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SOCIETY**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The theme of this 90th edition of the Annual Report is 'In Plain Sight'. It's about what is so commonplace, that it goes unnoticed and unremarked. But much of we take for granted in Chelsea today is often only thanks to efforts, energy or vision that are out of the ordinary. How many stop to look at the small sculpture found on the corner of Markham Square? Similarly, do those motorists speeding along Chelsea Embankment – or perhaps more likely, who are stuck in a jam – consider its artistic heritage?

Now We are 90 reminds us that, from the beginning, the Chelsea Society has championed social housing, an issue that has come to dominate today's political agenda. One of the Society's first campaigns concerned the air we breathe, which threatened to be further polluted by the construction of Battersea Power Station. The Report charts the continuing battle for clean air. The story is told of Chelsea Physic Garden curator, Robert Fortune, and his role in bringing tea to Britain. A quest to find out why there is a Chelsea in New York City led to the Manhattan organisation, Save Chelsea. Despite an ocean separating them, the two Chelseas are not unlike.

The mysterious cover image is Nocturne Trafalgar Square Chelsea Snow by J.A.M. Whistler. The original (1875) can be seen at the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. Trafalgar Square SW3, where the first meeting of the Chelsea Society was held, was renamed Chelsea Square in 1938.

Sarah Ingham – Editor

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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

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Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Society

Chelsea Town Hall

Monday, 20th November 2017

Welcome

The Society's President, John Simpson CBE who was in the chair, thanked members for their attendance and support.

Apologies

Apologies were received from the Earl of Cadogan KBE DL, Viscount Chelsea and The Rt. Hon. Greg Hands MP among others.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM held on 21st November 2017 had been published and were approved.

Elections

The passing of two co-opted members of the Council, Nigel Stenhouse and Paul Aitkenhead, was noted with sadness. Patrick Baty, John Doncaster, and Paulette Craxford retired during the year. With nobody coming forward to stand, no formal elections were necessary.

Constitution

The Chairman announced that there was no need to amend the constitution at the present time. Consequently, the proposed amendment noted on earlier versions of the agenda was not moved.

Receiving the Accounts for the Financial Year ending 30th June 2017

The Society's Treasurer, Michael Illingworth FCA, reported that the accounts had been independently audited and that the Society was in a healthy financial state. Slightly more funds were being carried forward, enabling the Society to carry out its work.

Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman presented his Annual Report.

Any Other Business

Society members raised a number of matters:

a) Crossrail 2

The Chairman replied that no decision had been made about whether there will be a Crossrail 2 site in Chelsea, but the informal indications were that the need to save costs on this very expensive project may result in Chelsea being dropped as a location for a station. However, it cannot rule out that, despite the proposed site

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

being something of an oddity because it does not connect to any other tube line, there may be a decision in future to go ahead with the station. Crossrail 2 could be presented as a major national infrastructure investment and the very high costs accepted on that basis. Consequently, the Society has to keep a watching brief. In the case that Chelsea is once more proposed as a station, the Leader of RBKC has promised a consultation, in which the Society will participate.

b) The Queen's Head in Tryon St

Talks with the pub's owners continue.

c) The Laurence Olivier/Vivien Leigh house in Christchurch Street

This is in disrepair, but is in the process of being refurbished.

d) Houseboats on Cadogan Pier

The Society is sympathetic to the concerns of boat owners and, more widely, is focusing on the future of Chelsea's riverside.

e) The Chelsea Police Station

It was noted that Chelsea had been stripped of its station, and that the current organisation of the Police Service meant that anyone arrested in Chelsea had to be taken elsewhere in London for charging and processing, a time-consuming process which reduced Police presence in Chelsea yet further.

f) Sutton Dwellings

The Chelsea Society is determined to prevent any further loss of social housing in Chelsea and will be making representations at the planning appeal.

g) Loss of Julian Barrow's Studio to Residential Development

Dr Margaret Thompson explained that when buildings had been used as artists' studios, it was RBKC's policy was to continue such use for a further four years after change of ownership. Despite her best efforts, it had been too late to establish such use in this case.

h) Planning Consent and Ugly Buildings

The Society had organised a public meeting with RBKC Planning on 10 April 2017, in which Mr Graham Stallwood explained what were the material grounds for objecting to a planning application. Ugliness *per se* is not a material ground for objection but comes under Design and Visual Impact. The list of what does or does not count as a valid objection are given on our website. (<http://chelseasociety.org.uk/discussion-meeting-planning/>) All our members should take a look at it so that their objections to planning applications have most force.

Chairman's Report To the Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Society 20th November 2017

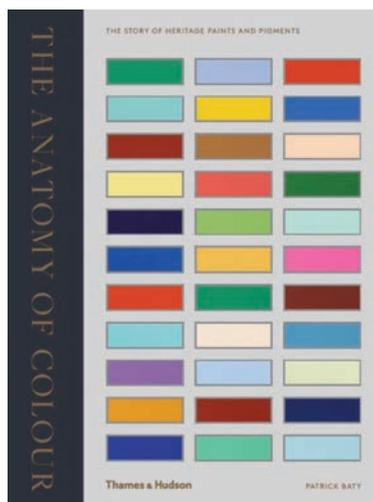
Mr President, Madam Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Vice-Presidents, Members of the Council, Members of the Society, Chairmen of other amenity societies and honoured guests, I would like to thank the Members of Council for their dedicated work over the past year. They believe the future of Chelsea is worth fighting for, as enshrined in our principal Object: to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea for the public benefit.

David Le Lay, who died in January was our most notable and long-serving Chairman, combining architectural skills, deep historical knowledge and an abiding enthusiasm for Chelsea. Good-humoured, impishly funny and extremely hard working, he kept the Society going, both with public speaking and behind the scenes management. His lectures on Chelsea's history were exceptional. The whole Society is in his debt, and will long remember him.

Paul Aitkenhead, appointed in 2012, died in May after a long illness. He was a collector of antiquarian books. Even in the last weeks of his life, he was making suggestions for the better management of the King's Road.

Nigel Stenhouse, appointed 1989, died suddenly on 16th October. He had been Vice-Chairman for 20 years. It is largely to him that we owe the restoration of the Chelsea Embankment involving the cleaning of the granite wall, restoration of lighting columns, reinstatement of benches, and York stone repaving. It was a major achievement.

Two Members of Council have completed their years of service and decided not to stand for re-election. Patrick Baty was in charge of Planning for Stanley Ward. An international expert on paints and colours, Patrick's book *The Anatomy of Colour* published this summer, is a beautiful and definitive work on heritage paints.



Patrick Baty's 'Anatomy of Colour'

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The demands of his many clients, not least the Royal Household, have drawn him away from us. We thank him for his great contribution. John Doncaster, with his long service to the Society has also decided not to stand again, and we thank him for his contribution.

Chelsea is vibrant, and part of that vibration comes from perpetual building work. The vast open-air strip mines of Kazakhstan seem quiet and dust-free in comparison. Our website shows you how much work our Planning Committee does, including writing position papers on the Raynsford Planning Law Review and the Mayor of London's Transport Review, in addition to business rates, Airbnb, basements, Congestion Charging, repeated planning applications, laundrettes, residents' parking, planning privatisation, garden squares, short term lets and cycle highways.

The tragedy of Grenfell Tower has made us look again at fire safety, Tenant Management Organisations and central Government funding of council housing obligations.

The Society's work on Social Housing reveals that philanthropy in Chelsea antedates the welfare state. Peabody 1870, Guinness 1891, Sutton 1912,



The Sutton Estate, Cale Street. (Image: SavetheSuttonEstate.co.uk)

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Samuel Lewis 1915 ... These trusts made a permanent contribution to Chelsea life, and their legacy is worthy of preservation. Our position on these trusts is uncompromising: their assets in Chelsea should remain in Chelsea, as their founders intended. On the Sutton Estate, we have registered our implacable opposition to any reduction of social housing in Chelsea. Social housing represents 24.5% of total housing in RBKC: slightly above the London average. You would not know that from most media reporting on Chelsea.

This October, in the aftermath of the Grenfell, we began debating the principles and priorities of social housing. Should priority be given to larger families with low income, or to key workers in hospitals, schools and other public services? Or to new arrivals who have no real connection with the borough? Should social housing be permanent, or withdrawn if circumstances improve, or if renters cease to be local key-workers? Should developers provide housing on site, or in places where three units could be provided for the price of one in Chelsea? When we have drafted out the main questions, we will consult you on priorities. Despite the expertise of Council members, we don't know precisely how central government recompenses local councils for the cost of their statutory duty to house everyone who turns up in their boroughs. Apparently, neither does RBKC.

Our submission to the Raynsford Review recognises that property owners are free to develop their buildings, subject to restrictions in the public interest. However, we think that planning law does not attach sufficient weight to the local people who are affected by development. It is often impossible for residents to live or work in their homes for many months or even years. Developers are rarely personally affected: they usually live elsewhere. Earlier this year one of our members died, after being subjected to noise, dust, vibration and intolerable stress caused by a development next door for which the local Planning Authority had been obliged to grant planning permission. Hundreds of residents have suffered far more than they should be expected to endure. We are urging changes in the law, and strong enforcement of regulations covering building work and noise. RBKC's Deputy Leader, Councillor Will Pascall agreed to make Chelsea the pilot scheme area for a new enforcement regime to be launched next Spring.

We are not happy, to put it mildly, with what has happened to Thamesbrook care home. Formerly we had 56 beds in central Chelsea where older residents could be cared for and easily visited by family. Now all we have are glossy brochures, asking residents to pay millions for concierge outings and spa treatments. RBKC has promised us a care home on Lot's Road, but there is no date for the commencement of works, and no confirmation that the funds will be available.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We understand that Grenfell has depleted Council finances by a reported £275 million, but we will continue to demand a like-for-like replacement.

The proposal to have large residential houseboats on Cadogan Pier was alarming. We opposed it, and it has since been withdrawn. Clearer policy and guidance on the Thames Policy Area (a London Plan designation) through a supplementary planning document is required.

Continued Article 4 protection for business and retail premises is vital if employment space in the Borough is to be saved from high-end housing.



Cadogan Pier (Image thanks to David Waddell, Cheyne Walk Trust)

We maintain a watching brief on Crossrail 2. Although it seems likely that the station at Chelsea will be dropped for purely financial reasons, we would welcome RBKC accepting that it makes little sense, and is not wanted by a majority of residents. Currently, the only assurance we have from the Leader of RBKC is that if a Chelsea station were to be proposed again, there would be a further consultation.

Turning now to our own finances, under our Treasurer Michael Illingworth we have carried out a detailed review of our costs, for which I am most grateful.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

He found that producing and mailing the Annual Report, Newsletters, and Notices of events and was taking up all of members' subscriptions. We have reduced costs by increased use of email, but we are still committed to mailing out the Report and the Newsletters to all members, and mailing out notices of meetings to those without emails. After leaving subscriptions unchanged for a long time, we have had to make a small increase this year.

Our well-attended lectures and visits have provided a small surplus. We maintain reserves to cover any legal costs on planning issues, and to carry out charitable ventures such as exhibitions. Our internal administrative costs have always been at an absolute minimum. The motion requiring a change in the Constitution has been withdrawn, because on further examination the Charity Commission guidance on payments for services covers any future need to pay for book-keeping services, but we would welcome volunteer book-keepers to assist the Treasurer. Our meeting locations are provided free by the Hampshire School, National Army Museum, Sloane Club, and others have offered. We thank them, and also Waitrose for contributing to the refreshments this evening.

I thank our Membership Secretary, Allan Kelly, for all his work, particularly dealing with the complexities of direct debits, standing orders, Gift Aid and those ancient devices: cheques. We remain one of the country's largest amenity societies. If you have changed your actual or email address, please let us know to ensure our records are up to date.

