

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
REPORT

2003



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

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The Annual General Meeting of The Chelsea Society

held at
Chelsea Town Hall, King's Road, Chelsea SW3
on Monday 17th November 2003

The President, Lord Kelvedon, took the chair at 6.30pm and welcomed everyone, particularly the Mayor, Councillor Christopher Buckmaster and the Mayoress, Councillor Barbara Campbell. He also welcomed, as guests of the Society, the Leader of the Council of the Royal Borough, Councillor Merrick Cockell; the Executive Director of Planning and Conservation, Mr Michael French; Celia Rees-Jenkins, representing The Kensington Society and Peter and Wendy Deakins, representing the Battersea Society.

The President signed the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th November 2002 as a correct record.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr Ian Frazer, presented his Report and Accounts for the eighteen-month period ending 30th June 2003, and explained that this extended accounting period had been instigated on a one-off basis to meet the requirements of the Charity Commissioners for the filing of accounts. Mr John Morris asked for a justification of the £6,449 spent on making the Society's video. The Hon. Treasurer explained that this sum is entirely representative of the costs of making such a video, it had been made as part of the Society's exhibition for the 2002 Chelsea Festival and it had become a useful tool in recruiting new members.

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

Questions were then invited from the floor. Mr William Bell asked if the Society had any constructive ideas for the future of Lots Road. The Chairman said that the Society fully supported the development of the Power Station itself, and the construction of additional housing on the surrounding land. However, in accordance with the brief for the site prepared by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, the Society was opposed to any building that competed with the Power Station itself, and was therefore not in favour of the proposed high-rise towers.

Mr John Ritchie asked whether the Power House in Alpha Place could be replaced by new houses rather than converted into flats. The Chairman said that the Society would prefer that the existing building be demolished, but he emphasised that there are no planning powers to enforce this. However, what was proposed was extensions and al-

terations to the existing building, which required consent, and these were objected to by the Society.

Councillor Jennifer Kingsley asked if the Society had a vision for South Kensington. The Chairman stated that the Society would obviously like to see improvements to a station that is said to be busier than Gatwick Airport. However, the Society was not in favour of the Greater London Authority's proposal that the £30 million required for the improvements be raised entirely through the redevelopment of the station as it was this that necessitated major and unsatisfactory compromises in the present application. The Chairman reminded the meeting that there was a valid planning consent for the site that did not include a high building, as was now proposed.

Mrs Margaret Fawcett asked if the Society had a view on the continuing loss of public houses in Chelsea. The Chairman said that sadly all public houses remained at risk, because although the Borough Council had introduced Supplementary Planning Guidance preventing a change of use, to residential for example, public houses could still be converted into restaurants, without the need for planning consent.

Dr James Thompson asked if any steps were being undertaken to increase membership of the Society. The Chairman said that the Society was constantly trying to recruit new members; the Society's many activities; its exhibitions and publications were all possible channels for attracting new members.

Mrs N. Mackinlay asked if there were any other proposed sites for a new Secondary School in Chelsea. The Chairman said that several sites had been investigated by the Royal Borough but as far as he was aware, the Ashburnham Centre was the currently preferred site; but it was at this stage only an idea.

Mr James Macnair asked if the Society had any plans to coincide its visits and activities with the Kensington and Chelsea Association of the National Trust. The Chairman pointed out that, as far as he was aware, that organisation raised money solely for the National Trust, and as the Society's own visits were already heavily oversubscribed, there would appear to be little value to either organisation in such a proposal.

Mr John Morris suggested that the Duke of York Square did not currently reflect a commercially lively environment, and asked what the Society could do to improve this impression. The Chairman stated that the commercial viability of the site was not the concern of the Society, although it would be worried if the Square ever became subject to degradation or vandalism in the future. Paul Davis, of Paul Davis & Partners, architects for Cadogan Estate at Duke of York Square, explained that the Square is subject to complicated trading restrictions aimed at protecting local residents, but that they were looking at improved lighting and additional planting of trees. He also emphasised that activity in the Square has to maintain a balance between active trading and the needs of many residents living around that part of Chelsea.

Mr John Morris, as Chairman of his local Residents' Association, asked if a meeting of all such Associations in Chelsea could be arranged. The Chairman said that such a meeting was already organised by the Society, on an annual basis, this year's having taken place on 30th June.

Ms Jane Peterson asked if the Society could help with the problem of late-night noise from the Baboushka Bar at the junction of Beaufort Street and King's Road. The Chairman said that, while the Society is always concerned about noise nuisance, it cannot take up every case and urges all those affected to contact the Council's Environmental Health department. Miss Peterson was also concerned about plans to build a three-storey development in the same area of Chelsea. The Chairman stated that the Society could not comment until it had seen an application submitted for planning permission.

Mrs Penny Perrin asked if there was any outcome in the plans for the redevelopment of Sloane Square. The Chairman said that the Mayor of London and the Borough Council were still deliberating on what to do, and how to pay for it.

Mrs Maureen Mount stated that, on calling the Council to report the vandalism and death of two newly-planted trees on Cremorne Road, she had been told to report the matter to Camden Council. The Chairman said that the reason for this was that Transport for London had taken over responsibility for the Earl's Court one-way system and the Embankment, and that Camden Council were the designated contractor for the trees on those routes.

Mr Dennis Mount raised the issue of the lack of public lavatories in Chelsea. Councillor Ian Donaldson pointed out, on behalf of the Royal Borough, that there is a public lavatory in Sloane Square and further facilities in Chelsea Town Hall. He also explained that those public lavatories closed down had been costing the Council about £5 for every visit. The Chairman stated the closure of public lavatories was a problem that was not unique to Chelsea.

Major General Jonathan Hall, Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Hospital, rose to announce plans to build a new Infirmary on the site of the existing hospital building. Having secured the assistance of the Prince of Wales as Patron, and Lord Salisbury as Chairman, he hoped that members of the Society would help with the appeal to raise the necessary funds for this project. He also thought members would be interested to learn that the Chairman of the Society was a member of the team that had been appointed to design the new building.

The President drew the meeting to a close by thanking the Chairman, Officers, and members of the Council of the Society for the work they had done during the year, all of it on a voluntary basis.

There were around 130 members present and after the meeting, wine and soft drinks were served.

Chairman's Report

The Council of the Society

The council decided to create a new officer post of Hon. Assistant Secretary and Patricia Burr, who had been carrying out this function for some time, was appointed to fill it. During the course of the year the Council co-opted Richard Melville Ballerand. The Council now has a full complement of 12 elected members and 4 co-opted members.

Membership

The membership of the Society is currently 1,289. This shows a decrease of 65 which is explained by the fact that we have removed about 125 members from the membership list whose subscriptions for the current year, after three reminders, remain unpaid.

Affiliations

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

Publications

The Report for 2002 was a bumper 75th Anniversary edition which won an award from The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies for annual reports of London amenity societies during 2002. We are grateful to our Hon. Editor, Jane Dorrell, and congratulate her on the award. We are also grateful to all those who take advertising space in the report, which helps considerably in reducing its cost.

Our Newsletter also won a Commendation from the same organisation and we are grateful to Michael Bach for producing two excellent Newsletters during the year. Our Newsletter is widely read, we get a lot of feedback, so much so that we are planning to start a 'Letters to the Editor' section.

We have published a new card for this Christmas, which features a watercolour of Cheyne Row by Hugh Krall. Our cards from previous years continue to be popular and we have had further reprints.

Activities

1. Winter Lectures

Our twenty-fourth season of winter lectures was again held in the Small Hall of Chelsea Old Town Hall. As in recent years, the lectures were arranged by Tom Pocock.

On 3rd February, Professor Rosemary Ashton, of University College London, gave us a lecture entitled 'The Troubled Wooing of Jane Welsh by Thomas Carlyle'. This was a fascinating study of these two intelligent but different characters who became one of Chelsea's most famous couples in the nineteenth century.

On 24th February, Jim Ring, the biographer of Erskine Childers, lectured on 'Erskine Childers: The Riddle of Embankment Gardens'. Probably not many people realised that this idealist, who had such a dramatic but ultimately tragic life, was a Chelsea resident.

On 2nd April, the Secretary of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Philip Venning, spoke about the work of SPAB in a talk called 'Saving the Past for the Future'. He used many illustrations from Chelsea to illustrate his talk including examples of how, and also how not to, carry out repairs to historic buildings.

2. Visits

We have made many interesting visits this year, which have been organised by our events secretary, Valerie Hamami-Thomas. The work that Valerie does in organizing visits and other events is, as with all members of Council, done on an entirely voluntary basis. She carries out this work, assisted by Patricia Burr, in a most meticulous way, which I know is much appreciated by members and is evidenced by the great success that our visits have become. This success means that Valerie's work-load on behalf of the Society has grown enormously over the past few years and we are especially indebted to her for all that she does, in such an efficient and cheerful way.

On 19th March we visited Peter Jones. In the new top floor café, the Managing Director, Beverley Aspinall, gave an interesting presentation including a brief history of the store and an up-date on the 4-year refurbishment programme, now in its final stage.

On 3rd April and again on 20th May we visited the Lord Chancellor's apartment at the House of Lords, which has been recently re-decorated.

On 30th April we visited the The De Morgan Centre in West Hill, Wandsworth. Members were fascinated by this jewel-like museum with its William De Morgan ceramics and the paintings of Evelyn De Morgan. The founder and curator, Kate Catleugh, gave us an insight into the work of these two artists. It seemed to us that it is a

museum of this size and type that the Society would like to see established in Chelsea.

On 1st July we visited Argyll House to which we were graciously welcomed by the Dowager Marchioness of Normanby and given a talk about the house by the Hon. Desmond Guinness, founder of the Irish Georgian Group.

On 4th September we visited Westminster Coroner's Court. The Coroner, Dr. Paul Knapman, who is a member of the Council of the Society, gave us a most interesting talk about the Coroner's service.

On September 17th members went on a specially arranged tour of Crosby Hall and were able to admire the courtyard and its enchanting garden. Mr. Christopher Moran, the owner, explained how the interior of this magnificent building is to be completed.

On 14th November we again visited Peter Jones, but this time we were able to see the new 'events room', known as the Sloane Room. After refreshments, Beverley Aspinall very kindly spoke to us about the refurbishment programme.

3. *Chelsea Residents' Associations Meeting*

This public meeting, organised and chaired by the Chelsea Society, was held in Petyt Hall on 30th June. Councillor Daniel Moylan, Cabinet Member for Transport and Planning and Deputy Leader of the Council, in a bravura performance, answered questions from the floor. Mr. Michael French, Executive Director of Planning and Conservation, was also in attendance to assist as required. After the meeting wine was served.

4. *"After Sloane: Chelsea and Cadogan" exhibition*

This exhibition, which formed part of the 2003 Chelsea Festival was the history of 250 years of the Cadogan Estate. It opened on 15th June and, unlike previous years, went on beyond the end of the Festival itself, until 5th July. It was held at Duke of York Square in a temporary gallery space that has been formed within a former arcade to the main building.

The exhibition was organised by a special sub-committee of the Council of the Society, chaired by Stuart Corbyn. Research assistant, Alexandra Mitchell, was employed and a firm of graphic designers devised special display panels. The exhibition also included historic maps, pictures and objects, not normally on public view, loaned by the Cadogan Estate.

The Society was most grateful to Gerald Scarfe, the designer and cartoonist, for designing a splendid and striking poster for the exhibition.

The exhibition was sponsored by the Cadogan Estate, which also paid for a champagne reception at the private view of the exhibition on the evening of 16th June, which was attended by the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Christopher Buckmaster and the Mayoress, Councillor Barbara Campbell.

5. *Summer Meeting*

This was held in the splendid new Petyt Hall, which is the church hall of Chelsea Old Church. This is part of the recently completed complex of buildings designed by the distinguished architect, John Simpson. The Vicar of Chelsea Old Church, the Revd. Peter Elvy, addressed the meeting and gave us a brief description as to how the project had come about. The Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Christopher Buckmaster and the Mayoress, Councillor Barbara Campbell were with us again on this occasion.

A buffet supper was served and, its being a fine evening, members were able to make full use of the paved courtyard adjoining the Hall. About 130 members were present.

We are grateful to our events secretary, Valerie Hamami-Thomas, for making all the arrangements.

6. *Doggett's Coat and Badge Race*

The race this year was on 17th July, a rather wet day, so members of the Society crowded under the cover of Cadogan Pier to cheer on the contestants. The Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Christopher Buckmaster, was there to present bottles of champagne to the contestants and beer was provided for everyone by Fullers of Chiswick. The Society is grateful to past mayor and member of the Society, Arnold Stevenson, for organising it.

7. *Autumn Lectures*

To mark the 250th anniversary of the death of Sir Hans Sloane the Society decided to have a series of lectures about this illustrious former resident and Lord of the Manor of Chelsea. Each lecture focused on a particular aspect of this 'universal man' and was held at a different venue, but each having Sloane associations. After the lectures, wine and canapés were served.

On 13th October, at the Chelsea Physic Garden, Dr. Tim Cutler, a member of the Royal College of Physicians gave an erudite and well researched talk on 'Sloane the Physician'.

On 20th October, at Chelsea Old Church, Marjorie Caygill O.B.E., assistant to the Director of the British Museum, informed us of the scope and extent of 'Sloane's Collection at Chelsea'.

On 27th October, at the Natural History Museum, Dr. Rob Huxley, from the Department of Botany at the Museum, took us on a fascinating journey when he spoke on 'Sloane in Jamaica'. This lecture was followed by a special guided tour of the Museum's magnificent Herbarium.

