



# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

*During 2016, the Chelsea Society said a sad farewell to several longstanding members. Indeed, as this edition of the Annual Report went to press, news arrived of the death of former Chairman, David Le Lay. A tireless champion to preserve what is best locally, and an authority on the Victorian artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler, his knowledge, wisdom and wit will be missed. A tribute to him will appear in next year's Report.*

*Many members will also have been saddened by the passing of Stephen Schick, a gentle man of great good humour and slight but endearing eccentricity. For many years, he lived in Oscar Wilde's house in Tite Street. Bemoaning the deluge of junk mail he was receiving, one day Stephen announced that even the former owner was not immune from the nuisance. A letter had just arrived for Mr O Wilde, informing the writer of De Profundis that he was eligible to take part in a prize draw and was on the verge of winning a Ford Mondeo ... The story appeared in a national paper's diary column and then captured the global imagination, with Stephen being interviewed by television crews from around the world.*

*The Annual Report is not just a record of the Chelsea Society's year but seeks to capture glimpses of what – and who – have in the past helped to make Chelsea the place it is today. The cover image, The Hall, Argyll House – Summer's Day by Sir John Lavery, features society hostess and decorator Sibyl Colefax, whose salon is described by writer Siân Evans. Also included is Wilde's poem Impression du Matin, which is said to have been inspired by Whistler's paintings of Chelsea's riverside.*

Sarah Ingham, Editor

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

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

*Founded by Reginald Blunt in 1927  
to protect the interests of all who live and work here and to  
preserve and enhance the unique character of Chelsea*

[www.chelseasociety.org.uk](http://www.chelseasociety.org.uk)

### *President*

JOHN SIMPSON, CBE

### *Vice-Presidents*

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA  
THE RT HON. THE EARL CADOGAN, KBE, DL  
THE RT HON. GREG HANDS, MP

### *Hon. Vice-President*

DAVID LE LAY

### *Council*

*Chairman:* DAMIAN GREENISH  
*Vice-Chairman:* SARAH FARRUGIA

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MICHAEL BACII  
MARTYN BAKER  
PATRICK BATY  
TERENCE BENDIXSON  
GILLIAN BEST  
JOHN DONCASTER  
JANE DORRELL  
LEONARD HOLDSWORTH  
CAMILLA MOUNTAIN  
NICEL STENHOUSE  
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### *Hon. Secretary*

JENNIFER GROSSMAN

### *Hon. Treasurer*

MICHAEL ILLINGWORTH FCA

### *Chairman Planning Committee*

MICHAEL STEPHEN

### *Hon. Secretary (Membership)*

ALLAN KELLY

### *Hon. Secretary (Events)*

PAULETTE CRAXFORD

### *Hon. Editor*

DR SARAH INGHAM

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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Registered Charity 276264

## Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Society held on Monday, 21st November 2016 at Chelsea Old Town Hall

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the President, John Simpson CBE, and the Secretary, Jennifer Grossman. In the absence of the President, the chair was taken at 6.30pm by the Chairman of Council, Damian Greenish.

The meeting was attended by more than 100 members.

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM held on 23 November 2015 had been published in the *Annual Report 2015*, and were approved.

### **Elections**

1. The following Members were elected to serve on the Council of the Society: Chris Lenon, Sir Paul Lever, Amalia Cebreiro.
2. The following Members were re-elected to serve on the Council of the Society: Terence Bendixson, Fleur de Villiers, John Doncaster.

### **Constitution**

The Chairman proposed that a new Constitution be adopted to replace the existing Constitution in its entirety. He referred to the draft new Constitution and his explanatory notes which had been placed on the Society's website on 7 November. Copies were also available at the meeting.

He drew attention to the two major changes which were (a) to allow 30 Members to request the Council to hold a consultation of all the members on any issue which falls within the Objects of the Society, and (b) to raise to 50 the number of Members required in order to request the Council to call a Special General Meeting.

The Chairman said that in his view there was no need to specify a quorum for General Meetings or Council Meetings but this could be considered and included in the Constitution at the next AGM if thought fit.

A question was asked on the inclusion of a new category for corporate members. The Chairman said that this was to encourage local businesses to participate in the work of the Society.

A question was asked on why 30 members, and not a percentage of total membership, had been specified for requesting a consultation. The Chairman

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

explained that it was simpler to specify a number than for the Membership Secretary to have to certify the number of members as at a particular date.

The Vice-Chairman seconded the proposal to adopt the new Constitution, and it was adopted by the requisite two-thirds majority of Members present and voting.

### Accounts

The Treasurer presented the Society's Accounts for 2015/16, which had been placed on the website: copies were also available at the meeting. He was questioned about the financing of the Royal Chelsea Exhibition.

He said that the Society currently had reserves of approx. £40,000, which in his opinion was not excessive.

He thanked Paul Nicholson for his service to the Society as interim Treasurer.

### Annual Report

The Chairman presented his Annual Report, which will be published in full on the website and in the Society's *Annual Report* which will be sent to all Members.

### Retirement of Chairman

At the conclusion of his report the Chairman announced that he was retiring as Chairman, having served since April 2012. He then introduced Dr. James Thompson, who had been appointed by the Council as its new Chairman.

Dr. Thompson proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman and presented him with a book token. He also announced that in recognition of his outstanding service to the Society, the Council had decided unanimously to appoint Damian Greenish as a Vice-President of the Society.

### Any Other Business

Diana Pelham-Burn said how much she enjoyed the social events and lectures which the Society provided for its Members. Dr. Thompson said that these would certainly continue.

Michael Stephen, Chairman of the Planning Committee, answered questions about the Queen's Head pub in Tryon Street and the moorings at Chelsea Reach and Cadogan Pier. In addition, details were given about Le Colombier restaurant in Dovehouse Street being designated an Asset of Community Value.

Ian Henderson, representing the Tenants' Association of the Sutton Estate, thanked the Society for its support.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

## Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting of The Chelsea Society held on 21st November 2016 at Chelsea Old Town Hall

Mr President, Vice-Presidents, Members of the Council, Members of the Society and honoured guests, it is my pleasurable duty under terms of our Constitution to report to you on the affairs of the Society in what has been another very full and active year.

I would like to start by thanking the Members of Council for the tireless work that they have contributed to the Society. This year there has been quite a number of changes to the membership of Council and it is right that I should start by mentioning those, particularly welcoming our new members and saying a few words about the contributions made to our work by those who have retired. I am delighted that Terence Bendixson, Fleur de Villiers and John Doncaster have all been re-elected. Earlier this year, Council co-opted Sir Paul Lever and Amalia Cebreiro on the basis that each of them has a unique contribution to make to our work. Sir Paul had a long and distinguished career in the public service and has lived in Chelsea since 1993. He is actively involved in his local residents' association. Amalia has lived on the Cremorne Estate for a number of years and has been very active in campaigns to preserve that Estate and its community. It is important that all parts of Chelsea should be properly represented on Council. I am also delighted to welcome Chris Lenon as a new Member of Council. He has been at the forefront of the campaign to oppose Crossrail2 passing through Chelsea. Both Sir Paul and Chris are already members of the Society's planning committee.

Council has appointed Jennifer Grossman as the Chelsea Society's new Secretary and Michael Illingworth FCA as Treasurer. Jennifer lives in Chelsea and is a prominent campaigner in the fight to preserve its unique character. Michael has wide experience in managing the finances of private companies, housing and hospital trusts and other bodies: most recently he has been working for St Luke's Church, Chelsea. Dr Sarah Ingham has been appointed Editor for the *Annual Report*.

Several Members of Council have stood down during the year and it is right that I should pay tribute to the work they have done.

Sarah Farrugia was Vice-Chairman of the Council having previously been

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

its Secretary. She has made an invaluable contribution to the modernisation of the Society, particularly through her work on the website, our embrace of social media and through the introduction of discussion groups as a means of enabling the Society to gauge the views of all Chelsea stakeholders. She remains deeply committed to the Chelsea community and will I know continue to contribute to that in other ways.

After more than eight years of organising the Society's events, Paulette Craxford has also decided that it is time to stand down. She has been a remarkable servant of the Society during her time with us. The series of events she oversaw has done a great deal towards fulfilling one of the Society's primary objectives – stimulating an interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea. Lectures, walks, visits and of course the summer meeting have all been within her remit and she has worked tirelessly to ensure that each and every event is a success.



*A photograph by Paulette Craxford at the exhibition of Hugh Krall's depictions of Thameside Chelsea. The artist is seen here (right) with Malcolm Burr.*

Camilla Mountain was a member of Council for only a relatively short period but during that time she has made a remarkable contribution to our work. Having assisted with the Exhibition on Chelsea and World War I in 2014, this year she took on complete responsibility for organising our Exhibition entitled *Royal Chelsea*, which was a phenomenal success. In addition, she has undertaken an enormous amount of work in sorting out the Society's archives and has generally fielded many enquiries and questions from those who have shown interest in the history and traditions of Chelsea.

Gillian Best also stood down as a Member of Council. We are particularly appreciative of her fine work, *The History of Social Housing in Chelsea*, a copy of which can be found on the Society's website. This work helps to demonstrate the importance of retaining the unique social mix of Chelsea, which is such an important element of its character.

One of the saddest moments of the year was having to report the death of Leonard Holdsworth. For me, he epitomised the true 'Man of Chelsea'. He was born here, primarily educated here, married here and lived most of his life here. He was a Member of Council for some twenty years and as such he

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

never held back in expressing his heartfelt views about Chelsea. He was not one to compromise in his enjoyment of the finer things in life, proudly calling himself the last of the true champagne socialists of Chelsea. Quite simply he is irreplaceable and I will miss him enormously. He was a particularly impressive fundraiser. He was inclined to take out a potential sponsor for a long and very boozy lunch at his local before reminding his guest how much he had pledged to the Society. Most recipients of his hospitality were in no position to recall what they had pledged and simply accepted what he said. Chelsea has lost a great champion.

In short, I would like to thank the new Members of Council for agreeing to serve and the retired Members for their considerable contributions to our work.

Chelsea is never static – indeed part of its charm is its vibrancy. As ever, we have had a full and active year. That is particularly true for our Planning Committee; no part of Chelsea seems to have escaped difficult or controversial issues. A quick visit to our website will give you a very clear indication of how much work the Planning Committee does and the breadth and depth of the issues that it is required to consider.

The issue of Crossrail2 has of course dominated our lives over the last couple of years and will continue to do so for the immediate future. At the AGM last year, the Society passed a resolution stating it opposed the plans to build the Crossrail station and route in Chelsea, which was subsequently adopted by Council. The Society's position is that it opposes a Crossrail station within

and/or the construction of an underground Crossrail line beneath Chelsea. During the course of the year we have continued to put forward this case to those whom we believe will have influence over the final decision. In particular we have exchanged correspondence with TfL, the Secretary of State, The Mayor's Office, the GLA and others. Meetings have been more difficult to procure but we were able to meet with GLA member,



*Protest March in King's Road.  
Photo: No Crossrail in Chelsea.*

Councillor Tony Devenish. Although the Government has indicated its support for major infrastructure projects, there is concern over costs. In particular, Crossrail2 has been asked to find ways to make savings. The Society believes that a material contribution to such savings can be achieved

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by not bringing Crossrail to Chelsea. At present TfL are preparing an updated business case and a robust funding plan before proceeding further with public consultation; it is unlikely therefore that we will hear very much more until next summer.

The Lots Road area seems to resemble one large building site, with large developments taking place on both sides of the Chelsea-Fulham border. The Society has continued to try to ensure that these developments provide homes and work for the local community, while maintaining an acceptable visual landscape. A little further north, the proposed development of Chelsea football ground, although primarily within Fulham, is another project which is likely to have a significant impact on West Chelsea. Martyn Baker works tirelessly to ensure that the Society's voice is heard in this part of Chelsea.

The redevelopment of the Sutton Estate in Cale Street is another major planning issue, going to the heart of the Society's policy to maintain mixed community housing in Chelsea. The Society opposes the proposed development by Sutton primarily on the grounds that the current proposal fails to provide a sufficient quantity of affordable housing and does not produce new buildings of sufficient quality to justify the demolition of the existing Estate. I am glad to report that RBK&C has taken a similar view and Sutton's planning application has been turned down.

The loss of pubs is never far from our agenda with the Queen's Head in Tryon Street again coming under threat. The Society has had a policy for many years of resisting the loss of pubs (and indeed shops, restaurants and similar amenities enjoyed by the local community) and will continue to fight for their retention.

The proposals for the Brompton Hospital have also progressed during the course of the year and representatives of the Society have attended meetings of the liaison group to make comments and recommendations as regards to those proposals. We will continue to do so.

The sale of Thamesbrook is another issue where the Committee has been very involved to ensure that a residential care home is retained on the site. In addition, the Society has sought undertakings from RBK&C that the proceeds of any sale would be used to provide care in Chelsea for people who can no longer afford to live in the redeveloped Thamesbrook.

The Society continues to make representations on major policy issues, including congestion charging, residents' parking, the privatisation of planning, Article 4 directives, changes of use, cycle ways, construction traffic management and basement development policy. We are involved in revisions

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

to local plans and amendments to conservation area policies. Generally, we cannot involve ourselves in individual cases: we do so where we consider that they have a wider impact on the amenities of Chelsea; for example, the extended opening hours for the King's Road McDonalds, the threat to the very existence of the Sketch Club and the future of Riley's Pub.

A full and detailed assessment of all the issues that we deal with can be found on our website. If Members have any comments or questions on the work that we do (or perhaps the work that we don't do but you think that we should), I know that Planning Committee Chairman Michael Stephen would be delighted to hear from you. It only remains for me to thank Michael and his committee for all their hard work and dedication.

