17 rooms. 9 of the flats

also included associated flats for servants; as it would not be possible to prevent such servant's flats from being separately sold at some future time, the real number of flats could eventually be 23. Yet, amazingly, the planning committee of the Council fell for this ploy and granted permission, with several committee members abstaining. Fortunately, the minority party was so incensed by this decision that they succeeded in getting the Minister of State to 'call in' the application so it will now be the subject of public inquiry in January.

The Society believes it is right that new residential development of any reasonable size should include a proportion of affordable housing. Chelsea has always had a wide social mix of residents and this is an intrinsic part of its character and appeal; in contrast, for example, to central and South Kensington which have traditionally been the preserve of the well-to-do. One only has to consider the important contribution made by Hereford Buildings in Old Church Street and the Peabody Estate in Lawrence Street to realise that affordable housing, planned in relatively small pockets amongst the generally un-affordable housing stock of Chelsea, is of benefit to all residents and provides the type of balanced community that is so sorely needed in the affluent parts of London.

### *Fulham Road*

Following the widening of footways and renovation of pavements in the King's Road, the Borough Council turned its attention to Fulham Road. Although the Society worked with the Kensington Society to draft a schedule of improvements to the entire public realm from Pelham Street to Edith Grove, the Borough has decided to only undertake some work on crossings. The mess outside the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, the impossibly narrow pavements east of the junction with Park Walk and the awkward design of the Old Church Street junction, for instance, are to be left untouched. We still hope to convince the Borough that a more comprehensive treatment is needed.

### *Chelsea Wharf*

The re-development of the old Chelsea Flour Mills, next to Cremorne Gardens, included a proposal to cantilever a bit of riverside walk from the front of the new building. But this was opposed by the Port of London Authority and the developers asked the Council to relieve them of their obligation to provide a walk. The Society urged the Council to require that the walk be arcaded into the wharf buildings as part of the re-development.

### *Other cases*

Other developments opposed by the Society include: Mr Mohamed Fayed's plan for a helipad on the roof of Harrods, fortunately, his action in the High Court failed; McDonalds application to put tables on part of Royal Avenue; and the creation in Battersea Park of a sports centre including artificial ski slopes and yet more car parking.

### *Graffiti and fly-posting*

The Council has appointed an officer to try and reduce the incidence of graffiti and fly posting, but the nuisance persists. No doubt some property owners are active in clearing such mess away. The Council too has been at work and dealt with aggressive calligraphy on the Embankment wall. Yet when a Thai restaurant opened in Chelsea and proceeded to flypost BT and cable-TV junction boxes, the Council was virtually powerless. Only the agents who stick the posters can be prosecuted and, needless to say, they are fly. New powers are needed. Perhaps some can be extracted from the Prime Minister's commitment to 'liveable streets'. Meanwhile the offending Thai restaurant has closed.

### *Aircraft noise*

The Society, in common with many other amenity bodies, was delighted to learn last month of the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case brought against HM Government by HACAN (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise). The Court decided in favour of HACAN who argued that night flights of aircraft amount to a violation of the human 'right to sleep', which is something that our own courts have steadfastly refused to consider. The effect of the ruling could be a total ban on night flights, but the Government has 3 months in which to lodge an appeal. The costs of bringing this case were in the region of £100,000 and although substantial contributions were made by certain local authorities, the majority was raised from individuals and from amenity societies such as ours; we certainly consider that our £100 contribution was money very well spent.

A consequence of the tragic events of September 11th was a one-week ban on aircraft flying over Central London; this had the effect of removing the curse of aircraft noise from most of Chelsea as well. It was interesting to learn from an official statement that 'there were no operational difficulties posed by the ban'. If that is the case, one wonders why aircraft ever fly over Central London?

The Government's decision in respect of the planning inquiry into

Heathrow Terminal 5, to which the Society gave evidence, was announced yesterday. Although it comes as no surprise that the Minister has decided in favour, it is nevertheless an extremely disappointing decision for all who care about the environment and for the quality of life in this city. The safeguards and restrictions that are to accompany the decision are almost certainly meaningless; for the decision that allowed the construction of Terminal 4 was accompanied by similar safeguards, none of which were ever complied with; including, prophetically, that which stipulated that Terminal 4 was to be positively the last expansion of Heathrow.

Already, the British Airports Authority and the airlines are calling for a third runway and for an end to runway alternation; for, as Terminal 5 will virtually double passenger handling capacity, they now need additional runway capacity to match.

### *The Council's new governance arrangements*

The Council of the Royal Borough, in common with all of the London Boroughs, has recently completely changed the way in which it governs. The principal change is that all key decisions and policy-making are carried out by a cabinet, comprising the Leader of the Council and 9 other Councillors. The Society has taken a keen interest in these new arrangements, including meetings with the Chief Executive and Town Clerk. Our concern is to ensure that the new arrangements will allow for us to exercise the maximum influence upon the Council's decision-making and that the new arrangements are as good, if not better, than the previous system in terms of getting access to information and decision-makers.

In addition to any formal arrangements the Leader of the Council has agreed regularly to meet representatives of the Society to discuss matters of particular concern to us, with key members of his cabinet being also present. This is a welcome move and is typical of the very sympathetic response we always receive from Leader of the Borough Council.

### *Cultural Centre for Chelsea*

Earlier this year the Cadogan Estate submitted a planning application to convert the former Christian Science Church in Sloane Terrace into a cultural centre for Chelsea; it is their intention also to fund this proposed centre. The main body of the former church is proposed as a concert hall which it is intended will become the permanent home of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The former Sunday School room would become an exhibition space – this is the room where our 'Places of Worship in Chelsea' exhibition was held during

this year's Chelsea Festival and in fact the plans showing all of the proposed conversion of the building were on view as part of our exhibition.

The Society warmly welcomes this exciting project which we see as a successor to the Chenil Galleries, next to Chelsea Town Hall, which was established as a similar cultural centre in the 1920s.

It is envisaged that the exhibition space could be used for varying exhibitions about Chelsea History, similar to those organized by the Society as part of the annual Chelsea Festival, but that these would be more frequent and organized with professional help. The majority of the material for these exhibitions would be drawn from the Royal Borough's archive at Chelsea Old Town Hall. Although not the Chelsea Museum, which for many years the Society had hoped could be established, it is hoped that these exhibitions would have the same aim of engendering interest in the history of Chelsea.

So far as the Borough's archive is concerned, it would seem that this will continue to exist in its present unsatisfactory state, as part of Chelsea Reference Library; the Borough's plans to use the old library in Manresa Road having been abandoned. We will however continue to press for improvements in the Borough's custody of this matchless collection.

### *Gift to Chelsea Library*

We are very glad to be able to report that our Hon. Secretary, Hugh Krall, has donated 28 of his etchings to Chelsea Library. When Hugh retired from being an architect he took a course in engraving and etching at the Heatherley School of Fine Art in Upcerne Road and over the past 10 years or so he has become highly proficient in both the artistic and technical skills of this ancient craft. The subject matter of Hugh's work is practically all Chelsea scenes, especially the Chelsea riverside and Chelsea Reach where he has recorded the many changes that have taken place, even over so short a time.

The Royal Borough marked this most generous donation by holding a reception on 14th November which was hosted by the Cabinet member for Education, Libraries and Arts, Councillor Christopher Buckmaster and was attended by the Mayor and the Leader of the Council.

### *Local History Competition for Schools*

Last year we reported of our wish to sponsor an annual competition, open to pupils of the public and private schools within Chelsea, as part of their local history studies.

In order to advance this proposal a meeting was recently held

between representatives of the Royal Borough's Education Department, the Council of The Chelsea Society and teachers from several Chelsea schools. The aim of the meeting was for all to work together to harness the enthusiasm that exists for this idea and to make it a reality. The Royal Borough's education department has been especially helpful and has agreed that this project can be considered as a pilot scheme which, if successful, would be extended throughout the Borough.

It is intended that the first competition should be held next year, with a prize-giving event towards the end of the summer term. Initially, the competition will be restricted to children up to age 13.

### *75th Anniversary of the Society*

Next year, 2002 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Society; the actual date of the first meeting of the founders being 1st April 1927.

The Society's 50th anniversary, in 1977, was marked by its initiating the conversion of what was then the Old Burial Ground in the King's Road into what is now Dovehouse Green. To mark our 75th anniversary, which happily coincides with the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's accession, we are working with the Royal Borough to hopefully carry out improvements to Dovehouse Green, such as introducing more lighting and improving the seats and paving.

In addition, the Society has decided that it would like to mark this anniversary by holding a dinner in the Great Hall of the Royal Hospital on Tuesday 9th April. It is intended that this should be a 'black tie' event. We are also planning that our exhibition as part of the Chelsea Festival in June, will be on the history and the work of the Society and that this will be held in a temporary structure erected on Dovehouse Green.

My Lord President, this is the Report of the Council of The Chelsea Society in its seventy-fourth year.

**David Le Lay**

## *248/250 King's Road*

by Hugh Krall

**T**hese buildings were the former Poor Law Guardians' Offices. They then became the Chelsea Registrar's Office and the Citizens Advice Bureau until these last two functions were moved into Chelsea Old Town Hall in about 1978. The site and buildings were then sold to the Royal Brompton Hospital (now the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust) for Phase III of their redevelopment.

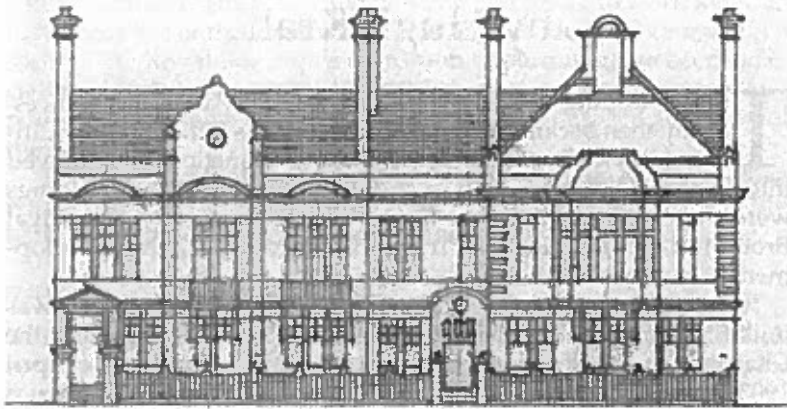
No. 250 (the further one from the corner of Sydney Street) was built first and has a foundation stone dated 21 May 1883, laid by the Chairman of the Board of Guardians. No. 248 followed on 8 April 1903. The architects were M.J. Lansell and J. Harrison. The design is a skilful use of red brick with stone dressings in an intriguing asymmetrical arrangement. The carving of the mouldings and cornices is of good quality and includes a coat-of-arms over the doorway to No. 248. The former boardroom on the first floor survives.

In townscape terms the buildings form part of Civic Chelsea with the Old Town Hall (Leonard Stokes), the Chenil Galleries and, opposite them, the Post Office and National Westminster Bank (Reginald Blomfield). The splendid Chelsea Palace used to stand on the corner of Sydney Street, sadly replaced by the present hideous building over Heals.

The inclusion of the site in the Royal Brompton Hospital's plans for Phase III of their development could have resulted in demolition and prompted the Society to make representations to the Department of National Heritage to have the buildings included in the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. To no avail — they were not considered to be of sufficiently high architectural quality or historical interest to merit listing.

The Borough did, however, extend the adjacent conservation area to include the site, affording at least a partial safeguard against premature demolition.

Now, the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust is proposing to move to a new building in Paddington. All the land owned by the Trust, which includes sites in Fulham Road, South Parade, Cale Street, Sydney Street and King's Road, will be sold for redevelopment — this considerable commercial asset being set against the cost of the new building. The value of 248/250 King's Road is no doubt higher as a cleared site.