All of the lecturers had a great enthusiasm for Sir Hans Sloane and were obviously keen to make him known to a wider audience.

These lectures were well attended and much enjoyed. We are extremely grateful to the Cadogan Estate for their most generous sponsorship, without which the series would not have been possible.

8. 'Whistler's Chelsea' lecture

By courtesy of the Chairman of the Chelsea Arts Club, members of the Society were invited to the Club to hear a lecture given by the Chairman of The Chelsea Society on the architecture and history of the various houses in Chelsea lived in by James McNeill Whistler, who died 100 years ago this year. The lecture was given in aid of the Whistler Statue Appeal.

Some of next year's activities

Our three Winter Lectures, which will all be held in the Small Hall at Chelsea Old Town Hall on Monday evenings in February and March, will be on James McNeill Whistler, Tobias Smollett and the Royal Hospital.

The Society will be holding an exhibition as part of the 2004 Chelsea Festival. A sub committee has already been formed and planning has commenced on an exhibition to be called 'Sporting Chelsea'. The estimated cost of the exhibition is in the region of £25,000 and we are presently seeking sponsorship to cover this.

Local History Competition for Schools

This competition, which is open to children at both state and private primary schools was officially launched on 26th February at a reception held at Garden House School in Lower Sloane Street. The prizes were presented to the winners by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Christopher Buckmaster and Councillor Barbara Campbell at a reception on 23rd June at Sussex House School in Cadogan Square.

The organising of this competition was led by the Society, with help from teachers and the Royal Borough's Education Department. The standard of work was very high and judging was an especially difficult task.

We want to build upon and improve this important part of our work and we are most grateful to R. Alexander Porter who has kindly

agreed to take over the organisation of the 2004 competition. Alexander is receiving considerable help from Diana Hall from the Royal Borough's Schools Inspectorate.

Planning

Our representative on the panel of assessors for the Royal Borough's Environment Awards for 2003 was Patricia Burr. There were few entries from Chelsea, though a special award was given to the Cadogan Estate for their Duke of York Square development.

The Society's planning sub-committee regularly meets to look at all applications submitted within Chelsea. The committee, under the chairmanship of Terence Bendixson, comprises Michael Bach, Patricia Burr, Jane Dorrell, David Foord, Sarah Jackson, Nigel Stenhouse and Samantha Wyndham.

Although the Society's planning sub-committee keeps an eye on the seemingly endless numbers of applications aimed at increasing the floor space of existing residential buildings, we necessarily have to concentrate on the larger applications whose impact is greater than just upon immediate neighbours. Some of these larger applications with which we have been concerned over the past year have been :

1. Lots Road Power Station

Plans to convert Lots Road Power Station into a mix of affordable and expensive homes together with retail, commercial and other uses is by far the largest development in Chelsea since the unfortunate World's End estate in the 1970s. To the Society's great joy, the application was resoundingly rebuffed by the Council's Major Applications Committee on October 28th. Members voted 13 to 5 against the recommendation of the Executive Director of Planning and Conservation.

Given that the proposals contravened practically every relevant policy in the Borough Plan and the Council's planning brief for the site, the attempt to approve it is, to say the least, puzzling. The case of the Director of Planning was that £5m of 'community benefits', which included £2m for a new secondary school, outweighed such community curses as excessive development, overshadowing by skyscrapers, extra road traffic and the further conversion of Chelsea Reach into a mini-Hong Kong. It is to the great credit of the Council Members that they rejected such flummery.

The scheme, the Fulham part of which includes a 37-storey skyscraper, had already been approved in principle by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. This creates all sorts of uncer-

tainties. Will the Deputy Prime Minister, as requested by the Society and numerous others, call-in the application to be decided by his Office? (the grounds for doing so are very strong). If he does so, can the Fulham part be considered on its own, with due reference to the Chelsea part? And what about the developers? Will they appeal against the decision of Kensington and Chelsea? or may they seek to modify the scheme to bring it into line with the plans of either or both Boroughs, and so avoid an inquiry? And why has the Royal Borough never raised a formal objection to the Hammersmith and Fulham application, even though it has a UDP policy to object to high buildings along the Thames in neighbouring Boroughs? If the proposals are called-in and there is a public inquiry, how successful would the Society and its allies be? We have won a famous battle but we have certainly not yet won the war.

2. South Kensington Station

Although outside the Chelsea boundary, we have made representations about the proposed reconstruction of South Kensington Station. This has been done jointly with The Kensington Society, as the views of both societies in this matter completely coincide. The principal concern is the proposed tall office building that has the appearance of a gasometer. We consider this building would corrupt the fine views of the cupolas and spires of the museums area of South Kensington that are such an important feature of this part of the Royal Borough. We are also not happy with the proposed demolition of the terrace of shops and residential upper floors along Thurloe Place and we consider the design of the proposed new building fronting onto Pelham Street to be extremely crude and of poor quality design that is not acceptable in this important location.

3. 199-209 King's Road

This row of fine 19th century buildings, which starts with a brick and stucco house on the corner of Oakley Street and continues with two terraces, separated by a pedestrian alley, along the King's Road, opposite Dovehouse Green, is the scene of another battle. The applicants are seeking to upgrade their shops, drastically to alter the flats upstairs, build some new studios in the back garden and create a huge basement.

Initially they applied to demolish some of the buildings and replace them with replicas behind a glass screen. English Heritage was then prompted to list the three buildings on the corner of Oakley Street. In a further application they suffered a further reversal when vigilant residents found a discrepancy in the number of 'covers' in

the existing restaurant, which had been over counted thereby playing down the size of the restaurant that was to replace it. This led the Council to defer the application. The Society now awaits further developments.

Our position is that the owners should be obliged to retain the shop fronts of the listed buildings, to retain the plan form of these buildings and to retain the front doors which give access to the flats on the upper floors, rather than this being via a new first floor balcony at the rear, as is proposed. We also consider that the existing studio should be retained in its present form.

4. The Power House, Chelsea Manor Street

This 1960s transformer station was never a thing of beauty and, during the last few years, it has been gently decaying. The Council has produced a brief for potential developers which sets down how, if the existing building were demolished, it could be replaced by terraced houses or a block of flats.

In the event, developers, who no doubt paid a high price for the site, propose to gut and expand the existing building and fill it with 'lofts'. This has led to a building that would be an overwhelming neighbour, and the Society has opposed the application.

5. Former Duke of York's Headquarters: temporary exhibitions

Work at the Duke of York's Headquarters continues as the Cadogan Estate completes its huge job of converting the old Territorial Army Headquarters into a mixture of shops, offices, cafes, residential and educational accommodation.

A current concern is the temporary use of the running track for commercial events and trade fairs. The practice, having been established by the Ministry of Defence under the Crown's immunity from town planning control, is being continued by Cadogan and the Royal Borough is now challenging this. The issue is a legal one: is a private owner able to carry on a use of land established by the Crown under its immunity?

The Society welcomes the additional visitors to the Sloane Square area that fashion and the fine art events attract, but it has sympathy too with nearby residents who have to put up with the heavy lorries and cranes needed to deliver, erect and dismantle very large, prefabricated exhibition halls.

There is also the question of whether modern prefabricated structures are appropriate in close proximity to the Duke of York's, which is a listed building

Ever larger and more intrusive structures are now put up in front

of the Royal Hospital, a grade I listed building, for the Chelsea Flower Show and the disruption that this event causes to normal life is substantial; yet few would call for the Chelsea Flower Show to be closed down.

6. Sloane Square

Sloane Square, far from looking as it does now since time began, was only given its present layout in the 1930s. Up until then it was more of a cross roads than a roundabout – but cut across by far fewer cars and buses.

When Mayor Livingstone charged Lord Rogers of Riverside (his adviser on architecture and urban design and a Chelsea resident) to provide Londoners with 100 new or improved squares, Sloane Square appeared amongst the top 10. Coincidentally both the Cadogan Estate, owner of most of the buildings fronting onto the square, and the Council, were likewise considering what might be done to improve the quality of this famous space.

After Lord Rogers had produced plans showing how the roundabout might be variously modified to create more usable pavement for people, the Council held an exhibition and organised a poll. To everyone's surprise, over 60% of residents voted for substantial changes and ones that would reinstate a crossroads. This was, with provisos about trees, paving and management, the Society's preference too.

The Royal Borough is now negotiating with Mayor Livingstone about the financing of a new Sloane Square. If sufficient Mayoral funds can be provided, and if the traffic managers can convince themselves that it would work, a cross roads will replace the roundabout. If not, the Council propose, again funds permitting, to widen the perimeter pavements, remove traffic and pole clutter and otherwise refresh the square.

'Landmark buildings of superlative design'

Earlier this autumn the Royal Borough's Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Transportation issued a document entitled *Planning and Transportation: Vision and Strategy for the next three years 2003/4-2005/6*. Having a 'vision' about our future was the idea behind the Society's two very successful Millennium Conferences and it is good to see that the Borough, which was very supportive of these conferences, has taken 'the vision thing' on board. The Society finds itself in broad agreement with the vision expressed in this official document, save for one aim, which is causing concern. This aim, listed under Planning policy, states:

Promotion of superlative design standards in new buildings: we have an outstanding built inheritance; we should see to it that our legacy is of no less a standard and that it embraces the challenges facing city life in the future. This could include developing a policy that pertains particularly to landmark buildings at major entry-points to the Royal Borough and on other key sites.

There is a danger that those in the development and planning world will interpret this aim as follows:

'superlative design standards in new buildings' will mean any building designed by an internationally-distinguished architect; in the case of a British architect this invariably means any architect who has been honoured with either a peerage or a knighthood.

'landmark buildings'. Traditionally, a landmark building was one with a landmark use, such as a church or town hall; but today it can often be taken to mean a high building, not necessarily of any special significance in terms of its use, or a building that represents a distinct departure from the accepted norms of architecture.

'key sites' is even more open to interpretation but it must surely include any site at major road or public transport intersection.

There is a danger that if this aspiration were to be adopted as Council policy it could constitute a significant departure from the adopted Unitary Development Plan which commits the Council to resist granting consent for any new building that is un-neighbourly, either in terms of its height or its design. We strongly support the present policy and would not support any proposal that sought to lessen its effectiveness. In our view, it is the ordinary but distinguished streets and squares of the Royal Borough, far more than its exceptional landmark buildings, that give it its fame and charm.

Property developers seeking a more permissive attitude towards the height and design of new buildings are currently putting intense pressure on parts of London such as Chelsea. Distinguished architects are often employed as part of that pressure in an attempt to persuade local authorities that, in the words of the inspector at the No.1 Poultry Public Inquiry, the building 'might just be a masterpiece'. The Lots Road application is an example of this. We consider that the adopted policy should be strengthened, not diminished and we fear that the Cabinet Member for Planning's 'Vision and Strategy', even though not a formal policy, could provide a glimmer of hope to developers and land owners where, we sincerely trust, none exists.

If there are any sites within the Royal Borough that the Borough Council considers to be suitable for a high building; these should be

identified and, after proper public consultation, be included as such within the UDP. We consider that to retain the present statement in its general form is imprudent and could be an invitation to even more unwelcome planning applications.

A new Secondary School for Chelsea ?

It is the Royal Borough's intention to provide a new secondary school in south-west Chelsea. Having missed the opportunity to secure 552 King's Road, the former campus of King's College, which was already in educational use, the present favourite site is the Asburnham Community Centre in Lots Road. This will involve the relocation of the Heatherley School of Fine Art, the only independent art school remaining in Chelsea.

'Fostered amenities'

During the past year we have seen a number of improvements to the civic amenities within Chelsea, which the Society wishes to applaud. Some of the more notable ones are:

Dovehouse Green

A special ceremony to mark the completion of the refurbishing of Dovehouse Green took place on June 16th. The Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough unveiled a new plaque commemorating the Golden Jubilee of H.M. The Queen. A reception was held in the Town Hall afterwards. The Green looked splendid on that fine summer day, with its new paving, bench seats, period lanterns, lush green grass and new planting. Unfortunately the prolonged drought of late summer has taken its toll and we can but hope that the recent rains will resurrect the grass and new plants.

Dovehouse Green is very intensely used and it needs good and regular maintenance to keep it looking as it did at the ceremony in June.

Chelsea Embankment lighting

Transport for London has just completed major improvements to the lighting of Chelsea Embankment and Cheyne Walk. In addition to a new unified lighting scheme for the roadway, new lighting has been introduced in the gardens and the traditional cast iron lights on the embankment wall have been extended from Battersea Bridge to Cremorne Road. The new lighting is attractive and provides a much greater level of illumination than previously.

Duke of York Square

On 19th March, HRH The Duke of York formally opened the new Duke of York Square which has been developed by the Cadogan Estate. This provides a spacious and stylish new pedestrian area which, with its numerous shops and restaurants, is a great asset to this part of Chelsea. It also enhances Sloane Square as a major shopping and cultural centre. The new buildings are an example of how high quality modern architecture can sit very happily with its historic neighbours.

The redundant army buildings could so easily have become yet another gated development of high class flats and the Society's decision to support the Cadogan proposals is fully justified by the end result.

250th anniversary of the death of Sir Hans Sloane

Throughout the year there have been many celebrations of this anniversary, most of them sponsored by Cadogan who inherited all of their Chelsea land holding from Sir Hans Sloane.