Before I leave planning issues I would just like to mention the meeting that the Society arranged for the Chelsea Residents' Associations to have an opportunity to put questions to local politicians. The meeting was held at Chelsea Old Town Hall a fortnight ago and was attended by more than a hundred people, representing many of the Residents' Associations of Chelsea. The guest speakers were Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown, leader of the Council of RBK&C, GLA member Councillor Tony Devenish, and Councillor Tim Coleridge, the cabinet member at RBK&C for planning and transport. A full report of the meeting is on our website. It was a great success and provided an excellent opportunity for Residents' Associations to be able to raise issues of local concern with local government representatives.

Once again, I would like to thank our Membership Secretary, Allan Kelly, for all his work during the year. Our membership continues to rise which is a remarkable achievement for a local amenity society. That is due in no small part to the work that Allan does. I would also like to thank Michael Bach for the production of our newsletters; again copies appear on our website. We are incidentally hoping that over time we can increasingly move towards electronic rather than paper communications as our primary means of communication with Members. It is very expensive for us to produce and post paper copies.

I will briefly mention again if I may Sarah Farrugia who produced last year's *Annual Report* and to thank her. I know that the new Editor will be happy to receive suggestions from Members for articles and other contributions.

As a charitable body we are very conscious of cost and want as much as possible of our funds to be used for charitable rather than administrative purposes. In fact, the accounts show that we are remarkably efficient at keeping down our administrative costs but we can always do better. We have a number of kind and very generous sponsors without whom some of

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

the Society's activities simply could not take place. We also have people who are kind enough to advertise in our *Annual Report* and that goes a long way towards meeting our costs. We will shortly be writing to a number of local businesses and others to seek financial support for this year's production. So I do ask you as Members that if any of you want to advertise in the *Annual Report* or have any suggestions as to anyone else we can approach to help us meet the cost of producing it, please inform the Editor. Anything, however small, is immensely appreciated.

As usual, we have enjoyed a very full programme of events, lectures and visits. At the beginning of February, our Honorary Vice-President David Le Lay presented a lecture, *Five Things Whistler Did for Artists*. Whistler was not just one of the most outstanding painters of the 19th century, he was also an important figure in the development of art and its place in society. He believed that art – how it was valued and the way it was displayed – was both crucial and central to any civilisation and he campaigned for this throughout his life. A few weeks later, Chelsea Arts Club Secretary Geoffrey Matthews gave a talk on this great Chelsea institution. It is an iconic part of Chelsea and the history of the Club is a captivating one. The final lecture of our winter/spring series was *The Duke of Wellington at Aspley House*, given by Alexander Allin. The talk focused on the private life of the Duke, his family and the social circle around him.



*The Summer Meeting at Petyt House. From left to right, David Le Lay, the Deputy Mayor Will Pascall and Damian Greenish.*

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Summer Meeting was held on July 12th at the charming Petyt Hall next to the historic Chelsea Old Church. As always of course the unpleasant weather of the day cleared wonderfully for the evening and we had a good turn-out of Members who made full use of the lovely courtyard garden. We were particularly pleased to welcome the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, as well as one of our Vice-Presidents, Greg Hands MP, and his family.

The Doggett's Coat and Badge Race was held on July 20th and we were able to watch the end of the race and welcome the competitors to the finish in Chelsea. We were extremely grateful to Andrew Moffatt for inviting a number of members of Council to watch the conclusion of the race from Cadogan Pier.

At the beginning of August we had a visit to the Royal Opera House for a tour of the backstage area of this world renowned theatre. Members saw various workrooms which were producing scenery or costumes for current productions and were also able to view the extraordinary backstage technology for moving entire sets. In September, the leading Thames archaeologist Dr Fiona Haughey once again led a guided walk onto the foreshore of the Thames. It included a talk by Dr Haughey and Mike Webber on the history of the river and its foreshore through the various ages. Dr Haughey also gave the autumn lecture, illustrated by a number of artefacts all discovered on the foreshore. Later in the month, members were given a tour of the Travellers Club in Pall Mall, conducted by Douglas Stoffberg. Designed by Charles Barry in 1832, the principal rooms still retain many of the original features with examples of furniture and fittings also designed by him.

After the success of last year's Hugh Krall exhibition in Cadogan Gardens, the Heatherley School of Fine Art (where Hugh Krall trained) arranged for the private view of his exhibition. Hugh lives near the Thames in Chelsea and the images created over a number of years showed how the river had changed over the recent decades. In late October, there was a visit to the Faringdon Collection. It is a hidden gem which very few people know about. We were delighted that Lord and Lady Faringdon allowed Members to visit their charming house in Knightsbridge, which is home to the Collection. It was mostly assembled by the second Lord Faringdon who succeeded his grandfather in 1934. The present Lord Faringdon has continued the family tradition of collecting.

All these events, meetings and visits were immaculately organised by Paulette Craxford. Most of the lectures and all the walks and visits were sold out and were universally enjoyed by those who attended them.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



*Hampshire School children at the Exhibition,  
conducted by Miss George, Head of Drama*



## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



*Chelsea Pensioner John Gallagher and  
Royal Hospital Heritage Manager John Rochester*

This year also saw two very special events. The first was the Society's Exhibition held in a marquee at Duke of York Square between 13th and 26th June entitled *Royal Chelsea*. The Exhibition was a resounding success, attracting more than 2,600 visitors, 35% of whom were from Chelsea, 35% from the rest of London (particularly Fulham, Battersea and Pimlico), 10% from the rest of the UK and 20% from the rest of world. The display started with the Mercian king, Offa, who had a palace in Chelsea and included Elizabeth I romping in Cheyne Walk and Prince Charles cavorting in Duke of York Square. We learnt about a gaggle of royal mistresses, a colony of royal artists and a doctrine of royal physicians. The exhibition was a particular hit with children; quizzes were handed out, the answers to which were all on the boards. Some 100 children filled in the quiz and their only reward for doing that was a Chelsea Society pencil. Local teachers should be particularly impressed by the interest level of their charges. We had visits from the choir of Hampshire School and also a Royal Hospital Day when In-Pensioners attended, splendid in their familiar scarlet uniforms and chatting with our visitors whilst guarding the Sovereign's Mace. Teenage police cadets handed out flyers outside Sloane Square tube station making an

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

appreciable difference to our marketing. Peter Jones had a large poster of the exhibition in their window. In particular thanks are due to the Cadogan Estate who not only allowed us use of the running track at Duke of York Square to stage the exhibition but were also one of our major sponsors, along with Sloane Stanley, Pemberton Greenish and Martin's Properties. Without them the exhibition would not have been possible. I should also like to mention the volunteers who attended the exhibition every day. It is a true testament of the dedication of our members that so many are prepared to give up their time.

The second extraordinary event of the year was the cricket match held at Burton Court on 7th September as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Chelsea Arts Club. The Arts Club, which has a well-



established cricket team, challenged the Society to a match; so far as I know the Society had never fielded a cricket team before but of course the challenge was accepted. It was a magnificent day. I am delighted to say that there were a number of Members who proudly stepped forward to

*The Society v The Chelsea Arts Club at Burton Court*



## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

play for the Society and all performed magnificently. Of course we lost but then it would have been very rude to have beaten the Arts Club on their birthday. Members attended the match in great numbers as did Members of the Arts Club. They were treated to the remarkable sight of our President, John Simpson, running between the wickets (something which I think he had probably not done for very many years) and during the tea interval we enjoyed a parade by the Arts Club's "Unshrinkables". The Arts Club provided alcohol and music and we were blessed with warm sunshine and perfect conditions. It was a day that brought out all the best in Chelsea and it concluded with the presentation of a large birthday cake from the Society to the Arts Club. Pemberton Greenish once again stepped forward with sponsorship to meet the costs of the day and added to the crowds with their own guests.

All these events are an essential ingredient towards fulfilling the Society's objectives. We are required to stimulate interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea and we do so. Long may that continue.

At the last AGM I undertook that Council would review the current Constitution and Rules of the Society to see whether it was appropriate for any amendments to be made. It had been suggested that there had developed a perceived problem with communication between Council and the Members. Council accepted that it was important that, when taking action to promote and further the objectives of the Society, Members should feel that Council were aware of their views on important issues. I believe that the amended Constitution which the members have today adopted will effectively address that issue and will otherwise ensure that the Society will be truly fit for purpose as it faces the challenges of the twenty-first century.

At the end of this AGM I shall stand down as Chairman of Council. It is the end of my second term and I always feel that two terms of anything is quite long enough. It is time for somebody else to take on that role. The power to appoint the Chairman lies with the Council and they have appointed Dr James Thompson as my successor with effect from the end of this meeting. James has been Vice-Chairman of the Council over the last few months as we have worked together on the transition; hopefully rather more successfully than the Obama/Trump transition appears to be. James, who is already known to most of you here, has been a long term resident of Chelsea and a staunch promoter of its values. He and I share an absolute passion for this place; I was delighted to learn that, like me, he had been married in Chelsea Town Hall, albeit not at the same time nor indeed to each other. James has of course been Chairman of the King's Road Association of Chelsea Residents for many years. He will, I know, continue to lead the Society forward in fighting for the whole of Chelsea.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been an honour and privilege to have been the Chairman of this great Society and to have been able to play some part in ensuring that the Society fulfils its primary objective to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea. During my time as Chairman, I have learnt an extraordinary amount about this place and met some fascinating Chelsea characters, many of whom I know will remain friends in years to come. As Chairman, I have attended three major Society Exhibitions; six Summer Meetings, more than 30 lectures and talks and visited many areas of Chelsea which I am not sure previously I knew existed. I have been consistently impressed by the extent to which people here really care about this extraordinary and unique area of London and how much time they are prepared to put in to preserving it. It is very special. I made the point before that the membership of this Society is increasing and we really should be very proud of that; there are not very many amenities societies that can say that. We remain extremely active and well supported.

We have within this Borough (and by that I mean the historic Borough of Chelsea) a perfect mix of varied architecture, great institutions, an iconic artistic heritage, unique and quirky businesses and an extraordinary social mix. It is a precious and delicate combination which must be preserved and the Society must continue to take a leading role in that aim.

We are not a residents' association, although we must recognise the valuable contribution that is made by the many associations in Chelsea in relation to their immediate locality and their particular interests. The Society must however maintain an independence of thought and ensure that it makes decisions that are for the public benefit of the whole of Chelsea and the entirety of its community. It has always done so and I am confident that under James's stewardship it will so continue.

I want to thank you all for your kindness and support over the years of my tenure. We have not always been able to agree on everything but then I look upon disagreement and debate as being entirely healthy. What I am proud to say is that, although we may have sometimes disagreed on the route, we have never argued over the destination, which is to ensure that we preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea as a place for the benefit of all those who live, work or simply visit here.

Mr President, this is the Chairman's Report for 2016 in the Chelsea Society's 90th year.

**Damian Greenish**

## Report of the Planning Committee 2016

### **The Planning Committee comprises:**

Michael Stephen – Chairman

Patrick Baty (Stanley Ward); Martyn Baker (Chelsea Riverside Ward); Chris Lenon (Royal Hospital Ward); Sir Paul Lever (Brompton-Hans Ward) (Paul Aitkenhead until 13th October).

### **BASEMENTS**

The Society has responded to the Government's call for evidence. We made four points:

1. That there should be no right to excavate a basement without planning permission (This has been dealt with by the High Court in *Eatherley v LB Camden*, and in RBKC by an Article 4 Direction).
2. That double or multiple basements should not be permitted (This has been dealt with in Chelsea by RBKC Policy CL7).
3. That basement excavations should not be allowed under gardens (RBKC policy CL7 excludes half of the garden).
4. That local authorities should have power to prevent more than one basement development in the same street at the same time.

### **CROSSRAIL 2**

The Society's opposition to a Crossrail2 line beneath Chelsea and a station in the King's Road was communicated to those policy-makers who will influence the final decision, including the Secretary of State for Transport, the Commissioner of Transport for London, the Deputy Mayor for Transport, the Chairman of the GLA Transport Committee, the Managing Director of Crossrail, Chelsea's Member of the GLA and Chelsea's MP.

### **SLOANE STREET**

We have had several meetings with Cadogan to discuss their plans for Sloane Street. We support the refurbishment of the pavements and the removal of clutter, but we do not support narrowing of the carriageway, nor the installation of any raised humps or 'tables' at junctions.

### **SUTTON ESTATE**

We have considered the important planning application made by Affinity Sutton for their estate in Chelsea. In summary, the Society understands that the estate is in need of improvement, but has advised that the application

## REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

should be refused on the grounds that (i) the architectural style of the replacement buildings is bland and lacking character and (ii) the proposal fails to maintain, a sufficient amount of accommodation for social housing. The application was refused.

### RBKC LOCAL PLAN

The Society's detailed submission on the Partial Review is on our website. Our vision is that 10 years from now Chelsea should be substantially the same as it is today with the same style and character, with the same village atmosphere, but with rather less noise, dust, disruption and pollution caused by building and demolition works and their associated traffic. However, successive governments have permitted, and seem likely to continue to permit, almost anyone who can afford to do so to come to Chelsea from anywhere in the world and buy or rent a house or flat here. This is completely unsustainable. It is perhaps the most powerful factor promoting change in Central London today and impacting acutely upon the community of Chelsea. If this trend continues it could become impossible to maintain anything like Chelsea as we know it: everything in the Local Plan must be seen in that context.

### HOUSING & PLANNING BILL, UPWARD EXTENSIONS

We have opposed the Government's plans to privatise part of the planning system and to allow the upward extension of buildings without planning consent.

### DUKE OF YORK SQUARE

We have supported Cadogan's proposal for a new café to replace the existing temporary structure.

*The Curzon Cinema*



## REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE



*The Mansions at 1 Sloane Gardens*

### NEW HOTEL

We have supported Cadogan's proposal to convert 'The Mansions' at 1 Sloane Gardens (close to Sloane Square station) into an hotel with 38 rooms.