248/250 King's Road, by Hugh Krall

While the building is in a conservation area and demolition is discouraged by the Borough's Planning Brief, the only real safeguard against demolition is to have it listed. Further attempts to achieve this, both by the Society and by the Borough, have failed. Andrew Saint, Professor of Architecture at the University of Cambridge School of Architecture, supported us. We enlisted Michael Portillo's help but the Minister of State for the Arts, Baroness Blackstone's answer was an unequivocal refusal. She assured him that there was nothing in the suggestion that the NHS Trust might have had an influence on the result.

## *The In-Pensioner Statue at the Royal Hospital*

by Tony Dyson

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was founded by King Charles II in 1682 as a retreat for veterans of the regular army who had become unfit for duty, either after twenty years' service or as a result of wounds. The King's Surveyor-General of Works, Sir Christopher Wren was called upon to design and erect the buildings, initially as a single quadrangle known as Figure Court, but then later, in the reign of James II, adding Light Horse and College (originally Infirmary) Courts on either side.

Figure Court is enclosed by buildings on three sides, the northern containing the Chapel and Great Hall, with an octagonal vestibule between them, the southern end being open to the grounds and river beyond. Together, the northern ranges of all three courts form the long elevation set back from Royal Hospital Road. In the centre of Figure Court and on the axis that passes through the whole complex via the Octagon, Burtons Court and Royal Avenue to the King's Road, is Grinling Gibbons' statue of Charles II. The statue features at the centre of the 'Inspection of In-Pensioners and March Past' on Founder's Day (also known as Oak Apple Day) when it is decorated with oak leaves to commemorate the King's escape after the Battle of Worcester in 1651, when he took refuge from his pursuers in an oak tree.

In 1998, mindful of their history and of the In-Pensioners' illustrious past, the Royal Hospital decided to celebrate the approaching millennium by erecting a statue of an In-Pensioner. The statue was to be the generous gift of the Duke of Westminster.

For the commission, they looked at the work of a number of potential sculptors finally deciding on Philip Jackson FRBS, FRSA, sculptor of *The Young Mozart* in Ebury Street and the Raoul Wallenberg memorial in Great Cumberland Place. For both of these projects Donald Insall Associates had been the architects and planning consultants, designing the statue plinths and settings relative to the surrounding urban landscapes, so it was with great pleasure that we accepted the Royal Hospital's invitation to lead the design team needed to make this project happen, particularly relishing the opportunity to work in the sublime setting of the Grade 1 Listed Royal Hospital and its grounds.

The Lieutenant Governor, Major-General Hall invited Philip and Jean Jackson and myself to visit the Hospital and look at possible sites for the statue within the grounds. We all concluded that the most appropriate site was in front of the central portico of the Royal Hospital Road elevation, on the central axis of the whole complex.

Philip Jackson's statue was first presented in the form of a maquette which showed the In-Pensioner standing erect, worn by war and conflict but unbent by age and proudly wearing his famous uniform with its three-cornered hat. In his right hand he holds his stick aloft in salute to comrades past and present. In his left hand, an oak branch ready to break and distribute to his comrades in memory of the founder, Charles II. The In-Pensioner stands as if on a patch of some distant battlefield with the detritus of war half hidden in the mud around his feet. Below him carved around the base, the words of 'The Soldiers Prayer'. The maquette was exhibited at the Royal Hospital, minor adjustments made and the design was agreed.

Consultations with English Heritage led to the site of the sculpture being moved away from the central portico of the north elevation, thus associating it more with the lawns and borders along the Royal Hospital Road and in line with the distant East and West lodges. Philip Jackson then constructed a full sized mock-up using an adjustable base, for we needed to establish the relationship between the scale of the proposed statue to that of the immediate surroundings, to the elevation behind, to the architectural elements existing over the whole site and in particular to that of the Founder's statue in the centre of Figure Court. We established that the heroic effect of the height of the Charles II plinth would be inappropriate. So in the event, the resulting drum related to the form of the Founder's plinth but was proportionally wider and lower, emphasising the difference between the two monuments, and bearing the inscription "O Lord You Know How Occupied I Shall Be This Day" and "If I Forget Thee, Do Not Forget Me".

There was a hitch when trial holes dug on the proposed site revealed service pipes passing beneath, and then what appeared to be historic coursed brickwork was discovered and work stopped. Fortunately, the Oxford Archaeological Unit who were called in to investigate pronounced the brickwork to be whole sections of wall buried under the gardens following a direct hit on the Royal Hospital during the last war, so the excavation for the foundation was able to continue. The contractor, Stonework, after carefully sheathing the pipes passing through, cast the foundation and constructed the Portland stone plinth. The sculpture (voluminously wrapped up) was lowered by crane into place, the wrapping being replaced later by a scarlet cloth.



*The In-Pensioner statue in position. (See also colour section)*

On 4 May 2000, flanked by a guard of honour of Pensioners resplendent in their scarlet uniforms, the statue was unveiled by the Duke of Westminster.

*Postscript by the Lieutenant Governor, Major General Hall*

Today there are about 350 In-Pensioners, ranging in age from 65 to a number well into their 90s, with an average age of 81. About 40 are resident in the infirmary, the remainder organised into six companies, each commanded by a retired officer known as a Captain of Invalids. Over 100 of the In-Pensioners are employed within the hospital on a voluntary, part-time basis. During the 310 years that the hospital has been in existence, 30,000 pensioners have called it their home. Every monarch has visited the hospital during its existence, including Queen Elizabeth II. The men in scarlet have a worldwide reputation that honours both the hospital and their sovereign. This marvellous statue is testament to the debt that the nation owes these fine men who have served their country with dignity and loyalty. It also marks the beginning of a new century and, it is hoped, the continued existence of the Royal Hospital Chelsea at the heart of the British nation.

*(Philip Jackson's statue has received a commendation from the Council's Environmental Award Scheme)*

# Chelsea Common in the 1890s

by A.C. Tearle

*Grandson of the Cale Street cobbler and  
son of the undertaker.*

*"A few scraps about the Common etc. written (save the word) for Miss Harriet Upfield of 5 St Luke's Street, S.W.3." by A.C. Tearle in 1964. The manuscript was in the possession of Elizabeth Russell and it has been slightly edited by Denis Broodbank who also drew the plan of the shops named in the text.*

Does the title conjure up a picture of grass covered 'sward', bushes and shrubs? It is not, at all, like that. It possibly was some years since, but now, in the 1890s, the time we are speaking of, it is a collection of houses and shops, possibly Georgian, but certainly Victorian, clustered around the wider portion of Cale St., and occupied by folk living a family life, trading as good neighbours and old friends. A real village community almost complete in itself. Our every day needs could be purchased within its precincts. A Doctor to attend to our ills, two churches to look after our souls! and of course, two 'Pubs' to supply those who 'imbibe' or whatever they do. But why not go round the 'Common' in more detail and, to the best of our ability, give some idea of how we fared in those earlier days? Let's start at one of the 'Pubs', that one on the corner will do, as it still stands today much as it did then, but now it's not so 'dowdy', paint does wonders. It's the Red House.

Before we really commence our little tour, a word about the shape etc. of our 'Common' may help to picture it. First it was, and still is, triangular. On its north side, where Sutton Buildings now stand were a row of two story houses with shops below and most had a wide forecourt down to the pavement level. On the south side were one story houses and no forecourts. The Red House side similar to how it is this present day, as the houses have all more or less been renovated or made good. The open space in the centre of our 'Common' had a circular stone 'refuge' in its centre, with a lamppost and the water pump, where the 'Vestry' (i.e. present day Boro' Council) water cart drew its water for the dusty roads of those times. On this 'refuge' all manner of meetings would be held:- Temperance Society, Salvation Army, Mission and Political etc. Late at night a coffee stall would be trundled down and set out to do business with all and

sundry – penny a cup, ditto a cake! It really was a most useful circle of stones and earned its maintenance.

Bearing these facts in mind, let us take a tour around our 'Common' and find out about the various activities of its folk. We'll commence at our largest 'Pub' – The Red House, one of the five original buildings still standing. Except for its smarter appearance one cannot see any difference in it and one believes the same family run it, but as a 'non-customer' of Pubs, one would not press that. On more familiar ground we come to the next house, this was our Grocer – stout, jovial and genial Mr. Dibble with his dear little wife, his two sons and three daughters, they all helped in running the business, it was a real family concern and no one ever received other than the greatest courtesy. Then came one of our two 'Greengrocers', the 'Lloyd' family, known in Chelsea for years. Next, on the corner of Whiteheads Grove, our Oil & Colour shop, as they were then called, really they sold many other things, pots, pans, a bit of Ironmongery and 'Hardware', whatever that was! Anyway it was a useful shop to have about.

Just round the corner, in the Grove itself, was our good 'sporting' friend and tobacconist – Mr. Butcher, he had a long narrow little shop, but that wasn't all. As youngsters our main interest in him was not his shop or even in his tobacco or snuff – no, it was just that he got the news of who had won the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race or the Derby, etc., before anyone else round about and would immediately display the result in his window. We boys would be keeping a very sharp eye on that window on these social days; we never bothered our heads as to how he got the results so quickly, enough for us to know that he did; then we would argue, as boys will, when their favourite is left behind. Adjoining Mr. Butcher was our Solicitor, one Scatliffe, always a useful man to have around. Next, still in the Grove, was a home for lads who had been brought up, mostly, in orphanages and later apprenticed to local folk. It was very efficiently run by our good friend Mr. Horton. It was a good job of work that he was doing and many lads found their nitch in life through him. A little further up the Grove we even had our County Court, where we could sort out our financial problems, had we any.

Yes we 'Commonites' were very self contained, not much need to go far out of our village for everyday wants. In those days the Grove consisted of largish houses with fair-sized gardens in front, now it is considerably altered. However on the corner of College Street (now Elystan St) and the Grove was our doctor – a Scot – one Dr. Morton, a genial man and always ready to help when needed. He also had a tiny shop adjoining where he would sell medical goods for coughs, colds, corns, or what have you, besides making up his own medi-

cine for patients. We kept him busy. Just beyond his shop stood the Catholic Apostolic Church and across the way on the corner of College Street was our Baker and Confectioner and Post Office, all run very capably by Mr. Judkins, his good wife and tall lean son Arthur. It was a hive of busyness and in those days a cottage loaf cost about 3d!

Continuing along the north side of the Common, next door to Judkins, was our Milkman and his brother — Frank and Alec Wiseman, who worked cheerfully and well together and were nice lads. These are the houses with wide forecourts, but since around 1910 the Sutton Buildings have stood on their site. However, next door to Wisemans, we had our 'Coffee Shop', run by a German, Mr. Linke. Not only did he supply drink (non-alcoholic of course) and 'grub', but, like a good German, he made use of his wide forecourt by keeping chickens in it! He had a large pen built out to the pavement level and a strong fence about 3 ft. high erected round it. We lads and lassies would-lean over and feed the chicks, and no one thought it strange, or attempted to steal the birds; it just would not do these days; they say we've advanced — maybe. Next to our Coffee Shop was our Cobbler — Jacob King — the writer's grandfather. His shop was about as small as it could be and he sat there day after day, repairing boots and shoes, Ladies' soled and heeled for 2/6, men's for 3/6, and could turn out a pair of new boots with a real lasting power. He made use of his forecourt by, in fine weather, hauling a glass showcase out full of shoes etc. He had a wonderful clock that stood on a shelf in the shop — just one of those cheap round alarm clocks. This one was unique to most of us. It was on its side, not the correct way up, had only one hand, but grandfather could always tell us the time by it, no one else could!

Next on our list is fat and jovial Mr. Holliday, our Trunk and leather Bag, etc., maker. He would spread his goods all over his forecourt in fine weather. Mr. Pearce, our bearded Muffin Man, kept the shop next door and whilst he prepared the muffins and crumpets in the nether regions his wife would sell sweets of all kinds from honeycomb toffee (a sticky mess) to lollipops and love hearts! Mr. Pearce would go out on his rounds, large board balanced on his head, and packed with piles of his 'speciality', his bell swinging in his hand to awake the Sunday after-dinner sleepers. In his spare time he would don his white hood and dress and become a Druid in any procession for a good cause — such as the annual one of those days before the 'Welfare State', the 'Help the helpless' as it was called.