These commenced with a thanksgiving service for the life of Sir Hans Sloane held in Chelsea Old Church on 13th February and has included the presentation to local institutions, including The Chelsea Society, of a commemorative silver Armada dish. During the course of the year there was not only the Society's exhibition and autumn lectures already referred to, but a magnificent Hans Sloane garden as part of the Chelsea Flower Show, which won a gold medal, a special exhibition called 'The Great Collector' at the Natural History Museum, a Chelsea 'Sloane 250 Heritage Trail', an exhibition at the Chelsea Physic Garden using specially designed 'Cabinets of Curiosity', two lectures organised by the Physic Garden and lastly, a Study Day entitled 'Sir Hans Sloane (1660 - 1753) and his Library' at the British Museum on 24th November.

The Society is most grateful to the Cadogan Estate for having so effectively brought one of the great men of Chelsea to the notice of the widest possible audience.

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

David Le Lay

The Life and Times of Sir Hans Sloane

by Richard Ballard

[Before and during the Second World War, my father was a maintenance engineer at Harrod's - born with the century he was too old to go back into the Royal Navy from which he had been invalided out in 1928 after eleven years' service. After the war, when I was a child, whenever we came to London he would take me round the labyrinth underneath the store when he went to see the people he used to work with. I never thought to ask anyone why the names of the streets above were duplicated in the wide subterranean corridors, and it took me nearly forty years to make the connection between Hans Crescent and Sloane Street and the range of impressive buildings they contain.]

Sir Hans Sloane was one of the great shakers and movers of Old Chelsea; physician, property developer, discoverer of the medicinal qualities of milk chocolate, facilitator of herbalists, natural philosopher and collector. Alexander Pope's lines, 'Butterflies for Sloane', show him well known as a polymath in his lifetime. Living between the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, he regarded no human concern foreign to his mind. The colossal aspect of Sloane is well presented in Rysbrach's statue of him which is now in the British Museum. (Copies are in the Chelsea Physic Garden and Sloane Square.)

As you approach Chelsea Old Church going westwards along Cheyne Walk, one of its significant features takes your eye: the monument to Sir Hans Sloane in the south-east corner of the churchyard. It is the work of Joseph Wilton RA (1717-1803) with a classical funeral urn and the entwined serpents that have been symbols of the medical profession since Hippocrates's time. On the south face of the monument is the inscription which reads:

"To the memory of Sir Hans Sloane Bart, President of the Royal Society and of the College of Physicians, who in the year of our Lord 1753, the 92nd year of his age, without the least pain of body and with a conscious serenity of mind, ended a virtuous and beneficent life. This monument was erected by his two daughters Eliza Cadogan and Sarah Stanley."

Though no-one is on oath in lapidary inscriptions, as Wilton's friend, Dr Johnson, remarked, a review of Sloane's life bears out the

truth of this one. If hard work and scientific acumen are the marks of virtue, then he was virtuous, and the existence of the British Museum and the core of treasures within it, together with the Chelsea Physic Garden, are witnesses to his beneficence. Sloane was a receiver-general of taxes, and his mother was the daughter of Dr Hicks, who had been chaplain to Archbishop Laud. When he was sixteen Hans suffered from a condition called haemoptysis and he never again drank wine or spirits. Soon afterwards he went to France, studying medicine in Paris and Montpellier. He learned botany under the guidance of celebrated teachers, Magnol and Tournefort, and received his degree as a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Orange in 1683. He was in England the year after and made friends with prominent scientists like Ray and Boyle, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society himself in 1685. Two years later he was admitted to the College of Physicians and then he crossed the Atlantic to join the staff of the Duke of Albemarle, the Governor of Jamaica, as his physician.

When he returned to London in May 1689, he brought specimens of eight hundred West Indian plants with him for study. He set up his medical practice in Bloomsbury Square and, from 1689 until 1712, was Secretary of the Royal Society.

Oxford University made him MD in 1701. His book about the natural history of the West Indies was eventually published in two volumes in 1707 and 1725. He was recognised as a European figure, becoming a foreign member of the French Society of Sciences and of the Imperial Academy of St Petersburg, recently set up by Peter the Great. At home he received recognition as President of the College of Physicians in 1719 and held the office until 1735. On the death of Sir Isaac Newton in 1727 he became President of the Royal Society as well and remained such until his retirement in 1741. Earlier, Queen Anne had consulted him as a physician, and he was authorised to inoculate members of the royal family. 1722 saw him as Physician-General to the Army. His baronetcy dates from 1716, and in 1727 he was appointed First Physician to King George II. He was in charge of Christ's Hospital for thirty-six years between 1694 and 1730. When the colony of Georgia was floated in 1732 as a place for discharged convicts, Sloane was one of those who promoted it under General Oglethorpe, its first Governor.

In the midst of all this activity he bought Chelsea manor in 1712, paying £2,500 to the second Lord Cheyne for it, but he did not retire to settle there until 1741. The oldest botanical garden still existing had been in Chelsea since 1673, when the Apothecaries' Company took out a 61-year lease at five pounds a year from the then Lord of the Manor, Charles Cheyne, on land around space for building a

boat-house for their state barge. The following year this land was planted with herbs, which were added to the next year by herbs from a similar garden in Westminster. The Apothecaries' Company lease had only twelve years to run in 1722. For the same rent, and for supplying the Royal Society with specimens of 'fifty distinct plants, well dried and preserved' from the garden each year, with an agreement that the acreage should be put to no other use than that for which they held it, Sloane granted the land to the Apothecaries' Company in perpetuity, thus obviating the need for them to lease it to one of their members for a short time in return for a salary, which had meant that it did not reach its potential. Previously there had been some animosity towards Sloane on the part of individuals in the Apothecaries' Company because he had been promoting a scheme to set up free dispensaries of medicines for poor people which would have deprived them of income. After he had granted them the land in perpetuity for no extra rent, they saw him in a different light and eleven years later, in 1733, decided to put up a marble statue of him in the garden. This was the one sculpted by Michael Rysbrach. It was finished in 1737 and cost £80. Originally it was in front of the greenhouse but it was moved to the centre of the garden in 1748.

Six years after his return from Jamaica Sloane had married the widow of Fulk Rose, a landowner in the colony, whose fortune helped him to establish himself. In his last years in Chelsea he had more time for his extensive collection. In 1749, when he was eighty-eight, he bequeathed his collections to the nation on condition that his family was paid £20,000, which was agreed by an Act of Parliament in the year of his death, with Horace Walpole as a trustee. The year after, Montagu House was bought to house them, together with Cotton's and Harley's manuscript collections. Smirke's great Bloomsbury building followed fifty years later.

First published in The Chelsea Anchor and reprinted with the kind permission of the author.

The illustration is of the Sir Hans Sloane Monument at Chelsea Old Church, from an etching by Hugh Krall.



The Bishop of London's Address at Chelsea Old Church, 13th February 2003 on the 250th Anniversary of the Death of Sir Hans Sloane

"A rich man furnished with ability"

It is not often that the good that men do lives so comprehensively after them. Two hundred and fifty years after Sir Hans Sloane was laid to rest in the churchyard, we assemble as his beneficiaries and descendants in a remarkable example of the continuities of British life.

Lord Cadogan is here whose forebear, Sloane's son-in-law, played such a significant part in executing his will. Here also are many other representatives of the family. Here are his friends from the Apothecaries and the British Museum. There has already been an opportunity to celebrate Sloane's work in the foundation of the British Museum, but here in Chelsea we remember in particular the generous conveyance of the Physic Garden to the Apothecaries. Here is even the Bishop of London, one of three bishops named as Trustees under Sloane's will (which did however show the breadth of Sloane's sympathies by including dissenters as well).

Then we are here in the church to which Sloane presented his nephew, Sloane Elsmere DD, in 1732 and in beloved Chelsea where Sir Hans retired with his great collections. He was generous in granting access to his Chelsea museum and indeed popularised the idea of a museum. He had many imitators, including one here in Chelsea at 18 Cheyne Walk, where a coffee house/museum was opened by a sometime retainer of the Sloane family called Salter. He went by the name of Don Saltero and exhibited some very curious items indeed such as "Pontius Pilate's Wife's Chambermaid's Sister's Hat".

We do indeed remember a "rich man furnished with ability" as *Ecclesiasticus* puts it. He was very successful in his profession. German visitors to his collection in 1710 were grateful to have been given so much time because Sir Hans usually charged a guinea an hour for professional consultations. I told the royal apothecary this yesterday and saw him making some rapid calculations. Sloane also made a great deal of money out of Jesuits' bark-tree bark from South America from which quinine was extracted. He prescribed quinine

for all manner of conditions including the mortification of the Archbishop of Canterbury's big toe.

Sloane's old friend the Bishop of Bangor preached the sermon at his funeral and chose the text from Psalm XC "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom". Sloane intended his life's work and his collections as a contribution to the improvement of physic, other arts and science for the "benefit of mankind". That is what he said in his will.

Also, however, although he was not a religious controversialist and had wide ecclesiastical sympathies, he said in his will that he intended his collection should tend "many ways to the manifestation of the glory of God, the confutation of Atheism and its consequences". It is fascinating that these words have been omitted from the citation of Sloane's will in the most recent history of the British Museum.

The Bible begins in a garden. Genesis begins with two trees standing in the Paradise Garden - the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge. The fruit of the Tree of Life was true knowledge of the divine creation. This is what the Bible regards as true wisdom. "Wisdom is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her", (*Proverbs 111,18*). The "wisdom" to which the Bishop of Bangor's text referred is more than the wary prudence which comes with age and experience. It is a knowledge of the world which comes to someone who knows themselves to be a participant in a living creation, a creature with limits and responsibilities who dwells in the earth, both tilling and keeping the land, developing and respecting it.

What is the Tree of Knowledge? This is knowledge wrenched from its source, which, according to the first book of Enoch, "caused much bloodshed on the earth". The knowledge from the second tree is partial. It is knowledge only of a god-forsaken world in which human beings themselves have assumed the role of gods. One of the problems of our own time is summed up by T S Eliot in the haunting question, "What is the wisdom that we have lost in knowledge and the knowledge that we have lost in information?" Max Weber's analysis of modernity talks of its essence being the "differentiation of the cultural value spheres". Among various "spheres" he was referring to art, morals and science. Most pre-modern cultures did not differentiate these spheres clearly but modernity, beginning in the seventeenth century in the West, differentiated art, morals and science and let each pursue its own truths according to its own method, free from intrusion from any other sphere but subject to what the eighteenth century called the laws of reason. This has resulted in a spectacular growth of scientific knowledge, a flurry of new approaches to art and a sustained look at morals in a more naturalistic light.

Now, however, the distress arising from pursuing these ways to knowledge in isolation from the other spheres is becoming more evident. We are nowhere near even the beginning of a new summa but in so many fields of thought this seems to be the time for expeditions into neighbouring spheres in an effort to find some unitive and integrative concepts. Nowhere is this phenomenon clearer than in new understanding of what constitutes health and in the new science of ecology. At the same time we are menaced by a recoil from the complexity and fragmentation of knowledge and a lurch into fundamentalism, the attempt to shrink the world to some simple ideology. I am not only thinking about a round-up of the usual suspects, but I would include the fundamentalist project which seems to grip much of the West, that of growth without limit with no end in view beyond the process itself. It is a view of the world which impacts with distressing consequences on other cultures and leaves out of account much of the diversity, beauty and creativity which it was Sloane's earnest endeavour to exhibit in his collections.

The modern project of growth without limits and with no end in view beyond the process itself arises, in the perspective of the Abrahamic religions, from choosing the wrong tree. We have lost the knowledge of wisdom in the pursuit of fragmented knowledge. The pursuit of fragmented knowledge, divorced from any consciousness of ourselves as creatures, fashions a knower who looks out on the world about him and sees not an animated nature in which he is a participant, but simply matter to be exploited. Choosing the wrong tree progressively degrades a human being into someone who gets used to the dull pain of seeing nature as a lifeless desert and of treating its beauty as a deceptive mark. Dominance is substituted for connectedness in this way of knowing the universe. It is a way of knowledge which leads, as Descartes frankly affirmed, to a way of being in the world in which man regards himself as "*maître et possesseur de la terre*".

Now, however, things are even more serious. The habit of regarding everything as a material or mental object has even infected our good opinion of ourselves. Beneath much of the rhetoric about human dignity lurks a reductionist suspicion that we are little more than upright animals or, even worse, rapacious bipeds with a selfish genetic make-up, whose happiness lies in consuming the world and treating other people as commodities which exist for our pleasure.

Sloane had taken the fruit from the first tree and the wisdom of his life is still on display all around us. This is a time when we are faced with the challenge of building one sustainable and culturally diverse world or risk the coalition of one of the competing fundamentalisms with destructive knowledge tragically wrenched

from its source in wholesome wisdom. The challenge is one world or none. Sloane remains an inspiration in this world.

I want to end with a brief letter written by another holistic thinker and scientist, John Ray, who was himself a distinguished botanist and theologian. He was a friend and encourager of Sloane and wrote this note from his deathbed: "Dear Sir, the best of friends, these are to take a final leave of you as from this world. I look upon myself as a dying man. God requite your kindness expressed anyways towards me an hundredfold, bless you with a confluence of all good things in this world and eternal life and happiness hereafter and grant us a happy meeting in heaven. I am sir, eternally yours, John Ray."

It is a tribute to Sloane which I could not better and so I simply say of the great Sir Hans, Rest Eternal grant unto him O Lord and let light perpetual shine on him.