I thank Michael Bach for the production of our newsletters, which are always very informative and well received.

Dr Sarah Ingham is the new editor of the Annual report, and under her guidance it has been a great success. We have been able to attract new advertisers, and are grateful to them. We have a deep history as an amenity society, and our Annual Reports are an important local historical record.

I thank our Secretary, Jennifer Grossman, who has been dealing with Society affairs whilst also living surrounded by building sites, and has a vivid understanding of how perpetual building work has impacted her family life.

Amalia Cebreiro has guided us in the social housing debate, and Terence Bendixson, Fleur de Villiers and Jane Dorrell have helped us newer Council members with many matters, and my thanks to them all.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Volunteers are most welcome, and do not have to join the Council. Consider it a zero hours contract, where even an hour helping at a lecture would be appreciated.

It is part of the Society's purpose to innovate, and that takes time.

Members chose the King's Road Fire Station for our Architecture Prize competition. I wrote to the Fire Service (long before the Grenfell fire) and they eventually answered that they would prefer us not to use their site as an example, in case it raised expectations which they would later be unable to fulfil. We are researching other sites. Meantime, we will be inviting architectural practices to discuss their development plans with us, and to understand our views.



(Image courtesy of the London Sketch Club)

Next year we intend to join the London Sketch Club at their traditional dinners, now that they are no longer under legal threat from a neighbour in Dilke Street because of their lusty singing of the national anthem. We helped them negotiate with RBKC noise department. The Sketch Club lost its income for many months, and spent a great deal of money on legal advice, one reason that every charity should always hold a reserve.

We hope to take a look at the Cabman's shelter on the Embankment near Albert Bridge, to see whether we could take it over and preserve it.

A cricket match is planned for June next year: a one-day tournament between the Society and other London clubs. Every team will have one celebrity and one woman, not always the same person. Our Vice-President Damian Greenish is giving advice, and our President will participate again, despite, as he says, almost dying after it last time. It is great to see him fit and well with us tonight.

Last year a Member asked whether the Society Lectures would continue, and I assured her that they would. As an innovation: lectures do not have to be about Chelsea, but about anything which interests members.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Having said that, the first lecture and musical evening in January, drawing about 50 people, was about Chelsea composer Peter Warlock. Distinguished organist Malcolm Rudland give the talk and accompanied tenor Danny Gillingwater's singing of Warlock's songs.

A backstage visit to the Royal Court Theatre in February, looked at the intricate arrangements required to stage plays in a restricted site, and yet innovate and take risks with new dramatic work.



(Image courtesy of the Royal Court)

A City of London walkabout also took place in February with an architect who has done both restorations and new City buildings. A guided history of 40 years of development was given.

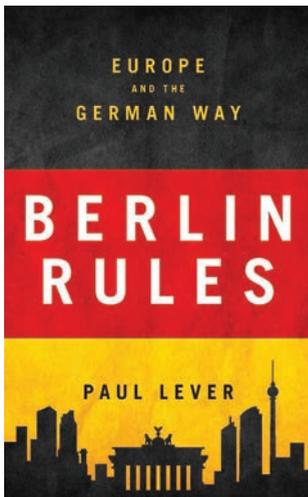
In February we became Chelsea artists at the Sketch club, which involved the delightful task of sketching a live nude model, which seemed to have scared off many Members. We will run it again, with more emphasis on teaching sketching.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Andrew Ginger was interviewed by Peter York about his book Cecil Beaton at Home, covering Beaton's lavish interior designs, and his influential photographic portraits. In March, Peter interviewed Andreas von Einsiedel on *A Photographic Record of Chelsea*, including his record of Julian Barrow's Tite Street studio. This lecture led to Andreas making a photographic record of the Sketch Club.

In April RBKC Planning Director Graham Stallwood and Cllr Tim Coleridge gave a clear explanation of the 18 material considerations to mention when objecting to planning applications, and the 12 non-material ones which won't get you anywhere. It is all on our website, and worth the subscription fee on its own.

In May Cllr Warwick Lightfoot, explained how the Council collects, spends and invests our money: the first time anyone had asked him to do so. I learned that the annual cost of rubbish collection for each house was roughly £55.



Sir Paul Lever's Berlin Rules

In June, Council member and former Ambassador to Germany, Sir Paul Lever, was interviewed in front of about 100 people by Dr Sarah Ingham about his book *Berlin Rules: Europe and the German Way*. Brexit negotiations have proceeded as Sir Paul predicted: Berlin rules, even though Mrs. Merkel might not.

Our Summer Party in July was attended by 120 members, our best attendance in recent memory. It took place at the luxurious Masterpiece exhibition, and allowed members to inspect the enormous range of fine art and high-quality exhibits. The setting and ambiance was a great success. The fully restored 1968 bespoke Riva Aquarama Lamborghini powerboat caught my eye, but my reasonable offer was not sufficient to secure it for Chelsea Society summer outings on the Thames.

In September the Society held its annual residents meeting together with the King's Road Association of Chelsea Residents. This was very well attended, with

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

roughly 100 residents present. The two new Deputy Leaders of RBKC explained their new responsibilities and answered questions.

On 9th October at another very well attended meeting, Commodore A.J.C. Morrow, the last Captain of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, gave us a lecture about the ship, showing the private interiors and describing life onboard.

Later in the month, Council Leader Elizabeth Campbell at a large meeting described her plans for the future, stressing the need for a culture change in the Royal Borough, and a greater degree of consultation, which we welcome.

Finally, in November Prof William Ayliffe, one of the world's most experienced ophthalmologists, gave a marvellous lecture on the *Iconography of Blindness* looking at how the blind have been depicted in world art over the past 2,000 years.

I thank all the speakers, and especially the audiences, who were knowledgeable and contributed to excellent discussions. In all there were 14 events, more than one a month, not bad considering we did not have an Events secretary, though Gaye Murdoch is about to join us.

Finally, on 11th December the Society is holding a 90th Anniversary Dinner, where the guest speaker will be Professor Robert Tombs, author of "*The English and their History*" in which he describes how our history and the stories we have told ourselves have shaped us.

I am often asked whether members wishing to join the Society have to live in Chelsea. No. You just have support our objectives, and have an interest in Chelsea. Where are the boundaries of Chelsea? Conventionally, the four Wards, but in cultural terms we use the John Betjeman criterion: You know when you are leaving Chelsea when people start staring at you just because you're wearing pyjamas. Betjeman's housekeeper used to accost late night diners coming out of Ziani's with the heartfelt request: 'Quiet please: the Poet Laureate is trying to sleep.'

Chelsea is a delight. There are so many connections between all the people who live and work and visit here. Yes, it is a village, but one which is known across the world.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

One of the delights of Chelsea is to meet two Dames of the acting profession in one day, and then chat with one of them again in the Peter Jones chinaware department. This is the same Dame who told me triumphantly, after coming out of the Brexit referendum: "I voted Communist".



Anita Brookner (Courtesy A M Heath)

A resident who was on greeting terms with the novelist, the late Anita Brookner recounts this very early morning exchange on a near-deserted summer King's Road. Resident: 'Good morning, Miss Brookner, and what an exceptionally bright and sunny morning it is.' Anita Brookner: 'Quite so. And passing Markham Square I heard a fox cough.'

Indeed, I think that Chelsea is the sole place in which our President can report to camera without wearing a flak jacket.

Chelsea is unique, and we aim to keep it so. We like it as it is, and if there is to be change, we want that change to be an improvement.

The Society will continue to make decisions for the public benefit of Chelsea and its community. We will continue to preserve and improve it, to be enjoyed by all those who live, work and play here. May it delight them all.

Annual Report by the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Planning Committee comprises:

Michael Stephen (Chairman); Sir Paul Lever (Brompton-Hans Town ward); Chris Lenon (Royal Hospital ward); Martyn Baker (Chelsea Riverside ward); Laura Carara-Cagni (Stanley ward)

The Society is grateful for the service on the Planning Committee of Paul Aitkenhead, the member for Brompton-Hans Town until his death in May 2017, and Patrick Baty, the member for Stanley until his retirement from the Committee in July 2017.

The following is a summary of the issues considered by the Committee, details of which can be found on the Society's website.

REVIEW OF PLANNING LAW

The Society has submitted evidence to the Royal Town Planning Institute as part of the Raynsford Review of Planning Law.



The Soane Stable Block

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

We recognise the general principle that property owners are free to do as they please with their property subject to restrictions in the public interest. However, we think that the balance of planning law is currently too much in favour of the property owner, and does not attach sufficient weight to the interests of local people who are affected by his development.

It is often impossible for local people to live or work in their homes during builders' working hours for many months or even years, but the owners of the building site are rarely personally affected as they are usually living elsewhere. Earlier this year one of our members died due to the noise, dust, vibrations and intolerable stress caused by a development next door.

Traditionally building owners have not been required to compensate nearby residents for the diminution in their quality of life caused to them for the benefit of the building owner. We do not think that this is fair, and we believe that before the commencement of works the Council should be given a legal charge on the property to secure the payment of compensation to be assessed by a Tribunal if not agreed. The Tribunal would have regard to the length and severity of the diminution, and the conduct of the owner and the builders.

The Council should have power to require owners to give to the Council a legal charge on the property to cover damage to neighbouring property and associated professional fees. It should not be left to neighbouring residents to spend money on solicitors, party-wall surveyors and builders for work that they do not want but have no power to prevent.

Basement development often causes the greatest adverse impact. Although RBKC has restricted the area of the property which can be excavated, this does not go far enough. We therefore think that there should be designated neighbourhoods where there is presumption against any basement development. In places where permission is given, the Council should have power to limit the depth, which directly related to time, noise, and damage.

Should development be permitted, there must be very stringent controls on noise, dust, obstruction, and traffic congestion. We are pleased that RBKC are consulting with the Society and other representatives of local people to find ways in which enforcement can be improved.

There are some streets in Chelsea where several developments are in progress at the same time, and which results in unacceptable diminution in the quality of life

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

for local people. The Council should have power to control the timing of multiple developments to ensure that this does not happen, and to impose time limits and to levy a penalty if work over-runs.

Often we see a series of applications for essentially the same development. Local people and amenity societies like The Chelsea Society have to make an objection every time a new application is made. This is an unreasonable burden on people who are not being paid to protect their local environment.

The “residentialisation” of Kensington & Chelsea is a serious issue. Because of the high property values much of the available space is being converted into residences and the local Council has insufficient power to resist. All remaining employment and amenity space should be safeguarded.

THE MAYOR’S CONSULTATION ON TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR LONDON

The Society has made a detailed submission to the Mayor. We do not agree with him that further population growth is good for London. In our view, the transport challenge will be overwhelming if the number of people living in London, working in London, and visiting London, continues to increase as rapidly as in recent years.

MEET THE PLANNERS

On 10th April, Graham Stallwood, Executive Director of Planning and Borough Development of RBKC, and Cllr Tim Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Arts, explained the role of the professional planners and the elected Councillors in planning the Chelsea of the future.

THE KING’S ROAD

The Society’s paper on the King’s Road examined its use, its appearance and cleanliness, as well as air pollution.

THE QUEEN’S HEAD, TRYON STREET

Listed as an Asset of Community Value in November 2016, the pub remains closed, a matter we are pursuing with the owner.



REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

CINEWORLD CINEMA, 279 KING'S ROAD

The Society has supported the redevelopment of this site to provide a new cinema with improved facilities. Work is now in progress.



ROYAL BROMPTON HOSPITAL

The Society has published its position on proposals to redevelop the site, and has supported objections requesting better quality public spaces and commercial activity, together with a serious replanting scheme to preserve the public amenity of the area. However, the future of the hospital in Chelsea seems now to be in doubt.