### ELECTRIC VEHICLES

We have supported the encouragement of electric vehicles in Chelsea, including the installation of battery-charging points.

### CURZON CINEMA

We have supported Cadogan's revised plans to redevelop this site, which retain the cinema with the provision of step-free access, and the pub on the King's Road. Planning permission has been granted and we have met with the architects to discuss the detail of the front elevation.

### CHELSEA OLD TOWN HALL

We met at the Old Town Hall with the architects appointed by RBKC to refurbish the building. We were assured there would be no structural alterations and that the proposed changes were relatively minor. We made suggestions concerning disabled access, closed-loop audio systems, toilet facilities and cloakrooms.

### CHELSEA FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club plans a substantial redevelopment at Stamford Bridge during 2017-2020 to increase stadium capacity from about 42,000 to 60,000. We have attended several consultation meetings and are maintaining close contact with the Club so as to minimise so far as possible the effect on local residents.

## REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

### NATIONAL GRID

We had a detailed dialogue with RBKC and London Buses to reduce the impact of the gas pipeline enhancement project starting in February 2016 from Stanley Bridge and going eastwards along King's Road and then up Gunter Grove to Fulham Road.

### THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL LTD/CREMORNE WHARF IN LOTS ROAD

We wrote to the CEO urging him to achieve the maximum integration between his project and the proposed Counters Creek Storm Relief Sewer to lessen the impact on the local community by shortening the years of disruption, traffic congestion, noise, dirt and pollution.

### CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

We have consulted with local residents and have responded positively to the request by the Garden to extend their licensing hours.

### FORMER HARRODS CAR SHOWROOM – 60 Sloane Avenue

This building is similar in design, finish and materials to Harrods itself. Every effort should in our view be made to retain the facade; and the building is of sufficient importance to warrant the utmost care.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS MASTS AND OTHER ROOFTOP INSTALLATIONS

We recommended to RBKC that telecommunications equipment should be placed only on tall buildings and/or be disguised where possible, and/or



*The old Harrods car showroom in Sloane Avenue.*

## REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

located adjacent to a chimney. They should be grouped together to avoid a proliferation of sites serving different companies.

### MULTIPLE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It has become common for applicants for planning permission to make planning applications in rapid succession for the same or a similar development. This makes it difficult for local people, who cannot be expected to be aware of them all and to write to the Council every time a new application is made. This is also an unreasonable burden for the Council's planning staff. We have raised this issue with RBKC.

### LAUNDERETTES

We have advised RBKC and the Government that launderettes are still an important amenity for people living in Chelsea, and we do not want them converted to residential without planning permission.

### CHRIST CHURCH

We supported an application by the Church for planning permission for solar panels on the roof, which would not be a visible intrusion in the neighbourhood.

### HOSPITALS

We wish to retain the Royal Marsden and the Royal Brompton hospitals in Chelsea, as well as our general hospital, the Chelsea and Westminster, and the private hospitals and other providers of medical and dental services. We understand the need for the Royal Brompton to improve its facilities, but we have some concerns which are explained on our website.

### THAMESBROOK

This disused care-home is soon to be demolished and replaced by a new residential facility for the elderly. The Society is working with the new owners and their architect to help design a building which will be a credit to its owners and an enhancement of this important site.

### BOATS IN CHELSEA

We met representatives of houseboat residents who are concerned about proposals by the new owners of the Chelsea Yacht and Boat Company for Chelsea Reach and Cadogan Pier.

### THE QUEEN'S HEAD, TRYON STREET

The pub closed its doors after 175 years on 7th September 2016. The Society has supported an application to RBKC to designate the pub as an 'Asset of Community Value' and is in dialogue with the freeholder with a view to its reopening as a pub and restaurant.



*Part of the Moravian Burial Ground*

#### **MORAVIAN BURIAL GROUND**

We were satisfied that the proposals for repairing the walls were well considered and paid due respect to the historical importance of the walls.

#### **THE LONDON SKETCH CLUB**

A Dilke Street neighbour instigated noise abatement proceedings. The Society is helping to resolve these issues and keep the club open.

#### **MCDONALDS**

The Society supported local residents opposed to a proposal for all-night trading.

#### **LOTS ROAD**

The Society is supporting local residents who are concerned about development of the Power Station and of the Fulham Gasworks site.

## **A Chairman of Note**

*Sarah Farrugia, former Vice-Chairman, pays her own tribute to Damian Greenish, Chairman of The Chelsea Society 2010-2016 and has garnered the thoughts of others*

Damian has a style of leadership that works in an invisible, imperceptible way. He is not an overt, controlling character. He doesn't demand attention nor push his own personal views in any loud way. He allows. He forms. He considers. He is thoughtful.

Let's be in no doubt that the role of Chairman is not an easy one. To lead the Chelsea Society demands something fairly unique. It blends friendship with policy and difficult discussions amongst friends, neighbours and those in local government. Competing interests and conflicts arising from external change have to be managed. Crossrail2 was a particularly difficult moment in which to be on the Council. I know there have been other difficult times in the past and there will surely be more to come in a fast-changing London. To have a view on things from the ground floor whilst taking up a long term perspective is virtually impossible. Yet something that must be done. For everyone's sake.

Damian was regarded by one and all as someone who epitomises the qualities of a timeless Chelsea – qualities not forgotten by those in the know and not unnoticed by those who come to know. It is often hard to make sense of many of the unspoken rules and regulations that build up over the generations. He has been, for me, and now we see for many others, a guiding light in demonstrating the very best of these. He speaks well, with poise and grace. Has a presence of character, a quick wit, a sharp mind, a genuine interest and a kind word. He is open and generous with everyone, always. He is forever curious.

Many members and onlookers like to think of Chelsea as a world apart. An old village full of traditions and quirks, which are as alive today as they have ever been. Beyond any architectural delight or infrastructural dilemma, a pleasant society is about the people and the way they live, the values by which they live. It's the manners and everyday encounters that go to make a place feel like home. Damian reflects them and lives them in a congenial manner, unconsciously but with tremendous skill. For **Geoffrey Matthews**, Secretary of the Chelsea Arts Club, Damian seems to be the archetypal Chelsea gent: "kindly, courteous and liberal; thoughtful and wise; but also informal and lively-minded with a wicked sense of humour."

Roddy Baldwin of Green and Stone, observes, "It has been really refreshing to

## A CHAIRMAN OF NOTE



*Damian Greenish (left) with the Society's President, John Simpson*

liaise with someone who is passionate about Chelsea and its environs." Sue Medway of the Chelsea Physic Garden explains: "When my career brought me to the Chelsea, Damian immediately set about helping me to settle in, ensuring that I understood the organisations and the people that go into making the area so vibrant and unique, and gently stewarding introductions along the way. That help and support was invaluable to me."

One issue that dominated the latter part of Damian's leadership was Crossrail2, which in fact threatened to 'derail' the 2015 AGM, as feelings were running so high. Council member Michael Bach says, "He dealt diplomatically with the conflicting views on Crossrail2 and steered the Society through the challenges. He managed to avoid any potential conflicts of interest and maintained a consensual approach within the Council."

The Society's Council members had the pleasure of seeing Damian's style in action. Nigel Stenhouse observes that during his tenure, there were considerable changes including the modernisation of the website and membership data. "We are grateful to him for his role in achieving much of this and for his help in promoting the Society's work." According to Michael Stephen, Damian steered the Society with care and skill. "It has been a great pleasure to work with him and we hope that he will continue to take an interest in the Society as a Vice-President." For Camilla Mountain, the producer of two of the very best exhibitions the Society has ever delivered, Damian has a talent – "expressed very quietly" – for seeing the bigger picture. "While at the helm, he has always managed to see beyond the detail to understand what is right for the long-term future of the whole of Chelsea." Jane Dorrell notes that he has been an extremely hardworking chairman and delightful to work with: "I am sure he charmed

## A CHAIRMAN OF NOTE

many people into joining the Society. And his farewell flourish – the cricket match – was a triumph." Another Council member simply texted "I will miss Damian."

I finish with contributions from two people who know both Chelsea and Damian very well. Society President, John Simpson, observes: "For me, Damian Greenish is Chelsea: not the noisy, clattering, overpriced place it has become, but the Chelsea of my boyhood, many decades ago, when it was quiet and arty and highly civilised and people wore ties and suits to work. You can have an excellent conversation with Damian about anything, from the distant foreign travel he loves, to painting and the state of the country. He knows a great deal about a lot of subjects, but wears his knowledge lightly and pleasantly; and yet you can see the lawyer in him when he makes a speech or sums up a debate. Then he is as sharp as a knife, but witty and charming at the same time; and everybody listens, and knows that the discussion is over."

"But there is another side of Damian which only made itself felt in September, when he went in to bat almost last at the Society's cricket match against the Chelsea Arts Club and laid about him like Attila the Hun at a battle. He turned out to be the best batsman on the team, but he didn't tell us that beforehand; and if some of us – me in particular – had batted more effectively, and hadn't thrown their wickets away, he might not have batted at all. That was Damian as I have come to know him: quiet, modest, self-deprecating, yet immensely effective when the moment came."

Hugh Seaborn, Chief Executive of the Cadogan Estate, notes, "Looking back it seems clear that a pre-requisite for being Chairman of the Chelsea Society is to have a certain style and flamboyance. In this respect Damian has been eminently suitable for the role but there is much more besides. Damian has demonstrated many of the characteristics for which I know him so well – these include his flair and eloquence, immense charm, highly civilised manner and willingness to hold his own views with conviction even when contrary to consensus and to express them eloquently and objectively. All these are important characteristics for a leading lawyer practising in a contentious arena and who is senior partner of his firm. It turns out they have proved valuable characteristics for the Chelsea Society at a challenging time in its history. Above all, it is that Damian meets brilliantly that unspoken requirement for flamboyance and panache whether it be expressed by a bright pastel scarf, Le Corbusier round spectacles or his long stride as he heads along King's Road, that somehow is so very much of the essence of Chelsea."

All that remains to be said is that we all wish Damian a very enjoyable retirement from the daily business of The Chelsea Society. For he really is a jolly good fellow, and so say all of us.

# James Thompson

## *The Chelsea Society's New Chairman*

James moved to Chelsea in 1982, but had been walking the King's Road from 1966, initially just to enjoy the thrill of London, and to get his hair cut in non-military fashion. Later it was to court his future wife, Margaret, in the original Chelsea Kitchen. Drawn by the architecture, individual shops, mews houses, bohemian crowds, music, history, river views along the Embankment, and the exciting mix of cultural past and vivid quirky present, his aspiration to live in Chelsea was finally realised ... Only within a year of moving, he found himself fighting a major planning application in his street. Since then he has been Chairman of his local residents' association, which covers the area between the Physic Garden and the Royal Hospital. In 2006 he led the Save Sloane Square campaign and since 2011 has chaired the King's Road Association of Chelsea Residents, particularly campaigning



## JAMES THOMPSON, THE SOCIETY'S NEW CHAIRMAN

against large basement developments. He retired from that Chairmanship earlier this year.

James has two very slight claims to local fame. His membership card at the Physic Garden is number 20, and would have been an even-more-prized lower number if he had responded more promptly to the first ever membership form, hand delivered by the Garden Curator to nearby streets in 1983. He was also depicted as a character in a play at the Royal Court, as a psychologist explaining the motivations of terrorists.

James taught psychology and ran clinics at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, later University College London Medical School. His first job was as a researcher on brain-damaged children, and clinical psychologist at Guy's Hospital Medical School, and later at the Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill. He continues to publish occasional papers.

He has been a member of the Chelsea Society since 1985. The Annual Reports record only three of his questions at AGMs: about ways of increasing Society membership; about consulting members about major planning developments; and about preserving Sloane Square.



*Cheyne Walk c.1830 by J. C. Burgess. © Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies*

# Sibyl Colefax and her Argyll House Salon

*Siân Evans*

*Sibyl, Lady Colefax (1874-1950), society hostess and successful interior decorator, entertained the elite from all over the world at her King's Road salon between the wars. Cultural historian Siân Evans explores Sibyl's contribution to Chelsea's reputation for attracting the artistic, the creative and the witty.*

Argyll House, number 211 on the King's Road, is an exquisite early eighteenth-century architectural gem. During the 1920s and 1930s, its decorous Palladian frontage concealed a frenetic social whirl, as the home and showcase of the dedicated society hostess, Sibyl Colefax. Every night, the great, the good, the glamorous and the gorgeous who featured in the gossip columns, headed for Chelsea, irresistibly drawn by the prospect of an evening with the cultural glitterati.

Sibyl was a notorious 'tuft-hunter', an inveterate collector of celebrities. Among those who gathered in her drawing room were Winston Churchill, art dealer Joseph Duveen and the future creator of the landmark television series *Civilisation*, Kenneth Clark. Hollywood was represented by Charlie Chaplin and Fred Astaire. Sibyl also provided a much-needed 'leg-up' to new talents, including Noel Coward, Cecil Beaton, John Gielgud and Lawrence Olivier, as well as to writers such as Evelyn Waugh and Virginia Woolf. And it was at Argyll House that the budding romance between the Prince of Wales and Mrs Wallis Simpson blossomed – an affair which brought about the Abdication Crisis and irrevocably changed the future course of the British monarchy.

Sibyl Colefax's Chelsea years, 1921-1936, were the happiest of her long and eventful life. She had been born in Wimbledon in 1874, and described her stormy childhood eloquently: "My father worked, my mother wept, and I played on the floor and knew nothing." Sibyl was often left with a clutch of intimidating aunts, while her adventurous mother Sophie headed for Europe, clad in borrowed furs. As her parents' marriage deteriorated, Sibyl and her mother eked out a threadbare existence at out-of-season European resorts.