Now we have arrived at our second 'Pub' elegantly known as the 'Duke of Cambridge', to we common dwellers as the 'Tom Thumb', presumably because it was so much smaller than its companion house

'The Red'. It was usually a well ordered place but, on occasion, a certain Irish lady would honour it with her custom and then the sparks would fly, as she would persist in celebrating rather noisily, and that very untunefully, until the police had to be called to deal with her. They did this by strapping her on the hand-drawn stretcher used in those days and taking her to her abode in 'Oakham Bay', now prim Lucan Avenue.

Next to the Pub we had our Photographer and Picture-frame maker Mr. Bristowe; One remembers his daughter Annie, very pretty and a general favourite. So we arrive at our general sweet shop, presided over by Mrs. Sims. One could buy the various confections of those days. Boiled sweets, all flavours, and of course, sticky, as no fancy papers enclosed them, as now. Lucky Dips, rounds of doubtful chocolate the size of a half-crown and probably one in a thousand contained a small coin, but we fell for it and never got a coin! Locust Beans (terrible), Tamarisks (worse), hundreds and thousands, etc., etc., one could go on at length, but no, let us move next door to Mr. Batten, our second Greengrocer friend. He and his sons did a splendid trade and were well liked among us. Their shop stood on the corner of Little Marlborough Street which is now no more as the Sutton Buildings stand on its site.

A few steps up L. Marlboro' Street and we are at our Sweep, Mr. Strange his wife and family. A useful man to have around in those days of smoke and grime. For some strange reason, sweeps seemed to make a special day of May 1st and we children always knew it as 'Jack-in-the-Green-Day'. Around 8 a.m. on May 1st we would hang around Mr. Strange's shed and soon things would happen. Out would be trundled a tall sort of tower, covered in green leaves, and with a green-covered openwork crown on top. It looked like a small lighthouse made on a light wood frame. A man would crawl into it, as they tipped it up, adjust the frame on his shoulders and look through a small opening at his eye level, placed in front. Then the 'procession' would get into a rough formation, 'Jack' at the head, a man beating a drum and with a small set of bamboo pipes fixed across his chin, through which he would make weird but, presumably, musical noises. Then would come Mrs. Strange, a rather handsome lady, very dark and almost Romany-looking. She was dressed in white, with plenty of tinsel, etc., carried a wand, but whether she was a Queen or a Fairey we never knew, but she looked nice. By her side was her 'Prince', at least we put him down as that. He was dressed to kill — knee-breeches, white stockings and buckles on his shoes, a cocked hat with a plume, and an elegant coat. Both would dance as they went on their way. Behind came the 'retinue' in all kinds of 'motley', keeping time with the 'music', the Jack meanwhile

always twisting, bowing, bobbing about as he pleased. Men dressed as clowns would be collecting, what for? that's another thing we 'kids' never solved, but they earned every penny they got, as they kept going all day and must have walked or danced a fair number of miles, as they never arrived back at the shed until around dusk; then old 'Jack' still bobbing about in the half-light, used to appear very ghostly to us youngsters. Only a few years back, the 'Prince' was still to be seen in the Chelsea streets, just a very old man, not greatly altered in features.

Back to the Common, or rather now we are in the narrower part of Cale Street. On the opposite corner of L. Marlboro' Street to Batters was our 'Cats' Meat Man'. We had no modern parlance about calling such places 'Pets Meat Shops'. It was always plain 'Cats Meat'. A Mr. Tolley had this business. It was a funny little shop with the small door right on the corner, four stone steps up and you were in and almost pushing friend Tolley over, who unfortunately had a very disfigured face, poor man, but his wares seemed to suit the cats and dogs who hung about. Our Barber came next, Mr. Jackson, a grey-haired pleasant man who would cut, trim, shave with never a grumble and his charge was not 3/6 for a haircut, no it was 2d or 3d, and a shave for 1½d, children's hair 1d (with clippers) 2d (without). What a contrast to the present day! The lad who used to 'lather' for Mr. Jackson in those days was none other than young Green, who later had his own shop in Chelsea, and to this day is still in action.

Next on our tour is Mr. Wangler, a Jovial old German and fine clock repairer. Of course we had our Ice cream merchant, one Mr. Curindi, always known as Jack; he dispensed his wares to all and sundry, provided they had the wherewithal to pay for them! Ice Cream ½d and 1d, or take your own cup and he would fill it almost for 1d. Hokey-Pokey — a sort of solid Ice cream. In the winter he sold those 'acidy' hot drinks in every 'flavour' under the sun.

Now we leave the north side and cross the road to the south side to our fried fish shop. No fish and chips title, just 'the fried fish shop'. We could buy a ha'porth of 'Taters' in paper, plenty of salt and vinegar included and if we were really in funds 'lash' out and have a penny piece of fish as well. Of course, the more 'affluent' (horrible word) would order 2d or 3d Middles; these were fried while you waited. The shop stood on the corner of Little Blenheim Street (now Danube St., but don't ask why!). On the corner of Godfrey St. stood, as now, our second 'Oil Shop', run by Mr. Albert Simmonds. The building is the original one and just as 'pokey' as it always was. Mr. Simmonds was an excellent businessman and he opened his first shop here in the late 80s on a very small capital, but he went on and soon had a chain of shops in London. He had the idea of giving

boiled sweets to the children when they were sent by 'Mum' for soap or what not. Always a large tin stood to hand on the counter and two sticky sweets would be handed over! Bribery and Corruption? What did we care? We were always at 'Mum' to see if she wanted things from Simmonds. It was a good idea and it paid dividends!

On the opposite corner of Godfrey St. stood our second Bakery; the original shop still stands. Albert Quick, a great character and a 'wit' ran this with the help of his wife and family. Often the writer would be down in the bakehouse getting in the way, but Mr. Quick never seemed to mind. He had a large family and both his wife and he loved children. A great man was Albert. Next was our Newsagent, Mrs. Limpenny, a widow with two sons. Then came the shop of the writer's father, whose business was one that we all have to make use of, eventually. Next was our one private house on the Common, and we still have one lady living in Chelsea who was born there. Mrs. Cross kept the shop next door — a sort of small 'general' place. Dried fish, milk, bread, etc., etc., a useful little place to pop in, and she was a good soul, and had sons and daughters to give her a hand.

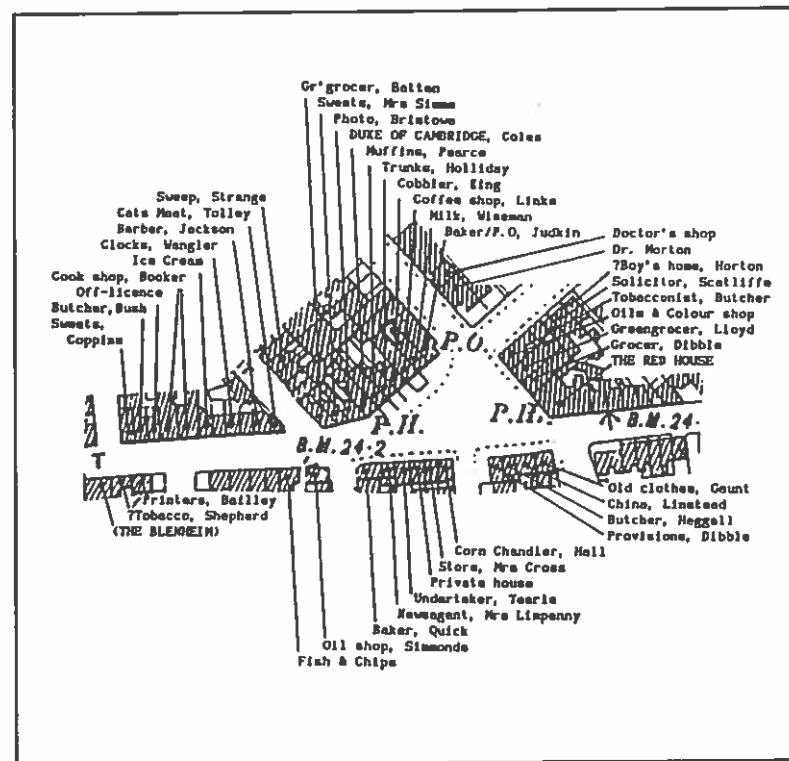
On the corner of Jubilee Place was our Corn Chandler — Peter Hall. As this was in the days of horses, he was much in demand. His shop was all bins and open top sacks, overflowing with Maize, Beans, Peas and Lentils as it were. Peter and his son Arthur did a thriving business and filled an important place in the circle. On the other corner Mr. Dibble had his 'provision' shop, where he sold bacon, eggs, pork pies, sausages, etc. and the Margarine of those days was cut out of round wooden tubs as required. It was about 4d a pound and looked very oily! Our Butcher Mr. Heggall had his shop next door. This was run by a widow, Mrs. Heggall, and her son Frank very capably. Finally, our 'Common' had its China and Glass shop — of course we broke things, so it was a useful place and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Linstead. Then we arrive at our last shop. It is on the corner of Markham Street and is just the same in appearance as it was 70 or so years ago. Then we disrespectfully called it our 'old clothes shop', but Mrs. Gaunt, the owner, called herself a 'Wardrobe Dealer'. Well, well.

We are now back at the Red House, so if anyone feels in real need now's the opportunity! We have gone full circle of our 'Common' and its occupants and tried to show how life went in the days of late last century. Those days were hard ones, in many ways, but generally very peaceful ones, folk seemed more contented and more easily content. We youngsters were, probably, the bane of our elders, but at least we did little harm really, though of course we played tricks. We had our exciting games of tip-cat, tops, cherry-oggs, but-

tons, dumps, chevy-chase and the rest for the boys, whilst the girls would play Hop-scotch, hoops, skipping and have dolls etc. We made our own amusements and most of us were not allowed out after 8 p.m. The children of today miss a great deal of the fun we had. Good old snow fights in the winter up some quiet street. Tink-tink the spider on someone's window, in the dark! That was always a good one. Most winter nights the 'Hot Potato Man' would turn up with his barrow and red hot oven full of potatoes baked in their skins and we could buy a lovely large one for a ha'penny. The man would fish one out, on demand, break it open with his very grimy hands, pitch salt on it and hand it over and we would devour it skin and all. In day-time another man would come along at times, with his barrow which was filled with paper windmills, short sticks with paper fans at the top that swirled around.

Every morning, except Sundays, a horse drawn brougham would drive across the 'Common; it had inside the original Peter Jones on his way to his small shop at Sloane Square. A short way along, in Cale Street, we had Burroughs Distillery, where there was always a smell of hops and malt, then Buckley and Beach's tinsplate works and finally the Postmen's Sorting Office. All these were opposite the Church Recreation Ground.

Over on the south side of Cale Street from King Street (now St. Luke's Street) was our third Pub., the 'Blenheim', it's still the same; then Bailey Bros., the printers and not brothers at all, then Shepherds our tobacconists. St Luke's Church, built around 1828, stands central to the one time cemetery, now the local Recreation ground and rest garden, and faces on to Sydney Street, once known as Robert Street. The Church Schools stood at the rear in St. Luke's Street and are now replaced by a new Church Hall and residential houses. The low buildings of the school were once the stables of the Earl of Cadogan's horses and in those days St. Luke's Street was King Street and many old Chelsea folk lived in it, and some still do. Blenheim Street is now Astell Street and entirely rebuilt with expensive houses. Whilst Godfrey Street has retained all its old houses which have been taken over by folk who have modernised them with all sorts of additions. Jubilee Place is practically rebuilt except for part at the King's Road end, and Markham Street has its old houses renovated, and so it goes on.



*Shops named in the text*

*Notes*

1. Fry's of Chelsea, the greengrocer now at 14 Cale Street, has a Chelsea Green Carol Concert every year. St Luke's Choir, a 5-piece brass band and free goodies!
2. The 'BLENHEIM' is threatened with closure to make way for a private residence.
3. The Red House is now called CAHOOTS.