THAMESBROOK CARE HOME

We supported proposals to redevelop the site to provide luxury retirement homes, but expect RBKC to use the capital receipts to provide retirement homes elsewhere in Chelsea.

SUTTON DWELLINGS

The Chelsea Society has been granted Rule 6 status in the Appeal against refusal of Planning Permission

LE COLOMBIER RESTAURANT

The Chelsea Society supported an Article 4 Direction to prevent change of use from restaurant to shop or to premises for financial or professional services.



REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

SLOANE STREET

The Society's is generally supportive of proposals by RBKC and Cadogan to improve the street, but does not support the narrowing of the street by widening the pavements.

THE POLICE STATION

The Society has met with the new owners, and has discussed the external appearance of the proposed new building with the architects. The Society is seeking to obtain community benefits by the inclusion on the ground and lower ground floors of facilities for doctors, dentists and other health-care professionals, together with a meeting room, a small post office and a small police-post.

CADOGAN PIER

The Society does not wish to see this pier become a floating caravan park, and has opposed an application by the owner for a certificate of lawful development under s. 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

1A WALTON STREET

The Society has successfully opposed the construction of a very large basement.

HEATHROW

The Society has opposed the construction of a third runway.

SOANE STABLE BLOCK

The Society has been consulted by the Royal Hospital on their plans to restore the old stable block designed by Sir John Soane, and is generally supportive.

A Sculpture Mystery Solved

Grace Everett tracks down the story behind Bronze Man with Eagle

With the plethora of Blue Plaques and the many works of public art dotted around our local streets, squares and open spaces for all to enjoy, it is easy to appreciate the rich, artistic history of Chelsea.



Bronze Man with Eagle (to be found on the corner of Markham Square)

Identifying a sculpture is normally not too difficult. Perhaps there's a plaque of some sort, or an inscription depicting the event being commemorated, or name of the person memorialised together with a line or two about them, or the sculptor's name ... Usually there's a starting point to find out more about the sculptor or the sculpture. Most sculptors are not averse to fame and like to ensure their names are visible! Rarely do you come across an anonymous work, one that offers no clue to its identity or the sculptor responsible.

THE SCULPTURE MYSTERY SOLVED

However, there is one such mystery sculpture in Chelsea.

Have you noticed the abstract sculpture located on the western corner of Markham Square, adjacent to 140 King's Road (currently home to French Connection)? I scrutinised it from all angles and drew a blank on finding any form of identification. What is it? What does it represent? Who created it? Who commissioned it? When? It is extraordinary that a work of art that thousands of people pass by every day offers no clue about itself. And so my obsession in finding out its history began.

Social media helped in the quest to find if anyone recognised the sculpture or had suggestions as to who could have sculpted it. Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Kenneth Armitage, Mervyn Lawrence, Lynn Chadwick and Alan Thornhill were all names put forward. After further research, all were ruled out.

Over several months, emails sallied back and forth to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Planning Department and Archives, the Chelsea Arts Club, the Markham Square Residents' Association, the Chelsea Society archives (with thanks to past Chairman, Damian Greenish for his help), the London Society, the City of London Archives, to mention just a few names from a long list of recipients of my enquiries.

Eventually I discovered that Barclays Bank had owned the building and their archivist, Nicholas Webb, set me off in the right direction. Nicholas sent me an article from the Barclay's staff magazine "*Spread Eagle*" (October 1969) about Douglas Stephen, who was Manager of the King's Road branch during its redevelopment in 1965. I now had a timeframe to focus on: 1965 onwards.

We rely so much on the internet and expect instant access (and results) to all kinds of information, but technology can still be outdone by a more traditional means of research. In this case, the British Library. What a fantastic institution and well worth a visit if you haven't been. I spent many hours browsing through original editions from January 1965 of the *Chelsea News* and the *Kensington News and West London Times* leafing through page after page, stopping to read the odd article here and there, until I finally came across what I was looking for.

On April 15th 1966 an article and accompanying photo detailed the unveiling of *Bronze Man with Eagle*. The image included the sculptor himself, identified as Dick (Richard) Cloughton.

THE SCULPTURE MYSTERY SOLVED



Douglas Stephen with Dick Claughton (Image, Russell Claughton)

The article explains that the Barclays Bank manager, Douglas Stephen, was a keen sculptor and had exhibited on several occasions at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions. He wanted to re-establish banks as art patrons and was keen for banking to be absorbed into the cultural life of the community. Douglas himself was asked to produce a sculpture for the bank's new development but he declined, determined to support the principle that Barclays should be commissioning artists. The article was written by reporter Russell Claughton, Dick's son. He told me that Douglas was a fan of his father's work: 'Being a senior manager with some clout, he commissioned it on his own initiative - attracting some flak in the process.' And so *Bronze Man with Eagle* came into existence, incorporating

THE SCULPTURE MYSTERY SOLVED

Barclays' emblem of an eagle within the abstract sculpture. Dick Cloughton is recorded as saying that sculptures, 'at last are being used extensively as a humanizing element in things like hospitals, industry and commerce.' Prominent Chelsea artists who banked with Barclays loaned works personally to Douglas Stephen, who displayed them inside the bank, changing them every few months.



Dick Cloughton studied at the Slade School of Fine Arts. He exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and was also a former Vice-President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors (since 2003, the Royal British Society

THE SCULPTURE MYSTERY SOLVED

of Sculptors). He had several public works of art, one man and mixed shows in London, with commissions further afield in Holland, Portugal and Australia. In Nigeria, his huge carving of Christ is placed in Lagos Cathedral and was, according to Russell, 'carved in the family front room!'

Dick entered the public competition to sculpt Winston Churchill's memorial, reaching the final three, but losing to Ivor Roberts-Jones who was awarded the prestigious commission for Parliament Square. Russell Cloughton told me how his father kept a low public profile: 'A sculptor by necessity - he avoided as much as he could galleries, critics, admirers, would-be buyers, talking about his work; he was happiest in the open air, outside his studio from March to October, in just a pair of old khaki shorts, working on a huge chunk of tree or stone from dawn to dusk...'

Douglas Stephen retired from banking in 1969, receiving a 'pair of braces of exceptionally striking appearance which he will use with the many others he has in his wardrobe'. The Barclays Bank branch at 140 King's Road closed in 1990. How wonderful that the artistic intentions of an unconventional bank manager to bring art into the community still lives on. Perhaps it's time for a plaque to be placed near the sculpture so we can all see that it is *Bronze Man with Eagle* by Dick Cloughton.

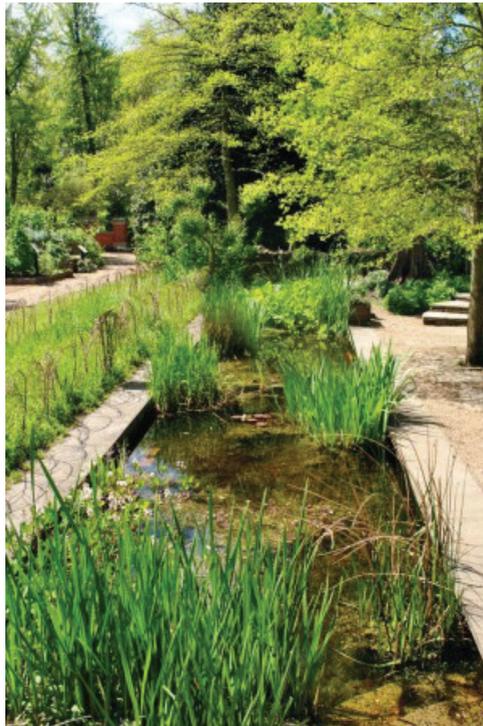
Grace is founder of StatueFindr, the sculpture app for London

The Tea Thief

Tea Expert Linda Gaylard makes a Pilgrimage from Canada to the Chelsea Physic Garden in Search of Robert Fortune

“I do not know anything half so refreshing on a hot summer’s day as a cup of tea; I mean pure and genuine as the Chinese drink it, without sugar and milk. It is far better and much more refreshing than either wine or beer.” Robert Fortune in *A Journey to the Tea Countries of China* (1858)

London was hot in August, not as oppressively hot as my August trip to China the previous year, but rather, a clear bright heat that plants respond to. Visitors to the Chelsea Physic Garden were lazing on the lawns, inhaling the fragrance of the botanical specimens and snapping micro-shots of floral superstars. I had anticipated this visit for months. It was somewhat of a pilgrimage for me so I was thrilled to have a perfect summer day – the kind of day that gardeners live for.



The long pond at Chelsea Physic Garden was flush with tadpoles and pond flora and fauna

THE TEA THIEF

Chelsea Physic Garden (Physic is an archaic term meaning medicine) is referred to by Londoners as a “secret garden” largely because of the high red brick walls surrounding it and the fact that it doesn’t announce itself with large signs. In existence for 340 years, it has only been open to the public since 1983. The garden is less than 4 acres – approximately the size of a soccer field – tiny by the standards of many famous British gardens. It would be easy to miss if you were walking along the Chelsea Embankment as its walls blend in with the upscale red brick flats of the neighbourhood.

Established in 1673 as the Apothecaries’ Garden, it served to train apprentices in identifying medicinal plants. Its purpose evolved as it sought out rare botanical specimens from all over the world, preserving the seeds and stock to exchange with other gardens in Britain and Europe. The Garden’s picturesque location near the Thames continues to provide favourable conditions for plant life with its microclimate of moderate temperatures. Historically, the proximity to the river was useful also for transporting plants to other gardens, especially upriver to Kew.

Robert Fortune (1812-1880) was the inspiration for my visit. His tenure at the Physic Garden was short, but his notoriety as a tea hunter eclipsed the more



The Curator's House, where Robert Fortune and his family may have lived during his tenure from 1846-1848

THE TEA THIEF

prominent horticultural patrons and elites of the garden, including Hans Sloane and Sir Joseph Banks. For some tea enthusiasts, Fortune is as highly revered as Lu Yu, the Tang Dynasty tea scholar. No other Westerner has the distinction of committing the first recorded event of agricultural espionage, paving the way for tea for the masses.

The Scottish-born botanist and famous tea spy rose from humble beginnings to respected horticultural luminary, beginning with his hard work at Edinburgh's Botanic gardens and on to the Chiswick Gardens in London. While he was there, the Royal Horticultural Society of London sent him on his first botanical excursion to China. Largely due to the success of that expedition he was invited to become Chief Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden in 1846. Although in post for only two years, Fortune made sweeping improvements. Upon his arrival the garden was full of weeds, sick plants and in disarray. He set about weeding, clearing, rearranging plantings and building new glass houses for the ailing plants.

Fortune excelled as curator but destiny had other plans for him. As I stood at the main gates facing the Thames (they are only used when the Queen visits), I imagined Fortune standing in the same spot on that day in May 1848 when Dr John Forbes Royle, a fellow Scotsman and botanist, invited Fortune to return to China, this time as a tea hunter for the East India Company. The terms were generous. How could he say no? He left in early Autumn.

After tea's introduction to England from China in 1660, those privileged enough to possess the herb were dedicated to the care of the leaf and preparation of the beverage, which was unaffordable to the average citizen. By the early nineteenth century, the tax on tea was greatly reduced and delivery of tea was expedited through speedy Clipper ships. Britain was becoming a nation of tea-drinkers. As the British demand for tea grew, so too did the dependence on China as its main source. With opium grown in India being exchanged for silver which was then used to purchase the tea from China, the tea trade, over which the East India Company long held a monopoly, was a cut-throat business, reflected not least by the two Opium Wars. Following the signing of the Treaty of Nanking in 1842 after the first Opium War, the Company sought to gain clandestine access to tea plants and seeds to cultivate tea in the north of India. This, it was hoped, would be an alternative source of tea for the Empire, independent of China. Fortune was an obvious choice for this undercover operation. As he observed: 'In these days, when tea has become almost a necessary of life in England and her wide-spreading colonies, its production upon a large and cheap scale is an object of no ordinary importance.'