By 1894, they were in Italy, where solitary and shy 19-year-old Sibyl was

## SIBYL COLEFAX AND HER ARGYLL HOUSE SALON

adopted by an exuberant group of intellectual Britons in Florence. Roger Fry, Lytton Strachey and Bernard Berenson introduced her to the glories of the Italian Renaissance, the Duomo and the Uffizi, organising picnics at rural palazzi, and talking passionately about their theories and their favourite artists. Uneducated Sibyl was transformed: she later wrote, "To listen to enchanting talk, gay, learned, frivolous... To those friends and those beginnings, I owe so much." She realised that while family life was a lottery, she could choose her own social circle. She resolved to host a 'salon' where brilliant, cultured, life-enhancing individuals could meet.

Her choice of husband was perhaps surprising; Arthur Colefax was a reticent Yorkshireman, a cautious barrister, specialising in international patent law. They married in 1901, and set up home at 85 Onslow Square in South Kensington. For the first time, Sibyl had her own house, where she exercised her innate interior design sensibility. Married life was a complete contrast to her early years; the Colefaxes ensured that their two sons, Peter and Michael, should have happier childhoods than they had experienced. However the First World War badly affected the family's finances. Arthur was awarded a knighthood for his unpaid role supporting the war effort, but they had to retrench, selling both the house in Onslow Square and their country place, Old Buckhurst, in order to acquire a single family home in London as a forum for Sibyl's relentless entertaining.

Long the haunt of artists and bohemians, Chelsea enjoyed a slightly rakish reputation, a contrast to the more sedate and expensive Mayfair, the natural habitat of the most ambitious and wealthy society hostesses. In 1921, Sibyl fell in love with Argyll House on the King's Road. Designed by the Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni, and built in 1723 as a small country house in the neo-classical style, it was constructed of yellow brick, with a picturesque high-walled garden on the south side. When it was completed Argyll House was a highly desirable miniature mansion in a largely rural setting. Leoni was later commissioned by the Onslow family to design prestigious Clandon Park in Surrey, which was destroyed in April 2015 by fire.

Sibyl had a clear vision for her beloved Argyll House. A bold and visionary *aficionado* of architectural salvage, she ruthlessly expunged any Victorian additions, and introduced a fine Georgian staircase. The rooms were repanelled, and painted the colour of old ivory. She acquired antique walnut or lacquered Chinese furniture and jewel-coloured rugs. Old mirrors added space and depth, while chandeliers and wall-scones provided subtle lighting. Sibyl favoured symmetry, with matching pairs of chairs, vases and ornaments, enlivened by dramatic floral arrangements. She also revived chintz, the Indian printed fabric first brought to Britain in the seventeenth century. Chintz had traditionally been confined to upper-class bedrooms,



*Argyll House. (Photo: James Sherwood, [www.James-Sherwood.com](http://www.James-Sherwood.com))*

but Sibyl brought it into the drawing room, grouping upholstered chairs and sofas in a convivial way that encouraged guests to sit and chat.

For the next fifteen years, Argyll House was the showcase for Sibyl's decorating talents, and the stage on which she performed. It became known as 'Lions' Corner House', a pun on the restaurant chain of the time, and a reference to Sibyl's avid collecting of literary greats, such as Arnold Bennett, H.G. Wells, and George Bernard Shaw. She cultivated Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West, as well as other members of the Bloomsbury Group. Virginia Woolf waspishly remarked that Sibyl liked to 'listen to clever talk, and to buy it with a lunch of four courses and good wine'. She coined the term 'Colefaxismus', meaning a casual remark intended to imply privileged knowledge of any subject. Sibyl's behaviour irritated some people; a cautionary tale spread round London of a contest between a young man and a Chelsea hostess, in pursuit of an electric lion. The woman lost the race because she kept stopping to explain to the spectators that she had known the lion as a cub. Sibyl particularly adored the company of actors and musicians, especially Vivien Leigh, Ivor Novello, and Cole Porter. In America, she made new friendships in the booming movie industry, including Gloria Swanson, Alexander Korda, Mary Pickford and Douglas



*The Hall, Argyll House - Summer's Day, by Sir John Lavery*

Fairbanks. In Hollywood, she charmed British-born Charlie Chaplin, then arguably the most famous man in the world.

Money worries haunted the family. Arthur's increasing deafness adversely affected his income from the Bar. In 1933 his wife set up the decorating firm of Sibyl Colefax Ltd at 29 Bruton Street, Mayfair. She had a demonstrable flair for design, good contacts in the antiques trade, and knew wealthy people who wanted bespoke interiors. Using unconventional colour palettes, and drawing on historical inspiration, she provided a distinctive, comfortable style, with the emphasis on antique furniture, floral prints and understated good taste. Her success lay in identifying the essential character of the timeless English country house, but making it cleaner, tidier, more comfortable and better lit. Her interiors looked historic, but were subtly better. Sibyl instinctively understood what the aspirational and newly wealthy desired, a ready-made heritage, because she came from exactly the same background.

Sibyl Colefax was encouraged by the example of Syrie Maugham, the estranged wife of Somerset Maugham, who was her next door neighbour,

## SIBYL COLEFAX AND HER ARGYLL HOUSE SALON



*Sibyl Colefax*

living at 213 King's Road. Syrie's own interior design business, founded in 1922, created minimalist room schemes in shades of white, cream, or oyster. The two women's decorating styles were so different that they did not regard each other as business rivals. However, possessive Sibyl resented any rival hostess attempting to co-opt members of 'her' coterie; on one occasion, she persuaded the journalist Beverley Nichols to clamber up and peer over the wall into Syrie's garden, to make sure she wasn't entertaining Charlie Chaplin.

Sibyl's self-imposed schedule was immense, with 12-hour workdays starting at 7am, enabling her to socialise in the evenings. Driven by her desire to meet everyone of note, to save time she would change her clothes in the back of her chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce, while heading out for another glittering evening. Having buttonholed her quarry, she would invite them to dinner at Argyll House with her 'young people' – protégées such as the Sitwells and T.S. Eliot. She also competed with Lady Emerald Cunard to further the blossoming romance between Mrs Wallis Simpson and the Prince of Wales.

## SIBYL COLEFAX AND HER ARGYLL HOUSE SALON



*Sibyl (second on the left) and others at Ashcombe, by Cecil Beaton  
© The Cecil Beaton Studio Archive at Sotheby's*

1936 was to be a momentous year in Britain. King George V died in January, and his unwilling heir, the 'Playboy Prince', became Edward VIII. Within weeks, Sibyl lost first her old friend Rudyard Kipling, and then her beloved husband, Arthur, who died of pneumonia in February. Aged 62, she now faced an uncertain future; she continued to run her company and tried to entertain as before, but was running out of money. Sibyl held a swansong dinner party on 10 June 1936: her principal guests were King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson, Harold Nicolson and Robert Bruce Lockhart, Kenneth Clark and his wife Jane, Lord Berners, the socialite Daisy Fellowes, and the heiress Princesse de Polignac. Music was provided by virtuoso pianist Artur Schnabel. Noel Coward played his comic song *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, and Winston Churchill joined the party after dinner.

Bereaved but brave, Sibyl was forced to sell Argyll House and its contents. In October 1936 Virginia Woolf dropped in and was horrified to find the place full of bargain hunters and auctioneers. She wrote, "I felt extremely sorry for her...this was the end of all her parties; we were sitting in the ruins of that magnificent structure which had borne so lately the royal crown on top."

Sibyl downsized by moving to Lord North Street in Westminster. Her ability to trawl for talent remained unsurpassed, even though her guests now dined sitting on tiny gilt chairs around her cramped table. Meanwhile, her



*Sibyl Colefax's decorative style featuring clintz and muslin, at Plas Newydd on Anglesey. ©National Trust Images/Andreas von Einsiedel.*

close friendship with the King and Mrs Simpson gave her a ringside seat for the Abdication Crisis. Sibyl remained a loyal friend to the lovers, but also managed not to be ostracised by the Royal Family – unlike her rival Emerald Cunard.

In 1938, Sibyl joined forces with the talented decorator John Fowler, whose studio was at 292 King's Road. The renamed firm of Colefax & Fowler faced the vicissitudes of World War II, coping with rationing by improvising with salvaged and government surplus fabrics, and 'up-cycled' furniture. But in 1944, when Sibyl was 70, ill-health drove her to sell her share of the business to Nancy Lancaster, niece of Lady Nancy Astor, who sensibly retained the company's name. Today the Colefax & Fowler brand is instantly recognisable all over the world as the epitome of tasteful British interior design. It was a style which originated in Chelsea, and Sibyl Colefax helped to make SW3 a thoroughly fashionable part of London, more avant-garde than 'smartistic Mayfair'. The appeal of Chelsea to the creative and cultural elite survives to this day.

*Siân Evans's latest book, Queen Bees: Six Brilliant and Extraordinary Society Hostesses Between the Wars, is published by Two Roads and will be available in paperback in April.*

## The National Army Museum and 'The Tiger of Malaya'

*John Palser*

*'When I was a very little boy, living with my parents in Edinburgh, they used to take me sometimes to the National Gallery in Scotland. One day I said, "Daddy I'm tired of pictures. Please take me to an army museum". He replied sadly, "There is no army museum, Gerald." That was when I decided that there would be one before I died'.*

Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer (1898-1972) made it his personal mission to establish a museum for the British Army. The result is the National Army Museum on Royal Hospital Road.

A career soldier, Templer's career was exemplary. After Sandhurst, in 1916 he was commissioned into the Royal Irish Fusiliers and was sent to the Western Front. As well as being the Army's bayonet champion, he was also a member of the 1924 Olympic team as a hurdler. He was from that remarkable generation who saw service in both the First and Second World Wars. In 1945, he became Director of the Allied Military Government in the British Zone of occupied Germany. Under Montgomery's overall command, he oversaw Operation Barleycorn – the mission to bring in the harvest to ensure that those who only weeks before had been enemy did not starve. His eagle eye for detail and reverence for tradition were evident when he was made Colonel of his regiment. While the Royal Irish were stationed in troubled Palestine in 1947, letters show him harrying senior commanders about recovering some regimental silver from Malta and demanding details of a ceremonial parade.

The recent US-led military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan revived global interest in the campaign for which Templer is most famous – the successful counter-insurgency in Malaya. In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill charged Templer with quelling an insurrection that had broken out four years earlier in the British colony. The communist insurgents, drawn from Malaya's Chinese community, scored a major propaganda victory with the assassination of the British High Commissioner in October 1951. As his successor Templer – also director of military operations – would uniquely combine civil and military authority.



*Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer by James Gunn, 1958.*  
© The National Army Museum Collection

Gerald Templer's greatest insight was in realising that military action alone could not bring success. He believed the key to victory lay within winning the 'hearts and minds' of the Malayan people, a phrase he is credited with coining and which is now regarded as central to success in counter-insurgency operations.

One of Templer's first actions was to announce that Britain's overarching goal was Malaya's independence, which immediately undermined much of the sympathy for the insurgents. However, the insurgency remained rooted in the Colony's political problems, not least the discrimination against the Chinese who comprised more than one-third of the local population. Drawing upon his extensive experience, Templer exerted his formidable personal dynamism and authority to re-invigorate the anti-communist effort. He promoted Chinese civil rights and in parallel reorganised the police, military and intelligence forces before conducting vigorous offensives against the communist forces deep in the Malayan jungle.

By the time Sir Gerald left Malaya in October 1954, the colony was far more stable and secure, paving the way to its independence. His reputation led to the Main Hall at the Royal Military College in Kuala Lumpur being named the Tun Templer Hall, along with the Templer Park nature reserve in Rawang. Templer's counter-insurgency campaign would be one of the very few victories against communist forces during the Cold War. It would garner international praise and earn him the nickname 'The Tiger of Malaya'.

Templer went on to crown his career by becoming Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS), then the highest post in the British Army. He would be Prime Minister Eden's chief military adviser during the Suez crisis, a successful military campaign which would always be overshadowed by its political failure. His tenacity and clear view of what needed to be done to achieve his objectives were two traits that made him such a successful military leader. They would subsequently ensure that his dream of a National Army Museum became a reality.

Seeing the potential of the small museum at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Sir Gerald used his influence to expand it and champion its cause. He appealed in the press for the donation of military items in private hands and personally approached individuals known to have important artefacts. The response to the appeal was remarkable. In 1960, a Royal Charter formally established the National Army Museum at Sandhurst.

Notwithstanding this triumph, Sir Gerald sought a London location for the National Army Museum. He regarded Chelsea as the most appropriate

site and had already put down a notional marker on the war-damaged site of the Old Infirmary of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Having retired, he dedicated all his energy to moving the museum to its new home.



*The bombed Old Infirmary at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, now the site of the National Army Museum.*  
© The Royal Hospital, Chelsea

The sum of one million pounds (£18m today) was needed to erect a

## THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM AND THE 'TIGER OF MALAYA'



*Sir Gerald with the Queen Mother at the National Army Museum.*  
© The National Army Museum

building on the Chelsea site, move exhibits and set up displays and offices. Sir Gerald immediately set about raising funds himself while securing the support of both Winston Churchill and Harold Macmillan. He ensuring pledges of substantial amounts of money from wealthy individuals, charitable trusts and major companies. Every approach was made personally.

Within a year £350,000 had been raised; one third of the total needed. Asked how he had accomplished this, Sir Gerald said, "There's only one way to do it... wear out your shoe leather... You must go and pester people." His success also lay in rallying the right people to his cause, to provide both sound advice and practical help. These included influential political and military figures, experts in military history and top museum professionals.

A public appeal was launched on 18 June 1965, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The funds raised were sufficient to complete the first phase of the new museum at Chelsea, which was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 11 November 1971.

Sir Gerald did not rest on his laurels. He moved to Sloane Court West and continued to campaign for the museum. New fundraising activity secured major donations from the Sultans of Oman and Brunei towards the cost of the second and final phase. But these only covered half the funds needed and by this time, Sir Gerald was in declining health.