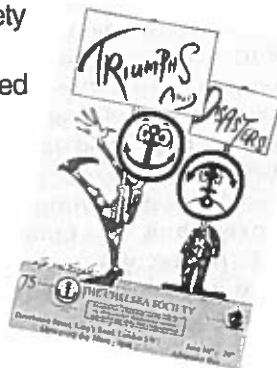
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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY ON VIDEO

Seventy five years of the Chelsea Society are now celebrated on a fascinating, professionally produced video film entitled *Triumphs & Disasters*, which tells of the Society's successes and failures in conserving the character and appearance of Chelsea over the last three quarters of a century.

The colour film includes archive film and many rare photographs and is narrated by the eminent film actor, Christopher Lee.

For your copy, please remit £10, postage and packing free, to:
The Chelsea Society, 10 Christchurch Terrace, London SW3 4AJ. Telephone: 020 7351 5932



"The vainest fool I ever saw"

The Earl of Ranelagh - Farmer and Gardener

By Jon Nuttall

The Early Years - seeking power and influence

Richard Jones was born, probably in 1638, in Co. Wicklow, Ireland. His father was Arthur Jones, 2nd Viscount Ranelagh and his mother Catherine Boyle, the daughter of Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork, possibly the premier noble in Ireland. The Ranelagh family had been prominent in Irish affairs since Elizabethan times and they took the Parliamentary side during the Civil War. The 2nd Viscount prospered under the patronage of James Butler, the Duke of Ormonde.

The young Jones was brought up as a Protestant. His tutor, Henry Oldenburg, a Calvinist, had studied at Bremen, Utrecht and Oxford Universities and throughout his life maintained close connections with the Boyle family. Richard journeyed on the Continent and was recorded visiting Basle in 1658.

He became MP for Co. Roscommon in the Irish Parliament when it was reconstituted in 1661 after the Restoration of King Charles II. He served until January 1669, when his father died and he entered the House of Lords as 3rd Viscount Ranelagh. He too was favoured by the Duke of Ormonde, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who invited him to become Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer, with a seat on the Council.

Soon after - 1670 is the suggested date - Jones came to England (possibly to visit his mother who had moved there in 1668). While in England he joined the party of the Duke of Buckingham, a member of the 'Cabal' in power from 1667 to 1673, who was violently opposed to Ormonde and became involved in English politics. Ranelagh was described by Bishop Burnet as "a young man of great partes and as great vice: he had a pleasantness in his conversation that took much with the king, and he had great dexterity in business".

He appears to have taken advantage of a report by Sir John Temple, a distinguished diplomat, which was critical of the management of government finances. Using this document he proposed to King Charles II that he would cover all the costs of governing Ireland in return for collecting the King's revenue - a term generally known as farming. He also seems to have tried to seduce a Mrs Middleton, one of Charles's many mistresses, although by then he was married

to Elizabeth, a daughter of Lord Willoughby of Parham. She provided him with two sons and four daughters. Both sons and one daughter died in infancy. Two of the daughters married well while one remained a spinster.

In Charge in Ireland

The Duke of Ormonde was certainly not in favour of Ranelagh's proposal to farm the revenue, but Ranelagh in London, seems to have 'briefed' against him and was critical of his government of Ireland. He seems to have sweetened the proposal by agreeing to use the revenue to supply the King with money to rebuild Windsor Castle and to pay the Duchess of Portsmouth (a Royal mistress) a pension, presumably on the grounds that attention to a mistress would be likely to attract the King's patronage. The Duke of Ormonde was removed from office in Ireland in 1669, but he continued to warn of the dangers he perceived. Whatever, Ranelagh was successful. The King issued Letters Patent to Ranelagh in June 1674 to allow his schemes to proceed and appointed him as Vice-Treasurer of Ireland and Constable and Governor of Athlone. In the following December he was created Earl of Ranelagh.

Ranelagh introduced arbitrary taxation and misapplied the revenue. The Irish army was paid by paper debenture, not cash. These were then bought back by Ranelagh and his partners for as little as six shillings in the pound. They then paid themselves back in the full value of the cash. It is recorded that officers who complained at not being paid were jailed for mutiny. The situation got so bad that the Earl of Essex, Ormonde's successor as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland who worked vigorously against misgovernment, refused to pass his accounts. He was particularly unhappy at the grants made of forfeit land to Court favourites, promises made to supply money direct to the King, and the grant of Phoenix Park to another of the King's mistresses, the Duchess of Cleveland. Essex, too, was recalled.

Although not strictly part of this story it is worth recording that both Ormonde and Essex had proposed an establishment to house the old and infirm soldiers of the Irish Army and had been considering Phoenix Park as the site for the new Hospital. Ormonde had gone so far as to buy the site. In 1680, at a cost of £3000, Kilmainham Hospital opened on the edge of Phoenix Park.

To England

Eventually, in 1679, the Attorney-General filed a writ against him. Ranelagh ignored it using 'frivolous pretexts' and in 1680 he left Ireland for good. He came to the English court, moving into a house in Chiswick. He was certainly made welcome as he dined with the King

and the Duchess of Portsmouth in April 1681. At the time there was talk that one of his daughters was also a mistress of the King. He bought the post of Gentleman of the Bedchamber from the Duke of Sunderland for £6,000. The income from the post was £1,000 per year, and when he lost it on the death of Charles in 1685 he is recorded as bemoaning the loss he made on the deal.

In 1681, soon after he had arrived in England, an Order in Council was passed prohibiting further payments being made to him and a charge of £76,000 was made against Ranelagh and his partners for his pillage of the Irish finances. He sold his house in Chiswick and is said to have 'been without friends'. However having joined the party of the Earl of Rochester, the 1st Commissioner of the Treasury and a distant relation, he secured a suspension of the action against him, and gained a grant of £300 from the Irish revenue in lieu of the loss of income. In 1685 he entered the English Parliament as MP for Plymouth (as an Irish peer he could sit in the House of Commons). Between then and 1702 he was elected for Newport (Isle of Wight), Marlborough, Castle Rising and West Looe.

As noted above, Ranelagh's mother had moved to England and she lived at 83 Pall Mall until her death in 1691. His uncle, the eminent scientist Robert Boyle had come to England in 1668 and, when in London, he lived with Ranelagh's mother. Indeed he built a scientific laboratory in her house in 1676 and Sir Christopher Wren, Robert Hooke and other members of the Royal Society were regular visitors. That said, it is possible that there may have been some enmity between Wren and Ranelagh. Boyle whose loyal assistant was Ranelagh's former tutor, Oldenburg, was to have been President of the Royal Society in 1680 but in the event, he declared that he would not swear the required oath, apparently on religious grounds, and he was never appointed. Wren took his place and became President for two consecutive years – 1681 and 1682.

Treasurer of the Royal Hospital

On the 26th December 1685 and on the nomination of the Earl of Rochester, King James II appointed Ranelagh Paymaster General of the Guards and Garrison and exofficio Treasurer of the Royal Hospital. Although building work had started in 1682 it was still incomplete and Ranelagh became responsible for the management of the whole project and the maintenance of the accounts. Building work continued slowly and by the end of 1687 James II was pressing Ranelagh to make progress. The Earl reported in February 1688 outlining a long list of problems and causes for delay and the King came to inspect the work for himself. No speeding up appears to have resulted.

Despite having the Paymaster's accommodation in the Tilt Yard at the Palace of Westminster Ranelagh wanted a residence in Chelsea. As soon as they were completed in 1688, Ranelagh appropriated the Steward's apartments, located over the Great Kitchen. He re-titled them the Treasurer's lodgings and, despite subsequently building himself a house in the grounds, he kept them until 1702.

Throughout his reign King James endured growing opposition. His difficulties got worse in November 1688 when William of Orange landed at Torbay. James concentrated the army at Salisbury and Ranelagh followed him by coach with funds to pay the troops. In the event the army mainly deserted and James returned to London, soon making his escape to France. Ranelagh took full advantage of James's difficulties and appropriated £6,000 from army funds. When called to account he justified the costs as being reasonable for the effort incurred in going to Salisbury and for his looking after the building of the Royal Hospital. James's successor William III allowed him to keep the money.

King William III confirmed Ranelagh in his post in 1689. Many others, including Samuel Pepys, were dismissed. Indeed, Ranelagh was promoted and was responsible for preparing and submitting the Army Estimates to Parliament from 1689 to 1693. He seems to have been an able performer in Parliament. It was said that he could turn the humour of the House of Commons 'when they were being very severe'. He also asked for a salary rise to £3,000 per annum, which was approved.

By March 1690 King William was chasing up the opening date for the Royal Hospital. Ranelagh supplied another long report, with further reasons for delay. There is no doubt that Ranelagh enjoyed a substantial income from the building works. He controlled the furnishings account and took commission from the tradesmen that were employed. He was also indifferent to paying bills. Although Great Sweed Court (on the West side of the Hospital) was purchased from Lord Cheyne in 1687, the purchase price of £868. 19s was not paid until 1707. Despite the continuing delays he maintained King William's confidence and he was appointed to the Privy Council.

In 1691, as the building works neared completion, a Commission was established to take measures to carry out the purposes of the Royal Hospital. It was composed of Ranelagh, Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of the buildings, and Sir Stephen Fox, then a Commissioner of the Treasury and a leading supporter of the Royal Hospital project. They were to establish model rules for the institution, govern the Royal Hospital and to account for the cost of everything. Although the institution opened successfully in April 1692 the costs were anything but accounted for.

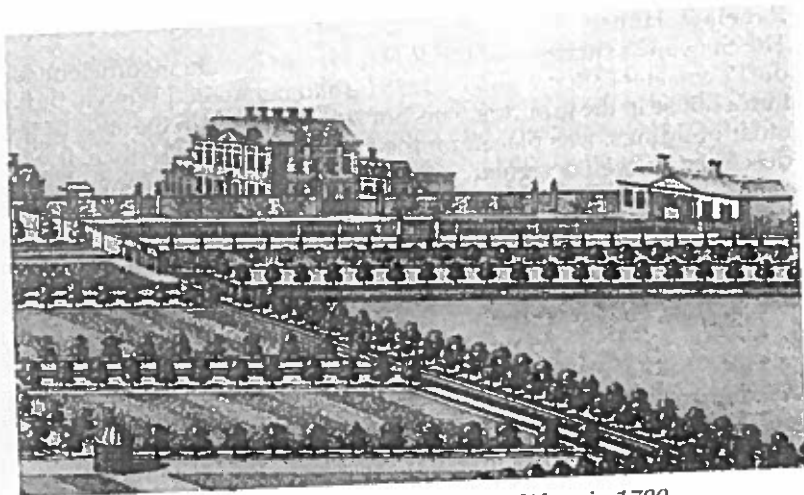
Ranelagh House

The Steward's quarters at the Royal Hospital were insufficient for the Paymaster General and by 1688 he had persuaded Wren to build him a house in the grounds. This house, which was in the style of the other buildings, was placed on the axis of the South Terrace. It was described as 'well designed ... not large but very convenient'. Daniel Defoe, in *A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, called it "A little palace ... almost a paradise". He noted that he was envied for his work 'but could not be censured because of its beauty'. The staircase was decorated by Henry Cooke and William Emmett provided the carving. The 'very fine' interior was in a style similar to that seen in the Council Chamber today, "all the rooms being wainscotted with Norway oak". The greenhouses and stables had an "air of grandeur not seen in many princes' palaces", according to John Bowack in his *Antiquities of Middlesex* in 1705. The grounds included a five-sided Dutch bar, a fully glazed greenhouse or orangery, a bathing house, aviary and summerhouse. There was a detached kitchen and laundry, a coach house and yard. All in all it was said by Bowack that "he spar'd neither Labour nor Cost".

It seems certain that the costs of the house were buried within the general costs of building the Royal Hospital itself. Accounts for the period include unallocated expenditure of £10,000. (The total cost of the land, building and furnishing of the whole of the Royal Hospital during this period was about £125,000.)

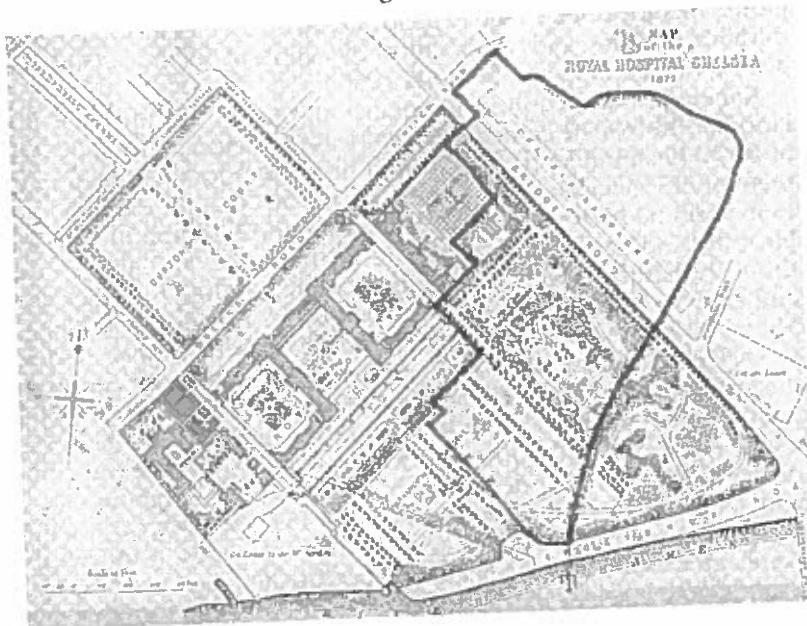
Ranelagh had acquired his mansion, but he did not own the landline. In 1690 he gained a 61-year lease on seven and a half acres of Royal Hospital land (that around his house) for an annual payment of £15 7s 6d as compensation for the fact that for the previous four years he had 'ye care of Overseeing and building of Chelsea Hospital and never rec'd any profit for the same' and also on the grounds that the land was not immediately required for other use, and anyway he had planted an orchard there. This deal was illegal. The Crown was not allowed to commit to leases of more than 30 years. However an official at the Treasury, William Jephson approved the proposal. This may not have been entirely unconnected with his own acquisition of a lease of land on the west side of the Hospital which was approved shortly afterwards. Ranelagh House was completed in March 1691 but Ranelagh continued to enlarge his estate with a further 15 acres of Hospital land in 1693 on a 58-year lease at a payment of £30 4s 6d per annum. The total land acquired by Ranelagh was 27 acres, 3 roods and 8 perches and it covered most of what is now Chelsea Barracks, the present Ranelagh Gardens and the East part of the South Grounds.