## *The Royal Hospital Museum*

by David Le Lay

**O**n 30 May the recently refurbished Museum of the Royal Hospital was formally opened by the Duke of Wellington.

The most striking addition to the Museum is a magnificent detailed model of the Royal Hospital and its gardens as they would have appeared in 1742. This shows the Hospital broadly as originally designed by Sir Christopher Wren and the gardens as laid out by George London and Henry Wise with Ranelagh Gardens and the Rotunda just completed. Some of the interesting details are that the Hospital buildings then had mullioned casement windows, with leaded lights, rather than the double-hung sashes of to-day, and the stable block is as designed by Wren, before these were replaced by those designed by Sir John Soane. The model includes an explanatory commentary, with the various parts of the model being referred to being indicated by synchronised lights; thus making it a diorama.

The other notable addition to the Museum is a full-size example of one of the In Pensioners' cabins (known as 'berths'). These are one of the most interesting features of Wren's building – but one that it is not possible for ordinary members of the public to see.

The remainder of the Museum has been completely re-ordered with large information panels about various aspects of the Hospital; these were designed and produced using expertise from the National Army Museum. So, as with any modern museum, dusty show-cases have been replaced with information that interprets the most interesting aspects of the Hospital's history.

Some original artefacts do of course remain, notably a display of Royal Hospital uniforms. The display of medals and cap badges is about to be re-ordered so as to allow for the prominent display of a brand new acquisition – a Mace that is being made for the Royal Hospital by the silversmith, Norman Bassant, for use at ceremonial occasions. It is to be of silver gilt, some 140cm. in length and is a private gift to the Hospital.

The Royal Hospital has only had a Museum since 1960 when space became available in the Secretary's Block, one of the buildings designed by Sir John Soane, and was established as a result of the enthusiasm of Major Stuart Andrew MBE. The refurbishment and up-dating of the Museum has been carried out with equal enthusiasm under the direction of Major John Tatham who, as one of The Royal Hospital's five Captains of Invalids, is also the Museum's Curator (albeit part-time).

The Royal Hospital now welcomes visitors more openly than at any time in its history and the part that is played by the Museum is crucial if people are to get the most out of their visit.

## *Danvers House*

by David Le Lay

**C**helsea has over the centuries seen many fine and accomplished buildings, yet it cannot be said that any of them have been of seminal importance; except that is for Danvers House. For a relatively brief period, from 1623 until about 1700, there existed a house and garden that had an enormous influence upon the future of both architecture and garden design in this country. Samuel Pepys visited the house, declaring it 'the prettiest contrived house that I ever saw in my life' and John Aubrey was so impressed that he wrote a detailed description of house and garden and made sketches of the garden.

Fortunately, there is plenty of documentary evidence as to the appearance of the garden but less so in respect of the house. An attempt at a 'reconstruction' of the house and garden, using Kip's famous 1699 engraving of Beaufort House as a base, appears with this article.

Throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries members of the aristocracy, and indeed the King himself, built substantial mansions on the banks of the Thames, both upstream and downstream of Chelsea village and its old church. Sir Thomas More built himself such a house in 1521, upstream of Chelsea village, with very extensive gardens and grounds. During the seventeenth century, as Chelsea became ever more popular as a place for the nobility to reside, parts of the grounds of the house were sold off. One such site was purchased by Sir John Danvers in 1622 from the then owner of Thomas More's house, the 3rd Earl of Lincoln.

Sir John Danvers Kt. (1588-1655) was the third and youngest son of Sir John Danvers Bt. By all accounts he was an exceedingly handsome and attractive young man. He was highly intelligent and travelled widely in France and Italy where he became well versed in all the arts. He was knighted by James I and under Charles I became a high ranking courtier, being a 'gentleman of the privy chamber'. The impression is gained however that he was all too aware of his fine attributes, probably rather arrogant and not above using people for his own ends.

He married three times; firstly, when he was only 20, Magdalen Herbert, a widow more than twice his age and mother of ten children, including George Herbert, the poet and hymn writer. When she died, in 1627, he married Elizabeth Dauntsey who brought him

a country estate, Lavington in Wiltshire, where he laid out gardens even more elaborate than those in Chelsea. She bore him two daughters but died in 1636 aged only 32. His third marriage, in 1649, was to another widow, Grace Hewes by whom he had a further son.

As a younger son, Sir John could not expect a substantial inheritance and his extravagant tastes led to debt and endless struggles with creditors, notwithstanding the fortune owned by his second wife. He was a Member of Parliament for most of his adult life. When civil war broke out he supported the parliamentary cause and he was a member of the commission that tried Charles I in 1649, and a signatory to his death-warrant.

Sir John Danvers' house at Chelsea was one of the earliest examples of Italian renaissance design to be carried out in England. The plan of the house, with its symmetry and centralised unity closely resembles Palladio's villa plans that were to become so popular in England a century later. There is no record as to who the designer was, though the name of Inigo Jones has often been put forward as a possible contender. Although it is quite possible that Jones was consulted, it is most likely that the design was largely the work of Sir John Danvers himself.

The most notable feature of the house itself was the main hall that was raised well above the surrounding ground level and extended the full depth of the building, allowing for both a view of the river and the distant Surrey hills to the south and of the garden to the north. This hall was approached from a broad flight of stairs leading up from the entrance hall below. In order not to interrupt the vista, and in the interests of symmetry, access to the main drawing room directly above was by means of two long flights of stairs, one on either side – thus the arrangement of stairs is one of the first instances of what is known as an 'imperial staircase' to be found in England.

Although not a particularly large house, it included a chapel and a music room with a fine organ; it was a house intended for entertainment and for show. The building also incorporated four large balustraded viewing platforms, one in each corner as well as another on top of the main central block; all of these once again affording extensive views of the garden, the river and the surrounding countryside.

The garden, with its enclosing walls and multi levels is reminiscent of many a villa outside Rome or Florence. Probably most remarkable of all is the way in which the house and garden were conceived as a single design, a notion then unknown in England. In this, and in other ways, Danvers House is most closely related to the Villa Giulia, Rome, designed by Vignola in 1550.

The garden was divided into three distinct parts. The main steps

from the house, divided into two flights upon entering the garden, each being confronted by an evocation of a wilderness comprising two rectangular areas planted with dense shrubs and fruit trees. Within each area, narrow paths lead to a statue in the middle, the gardener on one side and his wife on the other. There was a wall across the central path between these areas, so as to conceal the remainder of the garden behind.

Having left this wilderness one emerged upon the main paths along the east and west sides, which were terminated by pavilions at the north end and statues at the south end, near to the wilderness. These statues, each depicted two figures in conflict, one of Cain and Abel, the other Hercules and Antaeus. John Aubrey tells us that all the many statues throughout the garden were carved in stone by Nicholas Stone, the leading sculptor of the day, and they were coloured to make them as realistic as possible.

The central area was dominated by a perfect oval bowling green, enclosed within a rectangular wall with pairs of statues at the entrances depicting shepherds and shepherdesses. The quadrant areas were densely planted with shrubs and edged with closely-spaced formal clipped evergreens. In each corner of the enclosing wall there were small pavilions with flat roofs.

The part of the garden furthest from the house was dominated by a raised terrace, with the pavilions referred to earlier at each end. In front of the terrace was a banqueting room with corner staircase towers giving access to a flat roof over. Below this banqueting room was a grotto. The raised terrace and sunken grotto were approached by means of gentle ramps. From both the terrace and the roof of the banqueting room one could look back over the garden towards the house.

It can be seen that the garden represented, in a stylised way, a progression from a wilderness with shades of the garden of Eden, to an elysian arcady with its perfect lawn and happy shepherds, and ending with perhaps 'multi-level' present day reality - the banqueting room hovering between the hell of the grotto and the elevated heavenly towers above. Whatever one's particular interpretation, the garden was certainly designed to produce particular sensations in a specific sequence and it consciously embodied an allegorical and psychological approach to garden design which was unique in its day.

The creation of various levels at the north end of the garden, including the sunken grotto, with a complex system of circulation between each level is similar to that at the Villa Giulia in Rome. Although the land on which Sir John Danvers created his garden was generally flat, he was helped, or possibly inspired, by the raised ter-

race that already existed. This had been formed a century earlier under the direction of Sir Thomas More who soon after occupying his new house had decided to erect a new building with a private study, away from the house, and to which he could escape from his large family, for peace and quiet. The terrace was constructed to provide an elevated walk to the new building which could well have been on the site of Sir John Danvers' banqueting room, or Sir John might even have adapted and altered More's 'new building' to serve this new purpose.

Sir John Danvers died in 1655, the house being inherited by one of his sons-in-law, Lord Wharton, and it was eventually sold to William Sloane, of the Sloane Stanley Estate. The house was pulled down to make way for Danvers Street, the alignment of which coincides with the central axis of the house. It is not certain exactly when this happened, but it was probably in the period 1700-10. The garden was not built over until much later, when it was combined with other land to allow for the construction of Paultons Square. The 1710 houses built on the west side of Danvers Street were not demolished until 1906, to make way for the re-erection of Crosby Hall.

It is interesting to observe that Crosby Hall, occupying as it does part of the site of Danvers House, is now a new Chelsea riverside mansion that reflects, like its predecessor, the ideas of its owner.