In 1979, the Secretary of State for Defence decided to contribute the rest of the funds from the defence budget to complete the project. Sir Gerald died a week after this good news reached him, knowing that he had succeeded in establishing a National Army Museum to be enjoyed by future generations.

## THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM AND THE 'TIGER OF MALAYA'



*An artist's impression of the refurbished National Army Museum (courtesy NAM)*

### **The National Army Museum in 2017**

The museum is set to reopen in March after a £23.75 million redevelopment. Sir Gerald's original Museum has been reimagined for a new generation. Its new galleries – Army, Battle, Discovery, Insight and Soldier – will provide visitors with dynamic and interactive experiences. The Museum's experts have worked hard to restore thousands of objects for display. Redeveloped archives, an education centre and a research area will allow unparalleled access to the Collection. A new café, shop and the Play Base children's facility will also help to make the National Army Museum an important focus for community life in Chelsea.

It is estimated that the new National Army Museum will attract 400,000 visitors each year from 2017. It will continue to preserve centuries of British Army history and provide a fitting tribute to Sir Gerald, a man to whom the museum and the people of this country owe so much.

*John Palser is Head of Corporate Partnerships at the National Army Museum*

# Sir Osbert Lancaster

Don Grant

In 'A Chelsea Vignette', local cub reporter, Christopher Long, describes an interview that took place in 1980 with the formidable *grande dame* of journalism and broadcasting, Anne Scott-James, about her new book on cottage gardens. Ill-prepared, he was ushered to the 'cold end' of the large first floor drawing room of her house in Flood Street, passing an old man huddled under a blanket in a fireside armchair. The conversation 'bumped along an uncomfortably rutted track'. He asked his interviewee how she enjoyed working with her illustrator, Sir Osbert Lancaster (1908-86). She pointed: 'You could ask him yourself but he's fast asleep'. Long had no idea that she was the celebrated cartoonist's wife. A little later she left the room. He sat alone for a while until 'a voice as cosy and comfortable as carpet slippers, crept up behind me. "You know, you really should be interviewing me," said Sir Osbert. "I'm much more interesting than her."'



Osbert Lancaster in 1977,  
by Bernard Lee Schwartz.  
© National Portrait Gallery.

While the Germans may have come up with the *KMS Admiral Graf Spee*, *Deutschland* and *Admiral Scheer*, known as 'Pocket Battleships' in the Second World War, it took a tweedy and monocled dandy to invent the 'Pocket Cartoon' on the front of the *Daily Express*. In a forty-year career he produced 10,000 of them. Osbert Lancaster's work ranged from war-time propaganda and press censorship to the most biting of social and class satire. This was epitomised by his most famous character, the socialite Maudie Littlehampton. Perhaps his most best-known collaboration was

with the Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, with whom he initially worked at the *Architectural Review*. Lancaster was also a critic, stage designer, author, illustrator, architectural commentator and stylish gossip. It could be argued that he hit the target more often than the battleships.

Born into quite a grand upper middle-class Edwardian family, the young Osbert grew up in a large house in Elgin Crescent, as he describes in his

## SIR OSBERT LANCASTER



"Tell me, Saddlesoap,  
what exactly are  
commuters?"

Courtesy Tim Benson,  
Political Cartoon Gallery,  
Putney SW15.

charming volume of memoirs, *All Done from Memory*. He conjures up his early life: 'Then the stucco, creamy and bright, gleamed softly beneath what seems in reminiscence to have been a perpetually cloudless sky. Geraniums in urns flanked each brass-enriched front door, while over the area railings, moustachioed policemen made love to buxom cooks, and in every street there hung, all summer long, the heavy scent of limes.' He tells of how, despite a modest income, his parents were able to maintain a cook, a housemaid, a nurse and a boot-boy. He recalls Great Aunt Martha arriving for tea or luncheon in a Victoria and greys, driven by the elderly coachman, Mundy: even earlier, he remembers being wheeled around Notting Hill Gate in a perambulator. Lancaster's grandfather lived in a large four-square mansion of yellow brick on Putney Hill called South Lynn: the grandson recalled it smelt of a subtle mingling of Havana cigars and Knight's Castile soap. As with all his descriptions of houses, his keen sense of architectural and decorative detail led him to becoming one of our most entertaining popular

architectural historians and illustrators.

In 1951 Lancaster worked with John Piper on designs for the Festival of Britain. Apart from his daily cartoon, he also designed sets and costumes for opera, ballet and theatre. His work could be seen at Glyndebourne, Sadler's Wells, Covent Garden and the Old Vic. Among the productions he worked on was Frederick Ashton's *La Fille Mal Gardée*. One of his most complicated drawings was for Glyndebourne, depicting a view of the audience from the stage, with every conceivable type of opera-goer, including some 'real-life' people. He also illustrated other authors' books, including works by P G Wodehouse, Nancy Mitford, Anthony Powell and Simon Raven. He produced scores of book jackets for others, as well as over a dozen of his own. The latter-day pocket cartoonist Matt says he feels positively lazy when he sees his output, although Matt himself is no slouch when it comes to producing a gem for the *Telegraph* on a daily basis.

Much of what Lancaster drew and wrote is about class and the British obsession with it, but he did it with such subtle wit, humour and biting observation, no-one could take offence. The *Daily Express* audience was mostly right-wing and irredeemably middle class, but were fascinated by the mores and behaviour of the toffs. When he was knighted in 1975 he

became one of only three cartoonists to have received the honour: Sir John Tenniel and Sir David Low being the other two. The writer Bevis Hillier observes that he always looked like one of his cartoon characters but as he aged, he resembled the effigy of an English gentleman on a French carnival float: 'bulging eyes, bulbous nose, buffalo-horn moustache, bald head, striped shirt, pinstripe suit from Thresher and Glenny, old-fashioned shoes with rounded toes'.

After Flood Street, Lancaster moved to Cheyne Court, Royal Hospital Road. A stroke left him with impaired vision and for six years, he was nursed by the fabled Anne, his second wife. I recall seeing them both in El Vino's in the

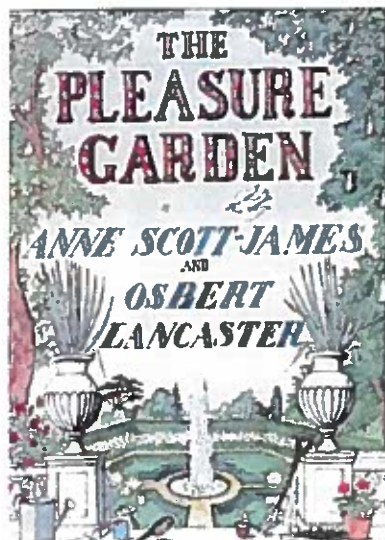


Image courtesy of John Murray.

*"I'm rather afraid you've chosen a rather bad moment – the Minister's just trodden in something very unpleasant."*  
Political Cartoon Gallery, Putney SW15.



sixties, she in three-piece tweed or pin-stripe suit with collar and tie, being the only woman allowed to stand at the bar to drink. She had more than a passing resemblance to the sharp-tongued Lady Littlehampton, but she was an invention of Lancaster's many years before they had even met.

Christopher Long's interview was concluded by the arrival of Betjeman who had arrived to take Lancaster to the House of Lords to listen to a speech being made by their friend Laurence Olivier. "I said I would help them find a taxi but watched them for a moment as they lurched unsteadily, arm in arm, up Cheyne Walk – two old war-horses vaguely waving umbrellas for the benefit of any taxi approaching from behind."

Artist and designer Don Grant is a former Chairman of the Chelsea Arts Club and is Keeper of Archives at the London Sketch Club. [www.dongrant.co.uk](http://www.dongrant.co.uk)

## Love and Marriage in Chelsea

*Sarah Farrugia and Melanie Backe-Hansen*

With its illustrious past, it is unsurprising that over the centuries love and marriage has been intricately interwoven into the fabric of Chelsea. From the serial unions of Henry VIII to the illicit and, at the time, illegal companionship of Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas, Chelsea has witnessed the many shades of amour: love and marriage, loveless marriage and, indeed, love without marriage.

King Henry VIII is believed to have married Jane Seymour at Chelsea Old Church in 1536. Later, during the 1540s, in what must be the ultimate triumph of hope over experience, he built a new house by the river, known as Chelsea Palace, as a wedding present for his sixth and final wife, Catherine Parr. This was to become the home to the daughter of his second marriage – Princess Elizabeth.

For most of history, marriage was about building and cementing alliances, whether royalty aligning countries, landowners uniting estates or, for example, a carpenter marrying his daughter to a prominent builder. It was only in the Romantic period of the late 18th century that marriage based on love took prominence and became the focus of literature and the arts. Bloodlines were still important, but a union based on love began to be established as the ideal.

Marriage also played a key role in the very ownership of Chelsea, with many landowning families united by powerful alliances. This included the Cadogan Estate in the north and eastern part of Chelsea. The estate originated from the early Manor of Chelsea, which by 1712 was in the hands of Sir Hans Sloane (and where many familiar street names originate). Sloane's youngest daughter, Elizabeth, married Charles Cadogan, later 2nd Baron Cadogan, in 1717, and at Sir Hans Sloane's death in 1753, Elizabeth inherited the manor of Chelsea. It was through this alliance between Elizabeth Sloane and Charles Cadogan that the Cadogan Estate was established. Similarly, the prominent neighbouring Grosvenor Estate also began with a pivotal marriage. In 1677, 12-year-old Mary Davies, who inherited the manor of Ebury married Sir Thomas Grosvenor, 3rd Baronet of Eaton in Cheshire. What was Ebury's 430 acres of rather unpromising marshy farmland is today's Mayfair, Belgravia and Knightsbridge. Their descendant, the Duke of Westminster is one of the country's wealthiest landowners.

## LOVE AND MARRIAGE IN CHELSEA



*Hortense Mancini, mistress of Charles II.  
Portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller in 1671.  
By kind permission of Sheffield Museum.*

After marriage, wives were under pressure to produce a male heir to carry on the family line. This is very clear with Henry VIII and his obsession with having a son to continue the Tudor dynasty. Once married, those in the upper echelons of society often took a more relaxed approach to their marriage vows – especially the pledge to 'forsake all others'. Once a wife had provided an heir and a spare and there was little love in the marriage, it was understood that both the man and woman could look elsewhere. It was almost taken for granted that a King would have a mistress. Three of the most renowned favourites could be found living in or near Chelsea – Edward VII's Mistress Lillie Langtry in Pont Street; Dorothea Jordan, actress mother of William IV's children in Cadogan Place; Hortense Mancini, Duchesse de Mazarin, one of Charles II's numerous paramours, in Paradise Row.

## LOVE AND MARRIAGE IN CHELSEA



*St Luke's church in Sydney Street  
c.1905, where Dickens and  
Catherine Hogarth married.*

In the Victorian era, pre-Raphaelite artists such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti, writers including Oscar Wilde, as well as actors and musicians, established Chelsea as an area of artistic freedom: this also meant freedom in the context of love and marriage. The lines of convention were more easily crossed and the bohemian approach to life led to Chelsea becoming a discreet haven for mistresses. The unhappy lives of many of the artists' muses and models perhaps served as a warning to all women that even bohemia was a man's world.

For wives, discretion was vital. A double standard existed: while it was perfectly acceptable for a man to have a mistress, a woman might be shunned by society if it became known she had a lover – not least because she had been indiscreet enough in letting it become known.

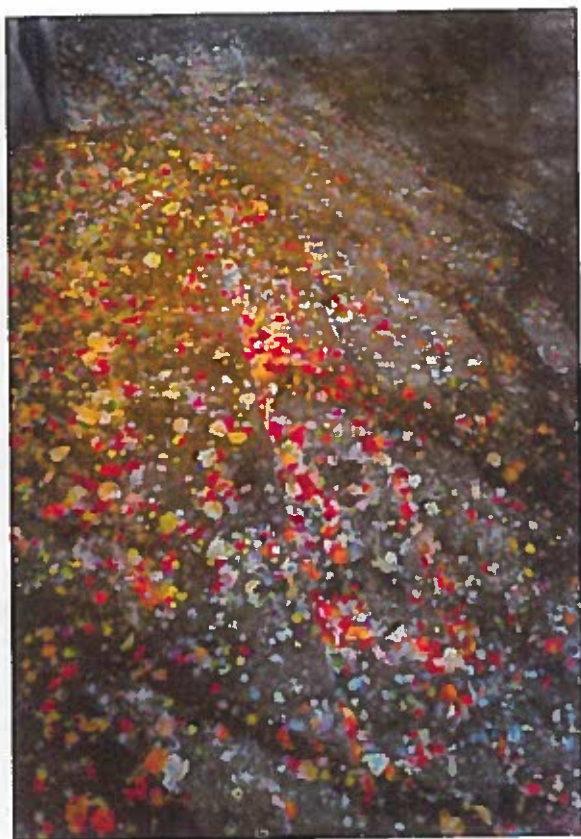
Malicious gossip could lead to blameless women being ostracised as Mary Norton found, when her estranged husband accused her of having an affair with Lord Melbourne, Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister. Mary's fate led her to campaign for the reform of married women's rights: until then, women were viewed as property; on marriage whatever she owned became her husband's. She also campaigned for the reform of the divorce laws.

Chelsea has a fabulous collection of places to get married, particularly historic churches. Chelsea Old Church has been conducting wedding ceremonies since 1292, at the time that Edward I – 'Longshanks' – was King, and still holds weddings today. At St Luke's on Sydney Street, Charles Dickens married Catherine Hogarth, the daughter of George Hogarth, editor of the *Evening Chronicle*, for whom he wrote under the pseudonym 'Boz'.

The Register Office at Chelsea Town Hall remains an iconic place to wed. In 2016 some 1,800 couples tied the knot, with 21 Civil Partnerships being formalised. Since it opened in 1837, Wallis Simpson was among those who have married there. This marriage to Ernest in 1928 was a factor in preventing her from marrying Edward VIII – prompting his abdication.