THE TEA THIEF

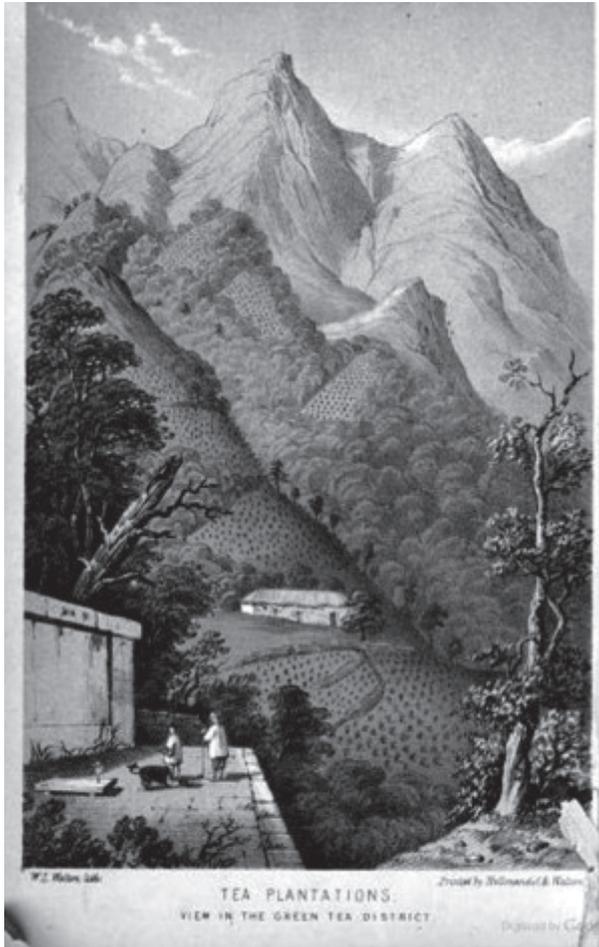


Illustration from the frontispiece of A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Starting from Shanghai, Fortune spent three years travelling through the interior of Fujian, Anhui and Zhejiang provinces, obtaining tea seeds, plants and skilled producers. No outsiders were allowed into the interior of China and he successfully disguised himself as a Mandarin with shaved head, braid and long robes. Travelling the rivers by junk and mountain trails in a sedan chair, he experienced danger and excitement of the kind only found in books. Sensing that the public would be interested in reading about his journey, he published *A Journey to the Tea Countries of China* in 1858. It was hugely successful and helped

THE TEA THIEF

to bring him fame and financial security. Botanical specimens obtained on his journey were sent home for auction and provided considerable wealth for his growing family which remained in London while he was gone. His botanical 'discoveries' ensured his continued prestige, as many of the specimens were named after him.

Fortune used Wardian Cases to ship his tea seedlings to India. Invented by amateur botanist, Dr. Nathaniel Ward in 1829 to provide protection for his exotic plants from London's heavy coal-polluted air, the cases proved ideal for the long journey of Fortune's precious tea seedlings from China to North India. The modern day terrarium operates on the same principle, that a sealed glass enclosure will create its own ecosystem, allowing plants to thrive without additional water. Today, in the Physic Garden greenhouse, a camellia (*Sinensis Sinensis*) can be found along with a reproduction Wardian Case.



Troughs of vivid blue Agapanthus growing at the entrance to one of the glass houses

THE TEA THIEF

Fortune made four visits to China. He retired after a visit to Japan and spent the last 18 years of his life in increasingly poor health at the family home at 1 Gilston Road. He died there on 13th April 1880 aged 68 and is buried at Brompton cemetery.

Chelsea Physic garden has a charming cafe, Tangerine Dream, which was crowded on the day we visited. The tea was not memorable – I think it was a bag. Oh well. By now I was used to being disappointed with the quality of tea in England. The experience of tea time was always pleasant but the focus was definitely not on the leaves – the essence of the beverage, “pure and genuine as the Chinese drink it.” Robert Fortune could never have imagined, as he peered through the mists of China, a vision of the 21st century British tea drinker, holding a corner of a paper tea bag over a mug of hot water and dipping it until it had produced the expected shade of brown. Thankfully, the reduction of tea to dust in paper, is slowly being replaced by a fresh appreciation for the whole leaf and its terroir – a fitting mark of respect for the man who risked everything for our love of tea.

Linda Gaylard is the author of *The Tea Book*, by DK Publishing (a division of Penguin Random House) and is a Certified Tea Sommelier. She is based in Toronto and blogs as theteastylist.com. She was first inspired by Fortune’s story told by Sarah Rose in *All the Tea in China* (Random House, 2009). Images, her own.

Artists' Reach

Angela Lownie goes to the Embankment

Driving along the A3220 at the far west end of Cheyne Walk, few motorists realise what an historic part of London this is, famous for the talented people that have lived and worked here.

By the late 17th century the riverside at Chelsea was already well-served with inns, coffee houses and some grand mansions. But the far western end of the parish was still largely fields with the odd country estate, such as Gorges House. Lindsey House was adapted from Sir Thomas More's principal farmhouse for Charles I's physician Sir Theodore de Mayerne and substantially rebuilt in the 1670s for the Earl of Lindsey.



Lindsey House in early 19th (© RBKC Libraries)

To the west was a small group of cottages, two taverns and a bowling green. From the 1750s a short terrace was built facing the river, known as Bowling Green Row: today, the four surviving houses are numbered 107-110 Cheyne Walk. They were opposite the bustling Lindsey Wharf where barges unloaded their cargoes of coal and ice.

ARTISTS' REACH

But it was the Thames, which swept in a broad bend across the lane from the houses, and the unique light that emanated from it, which was to fascinate so many painters. At this time the river was free from the constriction of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's embankments which were to be constructed during the 1870s. At Chelsea, water still lapped against the watergates of the Royal Hospital and Physic Garden, as well as the old brick river walls.



The Great Day of his Wrath by John Martin 1851-51 (©Tate Gallery)

Joseph Turner was among the first of the artists to arrive, in the 1840s. He led a reclusive life in a small house at the extreme western end of the waterfront – now No. 119. Showing off the fine view from his window to his painter friend John Martin, he exclaimed: 'Here you see my study; sky and water. Are they not glorious? Here I have my lesson, night and day!' Martin later took up residence in Lindsey House, which had been rearranged as a series of separate dwellings. From there, he must have undoubtedly drawn inspiration for the wild skies he depicted, perhaps enjoying the view from the two-storey balconies of iron piping. These had been designed by Thames Tunnel engineer, Sir Marc Brunel (father of Isambard Kingdom Brunel) when he had lived there.

As boys apprenticed to their father's boat business, Walter Greaves and his brother Henry began to draw river scenes and the streets of Chelsea. When James McNeill Whistler moved to 101 Cheyne Walk in 1863, the brothers ferried him on

ARTISTS' REACH

his painting and sketching trips on the Thames and across to Battersea, as their father had done for Turner. Already amateur artists, they became adoring disciples and unpaid studio assistants of the master. Whistler moved to No. 96 in 1866, where he painted the famous portrait of his mother. His house and studio were often busy with visitors: from his voluptuous mistress – her presence made to seem more daring by his mother's disapproval – to models and the other painters who were flocking to Chelsea. All were entertained lavishly, or otherwise depending on Whistler's precarious finances. Whistler took a further two houses in Cheyne Walk, but it was the western end of the riverbank that acquired a romantic aura, where artists and writers were keen to take houses overlooking 'Whistler's Reach' as it was now often known.



Lindsey Wharf looking towards the Queen's Arms in the early 1860s by Henry and Walter Greaves

The Greaves' old house, No. 104, took on a new air of sophistication in 1901 with the arrival of its new occupant, the forceful and erudite writer and historian Hilaire Belloc and his American wife Elodie. Later, their neighbours included Walter Westley Russell at No. 107 and Philip Wilson Steer at No. 109. Both were teachers at the Slade, influencing a generation of young artists including Augustus John, William Orpen, Stanley Spencer and Paul Nash. John Tweed – 'sculptor of

ARTISTS' REACH

the Empire' – regularly entertained his closest friend, Auguste Rodin, at his home at No. 108; and the painter William Ascroft lived at No. 110.

The residents of this stretch of Cheyne Walk very nearly lost their homes to a scheme drawn up by the council in 1949 to redevelop the area west of Beaufort Street. This involved sweeping away Nos. 105-119 Cheyne Walk, two rows of 18th and 19th century houses containing 239 occupants, which would be replaced by two blocks of flats. Surveyors commented on decayed buildings and described the area as socially the 'wrong' end of Chelsea. The council also planned to rebuild the river wall west of Battersea Bridge, reclaiming land from the foreshore and routing the road further from the houses. Both the Chelsea Society and the Georgian Group resisted this and pressed to retain the houses, many of which had historic interiors. They were by no means slums, but home to the affluent, including Cecil King, chairman of the *Daily Mirror* who lived at No. 109. The council was dissuaded and restricted its activities to the replacement of just three houses with Brunel House, and left the river wall and the road unchanged.



(Image by Nika Garrett, www.mylondonwalks.co.uk)

For drivers, whether speeding along or stuck in a jam along this busy stretch of the Embankment, it's worth remembering the fascinating history of this small corner of Chelsea.

Angela Lownie provides an individual house history research service for London properties. Details can be found at www.londonhousehistories.co.uk

Chelsea and the Battle for Clean Air

Air Quality is not just a 21st century concern, writes Robert Dunkley

In the opening pages of *Bleak House*, Charles Dickens gives us a sense of 19th century London: 'Fog everywhere ... Smoke lowering down from chimney-pots, making a soft black drizzle, with flakes of soot in it as big as full-gown snow-flakes – gone into mourning, one might imagine, for the death of the sun.'

In 1853, the capital's 'smoke nuisance' and measures to reduce it were being considered by a House of Lords' committee. The 3rd Marquess of Lansdowne observed that air quality 'affects the comfort of not only their Lordships, but everyone in the metropolis.' So gradual was the approach of 'the enemy', smoke, that its whole extent could not be appreciated. Housekeepers, he said, could vouch for the difficulty in maintaining 'the commonest cleanliness in consequence of the nuisance', while proposed legislation would protect 'works of art'. For those without works of art, smoke reduction measures would have economic benefits: 'The smoke so affects the clothing of the working classes that it is computed every mechanic pays at least five times the amount of the original cost of his shirt for the number of washings rendered necessary.'



*Lots Road
Power Station:
(Image Courtesy
London Transport
Museum)*

The poor quality of London's air preceded the Industrial Revolution. Even in the Middle Ages concerns were raised over the impact of so many domestic fires in so small a geographical area. The first legislation aimed at reducing air pollution was enacted as early as 1306. With uncanny prescience, the 17th century diarist John Evelyn, noticing that pollution was lower on Sundays when factories were not working, suggested that industry should be located outside cities in order to improve air quality.

One of the earliest campaigns by the Chelsea Society concerned the construction of Battersea Power Station. The scheme was part of a wider project that was a forerunner of the National Grid: a single company would replace various private electricity companies with their assortment of power stations, standards and voltages. The London Power Company would build and manage a small number of larger stations, including Battersea. With the Lots Road coal-fired power station on Chelsea's western border since the turn of the century, local people

CHELSEA AND THE BATTLE FOR CLEAN AIR

were understandably alarmed by the prospect of another giant power generator - with all its accompanying pollution - just across the Thames. Their fears were shared by many in the capital, including George V, who allowed his greatest concern to be expressed 'at the prospect of the atmosphere of London being still further polluted'.