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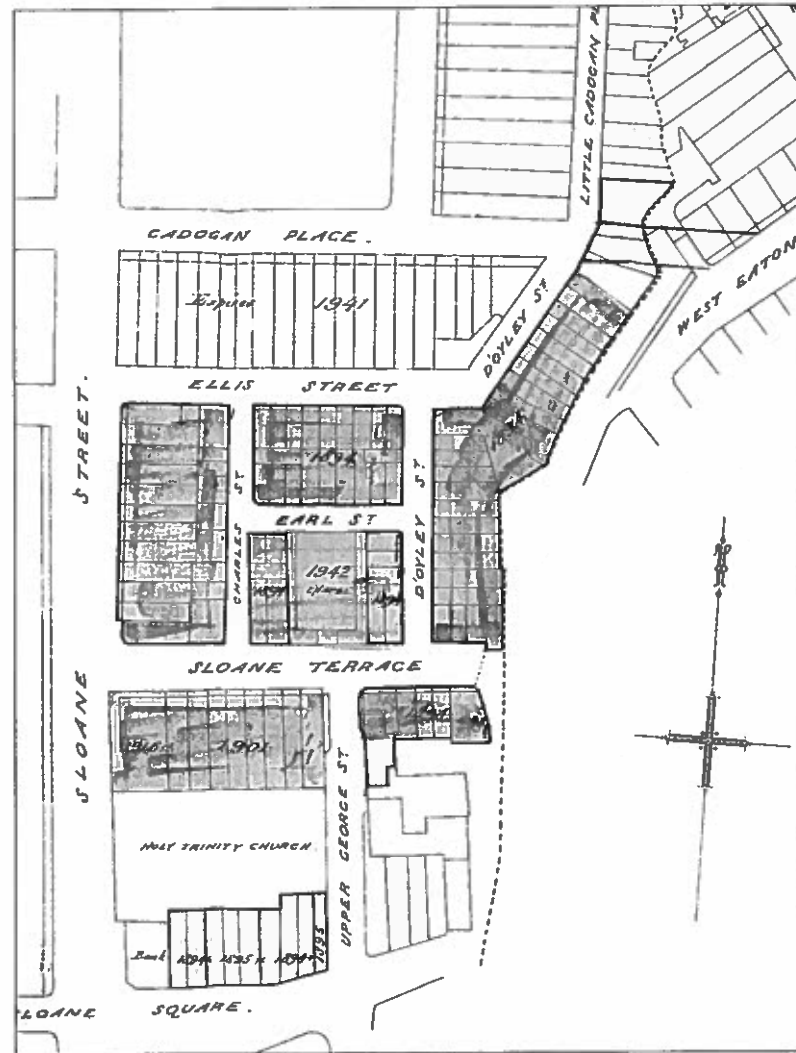
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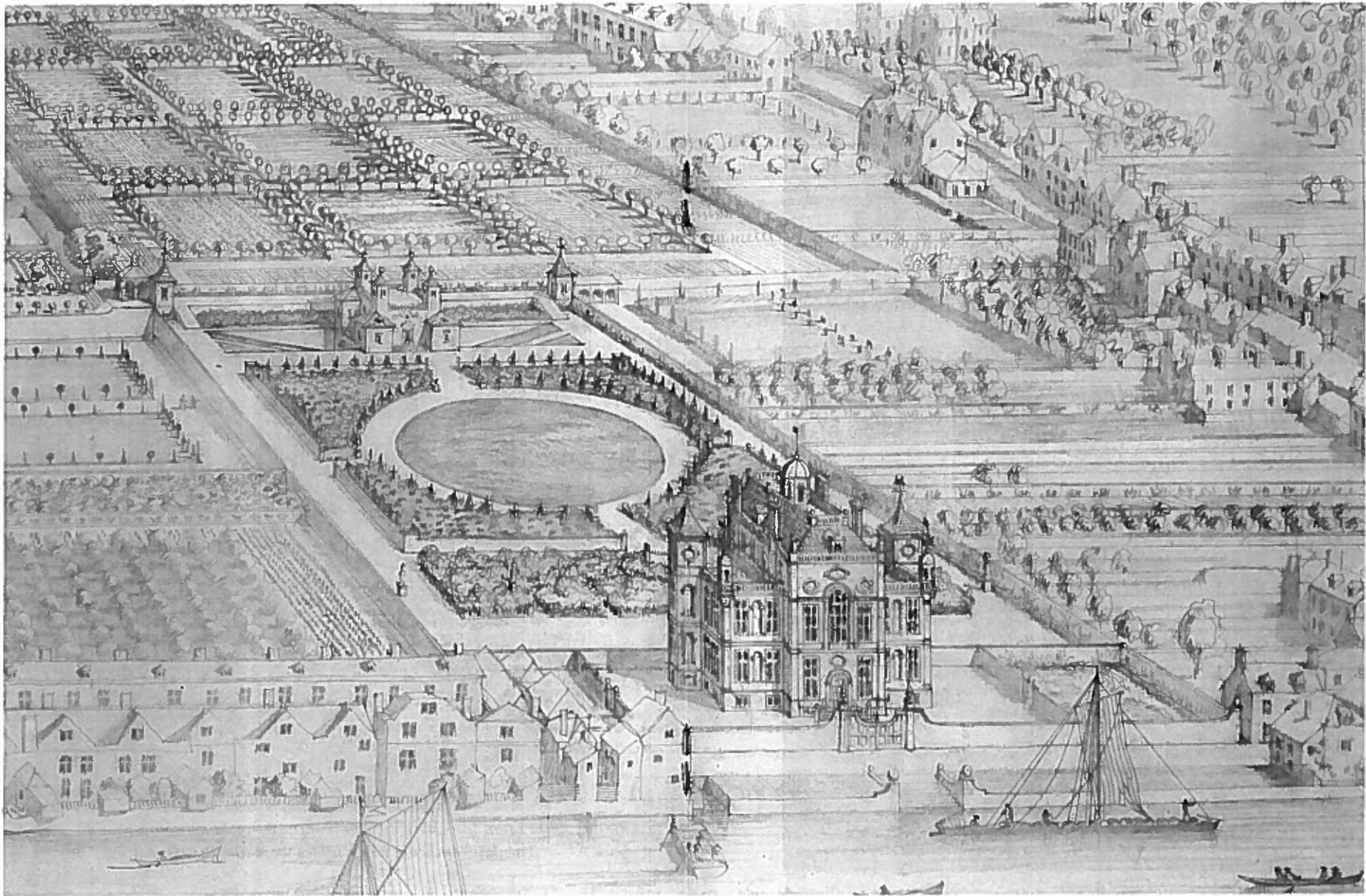
Scenes at the Summer Party at Brompton Cemetery. Bottom right the Society's chairman, David Le Lay, makes a welcoming speech watched by the Mayor, Cllr Tony Holt.



The unveiling of the In-Pensioner statue at the Royal Hospital (see p.23)



The area around the Chapel in Sloane Terrace.  
From the Cadogan Estate minutes of 17 November, 1890.  
The dates indicate when leases were due to expire. (See p.56)



*Reconstruction of Danvers House, by the River Thames, with its garden. By David Le Lay.*



*Montage of the proposed towers of Sir Terry Farrell's Lots Road development (See p.13)*



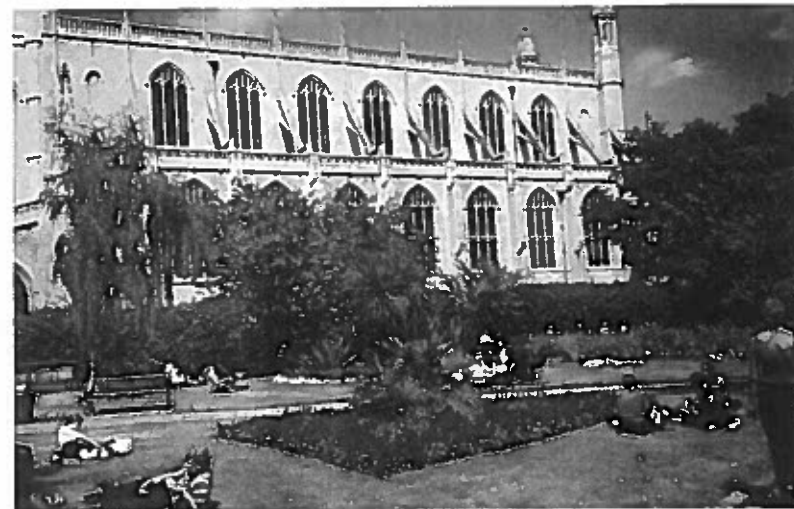
*The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, Cllr. Tony Holt, with the Society's chairman, David Le Lay at the 'Places of Worship in Chelsea' exhibition.*



*The Blenheim, a pub under threat in Cale Street (see pp. 15 and 32)*



*Hugh Krall, photographed here with the Mayor, Cllr Tony Holt, at a reception to mark his gift of etchings of Chelsea scenes to the Library. (see p. 19)*



*A summer day in the gardens of St Luke's church*



The artist, Hermione Hammond, in her studio, 19 October 2001  
(see p. 61)

## *Pepys, Chelsea & the Sandwich Scandal*

by William Dorrell

On 1st January 1660, inspired by the political turmoil he saw about him, Samuel Pepys began his Diary. He was almost 27. In June he was made Secretary to the Navy Board through the influence of his cousin Edward Montagu. Montagu had been a member of Cromwell's Council of State until the fall of the Protectorate left him in disgrace. But not for long; he was back in power in February 1660 under General Monck's new government. Pepys had joined Montagu's household as his agent and secretary soon after taking his degree at Cambridge in 1654. There he read Classics and Mathematics, took an interest in cyphers and taught himself Shelton's shorthand. By the time the diary opens he was a bright, curious, ambitious, diligent, young man about whom Lord Clarendon was soon to remark, 'no man in England was of more method'<sup>1</sup> and he later became, in Lord Albemarle's words, 'the right hand of the Navy'<sup>2</sup>.

Montagu, then only 35, had been promoted to General-at-Sea and in May he took command of the *Nazeby* in which he crossed to the Hague, with Pepys aboard as the Admiral's secretary, to meet Charles Stuart and bring him back to England for his restoration to the throne as Charles II.

2 June 1660      Being with my Lord in the morning about business in his Cabin... He told me he hoped to do me a more lasting kindness, if all things stand as they are now between him and the King, but, says he "We must have a little patience and we will rise together"... Which was great content for me to hear from my Lord.

Indeed Montagu was showered with honours, becoming Knight of the Garter, Earl of Sandwich, Vice-Admiral of the Kingdom, and Pepys rose on his coat-tails.

<sup>1</sup>14 Feb 1667

<sup>2</sup>24 Apr 1665

## Chelsea

Pepys lived in Navy lodgings in Seething Lane, a minute or two's walk from the Tower, at a time when London's population was approaching half a million and no doubt the street was well named and the air often insalubrious. So it is not surprising that people who could afford it enjoyed a visit to Chelsea, a place to take the air, recover one's health, relax and find amusement. Gentlemen went down for the afternoon by water or coach, took lodgings for a few weeks or, once in a while, bought or built a house there. At that time the house that everyone, and so of course Samuel Pepys, wanted to see was Danvers House.

Pepys visited Chelsea in the early 1660s for a variety of reasons: to take the air like the gentlemen of fashion; to visit a young woman he was considering for the position of companion to his lonely French wife; to go and see the Lord Privy Seal, Lord Robartes, a great procrastinator then living in Danvers House, to try and get him to attend to state papers; and most frequently to attend on Lord Sandwich who had taken lodgings at Mrs Becke's house in Little Chelsea where he intended a short stay to recuperate after his winter illness but, finding the charms of his landlady's daughter irresistible, determined on a longer one.

The easiest way for Pepys to get to Chelsea was by boat from any of the landing stages from Tower Wharf, near his home, to Westminster Stairs, near Whitehall Palace where he often went on Navy business. Occasionally he went by coach and once, when the coach did not wait for him, he had to walk home. He was not a man to waste his time and when he went about on foot – which he usually did – he read a book.

His first record of going to Chelsea is about the Lord Privy Seal's business. Pepys is sent for and finds 'a thing' of the Lord Chancellor's (Lord Clarendon) which has to be sealed. Pepys had been appointed Sandwich's deputy at the Privy Seal and had already had some experience of Lord Robartes methods of doing business. His Lordship doesn't turn up in the morning and, when Pepys returns after lunch, he

8 Aug 1661 comes not all the afternoon, which made me mad and gives all the world to talk of his delaying of business, as well as his Severity and ill using of the Clerks of the Privy Seal.

Clarendon in his *Life* notes that Robartes, 'To show his extraordinary talent, found a way more to obstruct and puzzle business...than any man in that office had ever done before'. Pepys is then required to go to Worcester House, Lord Clarendon's place in the Strand, for the sealing of papers. While he's waiting

19 Aug 61 in comes the King in a plain common riding-suit and velvet cap, in which he seemed a very ordinary man to one that had not known him. Here I staid till at last hearing that my Lord Privy Seal had not the seal here, Mr Moore and I hired a coach and went to Chelsy and there at an alehouse sat and drank and past the time till my Lord Privy Seal came to his house, and so we to him and examined and sealed the thing, and so homewards, but when we came to look for our coach we find it gone, so we were fain to walk home afoot and saved our money,

Lord Robartes, as Lord Privy Seal, was living, during the 1660s, in Danvers House which stood just south of what is now Paultons Square.

Next month Pepys again has business to be sealed:

30 Sept 61 Then I to the Privy Seal, and there Mr Moore and a gentleman being come with him, we took coach (which was the business I come for) to Chelsy, to my Lord Privy Seal, and there got him to seal the business. Here I saw by day-light two very fine pictures in the gallery, that a little while ago I saw by night, and did also go all over the house, and find it to be the prettiest contrived house that ever I saw in my life. So to coach back again.

He made another visit for sealing in October and two more in December but then did not visit Chelsea for more than a year. At the beginning of 1663, looking for a companion for his wife, he is introduced to Mary Ashwell, 'a kind of mistress for little children' employed at one of the two girls' schools in Chelsea. His wife, on 17 February, goes down to the school to watch Mary Ashwell act in a play and returns very late by water to the alarm of her husband. Next month he and his wife,

22 March 63 went out to take some ayre, as far as Chelsy and further, I 'lighting there and letting them go on with the coach which while I went to the church expecting to see the young ladies of the school, Ashwell desiring me, but I could not get in far enough, and so came out and at the coach's coming back went in again, and so back to Westminster.

## The Sandwich Scandal

On 6 April Pepys meets his patron, Lord Sandwich, who tells him that he has taken a lodging in Chelsea for a while 'to take the ayre'. Some three weeks later Pepys pays him a visit.