The current Superintendent Registrar, Steven Lord says: "We are aware

## LOVE AND MARRIAGE IN CHELSEA



*Confetti on the Steps outside Chelsea Register Office (Photo: Stefan Lubo)*

that, regardless of whether they're having a quiet, simple, midweek ceremony, or a star-studded, all-singing, all-dancing, extravaganza of a celebration, it is still the most important day of a couple's lives and we get to witness two people in love make that ultimate commitment to each other."

The laws around marriage and gender relations in modern society continue to shape the institution and Chelsea keeps pace with the times. According to Steven: "When there is a change in the law which allows us to offer new services – such as civil partnerships in 2005 or same sex marriages in 2014 – the first of these ceremonies is usually the most memorable of the year. However, over the past year, there have been no major legislative changes, and so we have been taking joy in all of our ceremonies. We are also due to trial ceremonies which are tailored to those who identify as trans, intersex or

## LOVE AND MARRIAGE IN CHELSEA

non-binary so that they are not excluded from the marriages process where at the moment couples are expected to be a 'bride' or a 'groom': this will be an exciting development."

Regardless of who is getting married, everyone is nervous. Steven says: "We find that most of our couples are absolutely fine until we start the pre-ceremony interview, as this is the point they realise the momentousness of the occasion, but once the ceremony has started they find that those nerves disappear and they can then relax and enjoy the proceedings. Oddly enough it is our grooms that get the most nervous ... and who are the most likely to shed a tear during the ceremony (and this is doubled when there are two grooms)! But we suppose that this is not surprising as our brides have generally spent a lot of time on their hair and make-up and have no desire to make a mess of it all."



*Registrar's Ink, which must be used in signing official certificates of births, deaths and marriages.*

"Couples sometimes get worried about the slightest detail and we often get worried calls and e-mails on the morning of a ceremony from people panicking that something isn't right with the paperwork – it never is, as it would have been picked up long ago by our rigorous legal administration process."

Special 'Registrar's Ink' issued by the Registrar General's office in Stockport can be found in Steven's office. All official certificates – Birth, Death, Still-birth, Marriage and Civil Partnership Registrations – must be signed off with this. In the case of marriages, all the details must be written out in it. The ink is navy blue in colour but reacts with the air to make it firmer and blacker over time. It is completely indelible including from clothes – and is designed to last forever, as details in registration can never be lost. Steven's advice to brides? "Learn how to use a fountain pen before you sign the marriage register: if you flick the pen, the stains cannot be removed from your dress!"

*Sarah Farrugia was Vice-Chairman of the Chelsea Society.*

*Melanie Backe-Hansen is a historian and author of House Histories: The Secrets Behind Your Front Door; [www.house-historian.co.uk](http://www.house-historian.co.uk)*

# Impression du Matin

*Oscar Wilde*

The Thames nocturne of blue and gold  
Changed to a Harmony in grey:  
A barge with ochre-coloured hay  
Dropt from the wharf: and chill and cold

The yellow fog came creeping down  
The bridges, till the houses' walls  
Seemed changed to shadows and St. Paul's  
Loomed like a bubble o'er the town.

Then suddenly arose the clang  
Of waking life; the streets were stirred  
With country waggons: and a bird  
Flew to the glistening roofs and sang.

But one pale woman all alone,  
The daylight kissing her wan hair,  
Loitered beneath the gas lamps' flare,  
With lips of flame and heart of stone.

## NOCTURNES



*Nocturne: Blue and Silver - Chelsea*  
James Abbott McNeill Whistler, 1871  
By kind permission of the Tate Gallery.



*Nocturne Blue and Silver - Cremorne Lights*  
James Abbott McNeill Whistler, 1872  
By kind permission of the Tate Gallery.

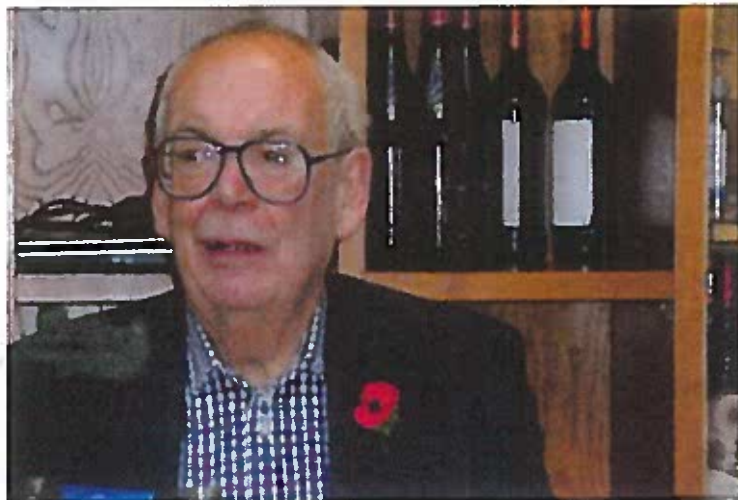
## Leonard Holdsworth 1940-2016

### *The Man who was Chelsea*

It is said that the true measure of a man's life is the size of the gap he leaves when he goes. Few in recent years can be said to have left a larger gap in Chelsea's community life and in the lives of a wide and eclectic circle of friends than Leonard Holdsworth. Chelsea was written on his heart and in his genes. Born in 1940 in the much-bombed Caversham Street, in a house which had been in the family since 1919, he was baptised at Christ Church where his parents had been married in 1928. He attended Christ Church Primary School before moving on to Emanuel School in Battersea, but remembered free time playing on the local post-War bomb sites.

A long and richly varied career in publishing introduced him to the bohemia of the 1960s and 1970s – and to the era's leading writers, musicians and actors. An insatiable interest in ideas and people, together with his inveterate sociability, meant that people of every age, profession and persuasion were drawn by his ebullient personality and hospitality.

Following marriage to Joan, Leonard migrated from 60s' Soho to a house in Putney more suited to family life. In the early 1980s he returned to Chelsea to buy the house where he had been born. It became a centre of operations in which the couple's service to Chelsea was to grow and flower.



## OBITUARIES

Leonard joined the Chelsea Society and, for more than 20 years until his death, served on its Council, happily exploiting his enormous range of contacts to enlarge its membership, raise funds for its projects and provide the advertising revenue for its publications. He performed much the same service for Christ Church School – where he served as governor for more than a decade. An active member of the Parochial Council of St Luke's and Christ Church, he was also a member of the Deanery Synod. He breathed new life into his local residents' association. Every organisation he joined benefited from his passionate dedication to the London village in which he had been born. All who knew him came to rely on his willingness to translate words into action and practical help.

Leonard was a man of decided opinions and habits, an avid art collector, a Londoner who abhorred the countryside – which he would only rarely and grouchy visit – a theatre-goer and Chelsea FC supporter, with a lively and informed interest in music, both ancient and modern. And he nursed an eccentric obsession with trains – a passion he would pursue wherever his lively curiosity and his travels with Joan took him, from Cuba to India and Sri Lanka.

Above all, supported by Joan, Leonard remained at the epicentre of a wide circle of friends of different backgrounds, nationality, interests and opinions. They would meet, discuss, argue and enjoy his friendship and the hospitality of his generous spirit – which, unknown to most, encompassed also all those he knew to be in need; a generosity as true as it was untrumpeted.

The Chelsea Society – and all the friends who filled his beloved Christ Church to capacity at his funeral in January – mind the gap his death has left.

Fleur de Villiers

## Patricia Sargent 1931-2016

Patricia Sargent, a long-serving and active member of both the Chelsea Society and the local Conservative Association, died at Trinity Hospice on Friday 9th December. She was 85.

Patricia, née Mooney, was raised at Whitley Bay in North Tyneside. On-and-off for nearly 50 years she lived in Chelsea at 92 Elm Park Gardens. Apart from being a tireless volunteer, she worked as a bookkeeper for various local estate agents, including Aylesfords, and at the Marjorie Parr Gallery in the King's Road. In his book on the gallery, Peter Davies tells how the business had a reputation for efficiency, sending proper receipts and monthly accounts: this welcome trait "owed much ... to Pat Gelley", who he described as "another loyal, committed gallery assistant".

## OBITUARIES

In 1989 Patricia Gelley became Patricia Sargent following her second, and very happy, marriage to Jimmy. The two of them then lived in Dorking where she nursed him in a final illness.

All who knew her well say that Patricia was devoted to Chelsea and a firm believer in the need to protect it. (She was, for instance, opposed to the proposed Crossrail 2 station in the King's Road.) In the Chelsea Society she is remembered for decades of attendances at Council meetings, for her work as Hon. Treasurer (1972 - 1977) and as Hon. Membership Secretary (1985 - 2012).

At the North Stanley, later Stanley, Ward of the local Conservative Party Association she was what is nowadays euphemistically called an 'activist', in practice a participant in the unseen but utterly essential slog of envelope stuffing and door-to-door deliveries.

Pat, who was gregarious and loyal to her many friends, was intensely private. She was also a woman of fortitude. Not only did she have the misfortune to lose the sight of an eye when a child (replaced eventually by a glass eye which she thought an excellent match) but for the last years of her life struggled with worsening motor neurone disease.



Patricia with sculptor John Milne, assistant to Barbara Hepworth, in 1972. Photo: Peter Kinnear.

In some ways Patricia Sargent can be thought of as a less driven version of Margaret Thatcher. Having been brought up in a small provincial town where her grandfather was a grocer and her father a commercial traveller, she escaped as a young woman to London, moved into a different world and yet was always a Conservative and always rooted. She did not talk about it, of course, but with her love of company, laughter and a good bottle of wine, she was also a true Geordie.

Terence Bendixson

## OBITUARIES

### Elizabeth Russell 1921-2016

*Her cousin, Mary Lambert, writes this tribute.*

Elizabeth loved Chelsea, where she lived since the early spring of 1930. A long and enthusiastic member of The Chelsea Society, she wrote an article for the 1993 *Annual Report*, 'A Markham Square Childhood'. She describes arriving at 33 Markham Square when she was "soon to be nine years old". She and her family were moving from Wales "where there had been no electricity but coal fires, lamps and candles, one bathroom and two ghosts... Then in the autumn of 1929 we were told we were moving to a place called Chelsea."

Elizabeth was born in Gerrards Cross on 10 April 1921. Her father, Trevor Russell, died suddenly when she was two months old. As a result of this, she and her older brother, Johnny, spent the first few years of their lives in Wales, being looked after by their grandfather and grandmother, Eric and Agnes Lambert. Their mother, Joyce, was a musician and dancer, who started a female band which went on tour, playing in music halls. At one stage she lived in Gunter Grove.

In Markham Square, the young Elizabeth lived with her aunt, Maye Lambert. She was sent to 'Miss Hunt and Miss Walter's little school on the corner of Tite Street and Royal Hospital Road: Christopher Robin Milne had left the year before.' Later she went to Francis Holland School in Graham Street. During the War, she served as an airline wireless operator in the Fleet Air Arm of the WRNS. She trained for this at 'The Poly' in Manresa Road, Chelsea, after which she went to Manchester and eventually to Arbroath in Scotland.

Elizabeth had originally wanted to be a doctor, but instead after the War went into publishing, like her Longman cousins. For many years she worked for Darton, Longman and Todd.

Like her grandfather, Elizabeth was interested in the history of her family. I shared many expeditions with her, exploring where our family had lived in the past and looking at letters and papers which had been exchanged between cousins, particularly in relation to our ancestors who had owned property in Banstead, Surrey.

Elizabeth lived in Markham Square with her aunt until Maye's death aged 92 in 1977. She then bought her own house, 2a St Luke's Street, where she was very happy. Apart from her love of Chelsea, she loved Wales and until



a few years ago kept a cottage in Llanlltyd, near Dolgellau, where her mother had lived in her retirement. Many happy visits were spent there by family and friends. Her family grave is in the churchyard.

Everyone who knew Elizabeth will remember her generous hospitality, both in Wales and in Chelsea. She had a deep concern and love for her many friends and took a great interest in their lives and those of their children. Elizabeth was a devout Christian, a member of St Luke's Fellowship, and later, of the Christ Church Fellowship. Like Maye, she attended St Mary's, Bourne Street.

After several falls, in January 2013 she moved from St Luke's Street to St Wilfrid's in Tite Street, just around the corner from her little school in Chelsea. Elizabeth died peacefully on Saturday, 27 February 2016, aged 94. Her Requiem Mass, like Maye's, was held at St Mary's on 15 March 2016. She will be greatly missed.

## The Treasurer's Report

As Hon. Treasurer of the Chelsea Society, I have pleasure in presenting the Society's financial report and accounts for the year ended 30 June 2016.

The accounts for the previous year were submitted to the Charity Commission in December 2015.

As I mentioned at the AGM, it is imperative for the Chelsea Society to maintain a sufficient level of reserves to support the delivery of the objectives of the Society, particularly on planning matters, to enable outside professional advice and support to be called upon if/as required. The objective is to increase these reserves.

In the year to 30 June 2016 total income was £60,923 (2015: £28,506) and total expenditure was £64,553 (2015: £25,353), producing a net deficit of £5,727, compared with the previous year's surplus £1,206. The higher figures in 2016 from 2015 reflect the income and expenditure relating to the extremely successful Royal Chelsea exhibition in which the Society was pleased to invest £3,880 from resources. (The 2014 Great War Exhibition saw an investment of £6,430.)

Membership income increased in 2016 to £15,696 (2015: £14,567) inclusive of gift aid which raised £1,679 (2015: c.£1,000). The additional benefit that gift aid brings is very important to the Society.

Donations, always very gratefully received, increased to £2,176 (2015: £1,745).

Income from the sale of the Society's greetings cards fell to £1,813 (2015: £2,218).