Battersea Power Station

The 'Battersea Scheme' was always on the agenda at early Chelsea Society meetings and featured in the Annual Reports throughout the 1930s. The Society forged a genteel alliance with other opponents, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Physic Garden and the Chelsea Arts Club, with the initial aim of scrapping the project. Concerns were raised over 'sulphur as well as of smoke

CHELSEA AND THE BATTLE FOR CLEAN AIR

and grit' and the consequences of 'a great coal-consuming factory in the heart of London'. The campaigners' objections were even put to the Prime Minister but the logic of a Thames-side site - close to where water could be used both for condensing steam from the steam turbines and as a means of coal delivery - was just too overwhelming.

Designed by the doyen of modern industrial architecture, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, Battersea was to become not only the source of much of London's power, but also one of the largest brick buildings in the world, a Grade II listed structure and a national icon. As it began to rise from the former site of the reservoirs of the Southwark and Vauxhall Waterworks Company, even the Chelsea Society felt obliged to report that not everything to do with the structure was to the detriment of the capital: 'The first section of the huge electric power station just below Chelsea Bridge is now practically completed, with its two towering chimneys. It is not unsightly.' Indeed, it was cited as 'one of the three finest specimens of the architecture of today in the metropolis.'

Although they ultimately lost the war of Battersea Power Station, the Chelsea Society's early members won a battle or two. Thanks to their raising public awareness, novel measures had to be incorporated into the scheme, to counter the pollution caused by the consumption of two thousand tons of coal a day. Battersea became one of the first stations in the world to use revolutionary 'washing' technology that drastically cut sulphur emissions.

While monitoring Battersea, the Chelsea Society conceded that it was domestic coal fires 'to which we English cling with stubborn affection' which were the primary cause of London's notorious air pollution. Although the term 'smog', a combination of smoke and fog, was not coined until the early 20th century, 'pea soupers' were already an established villain in many a pot boiler detective novel. London's 'great stinking fogs' with their yellow tinge and weird refractions of light were deemed by some to have a charm of their own, even attracting tourists from outside the capital. Created under particular weather conditions in autumn and winter when coal consumption was at its highest, the worst smogs saw the death rate rise by thousands due to respiratory illnesses, not least because of the 'acid rain' that resulted from the high levels of sulphur. Recollections of London's poor air quality resulting from the millions of coal fires come within the scope of living memory. Martin Lemon, a Chelsea schoolboy, recalls walking across Battersea Bridge through thick blankets of smog and his mother reporting that sheets hung out to dry would become grubby from smuts. His brother, Roger, has memories of a yellow smog and 'dreadful coughing' on the buses.

CHELSEA AND THE BATTLE FOR CLEAN AIR



Flare deployed from the back of a bus during Smog (Image: London Transport Museum)

The infamous smog of 1952, which led to an estimated 4,500 deaths, finally gave policy-makers the impetus to take action to tackle air pollution: among its other measures, the 1956 Clean Air Act outlawed the burning of coal fires in London.

Today, the challenges to creating a London where the air is fit for us all to breathe remain as formidable as those faced by earlier generations. Pollutants are more or less invisible, but just as injurious to health as Dickens' smoke. Today's enemies are carbon monoxide, NOx gases, particulates, ground level ozone and lead. 'People often associate particles with smoky engines, but the majority of particles that can penetrate the airways are too small to see, and thus can be present in air that seems clean,' states the London Air Quality Network at King's College which monitors air quality in the capital. Gas boilers in buildings are a major source of nitrogen dioxide, but 50 per cent of emissions come from road vehicles. The gas reacts with hydrocarbons to create ozone and contribute to the creation of particles. Building site dust, a major worry in Chelsea, also contributes significantly to this process. Invisible ultra-small particles, designated PM2.5

CHELSEA AND THE BATTLE FOR CLEAN AIR

pollution particles, that are inhaled and sit in the lungs that are the greatest danger to health. In terms of such particles, London is often in excess of globally accepted standards. Chelsea's King's Road regularly suffers some of the capital's poorest air quality.



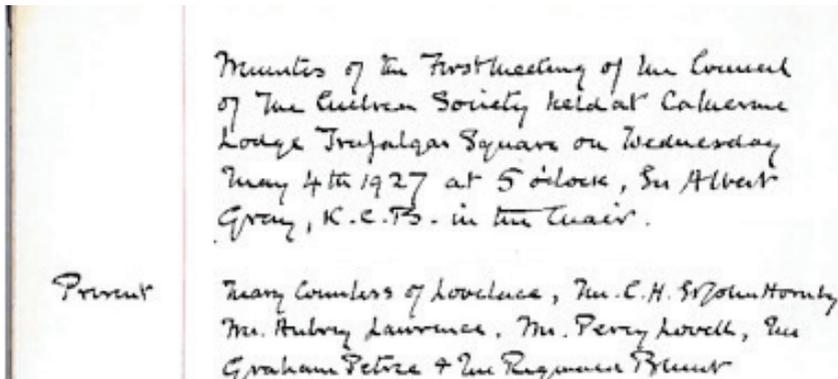
Traffic Congestion in Sloane Square

In the words of the 3rd Marquess of Lansdowne, Londoners continue to live not 'under the canopy of heaven, but under one of their own creation'. In the past, the evils of excessive smoke were banished and campaigners ensured the technology was deployed to limit noxious emissions from the capital's largest power station. Today, with sufficient political will, the scientific knowledge exists to ensure the air we breathe is healthy.

Now We Are 90

Jane Dorrell Takes a Look Back

'Though the Society might not often be able to do what it wished, the very fact of its existence was a menace to evildoers.' Thus spake our first Chairman, C. H. Hornby (a scion of the model railway manufacturers) in his address at the AGM of 1932. Fighting words, and looking back over the decades we can maybe judge whether he was right and whether the 'evildoers' have been vanquished. In this brief history I'll try to follow the thread of the greatest concerns of our founders from that auspicious April Fool's day in 1927, when they had their inaugural meeting, to 2017, highlighting just a few of our successes and failures. It is striking to see how today's concerns reflect those of ninety years ago. Among them pollution, demolition, over-development, and what is known today as social cleansing.



Minutes of the Chelsea Society's first meeting

First, inextricably intertwined, are pollution and over-development. In 1927 the Society first heard of the proposal to build the Battersea Power Station and immediately went to work. Three years later these flattering words were written: 'It will be remembered that the Chelsea Society was among the very first to call attention to the grave menace to our amenities threatened by the erection of a huge power station at Battersea, consuming over 15,000 tons of coal a week and to emphasise not only the production of smoke and grit, but also the evolution of oxide of sulphur which would be caused thereby.' In 1932 we learnt that our campaign, supported by the Borough Council, the Chelsea Arts Club, the Physic Garden and the Royal Hospital had succeeded, with the undertaking that 'severe restrictions would be imposed', limiting the pollutants emitted by the Power Station. For the Society's supporters, it was an encouraging start.

NOW WE ARE 90



*Reginald Blunt, the first Secretary
of the Chelsea Society*

The destruction inflicted on Chelsea in the Second World War is well documented, but less well known is the devastation proposed by planners in 1961. The West Cross Route would have brought a motorway to the Embankment, destroying large parts of Cheyne Walk. The plan met furious opposition and was abandoned.

Looking back, 1961 was one of our most challenging years. The Ministry of Health announced plans to close the specialist hospitals dotted about Central London and build a postgraduate medical centre, extending from the Fulham Road to the King's Road. This would comprise the

London Chest Hospital, the Institute of Cardiology, St John's (for dermatology), St Mark's (for bowels), St Peter's (for kidneys) and St Philip's (for venereal disease), together with their associated institutes. To make room for these cuckoos, St. Luke's and the Chelsea Hospital for Women would be moved away. No one knew where – but we were proudly informed that Chelsea would in future be known as the Hospital Borough. We said 'no' to that too. A few years ago, the medical campus concept was mooted once again. This time the Brompton and the Marsden would be physically connected by an underground road linking facilities several storeys deep. This campus would emulate Cambridge ... But Cambridge has 140 acres; the Sydney-Dovehouse Street site only 12. Quarts and pint pots come to mind.

The last months of 1961 had another shock in store. The London County Council announced that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea would drop the name Chelsea and henceforth be known as the Royal Borough of Kensington. The outrage of the citizens of Chelsea knew no bounds and that idea was soon dropped.

Proposals to extend the underground links to Chelsea have been put forward for more than a century. In 1904, a line between Chelsea and Hackney with a station on the King's Road was proposed.



NOW WE ARE 90

It was defeated in Parliament after objections were raised by two rival underground building magnates. In 1970, the plan was resurrected, to coincide with the completion of the Victoria and Jubilee lines. Little, if any progress was made, but in 1989 the route was safeguarded.

Once again, everything went quiet, then around the year 2000, Transport for London began to consider a more ambitious scheme. What had seemed to be a vague and distant threat materialised as a mainline system known as Crossrail 2. This cross-London line would require huge underground stations, including one on the King's Road. Local opposition was apparent when demonstrators marched through Chelsea. At the time of writing, the fate of the King's Road station is unknown, but it went unmentioned in TfL's most recent consultation document.

But the strongest thread running through the Society's history is that which would have most exercised our founder, Reginald Blunt; the wholesale demolition of what is now known as affordable housing. In the 1966 Annual Report, an article on Blunt states: 'He was deeply concerned for the preservation of all features of Chelsea having beauty or historical interest, but as a Son of the Rectory he never forgot that his Wonderful Village was a Parish, and he always felt a genuine concern for the welfare of his poorer neighbours'. The Society has always shared Blunt's concerns, despite having an unfair reputation for only acting in the interests of Chelsea's 'toffs'.

Attempts to safeguard housing date back to the Society's inauguration, the same year that the Cadogan estate sold off 14 acres of Chelsea property between Brompton Road and King's Road, which included 'over two miles of house frontages and 600 hereditaments'. A few years later, we were deploring 'the erection of huge blocks of flats on the site which has entailed the eviction of our working-class population for whom the alternative accommodation is far from adequate.' In 1937 it was said of us: 'The Society is pledged by its Founder's Charter to be non-political but it cannot therefore watch without concern the increasing eviction of the old working-classes whose homes are being demolished to provide houses and flats for people of another class'. In 1939 both Harrods and Peter Jones opened large goods depots covering sites formerly owned by working-class families.

We not only watched with concern but we fought against the odds in the face of the developers' greed. Blunt's witty Lewis Carroll parody which he wrote for his 1937 Christmas card begins:

NOW WE ARE 90

The Builder and the Architect
Were walking close at hand
They wept like anything to see
Such old, old houses stand.
'If these were only cleared away'
They said, 'It would be rather grand'.

In a speech at that year's AGM, our local MP warned that 'Chelsea must not become a dormitory for the leisured classes.'

Plus ça change ... Fast forward to today and we see that even the foreign press is weighing in. The *New York Times* published a full-page report on how today's Borough-run institutions are being closed down for baffling reasons or allowed to rot, with sites sold off to developers for unimaginable sums. What Mr Blunt might say about the Borough's decision to sell off a council-run old people's home to developers or about the potential loss of social housing in the Sutton Estate doesn't bear thinking about. In 2017, anger at all these scandals was eclipsed by the horror of Grenfell Tower. It seems that the 'evildoers' evoked by Mr Hornby all those years ago might be lurking in the shadows.