29 April 63 Up betimes, and after having at my office settled some accounts for my Lord Sandwich, I went forth, and taking up my father at my brother's, took coach and towards Chelsy, 'lighting at an alehouse near the gatehouse at Westminster to drink our morning draught, and so up again and to Chelsy, where we find

my Lord all alone at a little table with one joynt of meat at dinner, we sat down and very merry talking, and mightily extolling the manner of his retirement, and the goodness of his diet.

They talked for a long time about quarrels and alliances at court until Pepys finally takes his leave.

On his next visit to Chelsea to see Lord Sandwich Pepys goes by boat.

27 May 63 Thence by water to Chelsy, all the way reading a little book I bought of "Improvement of Trade", a pretty book and many things useful in it. So walked to Little Chelsy, where I found Lord Sandwich with Mr Becke, the master of the house, and Mr Creed at dinner, and I sat down with them, and very merry. After dinner (Mr Gibbons being come in also before dinner done) to musique, they played a good Fancy, to which my Lord is fallen again, and says he cannot endure a merry tune, which is a strange turn in his humour, after he has for two or three years flung off the practice of Fancies and played only fiddlers' tunes. Then into the Great Garden up to the Banqueting House; and there by his glass we draw in the species very pretty. Afterwards to nine-pins, where I won a shilling, Creed and I playing against my Lord and Cooke... So home back as I came, to London Bridge and so home, where I find my wife in a musty humour...

Mr Gibbons who played fantasias ('fancies') after dinner was the son of the composer Orlando Gibbons. Little Chelsea, where Lord Sandwich had his lodgings, was an area a little to the north west of Chelsea village, which is now the part of the Fulham Road known as the Beach. The 'great garden' in which they walked after the music can only have been the famous Italian garden of Danvers House at the bottom of which was an elevated banqueting hall offering fine prospects over the surrounding countryside. There they admire the 'very pretty' views ('species') drawn into Lord Sandwich's spyglass.

By August Pepys is becoming concerned about his patron's long stay in Chelsea. In Whitehall Palace he hears stories of Lord Sandwich 'being debauched... by this woman at Chelsy'.

A couple of days later, at Whitehall again, he meets Mr Moore, an astute lawyer who has taken over the management of most of Lord Sandwich's business now that Pepys no longer has the time for it. They

19 Aug 63 fell a-talking about my Lord's folly at Chelsea, and it was our discourse by water to London and to the great coffee house against the Exchange, where we sat a good while talking; and I find that my Lord is wholly given up to this wench, who it seems has been reputed a common Strumpet. I have little encouragement from Mr Moore to meddle with it to tell my Lord, for fear it may do him

no good, but me hurt.

This 'strumpet' is his landlady's young daughter Betty Becke. The following week Pepys goes to see Lord Sandwich at his London house about his accounts and spends a good while alone with him.

24 Aug 63 ....I perceive he confides in me and loves me as he used to do, and tells me his condition, which is now very well; all I fear is he will not live within compass, for I am told this morning of strange dotages of his upon the slut in Chelsy, even in the presence of his daughter, my Lady Jem, and Mrs Ferrers, who took notice of it.

At the end of August the King and Queen go off to Bath and Sandwich heads for his country seat, Hinchinbrooke, to join his family. Pepys, left in London, broods on how Sandwich has been debauched by this slut in Chelsea. Next month, on a visit to Westminster Hall, Pepys comes across a coxcomb and acquaintance of Sandwich, Ned Pickering,

9 Sept 63 with whom I walked 3 or 4 hours till evening, he telling me the whole business of my Lord's folly with this Mrs Becke, at Chelsy, of all which I am ashamed to see my Lord so grossly play the beast and fool, to the flinging off of all honour, friends, servants, and every thing and person that is good, and only will have his private lust undisturbed with this common [whore]... with his carrying her abroad and playing on his lute under her window, and forty other poor sordid things.

Pepys is now seeing a lot of Moore whom he invites home to dinner and they talk at length about

12 Nov 63 my Lord's negligence in attendance at Court, and the discourse the world makes of it, with too great reason that I believe there is for it; I resolved and took coach to his lodgings, thinking to speak with my Lord about it without more ado. Here I met Mr Howe, and he and I largely about it, and he very soberly acquainted me with how things are with my Lord, that my Lord do not do anything like himself, but follows his folly, and spends his time either at cards at Court with the ladies, when he is there at all, or else at Chelsy with the slut to his great disgrace, and indeed I do see and believe that my Lord do apprehend that he do grow less, too, at Court. Anon my Lord do come in, and I begun to fall in discourse with him, but my heart did misgive me that my Lord would not take it well, and then found him not in a humour to talk... I took leave... I could not do what I had so great a mind and resolution to do... I thought it would be as well to do it in writing.

Pepys drafts a letter and shows it to Moore who finds it

17 Nov 63 so well drawn that he would not have me by any

means to neglect sending it, assuring me in the best of his judgment that it cannot but endear me to my Lord instead of what I fear of getting his offence.

The next morning Pepys sends the letter by his servant Will who is to make sure that he puts it into Lord Sandwich's own hand. Couched in the most polite terms it is nevertheless a remarkably forthright way to address a superior. Pepys says that he is only laying the situation before his Lordship without 'greatening or lessening the matter' and he describes

18 Nov 63 the bad report of the house wherein your Lordship, now observed in perfect health again, continues to sojourn, and by name have charged one of the daughters for a common courtizan, alleging both persons and places where and with whom she hath been too well known, and how much her wantonness occasions, though unjustly, scandal to your Lordship.

Pepys is 'afear'd what the consequences may be to me of good and bad' but is 'satisfied that it will do him [Sandwich] good, and that he needs it'. He tries to find Sandwich but it is nearly a fortnight before they meet. Meanwhile a junior colleague of Pepys tells him that his Lordship has been angry the last three or four days and continues very quiet but is removing from Chelsea as fast as he can. Pepys thinks

30 Nov 63 both by my Lord's looks upon me today, or it may be it is only my doubtfulness,... my Lord is not very well pleased, nor may be a good while, which vexes me.

However it is not long before Pepys is forgiven and he is back in Sandwich's confidence.

There is one more reference to what appears to be an episode of backsliding by Sandwich in June 1664 but after this the Sandwich scandal and Chelsea fade from the Diary.

#### Sources.

Quotations are taken from *The Diary of Samuel Pepys* edited by Henry Wheatley 1893-99. While this was the most complete edition published till the definitive Latham-Matthews edition of 1970-83 a number of passages were still silently suppressed – though far fewer than in earlier editions. Therefore I have carefully compared the text of the passages quoted here with the Latham-Matthews edition and, while there are small differences in punctuation and capitalisation, occasionally in spelling and, very occasionally, in the choice of a word, the text is complete with one single exception (9th Sept 1663) – where Wheatley has placed dots I have inserted the word 'whore'.

## Severe case of dead-heading at Chelsea

by Monty Don

I write this with my garden in all its May glory just outside the window and as soon as I am finished I will get out there and spend the rest of the weekend in it. Any garden in the full flight of May is lovely but it is a special treat for me because this is the first time for four years when I have not been committed to spending the week covering the Chelsea Flower Show for innumerable television programmes.

There were perks to the job. It was a treat to be allowed to go into the old marquee at dawn and walk round practically alone, slowly absorbing the scent of canvas and tens of thousands of plants, all pitched to perfection. But the tent has been replaced by two plastic constructions — light, airy and utterly soulless. I did and do intensely admire the professional nurserymen running tiny businesses that work all year for the show, awkward in best bib and tucker like farmers at a show. Decent men and women whose accumulated knowledge of plants matches any in the world.

But despite these things I have always found visiting it an unpleasant experience. It was also deeply frustrating because the safety zone that surrounds Chelsea meant that I could never say anything critical or be truly honest about the dross that makes up half the show. As the BBC have now won (for which read 'paid hugely for') the rights to exclusive coverage I am unlikely to be faced with that well-paid ordeal again. Lest anyone accuse me of sour grapes over this, I also presented the Royal Horticultural Society flower shows at Hampton Court and Tatton Park for Channel 4 and they were both enjoyable and stimulating. I have no problem with either the RHS — which is a necessary if rather stuffy institution — or flower shows, so why is Chelsea so appalling?

From the show sponsors (Merrill Lynch) through to the show gardens (almost all sponsored by businesses) and the individual nursery stands, it exists only to sell things. There is nothing wrong in this at all. In fact, in its naked state this is the best thing about Chelsea. If you want to see the latest lawn mower, variety of iris or type of flower pot then Chelsea is your place. Get down there, and treat it like any trade show, brave the crowds, place your order and get out as quickly as possible. In fact it is the only flower show where you cannot buy

anything. Far too common. You may only place an order which, in my experience, is likely to be badly handled, especially by the bigger companies.

The truth of Chelsea is that it is a trade show pretentiously dressed up as a palace garden party. As you start to walk around the combination of unctuous deference and anxious, competitive pointscoring hits you like a wall of tropical heat. You can hardly breathe for it. This reaches a frenzied pitch in the afternoon of Press Day — tomorrow — when the royal family and their assorted hangers on make a visit. The organising committee going into an orgasm of straight backs, best suits and anxious hair-smoothing while the exhibitors who have created the entire show with extraordinary feats of horticultural skill and sheer sweat are pushed and pinched into their subservient places. This is followed by a gala evening where people pay an absurd sum to walk round the show in black tie and with a glass of champagne playing at 'Doing the Season' and treading where royalty and a stream of stars from soap and sitcom have trod before them. It is all very depressing.

The pretentiousness displays itself everywhere but nowhere more overtly than in the show gardens. It is no coincidence that this year — as seemingly happens every year — there is one based upon a representation of Prince Charles' own garden at Highgrove. Now I have been round the latter and I admire it very much — not least because it is organic and the Prince's stance in this field has been genuinely brave. I know the people that are making it and am certain it will be brilliantly done, as in fact will most of the show gardens. But what is it for? Is it to market Highgrove, to get more people through the door and sell more organic biscuits? At least that would be logical.

But any show garden based on Highgrove is simply appealing to the basest level of snobbery. Like half of the gardens on display every year at Chelsea, it will be cynically 'aspirational'. This snobbery is rooted in the great flaw of Chelsea, and like all snobbery it is never so writhingly unappealing as when titles and money are combined. The money that is spent on most of the show gardens is absurd; in the case of an Arab Prince it was rumoured to be above £1m.

The sums involved rarely add anything to the invention or design qualities. Good students do not get a look in. To compare and judge gardens that cost figures varying to a factor of 30 as like with like is deeply unfair. There should be separate categories within budget brackets and the amount that each garden cost should be clearly displayed. When I talked to the RHS about this I was told that 'they did not want to lower the high standards'. Well I have news for you folks, the standards of design are — with annual hon-

ourable exceptions — dreadful. The sums involved mean that they exist primarily as corporate advertising and the good stuff — which is usually cheaper and therefore more inventive — is often overlooked or snubbed. Half the gardens are Disneyfied pastiches and would make great film sets. They are simply not believable. The credible exceptions — such as the prisoners' garden at last year's show — simply prove the rule. If it were an art, architecture or fashion show it would be laughed out of court as devoid of ideas or relevance. Because it is the aspirational cosy zone of gardening no one ever points out that the emperor is wearing no clothes.

However, by far the worst aspect of Chelsea is the sense that, other than the most obvious establishment figures, no one is actively welcome. You come away with the unavoidable impression that all visitors, exhibitors and members of the media are there under sufferance. A couple of years ago I took some American friends of mine. They loved the stalls and plants, but in their impeccably well-mannered way they said that they were bewildered by the level of physical discomfort that seemed to be deliberately created and that, as members of the trade press, they had never been treated with such contempt or lack of facilities.