Support from advertising in the Society's *Annual Report* fell to £3,420 (2015: £6,135). This reflects the sad passing of Leonard Holdsworth whose achievements in obtaining advertising revenue have been so valuable.

Ticket sales for events were £6,311 (2015: £3,642), a tribute to the energy and hard work of Paulette Craxford who has now stepped down from the Council. Event costs were £6,344 (2015: £2,502). The Society has ambitious events planned for 2017 to boost the reserves. The focus will continue to be both on information and enjoyment as previously whilst seeking to grow and develop the Society.

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Key expenditure concerns keeping members informed: this falls into two main categories – the regular *Newsletters* £9,842 (2015: £7,491) and the *Annual Report* £7,695 (2015: £6,905). To avoid depleting the Society's reserves unnecessarily, it is important that advertising revenue at least covers the costs of the *Annual Report*. The support of members and their businesses or businesses where they have contacts is crucial to achieving this. The Society is looking at making better use of electronic media to reduce communication costs. Investment in the website, highlighted last year, is bringing great benefits.

At 30 June 2016 the Society's bank and saving deposits were £47,793 (2015: £52,775), reflecting the investments in the year in the *Annual Report* and the Exhibition.

The Society continues to engage its members with a programme of events, talks and visits while fulfilling its objective of preserving and enhancing the unique character of Chelsea. We remain in a strong position to continue this work because of our supporters and the funding we enjoy. I would like to thank all supporters – members, legatees, donors and advertisers – as well as all those who give freely of their time. They have enabled the Society to fulfil its objectives and to continue to perform its vital role.

The financial report and accounts have been scrutinised by an independent examiner and their unqualified report appears with the accounts.

Michael Illingworth FCA  
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 2016.

### 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

Damian Greenish (Chairman)  
Sarah Farrugia (Vice-Chairman) Resigned July 2016  
Dr James Thompson (Vice-Chairman) Appointed September 2016  
Tom Martin (Hon. Treasurer) Resigned December 2015  
Michael Illingworth (Hon. Treasurer) Appointed July 2016  
Lindsay Kennedy (Hon. Secretary) Resigned November 2015  
Jennifer Grossman (Hon. Secretary) Appointed January 2016  
Allan Kelly (Hon. Secretary, Membership)  
Michael Stephen (Chairman Planning Committee) Appointed January 2015  
Paulette Craxford (Hon. Secretary, Events)  
Dr Sarah Ingham (Editor) Appointed March 2016

#### Elected Members of the Council

Michael Bach	Fleur de Villiers
Martyn Baker	John Doncaster (Elected November 2015)
Patrick Baty	Jane Dorrell
Terence Bendixson	Leonard Holdsworth (Died January 2016)
Gillian Best (Resigned December 2015)	Camilla Mountain

#### Co-opted Members of the Council

Nigel Stenhouse	Paul Aikenhead
Sir Paul Lever (March 2016)	Amalia Cebreiro (July 2016)

#### 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 year.

At 30 June 2016, the Society has total funds of £40,739 (2015 £46,465) comprising £38,539 on the General Fund and £2,200 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.

#### Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Approved by the Council of the Chelsea Society on 25 October 2016.

Damian Greenish  
Chairman

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

I report on the accounts of The Chelsea Society for the year ended 30 June 2016, which are set out on pages 77 and 78.

#### Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - \* to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - \* to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Angela Ktistakis, ACA, FCCA

GMAK, Chartered Accountants, 5/7 Vernon Yard, Portobello Road, London W11 2DX  
26 October, 2016

## THE CHELSEA SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>		
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Annual membership subscriptions + Gift Aid	15,696	14,567
Donations received	2,176	1,745
Advertising revenue and annual report	3,420	6,135
Sponsorship of exhibition	31,346	–
Interest received	162	198
Lectures, walks and visits	6,311	3,642
Income from sale of Christmas cards and postcards	1,813	2,218
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>60,923</b>	<b>28,506</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure:</b>		
Cost of annual report	7,695	6,905
Cost of newsletters	9,842	7,491
Lectures, walks and visits	6,344	2,502
Cost of Christmas cards, postcards and maps	2,234	813
Subscriptions and donations to other organisations	30	292
Advertising	–	320
Exhibition	35,222	262
Website	926	1,880
Conference and archive	264	3,186
Printing, postage and miscellaneous expenses	973	1,108
Insurance	184	179
Sundry	840	414
	<b>64,553</b>	<b>25,353</b>
<b>Governance and Administration</b>		
Annual General Meeting	601	874
Bank charges	626	217
Independent examiner's fee	870	856
	<b>2,097</b>	<b>1,947</b>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>66,650</b>	<b>27,300</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</b>	<b>(5,727)</b>	<b>1,206</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>46,465</b>	<b>45,259</b>
<b>Balances carried forward at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>40,739</b>	<b>46,465</b>

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	2,074	3,222
National Savings Bank account	20,383	20,231
Barclays Bank accounts	27,410	32,544
	<u>49,867</u>	<u>55,997</u>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	(9,128)	(9,532)
	<u></u>	<u></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>£40,739</u></b>	<b><u>£46,465</u></b>
<b>Funds:</b>		
General Fund	38,539	44,265
Life Membership Fund	<u>2,200</u>	<u>2,200</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>£40,739</u></b>	<b><u>£44,465</u></b>

Approved by the Council of The Chelsea Society on  
25 October 2016  
Damian Greenish, *Chairman*  
Michael Illingworth, *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

(as amended by a Resolution of the Members of the Society  
passed at its Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2016)

1 The Chelsea Society shall be regulated by the Rules contained in this Constitution as follows:

## OBJECTS

2 The Objects of the Society are to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea for the public benefit particularly by:

- 2.1 stimulating interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea;
- 2.2 encouraging and promoting good architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and proper maintenance of its buildings the public realm and open spaces and other features of historic or public interest;
- 2.3 seeking the abatement of nuisances;
- 2.4 making representations to the proper authorities on these subjects.

## MEMBERSHIP

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

3.1 Where a person firm or company ("Applicant") wishes to become a member of the Society ("Member") he shall submit to the Membership Secretary a written application in such form as the Council may by resolution from time to time prescribe ("Application").

3.2 In the case of a married couple or a couple in a civil partnership who pay the subscription for joint membership each individual shall be a Member and each shall have one vote. In the case of a firm or company the Applicant shall designate a person to exercise its rights as a Member who shall have one vote.

3.3 Within ten days following receipt of a properly completed and signed Application the Membership Secretary shall (subject to Rule 3.4) enter the Applicant on the Register (as defined in Rule 7.1) and the Applicant shall thereupon be a Member of the Society. The Membership Secretary shall notify the Applicant of such entry.

3.4 If the Membership Secretary reasonably considers that an Applicant does not subscribe to the Objects of the Society or may bring the Society into disrepute the Chairman of the Council may refer the matter to the Council who shall in such circumstances have the power by resolution to refuse the Application.

3.5 If at any time the Chairman of the Council considers that the continued membership of any Member would not be in the best interests of the Society he may refer the matter to the Council, who may by Special Resolution proposed by the Chairman of the Council terminate the membership of that Member forthwith. The Membership Secretary shall give written notice of such termination to the former Member.

## THE COUNCIL

4 There shall be a Council of the Society which shall be constituted in accordance with these Rules.

4.1 The Council shall comprise Elected Councillors, Co-opted Councillors, and Officers ("together Members of Council").

4.2 Elected Councillors shall be elected to be Members of Council by Members of the Society at a General Meeting ("Elected Councillors").

4.3 At any time there shall be no more than twelve Elected Councillors.

4.4 No person shall be eligible to be an Elected Councillor unless:

4.4.1 he is a Member

4.4.2 he has been proposed and seconded by at least two Members and has consented to serve

4.4.3 there have been given to the Secretary at least twenty eight days before the General Meeting

4.4.3.1 the names of the proposer, the seconder and the person seeking election (with his consent to serve) signed by the three persons concerned

4.4.3.2 a written statement by the person seeking election setting out his qualifications to be a Member of Council

4.5 Council may by resolution co-opt further persons to be Members of Council ("Co-opted Councillors"). The term of each such appointment shall be such as may be determined by resolution of Council but not exceeding one year.

4.6 At any time (but subject to Rule 4.18) there shall be no more than four Co-opted Councillors.

4.7 Council shall appoint by resolution appropriate persons to fulfil the roles specified in Rule 5.1 ("Officers") and on such appointment such persons shall be Members of Council for the duration of their terms of office. The terms of reference for each of those roles shall be determined by a resolution of Council.

4.8 In the event that an Elected Councillor becomes an Officer in consequence of an appointment under Rule 4.7 that person shall on such appointment cease to be an Elected Councillor.

4.9 In the choice of persons for appointment as Co-opted Councillors and Officers, regard 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 and to the person's connections with Chelsea.

4.10 Council shall be responsible for the day-to-day work of the Society and shall have power by resolution to take any action on behalf of the Society which the Council thinks fit to take for the purpose of promoting and furthering the Objects of the Society.

4.11 Council may by resolution delegate any of its functions powers or authorities for such time on such terms and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit to any Committee consisting of one or more Members of

## THE CONSTITUTION

Council and if thought fit one or more other persons who fulfil the criteria of Rule 4.9.

- 4.12 4.12.1 Unless requiring a Special Resolution, resolutions of Council shall be passed by simple majority of those present (whether voting or not) at a meeting of Council. A resolution (other than a Special Resolution) may also be proposed by the Chairman and voted upon by e-mail: it shall be passed if supported by a majority of all the Members of the Council.
- 4.12.2 Notice of a Special Resolution (with the text thereof) must be given to Members of Council at least twenty one days before a meeting of Council. A Special Resolution shall be passed only if supported by not less than two thirds of all the Members of Council
- 4.12.3 If a Member of Council cannot attend a meeting of Council he may, by giving written notice signed by that Member of Council to the Chairman before the meeting, appoint another Member of Council as his proxy
- 4.13 Council shall make and publish every year a Report of the activities of the Society during the previous year. Following receipt of such Report at the Annual General Meeting publication may be done by posting the Report on the Society's website.
- 4.14 Council shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.
- 4.15 An Elected Councillor or Co-opted Councillor who is absent from two successive meetings of Council without explanation which the Council approves shall by Special Resolution cease to be a Member of Council.
- 4.16 Three of the Elected Councillors shall retire each year, but may offer themselves for re-election
- 4.17 Retirement under Rule 4.16 shall be in rotation according to seniority of election. Elected Councillors elected on the same day shall draw lots.
- 4.18 In the event that at any time the number of Elected Councillors is fewer than six then Council may (notwithstanding Rule 4.6) by resolution appoint further persons to be Co-opted Councillors provided that:
- 4.18.1 the term of appointment of a Co-opted Councillor under this Rule shall terminate at the General Meeting next following his appointment, and
- 4.18.2 at no time shall the aggregate number of Elected Councillors and Co-opted Councillors exceed sixteen.
- 4.19 a Member of Council will be present at a meeting of Council if with the permission of the Chairman he attends the meeting electronically

### OFFICERS

- 5.1 The Council shall appoint the following Officers who shall thereby be Members of Council for their respective terms of office namely:-
- 5.1.1 Chairman of the Council;
- 5.1.2 Vice-Chairman of the Council;
- 5.1.3 Secretary or Joint Secretaries;
- 5.1.4 Treasurer;
- 5.1.5 Membership Secretary
- 5.1.6 persons to fill such other posts as may be decided from time to time by Special Resolution of Council.
- 5.2 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 terminate at the end of the Annual General Meeting in the third year after his appointment.
- 5.3 The Officers shall be eligible for re-appointment to their respective offices but the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall not serve for more than six consecutive years, unless permitted to do so by resolution at a General Meeting.
- 5.4 Nothing herein contained shall detract from the Officers' right to resign during their current term
- 5.5 By Special Resolution Council may rescind the appointment of an Officer or a Co-opted Councillor during his term of office for substantial reasons
- 5.6 In the event of a casual vacancy in any of the offices specified in Rule 5.1 the Chairman (or in the event of the vacancy being the office of Chairman, the Vice-Chairman) shall have power to appoint a Member of Council to undertake the function of that office until a new Officer is appointed by Council.

### PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

- 6.1 The Council may by resolution appoint a Member to be President of the Society for a term of three years, and may re-appoint him for one further term of three years.
- 6.2 The Council may by resolution appoint not more than six persons, who need not be Members, to be Vice-Presidents of the Society each for such term as the Council may by resolution decide.

### REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 7.1 The Membership Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date confidential register of Members ("Register") containing such details for each Member as the Council may from time to time by resolution decide.
- 7.2 A Member shall give notice in writing signed by the Member to the Membership Secretary of any changes to the details held for that Member and on receipt of such notice the Membership Secretary shall update the Register accordingly.
- 7.3 The Council shall by resolution prescribe the amount of the subscriptions to be paid by Members and the date on which they are due and the period in respect of which they are payable
- 7.4 Membership of the Society shall lapse if the Member's subscription is unpaid for three months after it is due, but may be restored by resolution of the Council.