A.A. Milne at home in Mallord St (©RBKC Libraries)

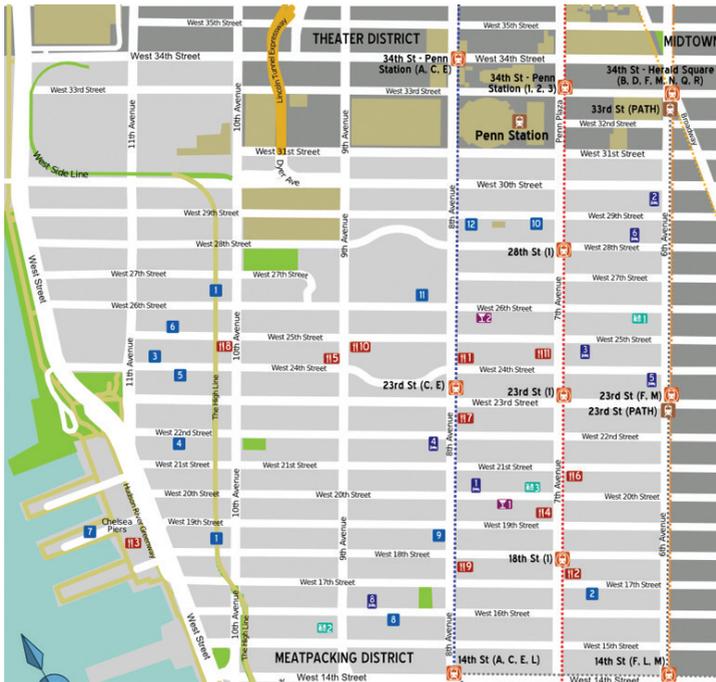
Don't let's end on such a depressing note. Instead, let's remember all the exhibitions, the summer parties, the walks, the lectures, and even some notable members. Two in particular come to mind. A.A. Milne - hence the title of this brief glimpse into our past - was one for 17 years and in 1949 he overlapped with T.S. Eliot, who would become a life-member.

Maybe they met at that summer's party and talked ... of portly bears and practical cats? Anything is possible in Chelsea.

Another Chelsea

Sarah Ingham

Creative energy seeping away as artists pack up and leave, historic enclaves under threat, long-standing residents and small businesses pushed out, loss of independent retailers, ever-rising property prices and rents ... Anyone living or working in London's Chelsea knows about the process of gentrification; about the pressures on a neighbourhood when its small area of land suddenly becomes a globally-coveted commodity.



Chelsea, Manhattan (Image: Wikivoyage)

For 90 years, the Chelsea Society has been battling, sometimes successfully, sometimes not, to save the best of Chelsea from the wrecking ball and bulldozer. Across the other side of the Atlantic, in New York City, Save Chelsea activists are doing their best to protect their historic area from developers and 'condomania'. While Save Chelsea's battles highlight the different attitudes to property ownership and planning in London and Manhattan, they also underscore the two Chelseas' many similarities, not least their creative and artistic heritage, as well as current controversies over the provision of affordable housing.

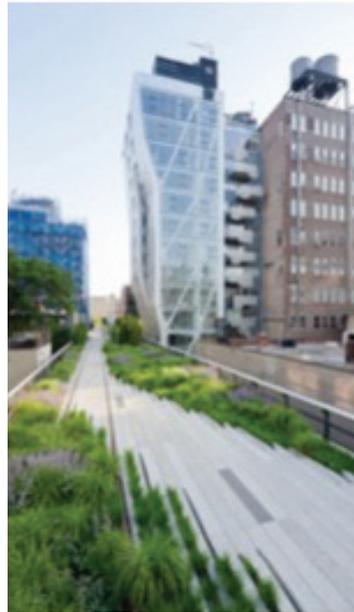
ANOTHER CHELSEA



Part of a terrace of 19th century houses (Image: Creative Commons)

Chelsea, New York, can trace its origins back to 1750 when retired British Army captain, Thomas Clarke, bought almost 100 acres of rural land and forest on the banks of the Hudson River on the west side of Manhattan island. He named it Chelsea, in honour of the Royal Hospital for old soldiers. The nearest settlement was the village of Greenwich. The estate would be expanded, first by Clarke's son-in-law, Dr Benjamin Moore, the Episcopal Bishop of New York, and then by his grandson, Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863), a respected academic, but more widely known as the author of the classic children's poem, *A Visit from St Nicholas*, which begins 'Twas the night before Christmas ...

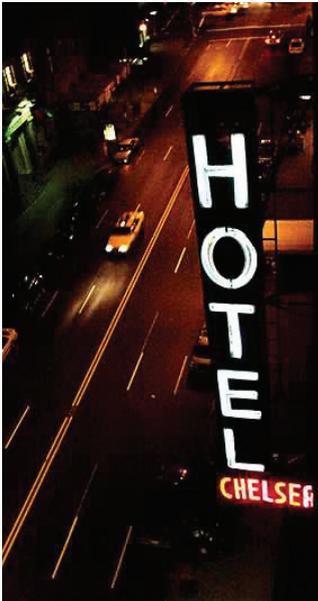
Just as in London, where Chelsea outgrew the Saxon hamlet mentioned in the Domesday Book more than 900 years ago,



*Chelsea Thicket, the High Line
(Image, Friends of the High Line)*

ANOTHER CHELSEA

today the Clarke-Moore land is just a small part of Chelsea, New York. Along with the rest of Manhattan, the estate was transformed with the imposition of the grid system of streets and avenues, ordered by the City's Commissioners in 1811. Until then, development on the island was concentrated in the area south of Houston Street. One of the most ambitious schemes of town planning in history, the Grid led to the levelling of hills, clearing of woodland and draining of marshes. It cut through rock and parcelled up the island of Manhattan into blocks of smaller lots, prompting a speculative building boom. Clement Clarke Moore, whose Chelsea lands were suddenly divided by Ninth Avenue, was unimpressed: the planners 'would have cut down the seven hills of Rome, on which are erected her triumphant monuments of building and magnificence, and have thrown them into the Tiber or the Pontine marshes.' However, he took advantage of the grid to develop his estate, which could be found in a quadrant between 19th and 24th streets and 8th and 10th Avenues. He would eventually build a planned community, including terraces of townhouses for the wealthy, and donate an apple orchard to the Episcopal church on which General Theological Seminary was to be built. Today's Chelsea is considered to be the area between 6th Avenue to the Hudson River and 14th to 30th streets.



(Photo © Mike Urban www.urban75.com)

As Chelsea expanded, its character continually changed, reflecting the ebb and flow of the area's fortunes and fashionability. The early and mid-19th century brownstone townhouses of New York's bourgeoisie in the genteel Clarke-Moore residential streets would come to neighbour the less respectable dwellings of Irish and Italian immigrants who poured into New York from the 1840s. The area's vibrancy intensified later in the century when it became the centre of the city's cultural life. Before theatreland moved to Broadway, music-halls, opera houses and theatres could be found there. As Chelsea chronicler Robert Baral described, it was the most fashionable part of town, where 'the demi-monde romped side-by-side with Millionaire's Row' with Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde and Sara Bernhardt checking into the Chelsea Hotel which opened in 1883. At about the same time, Tin Pan Alley, the

ANOTHER CHELSEA

legendary heart of the music publishing industry, was establishing itself on Chelsea's borders, while in the 1890s the new medium of film was literally flickering into life. Cinemas and studios opened throughout the neighbourhood to try to satisfy public demand, before the industry migrated to Hollywood in the second decade of the 20th century.

Opening in 1910, the mighty Chelsea Piers and their linked rail network transformed the area around the Hudson. It was to become the dock of liners, home to the United States' largest passenger terminal and the world's busiest port. It had prepared to welcome *The Titanic* and later *The Lusitania*. During both World Wars it was the embarkation point for hundreds of thousands of American Forces personnel. The Piers fell into disuse and near dereliction with the decline of shipping, a symbol of the city's fall onto hard times and near-bankruptcy in the 1970s.



*A wintry West 20th St viewed from the High Line
(image courtesy of Flowers Gallery, London and New York)*

Manhattan's Chelsea has remained one of the creative centres of New York. The area's descent from respectability into bohemian seediness – and crucial affordability – was perhaps best represented by the Chelsea Hotel, which from the 1950s became the lodging house for artists and musicians. Long-term residents included Mark Rothko,

who paid his rent in paintings and Nico, Velvet Underground chanteuse and Andy Warhol muse. Playwright Arthur Miller lived there for six years, sharing residency with Dylan Thomas and William Burroughs. Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen referred to the hotel in their lyrics. Punk fans will know it as the place where Sex Pistol Sid Vicious stabbed his girlfriend, Nancy Spungen.

Creative, blue collar, bohemian, with a live-and-let-live tolerance, Chelsea was also known as a gaybourhood. Bars and bookshops for an LBGT clientele thrived, along with the independent 'mom and pop' stores, clubs and quirky restaurants and cafés. Former industrial units were transformed into several hundred

ANOTHER CHELSEA

galleries, including Gagosian, Hauser & Wirth and Zwirner, making Chelsea the world's contemporary art capital. Today, rocketing rents and luxury developments are squeezing out the independents. The area is becoming ever-more out-of-reach for anyone other than the well-heeled or the retail chains, with protected rent-controlled tenancies becoming the stuff of legend. In 2011, the Chelsea Hotel was bought by a property developer for reportedly \$85m: as British journalist Mick Brown noted, 'All over New York, artists, writers, hedonists and ne'er-dowells are in mourning'. The art galleries that are surviving tend to be those that own rather than rent their premises. Chelsea's mom and pop stores are an endangered species. The downsides to gentrification can be seen across New York City, highlighted by a recent report by Senator Brad Hoylman, *'Bleaker on Bleecker: A Snapshot of High Street Blight'*. The glut of vacant stores – seen particularly in Chelsea's 8th Avenue – was blamed on landlords who have pushed out small businesses in the hope of attracting the chains which can pay higher rents. Ironically, the massively successful regeneration of the High Line, which transformed an industrial railway track into an urban park which snakes its way through Chelsea, has further boosted the area's popularity, putting yet more pressure on the area's existing community and character.

A coalition of community groups and individuals, Save Chelsea campaigns to protect the neighbourhood's heritage and broad social mix, as well as the quality of life for its residents. Discussing the organisation's work with President Laurence Frommer and Board members Pamela Wolff, Sally Greenspan and David Holowka in Café Champignon on 7th Avenue, it becomes apparent that,



The High Line at West Chelsea (Image, Friends of the High Line)

ANOTHER CHELSEA

despite the 3,000-mile distance between them, there is a symmetry to the challenges that both Chelseas are facing.

Save Chelsea emerged in 2005 during a battle to halt the construction of a 17-storey glass tower in the grounds of the Seminary, which was part of the original Clarke-Moore estate. This local Shard would have smashed through existing regulations limiting building height in parts of Chelsea that are designated low-rise. The organisation is currently campaigning to save a 30 metre-long canvas mural painted in 1954 by Julian Binford, housed inside a former bank building that is being converted into condominiums.

Compared with London, New York's official approach to heritage seems more relaxed. Here, both the listing process and local conservation officers can constrain owners from making even minor internal changes to a property. There, the Landmarks Preservation Commission appears more permissive: 'We do not prevent owners from making changes, but rather work with them to ensure that planned changes are appropriate to the character and style of the building.' Campaigners retrospectively battled against the addition of a penthouse suite to 339 W 29th St, a 19th century Chelsea house that offered shelter to runaway slaves - a stop on the so-called Underground Railroad escape route from the Confederate South. It is surely unthinkable that the green light would be given to changing a building of such historical and cultural significance if it were in SW3. Among the Hoyland report's recommendations was a New York City legacy business register as well as retail zoning restrictions for chain stores, signalling a more interventionist approach.

If the safeguarding of heritage is at present comparatively relaxed, the process of construction is more strictly controlled. While Manhattan's Chelsea has with a couple of exceptions escaped the scourge of basement digs, numerous permits, licenses and inspections are required for even the most basic of renovations. Apartment refurbishment can be restricted to just two months of the year, with rules governing construction methods. There are deadlines for completion, with fines for non-compliance. Projects can simply be shut down by a management company if contractors breach the agreement.