His first wife died in 1695 and soon after he married Margaret,



Above: Ranelagh House, built by Wren in 1700.

Below: A map of the Royal Hospital in 1872, showing the site of Ranelagh House.



daughter of the 3rd Earl of Salisbury and widow of John, Lord Stawell. There were no children from the marriage. In order to make a settlement on his second wife he proposed, in 1696, that all his Royal Hospital land should be held on a 99-year lease on payment of £5 per annum. This was approved; further plea followed in April 1697. As a result of the war in Ireland he claimed to have lost £12,000 in rent and the castles at Roscommon and Athlone were 'utterly ruined and destroyed'. His mansion in Dublin had also been pulled down. He asked for £500 per year from forfeited land in East and West Meath plus the holding of the estate at Chelsea in perpetuity. William III approved this proposal and added a further 5 acres of water meadow in the Manor of Ebury.

Ranelagh certainly appreciated fine living. It was said that he 'spent more money, built more houses, and laid out more household furniture and gardening than any other nobleman in England'. He also received many important visitors. Queen Mary dined there in March 1691 when King William was abroad, the King dined there on his return in April and Ranelagh used the occasion to seek a salary of £1 a day for his treasurership of the Royal Hospital. This was approved and backdated to 1685. King William is also recorded as dining at Ranelagh House later in his reign.

Ranelagh took great interest in his gardens. Bowack said "His genius this way is not only lofty, but very happy, as appears by his Gardens which are esteemed to be the best in England, the size considered". It was also written that 'perhaps his only redeeming feature was the unaffected pleasure he took in gardening'. The gardens were laid out by George London (who was responsible for Bushey Park, with Wren, and for Hampton Court) and Henry Wise (whose other work was at Blenheim Palace, Castle Howard, Chatsworth and Longleat). They were regarded as the premier garden designers of their time. The kitchen garden, also regarded as 'very fine', was laid out in 1694/95 by Philip Boffler. The grounds must have made an impression on the King, because in June 1700 he appointed Ranelagh Superintendent General of our Buildings and of our Works in our Parks.

Ranelagh clearly enjoyed the benefits of his wealth and status. Jonathan Swift described him, in a tone of disgust, as "Very fat, black and turned 60 years old". The Earl of Ailesbury wrote that "... he was a person who loved his ease and his belly, and sorts of Pleasures, and most profuse therein". Ranelagh House remained his principal residence until his death.

Despite all his plundering, Ranelagh did not forget the Royal Hospital. As early as 1695 he placed £3,250 in the hands of trustees for the use of the Hospital and by deed poll in 1707 directed that the

interest be used to purchase a new great coat for each pensioner every three years and to provide each pensioner a cash gift on Founder's Day. In 1700 he acquired a further estate. Cranbourne (near Windsor) was bought from Lord Lexington and he became the Ranger of Cranbourne Chase. He lavished much money on Cranbourne Lodge, a building that was praised by Jonathan Swift. Later, in 1709, he founded The Green School (after the colour of their uniforms) for 20 boys and 20 girls. Today this is The Ranelagh School in Bracknell.

Ranelagh's fall

The extent of his fraud was uncovered when, after the death of King William, a House of Commons Committee reviewed the state of the public accounts. Ranelagh argued that the accounts had been cleared and that all the money handled by him had been approved by King William in order to fund his wars. Nevertheless, the Committee found that much money had been misappropriated and that Ranelagh had been guilty of breach of privilege. In June 1702 he resigned as Paymaster General and in December he resigned the Parliamentary seat of West Looe to avoid facing an Inquiry into his conduct.

Despite these measures he was formally expelled from Parliament in 1703. It was alleged that he had misappropriated £904,138 of public funds and that there were serious discrepancies in the accounts which had been made up only until March 1692. He was convicted of 'defalcations' to the amount of £72,000 and an address was submitted to Queen Anne in March 1704 requesting that the Attorney General be allowed to prosecute him. But his continuing influence ensured that he was not prosecuted, and later the same year he was appointed one of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, a fund for the augmentation of the salaries of poor clergy.

The remainder of his life was spent untangling his affairs and writing begging letters to friends and influential officials while he 'laboured with a great many debts upon my back'. He died in January 1712. In an account of his death Swift wrote that he was "Very poor and needy, and could hardly support himself for want of a pension which used to be paid him, and which his friends solicited as a thing of perfect charity. He died hard, as the term is here used to express the woeful state of men who discover no religion at their death".

His legacy

After his death Ranelagh House came into the possession of Lady Catherine Jones, his unmarried daughter. Despite her father's misdeemeanours Lady Catherine seems to have survived on the family connections. King George I came, by barge, to dine in 1717 and

Handel's *Water Music* was performed on the occasion. (Apparently the King was so taken with the music that he had it performed three times each way during his journey.) Lady Catherine was a principal mover on the founding of the School for the Education of Poor Girls at the Royal Hospital for those whose fathers had been Pensioners. She lived at Ranelagh House until 1730, when, following an Act of Parliament, all Ranelagh's assets were vested in trustees and sold. She died in 1740.

The grounds were sold off in 10 lots in 1733 and the final accounts of the Royal Hospital (from 1699 to 1702) were closed in September 1737.

A wooden rotunda was built in the gardens. After its opening in 1742 it became a fashionable venue for public entertainment. It was used for concerts, masquerades and firework displays. The grounds were laid out with canals and water features, gazebos, groves and winding paths. One notable event was a performance by the eight-year-old Mozart in 1764. Eventually the pleasure gardens lost their appeal and they were closed in 1803. The buildings, including Ranelagh House, were pulled down in 1805 and the land sold for housing but the Royal Hospital repurchased some of this land in 1829 and laid it out for the benefit of the In-Pensioners. It is now part of Ranelagh Gardens. The land to the East of the Chelsea Bridge Road, now covered mainly by the Chelsea Barracks, was never recovered by the Hospital.

When Ranelagh died the Earldom became extinct and has not been revived. The viscounty remained dormant until 1759 when it was claimed by a distant relative of the Jones family. The Ranelagh legacy to the Royal Hospital did not fare much better. It was invested in the stock market and lost most of its value in the financial crash of the 'South Sea Bubble' of 1720.

The Man himself

How was Richard Jones viewed in his lifetime? He was certainly a supremely versatile character. He worked for four monarchs – Charles, James, William and Anne, each of a very different character, religion and politics and he seems to have satisfied all with his services. He was described by Thomas Carte in his *Life of Ormonde* as "a man of good partes, great wit, and very little religion: had a head turned for projects and was famed for intrigue, artful insinuating and designing, craving and greedy for money, yet at the same time profuse and lavish. He was full of jestes and repartees".

But perhaps the Irish Dean Swift should have the last word. He wrote that Ranelagh was "the vainest fool I ever saw".

Jon Nuttall is Head of Administration at the Royal Hospital.

Remembering Whistler

by Tom Pocock

James McNeill Whistler, an American, is often seen as the quintessential Chelsea artist. Certainly he immortalised the evening light on the river in his 'Nocturnes' long before there was light pollution. The centenary of his death at 74 Cheyne Walk in 1903 is to be commemorated by a statue overlooking the river nearby and it has already been marked by the restoration of his tomb at Chiswick.

Whistler and his wife, Beatrix, who died in 1896, were to have been buried at Chelsea Old Church, where his funeral took place, but there was no space in the churchyard, so the cemetery of St Nicholas's Church at Chiswick was chosen instead. Their imposing bronze tomb was designed and made by Beatrix Whistler's son by her first marriage to the architect E W Godwin, who had designed Whistler's White House in Tite Street. Edward Godwin first modelled the tomb and the four female figures that stood at each corner in clay from the Fulham Pottery at Onslow Studios in the King's Road and it was set up in the little grove of roses that had marked his wife's grave.

Sadly, bronze became valuable and, in the 1960s, all four figures were stolen. They were recast in bronze and, in 1996, replaced only to be stolen again that same night. Now they have been cast yet again in resin from the original moulds and again replaced. On 24 October 2003 the tomb was rededicated at a ceremony arranged by the Old Chiswick Protection Society, which had funded the restoration with the assistance of English Heritage; those present included members of the Whistler family. (See picture on p49)

At the conclusion, Professor Nigel Thorp, Director of the Centre for Whistler Studies at Glasgow University, gave an address in which he said of the artist, that "Chelsea was the place he saw, above all, as home". When the crowd retired to the church for tea, Whistler, that master of elegance and style received an unexpected tribute, a fly-past, as the last three Concordes roared overhead on their final, farewell return to Heathrow. The happy coincidence would surely have prompted an apt witticism from Whistler.



The Duke of York Square was opened on 19 March 2003 by HRH the Duke of York, seen here with Lord Cadogan.



The event was celebrated by a pageant which was, unfortunately, blocked from public view by the temporary BADA tent.



Celebrating the refurbishment of Dovehouse Green.



Police guard the plaque which marks the refurbishment of Dovehouse Green.



The Society's Summer Party at the new Petyt Hall at Chelsea Old Church.



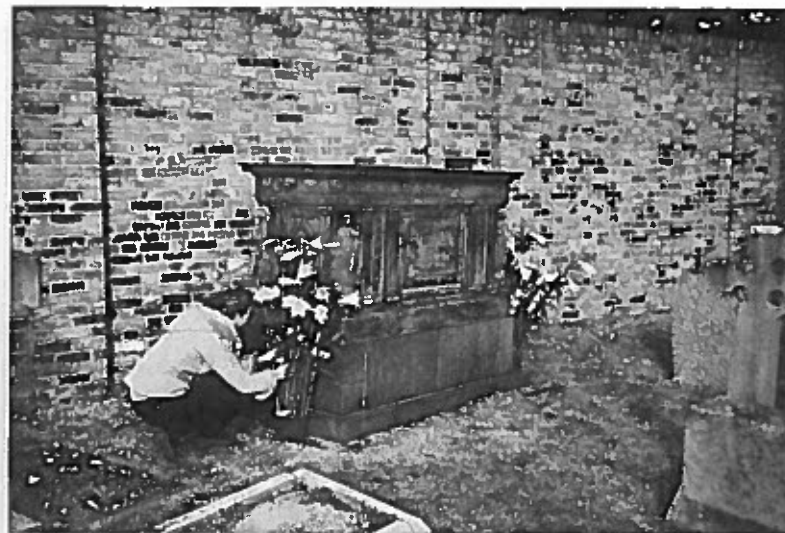
Making music. The Royal Hospital Band at the Mayor's Spring reception.



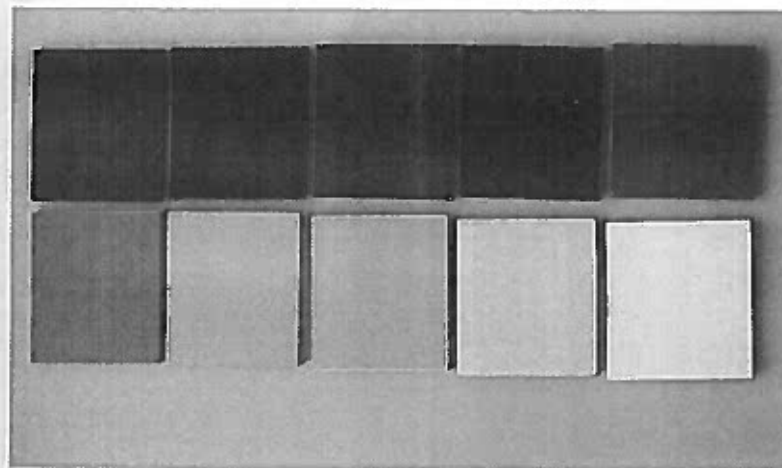
The tension mounts. Prize giving at the Local History Competition (see p.20).



Dramatic skies over Chelsea as Concorde flies into the sunset for the last time on Friday, 24 October 2003.



