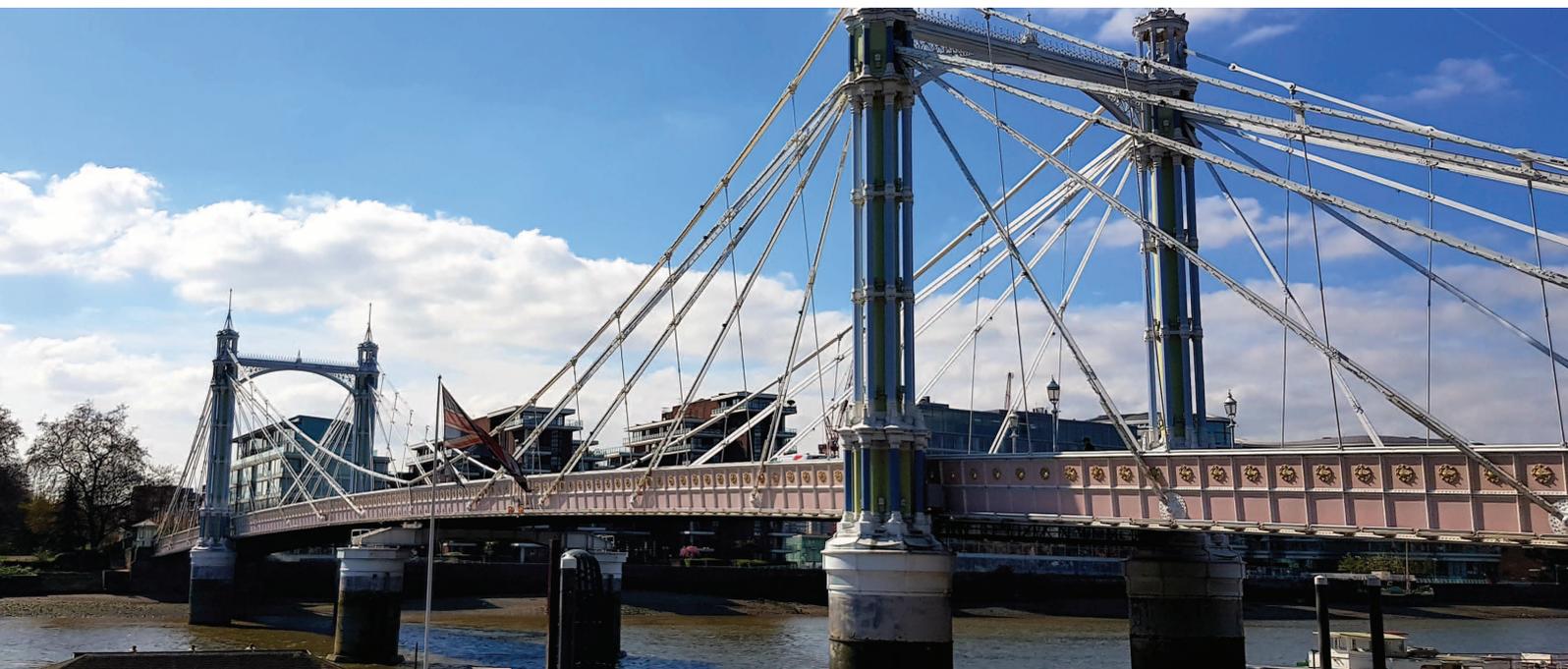




# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity 27626

## Spring Bulletin 2020



This Bulletin is printed and distributed to members twice a year, and electronic mailings are sent to members at approx. monthly intervals. The best way to keep up to date with the activities of the Society is via its website at [www.chelseasociety.org.uk](http://www.chelseasociety.org.uk) You can also follow The Chelsea Society on Instagram, where we now have 575 Followers.

If the Society does not have your e-mail address, it would be very helpful if you would send it to [chairman@chelseasociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@chelseasociety.org.uk)

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Society. They can join easily by visiting our website and clicking on **“Join Us.”**  
*They do not have to be resident in Chelsea.*

The Chelsea Society has published an annual report every year since it was formed in 1927. This is a treasure-trove of information about Chelsea, and we now have all the reports indexed. See <http://chelseasociety.org.uk/annual-reports-index/>  
All Annual Reports since 1980 are now on our website.

## FUTURE EVENTS | 2020

### STOP PRESS:

Following Government advice, the Society has decided to postpone all meetings scheduled to take place before the end of May. A decision will be taken later about the meeting at the College of Arms on 2nd June and the JP Morgan Art Collection visit on 25th June.

### Vintners' Hall 68 Upper Thames Street, London EC4V 3BG



Tues 17th March 2020 10.30 for 10.45am – 12.30pm

**The Vintners' Company is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London. The current site was bequeathed to the Company in 1446, and its history is a fascinating story of trade, charity, politics and companionship.**

The wine trade was of great importance to the medieval economy – between 1446 and 1448 wine made up nearly one-third of England's entire import trade. The Vintner's Company presided over this trade by authority of its first Royal Charter granted in 1363. Because of its connections with royalty, Vintners is one of only two City companies to

own swans on the Thames, and participates in Swan-upping (an annual ceremony in which mute swans on the river are rounded up, examined, ringed and then released).

Members of The Chelsea Society and their guests had a private guided tour of the Hall by Guy Fairbank, and saw some of its wonderful treasures. Guy is a well-known London blue badge guide and is himself a Liveryman of the Vintners' Company.

### NATO

**Lecture by General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander of NATO forces in Europe on "Current Security challenges facing NATO and the UK." Sir Adrian is now Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.**

With cracks appearing within NATO, ongoing uncertainty in the Middle East, and President Trump's antipathy, can NATO survive the challenges that lie ahead? We will have an opportunity to hear first-hand.