## THE CONSTITUTION

- 7.5 Members may pay more than the prescribed minimum, if they wish.
- 7.6 Members may pay annual subscriptions by Direct Debit.
- 7.7 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 two Officers nominated by the Council.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

- 8.1 In these Rules "General Meeting" means a meeting of the Society open to all its Members. No other person may be admitted except by permission of the chairman of the General Meeting.
- 8.2 The Council shall arrange at least one General Meeting every year, to be called the Annual General Meeting, which shall be held not less than ten months and not more than thirteen months after the previous Annual General Meeting. The Council may also arrange as many other General Meetings, (in these Rules referred to as Special General Meetings), as it may think fit including pursuant to Rule 8.15. Notice of the date of General Meetings shall be given so as to be received by Members not less than thirty five days before the date specified for the General Meeting.
- 8.3 General Meetings, the agenda for which shall be given to Members not less than twenty one days before the meeting, shall take place at such times and places as the Council shall specify.
- 8.4 The President shall preside as chairman at any General Meeting at which he is present, and if he is not present the Chairman of the Council or another Member of Council nominated by the Chairman of the Council shall so preside.
- 8.5 As regards voting at a General Meeting
- 8.5.1 Each Member is entitled to a single vote
- 8.5.2 A Member shall not be entitled to vote if
- 8.5.2.1 His name (or in the case of a firm or company, the name of the person designated under Rule 3.2) has not been entered on to the Register for a period of at least twenty one days before the General Meeting
- 8.5.2.2 He has not paid his subscription
- 8.5.2.3 He has appointed a proxy under Rule 8.7
- 8.5.3 a vote will be on a show of hands as to which the declaration of result by the chairman of the General Meeting shall be final unless at least twenty Members present at the General Meeting request a ballot immediately following the declaration of result
- 8.5.4 The Secretary shall prepare ballot papers beforehand for distribution at a General Meeting for use in the event a ballot is requested under Rule 8.5.3
- 8.5.5 Any ballot at a General Meeting shall be conducted on such terms as is decided by a resolution of Council
- 8.6 Subject to Rule 8.14 a resolution of Members at a General Meeting will be passed by a simple majority of those voting in person or by proxy save that a resolution of Members the effect of which is to amend these Rules will be passed only if:
- 8.6.1 the text of the proposed amendment has been included with the agenda for the General Meeting and
- 8.6.2 the resolution is supported by two-thirds of the Members voting in person or by proxy at the General Meeting
- 8.7 A Member may appoint another Member as his proxy to attend a General Meeting and to vote on his behalf and in his name if the Member has given notice in writing signed by him to the Secretary not less than seven days before the General Meeting of the name of the proxy and stating that the Member has appointed the proxy to attend the General Meeting
- 8.8
- 8.8.1 Elections to Council shall be held at a General Meeting in accordance with Rules 4.2 to 4.4
- 8.8.2 Each candidate for election to Council shall be elected individually
- 8.8.3 A candidate will be duly elected if he receives more votes in favour of his election than against it provided that where the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies those candidates who receive the most votes in favour shall be duly elected.
- 8.9 The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall include:
- 8.9.1 receiving the Annual Report referred to in Rule 4.13;
- 8.9.2 receiving the Annual Accounts;
- 8.9.3 the election (if any) of Elected Councillors
- 8.9.4 resolutions (if any) of which notice has been received under Rule 8.12.1
- 8.9.5 such other matters within the Objects of the Society as the Council may by resolution decide
- 8.10 At the Annual General Meeting any Member may comment on any matter mentioned in the Report or Accounts, and may raise any matter not mentioned in the Report or Accounts, if it is within the Objects of the Society.
- 8.11 The chairman of the General Meeting may limit the duration of speeches.
- 8.12 Resolutions by Members may be passed only at a General Meeting
- 8.12.1 Any Member who wishes to propose a resolution shall give notice by sending a copy signed by him as proposer and by another Member as seconder so as to reach the Secretary at least twenty eight days before the date of the General Meeting.
- 8.12.2 The chairman of the General Meeting shall allow a reasonable time to debate the resolution and shall call speakers for and against the resolution
- 8.12.3 Unless withdrawn by the proposer the resolution shall then be put to the vote

## THE CONSTITUTION

- 8.12.4 A resolution on the agenda shall not be amended unless it is a minor amendment which does not alter the substance of the resolution. Any such amendment shall be considered only if moved by the proposer and seconder of the resolution and approved by the chairman of the General Meeting.
- 8.13 The Secretary shall send to Members with the agenda referred to in Rule 8.3
- 8.13.1 the name of each person being proposed for election under Rule 4.2 with the names of the proposer and seconder and a copy of the statement for each such person referred to in Rule 4.4.3.2 and
- 8.13.2 a copy of any resolutions received under Rule 8.12.1
- 8.14 Notwithstanding Rule 8.6 any resolution the effect of which would be to cause the Society to cease to be a charity in law shall not be passed.
- 8.15 At any time not less than 50 Members may make an application to the Chairman of the Council requesting that the Council call a Special General Meeting.
- 8.15.1 Such an application must be:
- 8.15.1.1 signed personally by all the Members making the application
- 8.15.1.2 accompanied by a statement of the reasons for calling the Special General Meeting and the text of any resolution(s) they wish to propose at the Special General Meeting.
- 8.15.2 the Council shall consider any such application and if granted shall (subject to payment of any deposit required under Rule 8.15.3) call a Special General Meeting in accordance with Rule 8.2
- 8.15.3 The Council may make it a condition of such a grant that a deposit not exceeding the expense of calling and holding the General Meeting (as reasonably determined by the Treasurer) shall be paid to the Society by the Members making the application. The Council shall in its absolute discretion decide following the Special General Meeting whether the deposit shall be retained by the Society or returned to the applicants in whole or in part
- 8.15.4 An application made under Rule 8.15 shall be granted unless the Council decides by Special Resolution that it shall not be granted.

### CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 At any time not less than 30 Members may make an application to the Chairman of the Council requesting that the Council shall consult the Members on an issue which falls within the Objects of the Society
- 9.2 Such an application must be:
- 9.2.1 signed personally by all the Members making the application
- 9.2.2 accompanied by a written explanation of the issue on which a consultation is requested
- 9.3 The Council shall consider any such application and if granted shall (subject to payment of any deposit required under Rule 9.4) arrange for a consultation to take place on such terms and on such basis and by such means as the Council shall in its absolute discretion think fit
- 9.4 The Council may make it a condition of such a grant that a deposit not exceeding the expense of undertaking such a consultation (as reasonably determined by the Treasurer) shall be paid to the Society by the members making the application. The Council shall in its absolute discretion decide following the consultation whether the deposit shall be retained by the Society or returned to the applicants in whole or in part
- 9.5 An application made under Rule 9.2 shall be granted unless the Council decides by Special Resolution that it shall not be granted.

### NOTICES AND INTERPRETATION

- 10.1 Any notice required to be given or any application made to the Council
- 10.1.1 shall be addressed to the Secretary (or in the case of an application under Rule 3 or a notice under Rule 7.2, to the Membership Secretary) and
- 10.1.2 sent to the address of the Society published on its website or such other address as may from time to time be notified to Members
- 10.2 Any notice to be given to a Member shall be validly given if sent:
- 10.2.1 by pre-paid post to the address specified in the Register, or
- 10.2.2 by email to the e-mail address of that Member specified in the Register if he has given an e-mail address to the Society.
- 10.3 In these Rules:
- 10.3.1 Any words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine or neuter as the context admits
- 10.3.2 "Writing" may include e-mails except where required to be signed in which case a signed .pdf document sent by e-mail shall suffice.
- 10.3.3 Any reference to a resolution is to an Ordinary Resolution unless required by these Rules to be a Special Resolution.
- 10.4 Nothing herein shall affect any resolution of the Members or of the Council passed under any earlier edition of this Constitution

### WINDING-UP

- 11.1 The winding-up of the Society shall be effected by a Special Resolution of Council confirmed by a two-thirds majority of Members voting in person or by proxy at a General Meeting.
- 11.2 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 and approved by the General Meeting at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed.

## List of Members

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

RICHARD ABBOTT  
MRS SUSAN ABBOTT  
\*MRS. A. ABELES  
GRAHAM ADAMS  
MRS GRAHAM ADAMS  
NICK ADAMS  
MRS SARAH ADAMS  
NATALIE AGAPIOU  
SIR RANDOLPH AND LADY AGNEW  
TIM AHERN  
MISS INESSA AIREY  
PAUL V. AITKENHEAD  
CHRIS AKERS  
MRS. ANNE MARIE AKERS  
MRS. LETTY SUE ALBERT  
ANTONY ALBERTI  
MRS FLEUR ALBERTI  
MRS. JUDY ALEXANDER  
MRS ROSEMARY ALEXANDER  
R. ALEXANDER  
MRS. R. ALEXANDER  
MISS AVA AMANDE  
MRS. ELIZABETH AMATI  
C. C. ANDRAE  
\*THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY  
JOHN ARMITAGE  
MRS JOHN ARMITAGE  
MRS. M. ASHE  
MRS. ROMA ASHWORTH BRIGGS  
GREGORY ASIKANEN  
MISS C. ASSHETON  
J. ROBERT ATKINSON  
DON AVERY  
MRS CYNTHIA AYER

MICHAEL BACH  
MISS ANGELA BAIGNÈRES  
ALEX BAILEY  
ANDREW BAILEY  
MARTYN BAKER  
MRS. MARTYN BAKER  
MRS BAKHTIAR BAKHTIARI  
RICHARD BALLERAND  
MISS URMILA BANERJEE  
ROBERT BARHAM  
MRS LOUISA BARHAM  
THE HON. VIVIAN BARING  
MRS LAVINIA BARING  
MRS. MICHAEL BARKER  
DR. R. BARKER  
ROGER BARKER  
LADY BARRAN  
MRS CLAUDIO BARRIOS  
MRS. JULIAN BARROW  
SIMON BARROW

STEPHEN BARRY  
MRS STEPHEN BARRY  
MRS ANNE BARTLETT  
DR CAROLYN BARSHALL  
\*MRS. DEREK BARTON  
JOHN BASSETT  
MRS JEAN BASSETT  
DAVID BATCHELOR  
G. N. BATTMAN  
MRS. G. N. BATTMAN  
PATRICK BATY  
SIR PETER BAXENDELL  
LADY BAXENDELL#  
MRS. MICHAEL HICKS BEACH  
GERALD BEALE  
ROBERT BEALE  
MRS ROBERT BEALE  
MRS. A. E. BEAUMONT-DODD  
MRS. P. M. BECKER  
ANGELA BEDDALL  
CLAIRE DIGBY BELL  
T. J. BENDALL  
TERENCE BENDIXSON  
MISS ANDREA BENNETT  
LADY ROSE BERGER  
MRS R A C BERKELEY  
ROBIN BERKELEY  
MRS ROBIN BERKELEY  
MISS ANN BERNE  
JOSHUA BERRY  
MRS. JOSHUA BERRY  
MRS RITA BERRY  
MISS GILLIAN BEST  
TIMOTHY BETLEY  
MRS TIMOTHY BETLEY  
MRS DELIA BETTISON  
MISS SUSAN BILGER  
MISS PAMELA BIRLEY  
DR R. J. BISHOP  
MRS R. J. BISHOP  
MRS NANETTE BLACK  
MRS. ELIZABETH BLACKMAN  
MISS CAROLE J BLACKSHAW  
MISS SUZANNE BLAKEY  
DEREK BLOOM  
THE HON. NIGEL BOARDMAN  
MARTIN BOASE  
MRS. MARTIN BOASE  
MRS. J. B. FLOCKHART BOOTH  
MRS. MICHAEL BOREHAM  
MISS JUDITH BORROW  
MISS JUDITH BOWDEN  
MISS CLARE BOWRING  
M. BOXFORD  
MRS. M. BOXFORD

## LIST OF MEMBERS

JOHN BOYNTON  
MRS JUDITH BOYNTON  
ROGER BRABAN  
MRS ROGER BRABAN  
MISS TINA BRADLEY  
MISS P. BRABY  
DAVID BRADY  
MRS. DAVID BRADY  
H. R. BRADY  
MRS H. R. BRADY  
R. M. A. BRAINE  
MRS. R. M. A. BRAINE  
MRS SUSAN BREITMEYER  
MRS. VIVIENNE BRITTAIN  
MRS ANGELA BROAD  
T. BROAD  
MRS. T. BROAD  
CAMILLA BROADBENT  
MRS MARA BROCKBANK  
CANON MICHAEL BROCKIE  
SIR HENRY BROOKE  
LADY BROOKE  
R. BROOKS  
ANNA BROOKSBANK  
COMMANDER N. WALDEMAR BROWN R.N.  
MRS. MICHAEL BRYAN  
MRS IRENA BRYANS  
MR G. BRYANT  
A. A. G. S. BUCHANAN  
MRS. E. J. BUCHANAN  
MISS M. BUCKLEY  
P. J. BULL  
K. BURGESS  
\*RICHARD BURGESS  
MISS ELIZABETH BURMAN  
KATE PELHAM BURN  
REAR-ADMIRAL R. H. BURN, C.B., A.F.C.  
MRS. R. H. BURN  
\*A. I. J. BURNS  
MALCOLM BURR  
MRS. MALCOLM BURR  
F. A. BUSBY  
MRS SUSAN BUTLER  
\*MRS. JAMES BUXTON  
TERENCE BUXTON

THE EARL CADOGAN, D.L.  
\*R. A. W. CAINE  
ROBERTO CALLANDRO  
MRS. VERONICA CALVERT  
MRS. PATRICIA CAMERON  
MRS CHARLES CAMINADA  
COLIN CAMPBELL  
MRS. COLIN CAMPBELL  
DONALD CAMPBELL  
H.L. CAMPBELL  
MRS. SUE CAMPBELL  
DAME FRANCES CAMPBELL-PRESTON  
MRS. E. CARLETON PAGET  
A. CARO

MRS. A. CARO  
RUSS CARR  
MRS. RUSS CARR  
MISS S. P. CARR  
LADY GILLIAN CARRICK  
MRS SARAH CARTWRIGHT  
ADAM CASTELLANI  
S. CASTELLO  
MRS S. CASTELLO  
MRS KATHARINE CATOR  
MRS AMALIA CEBREIRO  
JAMES CECIL  
M. E. CHAMBERLAYNE  
CHARLES CHAMPION  
DEIRDRE CHAPPELL  
DAVID CHARTERS  
MRS. DAVID CHARTERS  
MRS. CYNTHIA CHAUVEAU  
LORD CHELSEA  
LADY CHELSEA  
CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN CO.  
A.H. CHIGNELL  
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