Nicole Whistler at Whistler's Tomb in Chiswick churchyard on 24 October 2003 (see p. 44)



*Colours likely to have been used on 19th-century Chelsea exteriors.
Top row: Mid-Brunswick green; Dark Brunswick green; Bronze green;
Dark Oak and Mid Oak.
Bottom row: Roman Cement; Bath Stone (mid); Bath Stone (light);
Portland Stone (mid) and Portland Stone (light).
(See pp 61-67)*



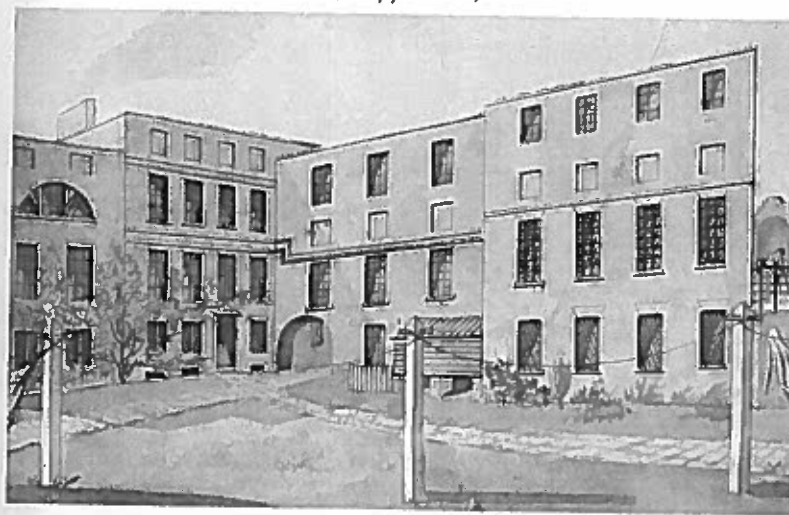
Onslow Square. Railings painted in Invisible green (see pp 61-67)



Copperas Wash and Purple Brown joinery in Battersea - early 1990s (see pp 61-67)



Entrance front of Shaftesbury House showing the wings of the 1760s. (see pp 53-59)



Garden front of Shaftesbury House showing the southern extension of the 1830s (see pp 53-59)



*Richard Jones (1641-1712), 3rd Earl of Ranelagh, oil on canvas.
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(See article pp 35-43)*

Shaftesbury House, Little Chelsea

by David Le Lay

Little Chelsea was situated on the Fulham Road, to the west of Park Walk, where the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital now stands. Before the eighteenth century the Fulham Road was the principal route to and from London that lay closest to the north bank of the Thames; it is therefore not surprising that clusters of development should have grown up along its course, rather in the way of what we would now call 'ribbon development'. As Little Chelsea straddled the Fulham Road, it was partly in the parish of Kensington and partly in Chelsea; in fact the earliest mention of 'Lytle Chelsey' is in the Kensington parish records of 1618.

Such settlements usually had some reason for their existence but in the case of Little Chelsea it is difficult to fathom this. It would, for example, have been more logical for a settlement to have sprung up where Old Church Street met the main road for this was the only road leading to the ancient riverside village of Chelsea, which became known as 'Great Chelsea' to differentiate it from Little Chelsea. It is possible that Little Chelsea, being 8km. (5 miles) from the centre of the City, grew up around a public house, coaching inn or some other place of refreshment or entertainment along the route from London, but historians are silent on this point. However, from what we do know, it seems that Little Chelsea in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was a rather grand sort of settlement for it included several substantial houses inhabited by the nobility. The building of Park Chapel, in Park Walk, in 1718 would have added to its air of respectability; but by the nineteenth century it rather went into decline with the building of the Hollywood Brewery and a workhouse on the site of what had been its principal mansion, Shaftesbury House.

Shaftesbury House is so-called after Anthony Ashley Cooper, the third Earl of Shaftesbury, who lived there from 1700-1706. He was born in 1671 and was evidently a brilliant scholar; by the time he went to Winchester School at the age of 12, he was fluent in Latin

and Greek. After just 3 years there he made a grand tour of France and Italy and he later spent time in Holland. In 1699, at the age of 28, he succeeded to the earldom and bought his house at Little Chelsea from the widow of Sir James Smith, a member of the Boevey family who had lived there since at least 1634.

He only lived at Chelsea when Parliament was sitting, no doubt spending the summer months at his country seat in Dorset. His politics were liberal; for example, he championed the right of soldiers to be legally represented at courts martial. His main interest was philosophy; Voltaire referred to him as "the boldest of English philosophers". He entertained the likes of Locke and Addison at Chelsea, where he had a magnificent library. Most of his writings were collected together in *The Characteristics of Men, Manners, Opinions and Time*. His literary style was declamatory and one of grace, if a little ponderous and pretentious; one critic once remarked 'in polishing the diâmond, he often diminishes its weight.'

One of his essays *The Moralists: a Philosophical Rhapsody*, published in 1709, was to have a profound influence upon English landscape design throughout the eighteenth century. William Kent was designing more 'natural' gardens as early as 1720 to be succeeded by Capability Brown, the master of what became known throughout Europe as the 'English Garden' style. The philosophical basis of this movement largely came from Shaftesbury. In *The Moralists* he wrote: "I shall no longer resist the passion growing in me for things of a natural kind, where neither art nor caprice of man has spoilt the genuine order by breaking in upon that primitive state. Even the rude rocks, the mossy caverns, the irregular unwrought grottoes and the broken falls of water, with all the horrid graces of wilderness itself, in representing nature more, will be the more engaging, and appear with a magnificence beyond the mockery of princely gardens". It was ideas such as this that influenced the whole future of English landscape design.

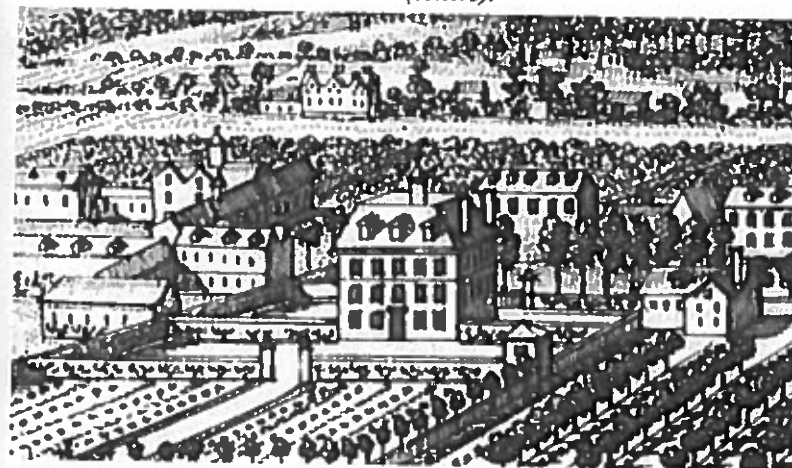
He did not enjoy good health and suffered from asthma, which he found was exacerbated by the pollution that blew over Chelsea from the City when the winds were easterly. Although easterly winds are not frequent, it was sufficient for him to seek refuge in Hampstead in 1706. He eventually sold his Chelsea house in 1710 and soon after, no doubt finding the air in Hampstead no better than Chelsea, he retired to Italy and died in Naples, a few days short of his 42nd birthday.

The Earl sold his Chelsea house to Narcissus Luttrell, another literary man, who also had a vast library, but by all accounts, one that was less discriminating than that of the Earl. He was also interested in horticulture and is said to have had 25 varieties of pears in his garden. The house passed, in 1740, to the Wynne family, also of a literary bent, but on the death, in 1784 of Edward Wynne, a bachelor, his brother, the Revd. Luttrell Wynne, sold that vast library accumulated by several generations at auction. He also sold Shaftesbury House itself, in 1787, to St George's, Hanover Square, for use as an additional workhouse for the poor of that parish. It remained as such until 1856 when it was demolished to make way for a new purpose-designed workhouse and in about 1876, with the acquisition of further land to the west, it became St Stephen's Hospital, which in turn was redeveloped in the twentieth century as the Chelsea and Westminster.

As is so often the case, historians give a confusing and often contradictory account of the history of Shaftesbury House. Fortunately there is much evidence, in the form of drawings and engravings at various stages of the building's history which, with a knowledge of architectural history and the aid of historic maps, make it possible to piece together a reasonably accurate picture.

The first piece of evidence is the famous view of Beaufort House drawn by Johannes Kip and engraved by Leonard Knyff which

Section of Kip's drawing of Beaufort House, showing Shaftesbury House (centre).



includes, in the top left hand corner, a view of the south side, or garden front, of Shaftesbury House. This shows a typical classical house of the period 1680-1700, roughly square, 5 bays by 5 bays, 3 principal storeys with a string course between first and second floors, a hipped roof with eaves cornice, 3 dormers on the south side, and no doubt on the north side as well, and surmounted by a central cupola. Similar to Stanley House, just a little further west, which is of the same period and still exists; except that Stanley House is of 2 principal storeys only.

Faulkner, probably Chelsea's most reliable historian, says that the Earl of Shaftesbury bought the property from the Boevey family in about 1699 and that he rebuilt it. As there had been inheritance feuds in the Boevey family from 1644 until 1698 it is unlikely that the house shown by Kip was built in that period. The Kip drawing was first published in 1707 though Randall Davies in his book on Chelsea Old Church, published in 1904, shows a version dated 1699, but the provenance of this version is unknown and the date looks as though it has been added. It therefore seems most likely that the fine house shown in the engraving is a new building erected by the Earl of Shaftesbury in the period 1698-1700.

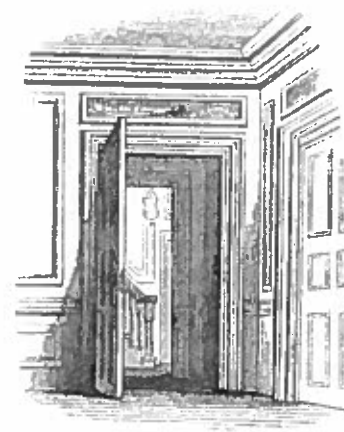
Later drawings, such as a pair of water-colours in Chelsea Library (see p. 51), reveal that the house was in fact split level in that its entrance front, facing the Fulham Road, appeared as two principal storeys only, the ground floor (which became the first floor on the garden front) being raised above ground level and approached by an impressive flight of steps to the front door. In addition, there was a further basement on the garden side with high-level windows, just above ground, which were evidently too slight for Kip to include them in his drawing.

The drawing does however show a glimpse of the fine walled gardens and one of the many classical garden buildings that adorned it. It is amazing that during all the time that the original house was used as a workhouse these garden buildings and the interior of the house, with its fine panelled rooms, including painted panels, remained largely unaltered. Amongst the interior views is one of a grotto room.

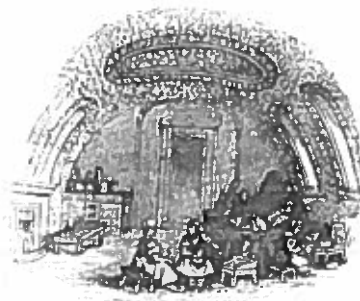
A major transformation of the building occurred in the second half of the eighteenth century, most likely around 1765 when Edward Wynne inherited the property. The whole of the hipped roof with its cupola, dormers and attics was removed and a parapet in panelled



Front entrance door as viewed through archway of entrance lodge.



Interior view showing panelling, painted overdoor panels and the main staircase beyond.



The grotto room



One of the original garden seat buildings.

brickwork added, behind which a new simple pitched roof was constructed. In addition, symmetrical wings were added to the east and west sides of the house, obliterating the windows on those elevations. These extensions, with their large semi-circular windows on both north and south elevations, are very much in the style of

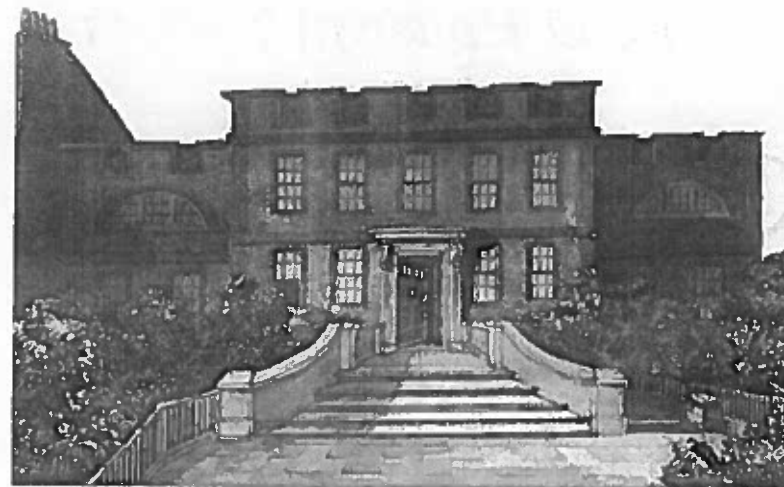
Robert Adam; indeed all the alterations carried out were intended to make the house more Italianate and therefore more 'modern'. The semi-circular windows would indicate that the rooms in the new wings at the principal ground floor level were much loftier than the rest of the house, with possibly vaulted ceilings and it is likely that these rooms extended the full depth of the building.

Another alteration was the building of symmetrical porters' lodges at the entrance from the Fulham Road with a central arch. This feature, which can be seen in an engraving of the building dated 1845, would have made for an especially dramatic approach to the house, with its front door being glimpsed through the iron gates. It is difficult to tell when this lodge building was added, other than it was before 1830; it is not however original, as Kip's drawing shows that there were originally wrought-iron railings along the frontage onto the Fulham Road.

With the advent of the nineteenth century and the explosion in London's population, there was growing pressure for more accommodation in the workhouse, so various extensions to the building were erected. The alterations and extensions made when the house was still in private hands were reasonably sympathetic, but those carried out by the Parish of St George Hanover Square had as much regard for the architectural qualities of the original house as their successors who built hospitals on this site had for the environment of Chelsea.

In the early 1830s a substantial extension was built in the rear garden on the south side of the house, being attached to the south-east corner and thus completely destroying the symmetry of the original building. This extension, originally two storeys only was increased to three storeys a few years later. Then finally, in about 1845 the 1760s west wing was demolished, to be replaced by a substantial new building, which with its pediment facing Fulham Road and its rooftop lantern, was handsome enough in itself but it completely dwarfed the original house.