So what is the solution? Easy. Keep Chelsea but restrict it to RHS members. They could more than fill it and, after all, it is their club and they have every right to do what they like with it. But it is time that somebody else started another proper flower show in London for the rest of us that could proudly accommodate the best of twenty-first-century design as well as being as enjoyable to visit as all the other RHS shows. Right, I'm out into the garden. I may be some time.

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## 5 Sloane Terrace

### *Its Past and Future*

by Stuart Corbyn

The acquisition of the former First Church of Christ, Scientist in Sloane Terrace by Cadogan Estates Limited in April 2000 returned to Cadogan's ownership part of a site that had been sold by the 5th Earl Cadogan in March 1893.

Sloane Terrace was formed as part of Henry Holland's speculative residential development of Hans Town on approximately 90 acres of fields, described by Dorothy Stroud as "the idle acres of East Chelsea", leased from Lord Cadogan in 1777. In the centre of an area of houses, designed to attract "the upper middle and professional classes", the Wesleyans acquired a lease on a site in 1810 to erect a new chapel at a cost of £5,500, having outgrown their converted slaughter house in Lower George Street (Sloane Gardens). The Sloane Terrace chapel opened in January 1812, predating Holy Trinity by some 16 years.

This chapel was described as seating 1,200 people, although Thomas Faulkner put the capacity at nearly 1,000 in 1829, and reached the peak of its popularity between 1840 and 1850. In 1846, three years after a new 99-year lease at a rent of £20 per annum had been granted, the building was reconstructed behind its original façade to accommodate larger congregations.

In June 1892, Earl Cadogan agreed to sell the freehold of a large site, including the chapel, to Charles Julius Knowles for £90,000. Although the income from these properties totalled £4,196, many of the leases were due to expire in 1894 (see plan) and the area would have been regarded as being ripe for redevelopment. The sale was due to complete in March 1893, but by November 1892 Mr Knowles had already made a proposition to the chapel trustees that they move elsewhere. It seems that, with the popularity of the chapel declining, they welcomed the approach because of the financial benefits it gave them. Mr Knowles on the other hand needed vacant possession of the chapel, which was subject to a lease expiring in 1942, to achieve a comprehensive redevelopment of the area. However, by July 1894, he had agreed to sell his entire site for £130,000 to the Cadogan and Hans Place Estate Company No. 2 (unconnected to the Cadogan Estate) who planned to build private houses to a value of £4,000-£6,000, with some blocks of flats.

Negotiations with the Methodists continued until 1899 when a freehold site in the King's Road was identified (the present Methodist



*The old Christian Science church in Sloane Terrace, which it is hoped will be converted into a cultural centre..*

church), and they agreed to give vacant possession of Sloane Terrace by November 1902. By that time, when "huge blocks of flats have been erected, blocking in the old chapel and tenanted by a class not naturally predisposed to Methodism", the Cadogan & Hans Place Estate Company had reached agreement to sell the freehold of the Sloane Terrace chapel and an adjacent site of similar size to a group of Christian Scientists for £38,000 to enable them to build a new church. They used the chapel for 800 people on a short term basis while the western half of their new church was built, and used the entire auditorium for the first time in 1907, the new building being variously described as accommodating 1,300 or 1,600 people.

Although even after the Second World War the church was apparently often used to full capacity, by 1990 the congregation had dwindled to 150 and this had halved by 1996.

To adjust to their reducing membership, in the 1980s the Christian Scientists looked at a partial redevelopment of the church whilst retaining a portion for their own use. A planning application was made in 1991 to convert part of the auditorium to create 30,000 sq.ft. of offices over six floors, but withdrawn following a recommendation that consent be refused on both planning and listed building (Grade II) grounds. The property was put on the open market for sale with vacant possession in 1996, when it was acquired by Harrods. They put it back on the market in 1998 but no sale resulted and, in 1999, submitted an application for planning and listed building consent to convert the building to a house.

Approval was granted in December 1999 and, despite an article at the time in the *Sunday Times* headed "Baron Fayed builds £35m feudal home", Harrods immediately put the building on the market with an asking price of £6m. From Cadogan's point of view, as owner of adjoining property, the planning and listed building consent and the decision to sell combined good and bad news.

The bad news was that the building was 'back in play' and, judging by rumours of suggested purchasers, its future was uncertain with a risk of it remaining unused for a number of years and continuing to deteriorate. It was also considered bad news that a private house with a floor area of more than 35,000 sq.ft. should replace buildings that had, for nearly 200 years, provided social and community facilities for between 800 and 1,600 people. The Chelsea Society exhibition *Places of Worship in Chelsea* demonstrated just how many buildings in the vicinity, serving a public function, have been demolished and become residential accommodation, including St. Jude's in Turk's Row, the Baptist Church in Lower Sloane Street, Ranelagh Chapel in Sloane Gardens, the Catholic Chapel in Cadogan Gardens and the Congregational Church in Markham Square.

The good news was the willingness of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and English Heritage to accept major changes of lay-

out, and structural alterations, and the scope therefore that this presented for other possibilities. The permitted alterations included

- the removal of the raked auditorium floor, a significant feature of the building, and its replacement with a flat one, albeit over three levels;
- the introduction of a mezzanine level with partitioning at the east end of the building, and the loss of the view of the stained glass window from the auditorium;
- major changes to the floor levels in the gallery and the introduction of partitions;
- the construction of sub basement levels enabling the introduction of a swimming pool and squash court;
- vehicular access into the building and a vehicle lift to an underground car park for six cars;
- cutting a number of openings through both the north and south elevations to provide additional windows.

In planning terms the existing building falls within Class D1 of the Use Classes Order and can therefore be used for any of the following

- the provision of any medical or health services
- a crèche, day nursery or day centre
- the provision of education
- the display of works of art (other than for sale or hire)
- a museum
- a public library or public reading room
- a public hall or exhibition hall
- public worship or religious instruction

When investigating options for the building, Cadogan concentrated on possibilities coming within the existing planning use, and social and community services. Although Harrods' 1999 application suggested that the property did not appear suitable for social and community users, consent had been given in December 1999 for Cadogan's Duke of York's scheme, including their proposal for some exhibition space. With the availability of Sloane Terrace, the opportunity arose for this exhibition space to be included in a building that could serve a much wider arts function. One outcome of the Chelsea Society's April 1998 conference *The Future of Chelsea* was a recommendation that Chelsea needed its own concert hall and arts center. The shortage of suitable venues for both exhibitions and musical events has been apparent since 1993 with the revival of the Chelsea Festival.

A particular attraction of this building, in relation to a continuing public role, is its location. Being so close to Sloane Square with the main entrance easily visible from the access to Sloane Square Under-

ground Station, there are few locations within Chelsea where public transport facilities are quite so good and which are so accessible.

The property was acquired by Cadogan in April 2000 and, while consideration was being given to converting it for exhibitions and musical events (using examples such as St. John's Smith Square), a discussion with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra highlighted their wish for a building that could become their musical home, in particular for rehearsals but also for occasional concerts, as well as possibly their administrative base. The RPO have suggested an annual spring and autumn mini series of concerts, monthly chamber concerts and a series of community and educational activities.

Cadogan therefore instructed the architects Paul Davis & Partners to prepare a scheme to convert the former Christian Science Church into a building that could accommodate the RPO, as well as other musical groups when not in use by the RPO, and exhibitions.

Although one of the considerable benefits of the consent that Harrods obtained was the extent of their proposed alterations, in practice the scheme produced by Paul Davis & Partners involves relatively little change to the layout or the structure, and takes advantage of the auditorium with its raked floor and the gallery. The building is in need of repair, especially the roof and all the services, and alteration to meet current requirements for fire precautions, means of escape, access for disabled and WC facilities. However with careful adaptation, it can quite easily accommodate a larger stage than the present one with a consequent reduction in the seating capacity to approximately 925, with modern comfortable seating in place of the pews in the auditorium, but retaining virtually all the existing pews in the gallery.

It is proposed to retain and adapt the organ casing but to remove the organ itself, which was extensively altered mechanically in 1953. Secondary glazing will need to be introduced to limit external noise entering the auditorium, and internal noise breaking out of the building.

Exhibitions can be held at ground floor level (the venue for this year's Chelsea Society exhibition), with two further rooms available for use in conjunction with the main one, or for smaller exhibitions. Back of house, there is suitable space for green rooms for an orchestra and soloists, together with accommodation for the RPO's archives and offices in conjunction with the administration of the building or the orchestra.

Although there have been a large number of expressions of support from a wide variety of people for the idea of an arts centre, and approaches from people wanting to hold musical events and exhibitions, some residents close to the building object to the proposals. One suggestion put forward has been for the building to be put into repair and then left empty! These residents are requesting the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea to reject the application on the grounds that it will have adverse effects on the residential area by increasing noise, traffic and pedestrian movement. The Council has yet to make a decision.

October 2001

## *Hermione Hammond*

### *A Notable Artist in her Studio*

By Lesley Lewis

The Chelsea Society's Report for 1988 contained an excellent article, 'A Survivor in Glebe Place' by Guy Topham, on the artist Hermione Hammond (pp53-54). Members are strongly recommended to read or re-read it for more information about her whole career than can be included in this updating of her story. It contains a description of Hermione's studio which might be written today, "...a once-familiar Chelsea scene: walls covered with pictures, canvases stacked in a little gallery and drawings in portfolios..." It is one of those in an enclave of non-residential studios at 43 Glebe Place, hidden from the street and reached from a shady little courtyard, now bright with flowers. Her work speaks for itself, both in quantity and quality, and is widely known from art galleries, museums and exhibitions; despite this and her own impressive personality, she is very modest in talking about it all.

Hermione was born in 1910, one of three children of a naval family, joining in the social and sporting life in town and country of such a family at that time. She owned to having been a good tennis-player but not competitive enough to go far with it. Her earlier athleticism, however, may have helped her to retain her good physique into old age. Young women like her were not expected to have a career but she learned much from the company and conversation of her family's interesting circle of friends. After day-school in London she studied art at the Chelsea Polytechnic, coming to know Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland, who taught there.

She was then accepted by the Royal Academy Schools and spent five years there, followed by a sixth at the Royal College of Art, to learn a wider range of skills. These schools were well-endowed but living expenses sometimes exceeded allowances and she, with other students, used to go on the gate at a Greyhound Racing Track to earn extra cash. As a star pupil she won prizes and scholarships, culminating in the Prix de Rome in 1938. The first of the three years of study there to which it entitled her unfortunately coincided with the activities of Mussolini and Hitler, foreshadowing war, but she was able to see the great art of many Italian cities. She also saw the Prado pictures in Geneva, which had been kept there for safety during the Spanish war, and were exhibited before return to Madrid.



*St Mary Aldermanbury, Christopher Wren 1670-86.  
Seen amid ruins after wartime "blitzes" of 1940/45.  
Ink and watercolour by Hermione Hammond.*

Getting back to England just before war broke out, she was appointed as a Billeting Officer in Wareham U.D.C. (her family now living in Dorset), and afterwards went to the Ministry of Health Finance Department, operating over a large area of southern England. Her practical naval upbringing enabled her to do this job as well as keeping her own affairs in good order. After the wartime interruption Hermione embarked on a very independent if cash-strapped life-style, finding time to keep up with a wide circle of friends, and make new ones. From her former large-scale mural painting her art now took new directions, with a varied media and subjects.

She was essentially a highly trained professional but somehow retained a trace of the old-time "amateur", and her work has a spontaneity all its own.

Among her old friends were Neville Chamberlain, his wife and daughter, with whom she spent an informal weekend at Chequers during the Munich interval, which provided some very interesting talk. Her first undertaking after the war was to spend some years making studies in pen and ink, watercolour and gouache of City churches, or their ruins, surviving in the "blitzed" scene. She sold many from an important exhibition at All-Hallows-on-the-Wall. They have a special interest as depicting the churches before later buildings or post-war reconstruction surrounded them. The accompany-

ing illustration of Wren's St. Mary Aldermanbury demonstrates her knowledge of architecture as well as her skill in composition.