'Chelsea has had many lives, from country estate to genteel row house neighbourhood, to working-class, largely Irish, dockworker community to gay mecca,' explains David Holowska. London's Chelsea has also enjoyed several incarnations. With so many similarities, the two Chelseas could have much to learn from one another. A dialogue has been opened between the Chelsea Society and Save Chelsea: let's keep talking.

David Le Lay

1945 – 2017



“My name is David Le Lay and I am Chairman of the Chelsea Society”. The gleeful look which always accompanied these words as David opened yet another exhibition, or welcomed members to a party, will be long remembered by those of us who were there. But his infectious enthusiasm was not only for the Society, it was for Chelsea, where he lived and worked for 50 years.

David was born and brought up in Jersey where his artistic talent was soon recognised. While still at school he won a prize for a ‘festive float’ at the annual Jersey Battle of Flowers. After that he wasted no time. Aged 18 he went to the Canterbury School of Architecture. The three year course was followed by a year with the conservation practice of Purcell, Miller and Tritton, then a two-year stint at the Regent Street Polytechnic and finally a year with Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe’s practice. He had come to live in Chelsea when he was 21: four years later, he set up his own practice here.

Happily, his life-long partner John Thacker, who he had met at Canterbury, joined him in Chelsea. They rented a room in Christchurch Street, then in 1970 leased a house from Cadogan in Oakley Gardens. This doubled as David’s office until he expanded into Old Church Street some years later and where, for some 40 years, he ran a highly successful architectural practice. Working mainly in London and the Home Counties he designed many large award-winning housing schemes. He gained a reputation for his ability to get planning consent for the development of sensitive sites that had a history of refusals. Perhaps one of the most interesting was the development of the parkland of Henry VIII’s palace at Oatlands. Nothing remained of the actual palace but this important site is on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. David’s design of crescents and terraces which frame and complement the landscape won him yet another award. Its success led to many other similar projects for the practice.

And here, it must be said, during his years as Chairman, he would never question his decision when any of his designs came up before the Society’s Planning Committee. There was never any question of a conflict of interest. Although he had acted for Cadogan since the early 90’s, it was not unknown for him to make sharp comments about some of their schemes in the Annual Report or Newsletter. Stuart Corbyn, then the Chief Executive of Cadogan, said in his eulogy, ‘He was

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an excellent professional advisor and we never had difficult moments, other than as a result of a comment I made after the first project that perhaps more cupboards could have been provided. It was a comment I came to regret as after that David created cupboards out of every available nook and cranny.'

What will he be most remembered for? For him maybe it would be Dovehouse Green. In 2009, in the Sloane Square magazine, he wrote: 'My relationship with the Chelsea Society started 32 years ago. I was asked to put forward an idea for a forlorn and partly-fenced off space on the King's Road known as the old burial ground. The Society wanted to celebrate the Queen's silver jubilee and its own golden jubilee. They liked the idea I put forward, it went ahead and we created Dovehouse Green.' But there were disappointments too. Despite the Society's strong objections, planning consent was granted for various schemes, including the tower development at Lots Road Power Station and for Battersea's Montevetro. On a couple of occasions there was some conflict between members over the re-configuration of Sloane Square and the design of the Royal Hospital's new Infirmary.

Many will remember David for the walks he led for those interested in Chelsea history. Stuart Corbyn said: 'I will always retain the image of David in a white suit marching purposefully ahead of a small group trying to hear him above the roar of traffic.' For me, the scholarly reconstructions of ancient Chelsea houses, which were published year after year in Annual Reports, are the most important part of his legacy. One day perhaps they will be collected and published.

David retired as Chairman in 2009 and was elected as Vice-President in 2010, the year in which he was presented with the Mayor's Award for services to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Chelsea Society. Never can the recipient of the Award have been so worthy of it.

David's wide-ranging interest in architecture and the environment was reflected in the 21 organisations of which he was a member. He was a church warden of Christchurch Chelsea, and a life member and former council member of the Chelsea Arts Club. In 2012 he founded the Whistler Society and remained its chairman until his death. He was a member of the London Sketch Club, hosting regular designers' and architects' evenings. He founded the annual Chamber Music in Chelsea Festival which features graduates from London music schools. The list is long.

David Le Lay died in January 2017 of lung cancer triggered by asbestos. He is survived by John Thacker, his partner of 52 years with whom he had entered into a civil partnership.

Jane Dorrell

Nigel Stenhouse

1942 – 2017



The Picnic at Bletchley Park

In October, the sad news broke of the sudden passing of the Society's former Vice Chairman, Nigel Stenhouse. A lawyer, with a specialist interest in planning law, a subject on which he lectured, he had previously been an adviser to London County Council.

Nigel spent his earliest years in Scotland and, like many children brought up during the Second World War, saw little of his father who was overseas. On his return, Stenhouse senior was less than impressed by his son's pronounced Glaswegian accent and declared, 'Take that child away and give him elocution lessons!' Friends recall Nigel's kindness to his father, particularly in looking after him in his later years.

In 1960, Nigel went up to Oxford to read Modern History at Merton College. He became a member of a dining society, the Ancien Regime. His friend from those undergraduate days, Maria Perry, said: 'He was rather an aesthete and belonged to a group who arranged picnics'. Held in the grounds of Bletchley Park, the top secret centre of British war-time codebreaking, one created a minor scandal.

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Those taking part included the future Professor Julian Perry-Robinson, founder of the Harvard-Sussex peace project, John Dingeman and the Hon. Christopher Lennox-Boyd, the renowned collector and antiquarian scholar. 'Nigel wore his hair slicked down and acquired the nick-name "Nig-Wig". He was hotly pursued by the Bullingdon hearties. They didn't wreck people's rooms in those days, but he was often ducked in a fountain in the middle of Tom Quad [in Christchurch]. Like his friend Lennox-Boyd, Nigel would go on to collect art, becoming an authority on English watercolours, buying and selling works on the European and English markets.

Damian Greenish, former Chairman of Chelsea Society said: 'I was deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of Nigel Stenhouse. He had been a member of Council since 1989 and was the Vice-Chairman for some 20 years. I was always grateful for his support and guidance during my period of office as Chairman. His love of Chelsea (particularly its connections with the river) and his knowledge of the Society and its history was wide and deep; he will be sorely missed.'

Paul Aitkenhead

1954 – 2017



*Avid book collector, cricket fan and
Chelsea Society council member*

Paul Aitkenhead was brought up in a 17th century house in the Lancashire town of Mellor. His childhood prompted two of the great loves of his adult life: architecture and the Lancashire County Cricket Club. Educated at Ellesmere College in Shropshire, he went on to train in hotel management. Stints in hotels in Edinburgh and Eastbourne were followed by the move to

London, more specifically to Burton Court: he never left Chelsea again. By the early 1980s, he switched from hotels to insurance, finally working for Standard Life. Through sheer doggedness, he was successful, earning substantially more than his contemporaries. However, he took to going to Lord's when sales meetings were taking place and was eventually fired.

Disenchanted with corporate life, he wafted around Chelsea for about ten years, adopting one scheme after another. One idea was to bring horse racing to Hyde Park. Although he found little enthusiasm for this plan, he did somehow manage to pitch it to HRH the Princess Royal. His next move was to DEFRA and finally to the Royal Courts of Justice where he was a justice's clerk until a year before his death.

Paul's love of architecture, a subject about which he was hugely knowledgeable, was accompanied by a love of detail. It was the details of Chelsea that became his focus as a member both of the Chelsea Society's Council from 2012 to 2017 and its planning committee. Indeed, it was his idea for the Society to award an annual prize for architectural excellence in Chelsea. Had he been on the judging panel, he would probably have favoured anything resembling a Palladian villa or a Georgian Manor House. He did not consider progress – in any form – a good thing. To this end, he was frequently spotted (in his uniform of Puffa jacket – or safari jacket in summer – and bobble hat) around the borough taking notes and details of matters that he felt demanded the attention of the Society. Latterly, he focused on street furniture on the King's Road: in some places in too great abundance and in others, not enough. Were you to ask him he could talk you down the entire road citing each and every bus stop, bench and bin. He was also

OBITUARIES

a keen photographer and the moment the editorial for the Annual Report was decided he would travel around Chelsea taking all the relevant shots. One of which made it onto the cover of the 2012 report.

Probably Paul's most intense love was reserved for the game of cricket. He was a member of the MCC and played, with great pride, for The Antelopians. He could, and would, talk for hours about cricket and was always somewhat incredulous and amused at the lack of knowledge of others concerning his beloved teams. It was easy to tell when Lancashire had beaten, well anyone, but especially Yorkshire. The smile on his face lasted for days.

When not watching cricket, or visiting the stately homes of the home counties, Paul was to be found in some of the more obscure music venues listening to his heroes of progressive rock. In fact, the last gig he went to was a fortnight before he died. He managed to persuade one of the nurses at Trinity Hospice to take him to some esoteric band who were playing at Under The Bridge at Stamford Bridge. I suspect he wasn't entirely truthful about what the concert was, so she wrapped him up in a blanket and put him in a wheelchair and took him there. He loved it: she didn't!

Paul was an obsessive collector (the word hoarder might also be applicable) of many things and his Draycott Avenue flat was literally crammed with his collections. His main obsessions were antique books, sports memorabilia, vinyl and CDs. His flat was not large and so all the different collections were stacked in a myriad of piles and his kitchen bore more than a passing resemblance to the most crowded orchid house at Kew. It might have looked like chaos to the outsider, but when Paul wanted a particular edition of a particular book, the instruction of fourth pile from the left, sixth book from the bottom, always yielded the subject of his search. He treated his books with a reverence that was reserved only for his collections and spent hours – not to mention a fair amount of money – having tattered, antique books restored. Once restored, he would commission a bespoke cover, to ensure they were never damaged again.

Paul was a very private man who fought his cancer with every fibre. He bore all the curve balls that his cancer threw him (and it threw a couple) with dignity and fortitude. He died, very peacefully, in the Trinity Hospice. As his brother, Clive, so accurately stated, 'He was of a forgotten era that, in truth, no one else could remember for the very good reason that it only ever existed in his mind.'

Camilla Mountain

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 30th June 2017.

The accounts for the previous year were submitted to the Charity Commission in April 2017. It continues to be 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 financial objective continues to be to increase the current level of reserves.

In the year to 30th June 2017, total income was £31,520 (2016: £60,924) and total expenditure was £23,764 (2016: £66,650) In 2017 there was a surplus £7,756 (2016: Deficit of £5,726). The 2016 figures reflect the net cost of the investment in the very successful Royal Chelsea exhibition. (Costs of £35,222 were offset by sponsorship of £31,346.)

Membership income inclusive of gift aid receivable was £14,453 (2016: £15,696). The additional benefit that Gift Aid brings is very important to the Society.

Donations and legacies, always gratefully received, £2,770 (2016: £2,176).

Income from the final sale of the Society's greetings cards was £1,779 (2016: £1,813).

Support from Advertising in the Society's Annual Report recovered to £6,750 (£3,420 in 2016 reflected the sad passing of Leonard Holdsworth). Thanks to all who have kindly and generously supported this Annual Report.

Ticket sales for events were £5,687 (2016: £6,311.) Thank you to all who supported these events whether through, presenting, attending or organising. Event costs were £4,437 (2016: £6,344). The Society has an ambitious programme planned for 2018 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.

Key expenditure concerns keeping members informed: this falls into two main categories the regular newsletters £4,276 (2016: £9,842) and the *Annual Report* £8,352 (2016: £7,695). It is important that advertising revenue at least covers the cost of the Annual Report to avoid depleting the Society's reserves unnecessarily. The support of members and their businesses or businesses where they have contacts is crucial to achieving this.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society continues to look at making better use of electronic media to continue to reduce communication costs. Investment in the website continues to bring benefits.