What a shame that as one passes along the Fulham Road today, near the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, there is absolutely no indication of what was once here, and not just nothing of Shaftesbury House but no hint that this was once the centre of a fine and fashionable suburb called 'Little Chelsea'.



Entrance front of Shaftesbury House. Watercolour by Elizabeth Gulston, c1820.



Entrance front of Shaftesbury House in 1845, showing the arched entrance lodge and from left to right, the eastern wing added in the 1760s, the original house, the western wing (with pediment and roof lantern) added in the 1840s.

An Old House in Chelsea

by Tom Pocock

One of the prettiest 18th-century houses in Chelsea must be 34 Old Church Street. A double-fronted house in London stock brick, there used to be the name 'Carlyle's Retreat' and a painted wooden Highlander above the front door because it had once been the shop where Thomas Carlyle had bought tobacco for his clay churchwarden pipe. Both the name and the Highlander have disappeared and most of the large garden built upon, but the house has recently been restored and refurbished. During this work, the wooden fascias over the former shop-windows on the ground floor were removed to reveal lunette arches above both, which had originally been Venetian windows (see illustration). The fascias have now been replaced and one is left musing on the elegance of the little house had the original windows been restored.

Now, would English Heritage have insisted on the replacement of the fascias because they were in place when the house was listed, or would they have demanded that the windows be restored to their original Georgian design?



The Colour of Chelsea

by Patrick Baty

"The sashes are to be finished dark purple brown; the front door is to be painted green and to be twice varnished with the best copal..."

So reads a typical specification of the 1840s for a small terraced house of the type that can still be found in parts of Chelsea.

"...all the other painting is to be finished with such tints of stone colour or drab or often plain colours as the surveyor may direct."

Such a view of a sombre façade punctuated by dark voids can still be seen sixty years later in photographs of Edwardian street scenes. Further study of these black and white images reveals that, as the twentieth century progressed, more of the façade succumbed to paint and an increasingly lighter palette was adopted. Initially this was not so much fashion as an attempt to combat the efforts of soot and grime. Ironically, even after the Clean Air Act of 1956 the general tone has continued to lighten and Chelsea, together with much of London, is now awash with brilliant white paint.

Views that had remained little changed for upwards of two hundred years had gone. Almost no examples of the earlier conventions survive and when one does encounter an attempt to reintroduce the original subdued tonality it often looks contrived and out of place, surrounded as it is by its brutish successor.

This article sets out to show how the general appearance of the borough has changed over the years and how, if carefully and responsibly carried out, the relentless tide can be turned. (*In connection with this article please see the illustrations on pp 49-50.*)

The introductory quote shows how an impression of the past can be gained by a study of the written word. However, more specific information is obtained by a study of the buildings themselves. A number of tiny samples removed from representative elements of the façade and examined under the microscope can often yield a considerable amount of information. This includes the colour and type of paint first used, the changes that have taken place over the years, the frequency of decoration, and thus the overall appearance of the building during each decade. One can often pick up hints about the occupants' wealth and aspirations and, when combined with a study of surviving documentation, a remarkably full story

can frequently be told. This technique is far removed from the scratch and match methods often adopted by house-owners and their architects in the past, characterised by that spurious pseudo-science – the “paint scrape”.

Unlike large scale developments such as those in Regent’s Park, Belgravia and (further afield) Hove and the Edinburgh New Town, Chelsea has many varied building types and styles. A number of houses survive for the eighteenth century, but others date from the 1830s when the King’s Road ceased to be one of ‘The King’s Private Roads’ and passed into public control. Further speculative ventures from the middle and later years of the nineteenth century, and some for more recent times; have given the area its very mixed character. As a result it could be said that there is no typical Chelsea house. In order to provide a focus, however, this article shall concentrate on the smaller terraced house built from the end of the eighteenth century onwards.

Brickwork

The main colour of such a building was provided by the bricks, which in the earlier period would have had a distinct reddy-brown hue as opposed to the later creamy yellow of London stock bricks. Frequently, because of repair work, or the use of bricks of mixed quality, the colour varied. However, any unevenness could be corrected by the application of a translucent wash – usually composed of lime-water and iron oxide pigments. In later years soot was frequently used to help blend new with old. The effect was a subtle one and in spite of an added binder would have been worn away by rain over time. This was quite distinct from an opaque limewash.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the use of limewash can be seen in photographs. The purpose seems rarely to have been attention-seeking, merely to combat the effects of seventy years or so of soot and grime. The use of a limewash for purely aesthetic reasons was sufficiently unusual to have been recorded by A.R. Powys who describes the “excellent brickwork” of two “new buildings of the lesser sort” in Flood Street being successfully coated with it in the 1930s.

Both types of washes (opaque and translucent) had the advantage of allowing moisture to be taken in and released later as vapour without disrupting the coating unduly. However, once an impermeable paint was applied, whether an oil paint or a modern emulsion-type, it acted as a barrier that was seldom effective, often trapping water and flaking off. The application of paint to brickwork is almost impossible to reverse successfully. Once painted always painted. This fact seems little understood and year by year, in the relentless

quest to be as bright as the neighbours, more brick façades fall to the paint pot. As well as creating another maintenance problem, many terraces now have a gap-toothed appearance instead of presenting a uniform aspect.

The rot began in the early 1920s; however, at this time most house owners restricted their use of paint to the rendered ground floor area. Although many of the earlier buildings escaped attention from what the architect Augustus Pugin was later to call the “restless torrent of Roman-cement men”, the ground floor elevation of terraced houses was often rendered and frequently lined out in imitation of ashlar. This may well have been in response to John Gwynn’s encouragement to use natural stone or stone-like renders, especially on public buildings, in his book *London and Westminster Improved*, of 1766.

Render

In London, the use of stone in a domestic context is uncommon, however a number of early renders coloured and lined out to resemble stone were developed during the second half of the eighteenth century. Some of those were more successful than others; the original oil mastics of Liardet, as used by the Adam brothers for example, had a very poor reputation. Later proprietary products such as Roman cement, Parker’s cement and Dohl’s mastic were also used with varying degrees of success. These renders varied in tone and could be produced in a range of colours by employing different sands.

On larger houses in the West End it was not uncommon to see the front of the house rendered in a Bath stone colour while on the rear Portland stone might be imitated.

The introduction of Portland Cement in the first half of the nineteenth century, however, meant that corrective washes were not always necessary and façades were sometimes left unpainted initially.

Whether Mr G. Cox, the Chelsea plasterer who developed a product known as *Adamant Colour* or *Adamant Wash*, used much of it in his native borough is not known, but at the end of the century it was still being advertised for use on Portland or Roman cements. A range of colours could be obtained by using different pigments.

The render would have had a very realistic appearance when “executed with judgement, and finished with taste... and jointed to imitate well-bonded masonry” with “the divisions promiscuously touched with rich tints of umber and occasionally with vitriol”. Until very recent years a lone example of the mid-nineteenth century treatment of a façade survived in Battersea, just over the bridge from Chelsea. The house retained its original render and vitriol wash and, when illustrated in *Country Life* ten years ago, still displayed its purple brown windows and ironwork. However, seven years later the

windows had been replaced and brilliant white paint applied.

Whilst no doubt convincing, the problem with these renders was that even if they were to survive, being matt and rough-textured they would have acted as a magnet to air-borne dust. Indeed, there is a reference to one being in good physical condition after 45 years, but black with dirt. Furthermore, the rusticated detail on the ground floor prevented the rain washing the surface off evenly, leading to staining on the façade. Further problems became clear with these self-coloured materials and translucent finishes – patch repairs were very difficult to disguise, and uniformity increasingly difficult to maintain.

Many Victorians had strong feelings about the use of 'honest' materials. Pugin, for example, railed against "all the mechanical contrivances and inventions of the day, such as plastering, composition, *papier mâché*, and a host of other deceptions" which "only serve to degrade design." Even the author of a book on masonry, brickwork and plastering had this to say:

"When cement is used to cover the defects of a building, or to give the impression that it is some material other than what it is, its use is by no means legitimate."

Perhaps it was the combination of this feeling, and the increased blackening caused by atmospheric pollution of a smoky city that led to oil paint gradually replacing the ferruginous washes.

Although initially applied in stone colours of various sorts, once white paint had taken hold the inexorable drive to brilliant white continued – so much so that many painters today seem not to know that the less harsh option still exists. Certainly, their clients are rarely given the choice.

Windows

In terms of our representative Chelsea house the windows were, almost without exception, made of painted softwood. Their treatment has changed over time, but the permutations have been few. In the eighteenth century an oil paint consisting of white lead pigment ground into linseed oil was the normal coating applied. The colour that resulted from this combination was a creamy off-white. Indeed, as an acknowledgement that a true white was unobtainable, such a mix tended to be referred to as 'stone' colour in contemporary texts.

Surviving coloured designs from the end of the eighteenth century suggest that darker colours were occasionally employed, but I have seldom encountered them at this period during paint analysis. From the 1820s, however, painted imitations of wood, in particular

oak, came to be used on external joinery and these were invariably given a protective coating of gloss varnish. Although graining was a more expensive treatment than plain paint, the varnish ensured a longer life.

Graining was but one of a number of different options to be employed during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Unlike the painting of front doors, the treatment of windows seems to have been less prescriptive. Sample specifications, towards the end of the century, were suggesting that they be finished 'to choice', meaning either light, dark or grained. Stone colours of various shades were still in frequent use, but darker colours such as purple brown, chocolate, oak colour (brown having the tonality of that wood), drab and greens of various sorts could also have been used. Once again, early photographs show a range of different shades.

Doors

"The front door is to be finished green, and is to be twice varnished with the best copal varnish, and is also to have the number of the house painted thereon."

In spite of having been taken from the same early Victorian specification quoted before, it may well have been written at any time during the following eighty years. Even by the 1930s such a colour was still deemed suitable for the older property in Chelsea:

"Some of the old Queen Anne houses of Chelsea or Westminster are quite suitable for a green or quietly coloured door, but woe betide the Bayswater or Earl's Court house that tries it."

During this long period the type of green would vary. In the early years a rather murky colour would have been produced by adding a black pigment to yellow ochre. However, from the second quarter of the nineteenth century bronze greens and Brunswick greens became popular. The first group of colours was designed to suggest the green-brown of patinated bronze, while the second were brighter greens made possible by the recent introduction of the pigment chrome yellow.

If not painted green, front doors were often grained in imitation of oak. It seems that there was seldom an attempt to achieve a uniform appearance, one house with another, and that one might be grained while its neighbour was green. A watercolour of a group of houses in Woburn Place, London, made in *ca.* 1815, shows such a sequence of grained and green front doors. A number of brownish colours were also employed. These ranged from reddish-brown,

through browns of the same tonality of oak, to much darker chocolate browns. Neither the door case if there was one, nor the door surround would have been painted in the same colour as the front door – they would have matched the other external joinery or the window sashes.

As seen already, doors would often have had a glossy finish, which was achieved by applying two coats of copal varnish over the (already shiny) oil paint. The notion that a matt finish was desirable on external surfaces during the period is false and based on the tendency of lead paint to 'chalk' after only a few years. From an early date it was well understood that a paint with a degree of sheen was necessary to cope with everyday wear and tear and the rigours of the weather.

Railings

Two colours predominated on external ironwork in the early days – a grey known as *lead colour* and, rather curiously perhaps, *stone colour*.

"... the front area railing is to be finished green..."

The first appearance of green, when examining the stratigraphy of domestic railings in cross-section, usually indicates that the beginning of the nineteenth century has been reached in the sequence of layers. The greens employed were the same as those listed above. This change to green seems partly to have been influenced by the writings of Humphrey Repton, who felt that certain colours were more appropriate than others for the painting of iron. He describes this clearly, decrying the use of lead colour for its resemblance to an inferior metal, adding:

"...but if we wish it to resemble metal, and not appear of an inferior kind, a powdering of copper or gold dust on a green ground, makes a bronze, and perhaps it is the best colour of all ornamental rails of iron."

Invisible green was a favourite of Repton's, and was so named as it 'harmonizes with every object, and is a back-ground and foil to the foliage of fields, trees, and plants as also to flowers'. It was never just one colour but any dull green that worked well against a leafy background. In recent years it has been successfully reintroduced on the railings around the central gardens in Onslow Square.

Paint

The main constituent of the oil paints used until the 1960s was white lead, a pigment manufactured by corroding metallic lead. This was

ground with linseed oil to form a paste which, in turn, was made into a paint by the addition of more oil, turpentine and tinting pigments.

It is possible that much of the white lead used on our representative Chelsea house was actually produced in the borough. Only yards from the Chelsea Waterworks, in an area of market gardens near Chelsea Bridge and, at the end of the rather aptly named Turpentine Lane, were the white lead manufactories of Thomas Grace and of Joseph Freeman. Their products may have been available from a number of local oil and colourmen selling painting materials to the artist and house-painter alike, one of was H. Morrison at the corner of Danvers and Duke Streets. Just opposite, beside Alldins Coal Wharf, was a supplier of chalk, lime, and cement.

Postscript

As can be seen, once solid colour in paint replaced the earlier translucent washes on render the original intention of the architect had been lost. It became impossible to turn the clock back to the beginning, even if such a move were considered desirable. An appeal for the recreation of the past has not been the aim of this article; rather to describe what has been done at various times and to point out that there are alternatives to brilliant white and black. These might involve the use of off-white on window joinery and door surround; a green or brownish colour on doors; a stone colour on render and dark green railings. Hardly dramatic, merely quieter.