In 1948 she took a lease in the Glebe Place studios but for some time had no settled home, working in the British Isles and abroad, sometimes lodging or staying with friends, who were delighted to have her company. The great scholar and antiquarian, Francis Wormald, and his wife, together took her to Italy and France, while his sister, whose husband worked there, put her up in Isfahan. She also saw Shiraz, acquiring new subjects in the Islamic architecture which she admired. She was determined to see the Taj Mahal before she died, and nearly did die of a curry specially prepared for the group she was with.

At home she worked on a variety of subjects, buildings, street and beach scenes, landscapes, sporting events such as cricket and rowing, in town and country. She also painted small portraits, which she called 'studies', her sitters including several celebrities; being musical, with a good soprano voice, she knew musicians, and did studies of Jacqueline du Pré before the latter's first concerts brought her fame. Hermione also did series of views in several areas in this country, such as Romney Marshes. She does not plan to renew her studio lease when it runs out, but she is still painting very well, and even adopting new subjects, such as bantam cocks. "Cash and Carry" sales are now a means of disposing of unwanted assets, and you can browse through portfolios, see what is on the walls, and be fascinated by the artist's talk and personality. Depend on it, wherever she is, Hermione Hammond will still be wielding her brush somewhere.

## *Residents' Associations Meeting: 8 May*

The Society's annual meeting for residents' associations to pose questions to the Chairman (Councillor Barry Phelps) and Executive Director (Michael French) of Planning and Conservation was held on 8 May. It was a packed house.

Among the issues which generated interest were:

**High buildings** – residents were concerned about rumours that the Council had encouraged the inclusion of high buildings in the Lots Road Power Station scheme. Councillor Phelps, although in favour of high buildings, had concluded that there were only two locations in the Borough where he considered that high buildings were appropriate, one of which was at Lots

Road. In any case, he thought that Lots Road Power Station was the most hideous building in the Borough.

Lots Road Power Station Residents were concerned that Councillor Phelps advocated high buildings in this scheme as well as the likely traffic generation of the scheme. Councillor Phelps insisted that he was not advocating tower blocks and that the Council's traffic engineers were concerned about the traffic. He recognised that because of its height the development would come within the purview of the Mayor of London.

**Hoardings at Crosby Hall** raised concern – the Council had served a notice on the owner to remove hoardings from the public highway by June.

**Brompton Hospital planning brief:** Residents were concerned that 250 King's Road and the block to the north are not listed. The planning brief says that the Council will resist development. Councillor Phelps said that although the previous attempt at listing had been unsuccessful, the Council will try again. Concerns were also expressed about the proposal for the Cardio-Thoracic Hospital becoming a school. Michael French said that the Education Committee were looking for a site and that this was one of the potential sites.

**Sloane Square:** The possibility of redesigning Sloane Square was raised. Councillor Phelps considered that this was a missed opportunity. Councillor Donaldson said that the Cadogan Estate had commissioned some designs. At present it was no more than a glorified traffic island – there was a need to create a much more pedestrian-friendly environment. The more ambitious schemes were unlikely to be pursued and, regretfully, a more modest scheme was likely to be proposed, involving repaving the south side with York stone and widening the pavements. If a more radical solution were proposed there would be consultation.

**Public Consultation in the new Governance:** Several speakers were concerned about how the consultation processes would work in the new arrangements. In particular, there was concern how residents would be able to find out what was being decided and when, let alone be able to lobby councillors.

**Elm Park Gardens:** Several questions were raised about the traffic calming proposals for Elm Park Gardens. Councillor Donaldson indicated that because no one could agree nothing was going to happen.

**Pedestrian Crossings:** There was considerable dissatisfaction with the changes made to the King's Road/Sydney Street junction, both from a motorist's perspective – traffic tailbacks due to traffic narrowing to one lane at the King's Road – and the pedestrian-unfriendly nature of the crossing with all its railings and a narrow cage in the middle of Sydney Street.

**Michael Bach**

(These minutes were published in the June newsletter.)

## Obituaries

### Mary Grace Massey M.B.E.

Up to a few months before her death in 2001 in her mid-nineties Mamie could be seen in Safeways, independent as ever, doing her own shopping. Her main career had been with the Foreign Office but after she retired she devoted her energies and experience to public service in Chelsea. She was Councillor for the Royal Hospital Ward for many years, watching over it from her house in Cheltenham Terrace. From there she would come to canvass for local and general elections at Whitelands House where I came to live in 1976. I disapprove of canvassing and, as she had very strong Tory views, she identified me instantly as a riproaring 'Red'. This of course, was a bad start and, in addition we were apt to take different views about planning applications, on which I worked for many years as Secretary and later Chairman of the Chelsea Society. Some applications were to do with Whitelands House towards which she was unsympathetic, maintaining it should never have been built in the first place. On one occasion she invited me to her house to see some plans, but as might be expected, some differences of opinion arose. Seeing that agreement was impossible I crossly departed only to find when I got to the front door that it was locked and I had to wait for her to come downstairs and let me out. Fortunately I did not get the giggles, as I do not think humour was her strong point, but after that we were much better friends. I valued her greatly as a person of strong views and character and as an indefatigable worker for good causes. Chelsea owes much to her.

Lesley Lewis

Note. A tree has been planted in her memory together with a plaque at the corner of Cheltenham Terrace and St Leonard's Terrace.

JD

### Paul Oliver

With the death of Paul Oliver, Chelsea has lost a passionate - and indeed, vociferous - upholder of the rights of local people. He was a member of the Lots Road Area Association and of the Tenant Management Organisation. In 1997 (and in the 1999 by-election) he stood as a UK Pensioners Party candidate for Kensington and Chelsea. Sadly, he took his own life in July 2001 at the age of 78. After the inquest his wife was quoted as saying 'His heart and soul was in public service and in trying to upgrade people's lives. That is what he cared about.' He could ask for no better epitaph.

JD

## The Treasurer's Report

This year I have to report a deficit of £2,177 for the year ended 31 December 2000. This was mainly due to the cost of organising our Millennium Conference which took place, with great success, on 7 November 2000. The net cost of the Conference was £3,767.

Unfortunately, it seems likely that the current year will operate at a deficit too, mainly due to the setting up of the website which cost £2,020. Further, next year (2002), is the Society's 75th birthday when, undoubtedly, there will be some additional expenditure required to finance the relatively modest celebrations that are contemplated by your Council.

As a result, I have reluctantly concluded that I should recommend an increase in our subscription. I am proposing an increase from £10 to £15 for single members, and from £15 to £20 for couples. I should point out that there has been no increase in subscriptions since 1 January 1994 – a period of 8 years, and in the light of the administrative trouble to which I put people (particularly those paying by Standing Order), when an increase does occur, I hope it will be at least another 8 years before the next increase. I am also hoping that all our members will feel that even the increased rates will be a small amount to pay for membership of such an effective and energetic Society. Certainly, there has been a dramatic increase in the activities of the Society since the present level of subscriptions was set.

The suggested increases would bring in just over £3,000, and this amount should allow the Society to work even harder in looking after the amenities and ambience of Chelsea.

The balance sheet reflects the deficit for the year 2000 and the accumulated funds stood at £31,276 at 31 December 2000.

My Lord President, I beg to present my report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2000.

I W Frazer  
Hon. Treasurer

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 276264

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2000.

#### 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)  
Terence Bendixson (Hon. Secretary, Planning)  
Patricia Sargent (Hon. Secretary, Membership)  
Jane Dorrell (Hon. Editor)

#### Other Members of the Council

Michael Bach BSc, MSc, MS  
Patricia Burr  
Stuart Corbyn FRICS  
Mark Dorman  
David Foord  
Andrew Hamilton BSc, FRICS  
Dr Eileen Harris MA, PhD  
Joan Hayes  
Leonard Holdsworth  
Dr Paul Knapman FRCP, FRCS, DMJ  
Tom Pocock  
David Sagar  
Valerie Thomas  
Jonathan Wheeler MA, BSc, FRICS  
Samantha Wyndham

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

The Chairman's Report, published in the Society's 2000 Annual Report, contains a full description of the activities and achievements of the Society during the year.

#### Review of the Accounts

At 31 December 2000, the Society has total funds of £31,276, comprising £20,272 on the General Fund and £11,004 on the Life Membership Fund. These are considered available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Society. The reserve of funds is held to meet a need to fund any particular action required to protect the Society's objects, as thought appropriate by the Council of the Society.

Approved by the Council of the Chelsea Society on 24 September 2001.

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 2000, which are set out on pages 69 and 70.

#### 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 W11 2DX

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2000

	2000	1999
	Total	Total
Income and Expenditure	Funds	Funds
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Annual membership subscriptions	8,640	8,975
Donations received	130	8,813
Income tax recoverable on covenants	60	87
Advertising revenue from annual report	800	1,200
Interest received on General Funds	1,225	1,033
Interest received on Life Membership Fund	514	426
Income from the Chelsea Society Conference	3,745	---
Income from lectures, meetings and visits	7,965	7,522
Income from sale of Christmas cards and postcards	1,105	2,803
Sale of catalogues at Chelsea Festival China Exhibition	---	5,228
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>24,184</b>	<b>36,087</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
<b>Direct charitable expenditure:</b>		
Cost of annual report	5,285	5,777
Cost of newsletters	1,055	606
Cost of lectures, meetings and visits	6,768	7,304
Cost of Christmas cards and postcards	930	1,303
Subscriptions of other organisations	123	84
Cost of Chelsea Festival China Exhibition catalogues	---	8,711
Donation to Church Homeless Project	---	5,274
Cost of the Chelsea Society Conference	7,512	---
Cost of copying the King's Road report	1,034	---
	<b>22,707</b>	<b>29,059</b>
<b>Other expenditure:</b>		
<b>Management and administration of the charity:</b>		
Stationery, postage and miscellaneous expenses	2,408	1,126
Cost of annual general meeting	71	87
Insurance	625	620
Independent examiner's fee	550	499
	<b>3,654</b>	<b>2,332</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>26,361</b>	<b>31,391</b>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year</b>	<b>(2,177)</b>	<b>4,696</b>
<b>Balances brought forward at 1 January 2000</b>	<b>33,453</b>	<b>28,757</b>
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 December 2000</b>	<b>£31,276</b>	<b>£33,453</b>

**THE CHELSEA SOCIETY**  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2000

	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	1,085	2,651
Balance in National Savings Bank account	11,004	10,490
Balance on bank current and deposit accounts	31,410	31,377
	43,499	44,518
<b>Less Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
	12,223	11,065
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>£31,276</b>	<b>£33,453</b>
 <b>Funds:</b>		
General Funds	20,272	22,963
Life Membership Fund	11,004	10,490
	<b>£31,276</b>	<b>£33,453</b>

Approved by the Council of The Chelsea Society on 24 September 2001.

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

**CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

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

**OBJECTS**

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

**MEMBERSHIP**

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

**THE COUNCIL**

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

**OFFICERS**

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

**PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS**

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

**SUBSCRIPTIONS\***

7. (1) The Council shall prescribe the amount of the subscriptions to be paid by members of the Society and the date on which they are due, and the period in respect of which they are payable.  
 (2) Membership of the Society shall lapse if the member's subscription is unpaid for six months after it is due, but may be restored by the Council.  
 (3) Members may pay more than the prescribed minimum, if they wish.  
 (4) Members may pay annual subscription by banker's order or by Direct Debit.  
 (5) The Society may participate in the direct debiting scheme as an originator for the purpose of collecting

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

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

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

#### AMENDMENTS

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

#### WINDING-UP

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

\* The current rate is £15 annually payable on the 1st January. The annual husband-and-wife rate is £20.

## 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  
 MISS A. D. ALDERTON  
 R. ALEXANDER  
 MRS. R. ALEXANDER  
 C. ALLAN  
 MRS. C. ALLAN  
 \*LT-COL. J. H. ALLASON  
 MRS. ELIZABETH AMATI  
 \*ANTHONY AMBLER  
 MRS. P. A. ANDREAE  
 MISS SOPHIE C. M. ANDREAE  
 \*THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY  
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