At 30th June 2017 the Society's bank and saving accounts were £51,435 (2016: £47,793). 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 that 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



SERVICES AT ST LUKE'S AND CHRIST CHURCH

Monday	09:00 Christ Church	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09:00 St Luke's	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	09:00 St Luke's	Morning Prayer
Thursday	09:00 St Luke's	Morning Prayer
	08:00 Chelsea Old Church	Holy Communion
	13:00 Royal Marsden Chapel	Holy Communion
Sunday	08:00 St Luke's	Holy Communion
	10:30 St Luke's	Sung Eucharist
	11:00 Christ Church	Sung Eucharist
	15:00 St Luke's	Choral Evensong

Rector: The Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard
Associate Vicar: The Revd Emma Smith
Curate: The Revd Dr John Russell

Parish Office: St Luke's Crypt, Sydney Street. London SW3 6NH
Tel: 020 7351 7365 www.chelseaparish.org

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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
Registered Charity Number 276264
THE TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2017

Constitution and Objects

The Chelsea Society was founded by Reginald Blunt in 1927. The Society's objects are to preserve and improve 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 each year, a copy of which is sent to every member.

Trustees

The Trustees of the Society are members of 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: James Thompson (Chairman)
Michael Stephen (Vice-Chairman)
Michael Illingworth (Hon. Treasurer)
Jennifer Grossman (Hon. Secretary)
Allan Kelly (Hon. Secretary - Membership)
Michael Stephen (Chairman - Planning Committee)
Dr Sarah Ingham (Editor)
Paulette Craxford (Hon. Secretary - Events) (Retired Nov 2016)

Elected Members: Michael Bach
Martyn Baker
Patrick Baty (Term Completed Nov 2017)
Terence Bendixson
Amalia Cebreiro (Elected Nov 2016)
John Doncaster (Retired Oct 2017)
Jane Dorrell
Sir Paul Lever (Elected Nov 2016)
Christopher Lenon (Elected Nov 2016)
Hon. Camilla Mountain (Retired Nov 2016)

THE TRUSTEES' REPORT

Co-opted Members: Nigel Stenhouse (Died Oct 2017)
Paul Aitkenhead (Died May 2017)

Review of the Year's Activities and Achievements

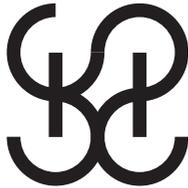
The Chairman's Report, published in the Society's Annual Report and on its website, contains a full description of the activities and achievements of the Society during the year. At 30th June 2017, the Society has total funds of £48,530 (2016 £40,739), comprising £46,330 on the General Fund and £2,200 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 action required to pursue 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 2 November 2017

James Thompson - Chairman



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**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 2017, which are set out in the following pages

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, 14 November 2017

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Income and expenditure account		
Incoming resources		
Annual membership subscriptions + Gift Aid	14,453	15,696
Donations received	2,770	2,176
Advertising revenue and annual report	6,750	3,420
Sponsorship of exhibition		31,346
Interest received	348	162
Lectures, walks and visits	5,687	6,311
Income from sale of Christmas cards and postcards	1,512	1,813
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	31,520	60,923
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Resources expended		
Direct charitable expenditure		
Cost of annual report	8,352	7,695
Cost of newsletters	4,276	9,842
Lectures, walks and visits	4,437	6,344
Cost of Christmas cards, postcards and maps		2,234
Subscriptions and donations to other organisations	1,123	30
Advertising	845	
Exhibition		35,222
Conference and archive	68	264
Website	93	926
Printing, postage and miscellaneous expenses	902	973
Insurance	36	184
Sundry	1,788	840
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,920	64,553
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Governance and administration		
Annual General Meeting	663	601
Bank charges	51	626
Independent examiner's fee	1,130	870
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,844	2,097
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	23,764	66,650
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year	7,756	(5,727)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance brought forward	40,739	46,465
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward at 30 June 2017	48,531	40,739
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	£	£
Current Assets		
Debtors	6,996	2,074
National Savings Bank Account		20,383
Other bank accounts	51,435	27,410
	<u>58,431</u>	<u>49,867</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(9,936)	(9,128)
	<u>48,495</u>	<u>40,739</u>
Net Assets		
	<u>48,495</u>	<u>40,739</u>
Funds		
General Fund	46,295	38,539
Life Membership Fund	2,200	2,200
	<u>48,495</u>	<u>40,739</u>
Total Funds		
	<u>48,495</u>	<u>40,739</u>

Approved by the Council of the Chelsea Society on
2nd November 2017

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

THE CONSTITUTION

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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 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

THE CONSTITUTION

- 8.12.3 Unless withdrawn by the proposer the resolution shall then be put to the vote
- 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 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 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 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.

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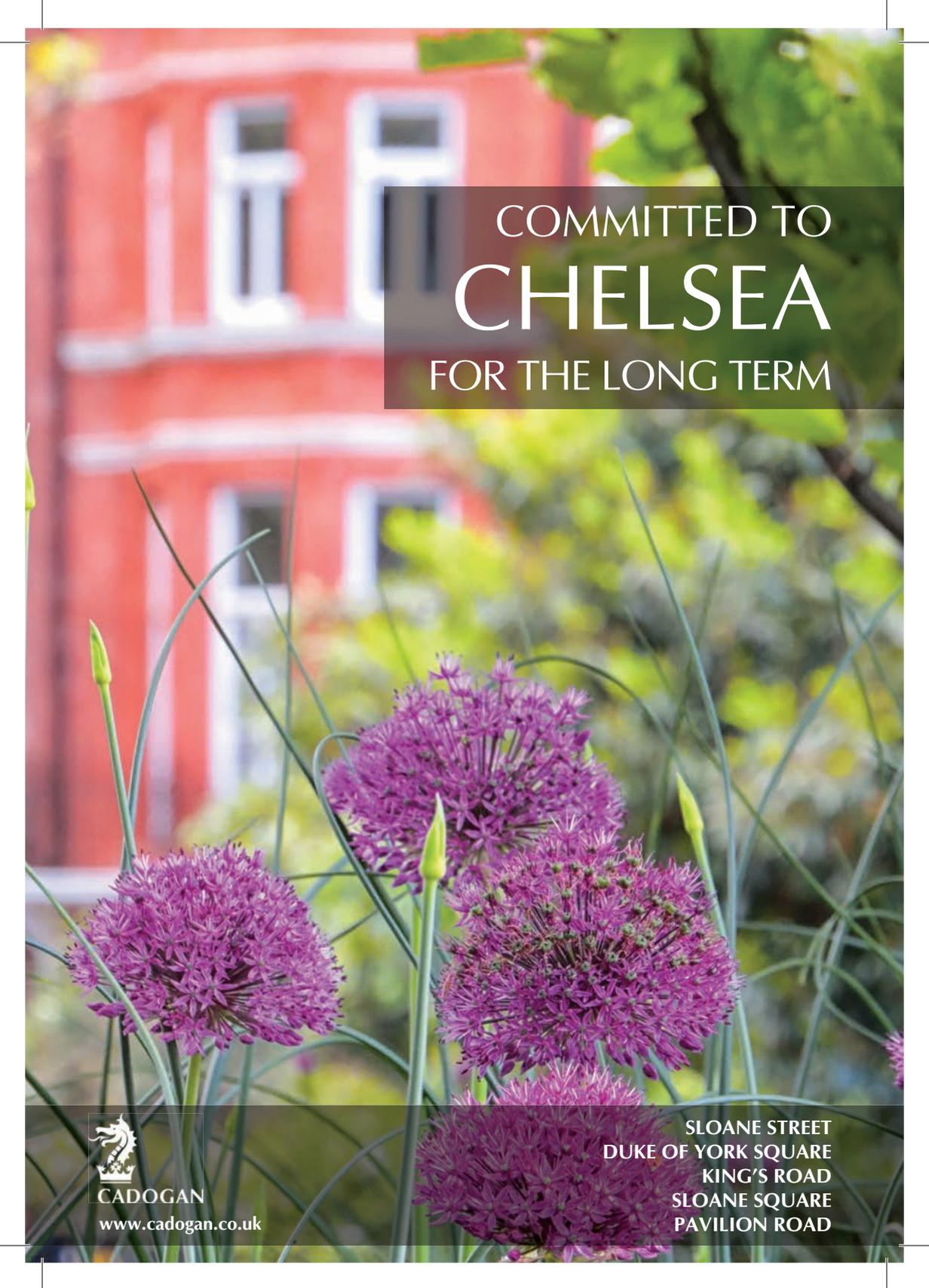
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List of Members

*An asterisk denotes a life member. Should any amendments be made, please advise
secretary@chelseasociety.org.uk*

RICHARD ABBOTT
MRS SUSAN ABBOTT
A ABELES*
MR NATALIA AGAPIOU
TIM AHERN
ANTONY ALBERTI
MRS ANTONY ALBERTI
MRS JUDY ALEXANDER
RICHARD ALEXANDER
MRS RICHARD ALEXANDER
MRS ROSEMARY ALEXANDER
AVA AMANDE
MRS ELIZABETH AMATI
C C ANDREAE
THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
CARLOS ARANGO
JOHN ARMITAGE
MRS JOHN ARMITAGE
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MISS VICTORIA ASHE
MISS CAROLINE ASHETON
MRS ROMA ASHWORTH BRIGGS
GREGORY ASIKANEN
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PROF WILLIAM AYLIFFE
MRS WILLIAM AYLIFFE
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MISS ANGELA BAIGNÈRES
DR ANDREW BAILEY
MARTYN BAKER
MRS MARTYN BAKER
MRS BAKHTIAR BAKHTIARI
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MISS URMILA BANERJEE
ROBERT BARHAM
MRS LOUISA BARHAM
THE HON VIVIAN BARING
MRS VIVIAN BARING
DR ROBERT BARKER
LADY BARRAN
MRS M C BARROW
MRS SERENA BARROW
SIMON BARROW
STEPHEN BARRY
MRS STEPHEN BARRY
DR CAROLYN BARSHALL
MRS DEREK BARTON*
JOHN BASSETT
MRS JEAN BASSETT
DAVID BATCHELOR
GEOFFREY BATTMAN
PATRICK BATY
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LADY BAXENDELL
GERALD BEALE
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MRS A BEAUMONT-DODD
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MRS NANETTE BLACK
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MISS SUZANNE BLAKEY
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MRS CHRISTOPHER BLICK
DEREK BLOOM
THE HON NIGEL BOARDMAN
MARTIN BOASE
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TIMOTHY BOULTON
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MRS DAVID BRADY
HUGH BRADY
MRS HUGH BRADY
R M A BRAINE
MRS. R M A BRAINE
MRS. SUSAN BREITMEYER
MRS VIVIENNE BRITAIN
MRS ANGELA BROAD
TERENCE BROAD
MRS TERENCE BROAD
MRS MARA BROCKBANK
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LADY BROOKE
R BROOKS
COM WALDEMAR BROWN RN
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MRS IRENA BRYANS
G BRYANT
RUSSELL BRYANT
ANDY BUCHANAN
MRS ANDY BUCHANAN
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MISS MIRANDA BUCKLEY
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MRS MALCOLM BURR
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MRS A CHIGNELL
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MRS ALEXANDER CHILD-VILLIERS
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MRS LUCY CLARKE
MISS MARGARET CLARKE
ROBERT CLARKE
MRS ROBERT CLARKE
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MRS TIM COLERIDGE
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MISS PENELOPE COPPLESTONE
STUART CORBYN
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MRS MICHAEL CORKERY
MISS CONCHITA COSART
MAX COUPER
DAVID COX
MISS ROSEMARY CRAIG
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