However, unless dealing with a detached house, any change to the present overall approach to colour would have to be co-ordinated with ones neighbours, and even discussed with the local Conservation Officer. It is all very well employing a more low-key colour scheme that reflects the traditional approach, but if ones house is the only one 'marching in step' the unity of the terrace may well be spoilt.

Perhaps the last word can be left to Humphrey Repton:

"There can hardly be produced a more striking example of the truth 'that whatever is cheap, is improper for decorations', than the garish ostentation of white paint."

Patrick Baty is a Director of Papers and Prints Ltd, 4 Park Walk, SW10.

Sir Edward Maufe

by Hugh Krall

Sir Edward Maufe lived at 139 Old Church Street, Chelsea, from 1920 to 1969. He was a life member of the Chelsea Society and served on the Council of the Society during 1959 and 1960.

Maufe was born on 12 December 1883 and died on his 91st birthday on 12 December 1974. He is best known as the architect of Guildford Cathedral (won in 1932 in a competition of 200 contestants) but was the designer of many churches, including the rebuilding after bombing of St. Columba, Pont Street.

In addition were the RAF Magna Carta memorial at Runnymede, work for the War Graves Commission (he was ADC to the General Officer Commanding the Royal Artillery XXI Corps in the 1914-18 war), private houses and theatres at Oxford (the Playhouse) and Cambridge (the Festival Theatre). He was Silver Medallist at the 1925 Paris Exhibition, elected ARA in 1938, awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 1944, made RA in 1947 and knighted in 1954. He was Vice-President of the Royal Institute of British Architects from 1939 to 1943.

As an architect member of the Society he contributed views on the fountain in Sloane Square and the internal arrangements during the rebuilding of Chelsea Old Church. Sir Edward Maufe had offices first at 23 Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn (1910), then at 3 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn (1919-1930).

He was married to Gladys Prudence Stutchbury, an interior decorator, and had one son.

In view of Maufe's eminence as an architect and his connections with the Society, one of our members suggested that a Blue Plaque might be attached to 139 Old Church Street. Following the Society's approach to English Heritage, the authority responsible for Blue Plaques, we have been informed that they have decided not to erect a plaque to Sir Edward Maufe on the grounds that other figures have already been commemorated, including W.R. Lethaby, Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir George Gilbert Scott and Philip Webb.

A Medal for Lesley Lewis

Reproduced below is an extract from the Antiquaries Journal for 2002, recording the award of a medal to Lesley Lewis, Chelsea Society Hon. Vice-President, for "outstanding services" to the Society of Antiquaries.

Our second medallist, Lesley Lewis, became a Fellow in 1964, and is a well-known figure in Burlington House, being a faithful attendee at the Thursday lectures. But not all may know what an interesting career she has had. She was educated at home, and then led a sociable life, until an interest in the history of art prompted her to take university entrance through a correspondence course – and she entered the Courtauld Institute as one of the first four undergraduates in 1932. Her BA and subsequent MA established a life-long interest in eighteenth-century architecture, and she has, over the years, published papers in the *Warburg Journal*, *Apollo* and *The Burlington Magazine*. In addition to her published work on eighteenth-century Commemorative Monuments in Jamaica, in 1962 Lesley published a book intriguingly entitled *Connoisseurs and Secret Agents in Eighteenth-century Rome*.

Before her marriage to the entomologist David Lewis in 1944, she had worked for a short time as a clerk in her family's firm of solicitors. This acquaintance with the law no doubt prompted her to undertake a second degree in quite exotic circumstances. Her husband had been posted to the Sudan Medical Service. As she trekked with her husband in the remote areas of the bush, it was difficult to pursue art history and so she read for the Bar by correspondence, and was called to the Bar in 1956. Lesley is thus one of the Society's three barristers, and although she did not practise, she prizes the association with the Inns of Court, as do we also. She has, however, continued to develop her architectural and art-historical interests and has given much public service, being a Trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum and a doughty fighter and raiser of money for matters concerning Chelsea, especially the Old Church and pictures of Sir Thomas More.

Lesley has served the Society with unswerving generosity: she was on Council in the 1960s, was a Vice-President from 1980 to 1984 and (as those of you who read your Annual Reports will know from the regular acknowledgements) she has provided good advice and support to the Morris Committee, which gives grants to churches. She is happily at home in the Society as she proved when she celebrated her 90th birthday on our premises in March 1999. This event (with its jugglers and stilt-walkers) has already passed into legend.

The spirit of adventure that she showed in her travels with her husband has stayed with her until today, and it would be difficult to find amongst our Fellowship anyone who, in a long life, has so well fulfilled the spirit of the original Antiquarians. Lesley Lewis is an example to us all.

Book Review

The Chelsea Book, Past and Present, by John Richardson
128pp, £14.50, ISBN 0 948667 89 3

John Richardson's publishing house, Historical Publications, has produced some fifty books on London local history in its 'Past' series. Barbara Denny's *Chelsea Past* came out in 1996 and is one of the few books on Chelsea still in print. Now John Richardson has written *The Chelsea Book* which fills a large gap. In alphabetical order, accompanied by photographs both old and new, he gives succinct and interesting descriptions of Chelsea's buildings and notables from Argyll House to World's End Tavern, from Adam and Eve (did they live in Chelsea too?) to Count Zinzendorf. It is tempting to look for errors and omissions in this sort of encyclopaedic work – no mention of the wartime bombing of Sloane Square station, for instance; Mrs Patrick Campbell was affectionately known as 'Mrs Pat' not 'Mrs Patrick' and Sybil Colefax was Lady Colefax not Lady Sybil.

The pleasure of *The Chelsea Book* is that it is bang up to date – even the new Duke of York Square has an entry. It will be an invaluable reference book. Here is the answer to why Dovehouse Street and Cale Street are so named. And did you know that Arnold Bennett wrote *Riceyman Steps* while living in Cadogan Square? Once you start dipping into the index you can't stop – and unlike most reference books it's light enough to put in your pocket.

Jane Dorrell

Apologies

First, to Russell Burlingham for both misspelling his name and mistitling his article about his memories of the King's Road in the 2002 Report, and second to our founder, Reginald Blunt, author of the parody 'Flat-Irony'. Both his name and the date of the original publication (1938) were inadvertently omitted from the final proof.

J.D.

Leo Bernard

Leo Bernard, who died on 14 September 2003, aged 78, was, together with his wife Philippa, a Chelsea institution. As an antiquarian bookseller he was internationally renowned and as a shopkeeper in the King's Road he was a pillar of the community. His Christmas parties gathered together much of the Chelsea intelligentsia, a breed that would be recognised in the Chelsea Society but not, perhaps, by the recent television series, *Chelsea Tales*.

In 1973, he opened Chelsea Rare Books, near the Beaufort Street crossroads and, with Philippa, presided over it for a quarter of a century. Leo was as happy selling a not-too-rare second-hand book in the front of the shop as conducting an intellectual, literary conversation over a first edition at his desk at the back. When Madame Imelda Marcos of the Philippines impulsively bought his whole display of rare books – doubtless for decorative purposes – he mourned their loss.

Leo's father was a tailor in Cricklewood and a close friend of two distinguished booksellers in Charing Cross Road. Leo never went to university and during the Second World War joined the Royal Marines; his stalwart build perhaps a legacy of his time as a commando in his late teens. His civilian career began in publishing and advertising and he did not become a full-time bookseller until the year he came to Chelsea. Soon, however, he became a leading light in the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association (and also a pillar of the Westminster Synagogue, where he sometimes preached), showing himself an innovator and a natural leader.

He and Philippa published a number of short books, including a guide to Chelsea and a book of architectural photographs by the local electrician Bill Figg.

Finally, huge increases in rent and tax meant the end of Chelsea Rare Books, like so many other treasured shops in the King's Road and the Bernards continued their business from their home in Barnet. Shortly before he died, he wrote a sermon for the synagogue, which was read by Philippa to the congregation that mourned him.

Tom Pocock

The Treasurer's Report

In my report made last year I warned that it had become likely that we would have to change the Society's accounting date to 30 June and this warning has now become a reality. The 30 June date will make it possible to have your approval to the accounts and to be able to deliver them to the Charity Commission for filing all within the laid down time limits.

Of course an extended accounting period for over one year leads to anomalies in comparing one year with another but if you could kindly use your mental arithmetic skills to take two thirds of the new figures you will achieve a rough comparison.

On the income side subscriptions show an even greater increase because it was on 1 January 2002 that we implemented the subscription increase. We shall continue to ask for your annual subscriptions on 1 January each year but will then apportion one half to the successor year. We were lucky to receive two substantial one off donations and we were also able to increase the advertising income from the Annual Report thanks to the efforts of Leonard Holdsworth. Obviously our interest received fell as a result of the global reduction in interest rates.

In April 2002 we had the very special occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Society celebrated by a dinner held in the splendid Great Hall of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. This was at a small loss, as was the result of the combined meetings, lectures and events, which were all very popular in their different ways. However our biggest item of expenditure was the cost of making the Society's promotional video at £6,449. So far we have sold videos to the value of £268. Obviously we shall go on selling them, albeit at a fairly small pace but it is a useful aid in our continual drive for new members.

On the expense side, the cost of our Annual Report was greater as the Hon. Editor produced a very special edition for our 75th birthday. We expect this cost to reduce in 2003. On the other hand we have permanently upgraded the quality of the newsletter and this has been much appreciated.

Apart from the cost of making the video these accounts include the cost of the prizes for the first two years of the schools' local history competition founded by the Society. Also the cost of advertising the Society in two local Festival publications for the first time.

The Balance Sheet reflects the deficit for the year of £3,738. This strangely enough will please the Charity Commission for it much prefers a charity to be seen to using its reserves for the benefit of its members and not simply hoarding increased reserves! Accumulated Funds stood at £28,094 at 29 June 2003.

My lord President, I beg to present my report and accounts for the eighteen months ended 30 June 2003.

Ian 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 30 June 2003. The Society has changed its accounting date this year in order that the period covered by the accounts presented at the Annual General Meeting in November each year is more relevant to that meeting. Future accounts will be presented for each year ended 30 June.

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)
Samantha Wyndham (Hon. Secretary)
Ian Frazer FCA (Hon. Treasurer)
Terence Bendixson (Hon. Secretary, Planning)
Patricia Sargent (Hon. Secretary, Membership)
Valerie Hamami-Thomas (Hon. Secretary, Events)
Jane Dorrell (Hon. Editor)

Other Members of the Council

Michael Bach BSc, MSc, MS
Richard Ballerand BSc
Patricia Burr
Stuart Corbyn FRICS
Dr Serena Davidson
David Foord FRICS
Leonard Holdsworth
Sarah Jackson
Stephen Kingsley
Dr Paul Knapman FRCP, FRCS, DMJ
Hugh Krall
Nicola Lyon
Tom Pocock
R Alexander Porter
David Sagar
Jonathan Wheeler MA, BSc, FRICS
Helen Wright

Review of the year's activities and achievements

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

Review of the Accounts

At 30 June 2003, the Society has total funds of £28,094, comprising £16,274 on the General Fund and £11,820 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 22 September 2003.

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 eighteen months ended 30 June 2003, which are set out on pages 75 and 76.

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
7 November 2003

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

	18 months ended 30 June 2003	Year ended 31 Dec 2001
Income and Expenditure		
Incoming resources		
Annual membership subscriptions	20,734	8,660
Donations received	1,150	140
Advertising revenue from annual report	1,755	800
Interest received on General Funds	369	871
Interest received on Life Membership Fund	344	472
Income from the 75th Anniversary Dinner	11,700	—
Income from lectures, meetings and visits	10,231	7,260
Income from sale of Christmas cards and postcards	3,439	1,271
Income from sale of promotional videos	268	—
Total incoming resources	49,990	19,474
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure:		
Cost of annual report	6,911	4,945
Cost of newsletters	4,959	1,579
Cost of lectures, meetings and visits	11,589	6,436
Cost of Christmas cards and postcards	3,369	787
Subscriptions to other organisations	508	136
Cost of setting up and maintaining the website	24	2,020
Cost of the 75th Anniversary Dinner	12,775	—
Cost of producing the promotional video	6,449	—
Costs re the Society's Exhibition at the Chelsea Festival	464	—
Prizes for Schools' local history competition (two years)	760	—
Advertising in local Festival programmes	786	—
	48,594	15,903
Other expenditure:		
Management and administration of the charity:		
Stationery, postage and miscellaneous expenses	3,267	1,806
Cost of annual general meeting	182	132
Insurance (two years)	1,186	578
Independent examiner's fee	499	499
	5,134	3,015
Total resources expended	53,728	18,918
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the period	(3,738)	556
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2002	31,832	31,276
Balances carried forward at 30 June 2003	£28,094	£31,832

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2003

	30 June 2003	31 Dec 2001
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,763	1,455
Balance in National Savings Bank account	11,820	11,476
Balance on bank current and deposit accounts	27,452	30,704
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41,035	43,635
Less Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,941	11,803
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£28,094	£31,832
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds:		
General Funds	16,274	20,356
Life Membership Fund	11,820	11,476
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£28,094	£31,832
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Approved by the Council of The Chelsea Society on 22 September 2003.

D. R. Le Lay, *Chairman*

I.W. Frazer, *Honorary Treasurer*

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost basis of accounting, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting & Reporting by Charities, and applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Incoming Resources

Membership subscriptions, advertising revenue, and income from events and the sale of Christmas cards are time-apportioned and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in respect of which they are receivable.

Donations are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, unless they relate to specific future projects.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

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

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

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An asterisk denotes a life member. The Hon. Membership Secretary should be informed of correction or changes in name, address or title.

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