Sir Adrian's military career encompassed much of the world: including operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. He served in an armoured regiment, as a pilot in Army-aviation and with the SAS – and was known as an innovator. As Deputy Supreme Commander of all NATO forces

in Europe, he was responsible for planning and operations on behalf of 29 member-nations and many partner nations. In Afghanistan he was responsible for an alliance of 50 countries including 140,000 coalition personnel and 350,000 Afghan National Security Forces.

Today, as well as being Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea Sir Adrian is strategic advisor to a Middle Eastern head of state, and he lectures in strategy at Kings College London. He has recently contributed to a House of Lords select committee report on UK foreign policy.

Tickets £10



## FUTURE EVENTS | 2020

### The Garrick Club

Private accompanied tour of the Club.

**Named after the great eighteenth century actor, David Garrick, the Club was founded in 1831 by a group of literary gentlemen under the patronage of the then Duke of Sussex as a haven for discourse between artists and patrons.**

Many of the nation's art lovers and distinguished personalities were members of the Garrick, including Rossetti, Trollope, JM Barrie, Thackeray and Dickens. Infamously the Club was the scene of a very public quarrel between these latter two literary giants. It houses the largest and most significant collection of British theatrical works of art and has over 1,000 paintings, drawings and pieces of sculpture on display. Artists represented include Zoffany,

Lawrence and Millais. Portraits of every British actor of note from David Garrick to John Gielgud are on the Club walls.

Gentlemen are required to wear jackets and ties. Ladies must be similarly attired (trousers permitted). No denim, trainers or gym shoes are allowed. Photography is not permitted and mobile telephones must be switched off or set to silent.

This event is now sold out.



### Ranelagh Garden



**Ranelagh Garden in the 18th century was a place where people came to listen to music and other entertainments, and to see and be seen. The centrepiece of Ranelagh was a rococo rotunda, which figured prominently in views from the river. It had a diameter of 120 feet (37 metres) and was designed by William Jones, a surveyor to the East India Company. The central support housed a chimney and fireplaces for use in winter.**

The Rotunda was an important venue for musical concerts, and in 1765, the nine-year-old Mozart performed there. Canaletto painted the gardens, and painted the interior of the Rotunda

twice, for different patrons. The rotunda was closed in 1803 and demolished two years later. The organ was moved to All Saints Church, Evesham.

There was also a Chinese pavilion, added in 1750, an ornamental lake, and several walks. Ranelagh was a popular venue for romantic assignations. Edward Gibbon wrote that it was, "the most convenient place for courtships of every kind — the best market we have in England."

Jonathan King, is an honorary fellow at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, and at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.

Tickets £15

### Bonhams Auction

At Bonhams new flagship headquarters, at 101 New Bond St, London W1S 1SR

**Curated Tour by Colin Sheaf, Deputy Chairman of Bonhams, and Global Head of Asian Art, around the 'Fine Chinese Art' auction preview (auction date is 14 May).**

The sale will include fine Chinese ceramics dating from the Neolithic period until the 19th century; jade carvings of the Ming and Qing Dynasty (1368-1911); Archaic bronze vessels and gilt-bronze Buddhist figures; and an extensive selection of antique Chinese furniture, textiles and collectable Chinese decorative arts.

Meet at the Main Reception Desk between 2.50-3.00pm

Tickets £10 Maximum number of attendees 30



**Auction Catalogue:** available to purchase at Bonhams Reception Desk, but not necessary for the Tour  
**Refreshments:** Emilia Café (based at Bonhams) offers tea, coffee and a well-stocked Wine Bar before and after the event

### The College of Arms



2nd June 2020 6.15 for 6.30 - private evening visit with a talk by Windsor Herald.

**The College of Arms is the official heraldic authority for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and much of the Commonwealth including Australia and New Zealand. As well as being responsible for the granting of new coats of arms, the College maintains registers of arms, pedigrees, genealogies, Royal Licences, changes of name, and flags.**

The heralds, besides having ceremonial duties, advise on all matters relating to the peerage

**and baronetage, precedence, honours and ceremonial as well as national and community symbols including flags.**

This event is now sold out.

Tickets for the ticketed events listed are available from the Box Office at the Cadogan Hall, 3 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ in person (Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm (Sunday 12 noon – 6pm – performance days only) or by phone 0207-730-4500 (booking not available online).  
 A charge is made by Cadogan Hall for card payments so it is better to book in person, or by post, with cheque payable to Cadogan Hall. We are very grateful to Gaye Murdoch for arranging these events.

### JP Morgan Art Collection

Private visit Thursday 25th June 4.45pm for 5pm – 6.15pm. Photo ID is required.

**60 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0JP (entry in John Carpenter Street). 3 mins walk from Blackfriars tube station.**

- A special opportunity to view an art collection which is not normally open to the public.
- The JP Morgan Chase art collection began in 1959 when David Rockefeller, then President of The Chase Manhattan Bank, established the firm's art programme and took the lead in the field of corporate art collecting. By integrating artwork with the architecture of new buildings and incorporating an enlightened approach to acquisitions, this forerunner of corporate collections became a model for other companies worldwide.
- Today it is one of the oldest and largest corporate art collections in the world, focusing on modern and contemporary painting, sculpture, works on paper and photography. This core collection is enhanced by a diverse and eclectic range of objects from every country in which JP Morgan Chase does business. Its largest collection is in New York but there are many interesting works to be viewed in London. For security reasons individual artists cannot be named.
- The visit includes refreshments, the opportunity to see the Auditorium in the former London School for Boys which is now part of JP Morgan's building, and an accompanied tour of the art collection by the Curator.
- 14 tickets available @ £15. The visit is for members and their guests only.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

As at the date of this Bulletin, the Chelsea Society's Planning Committee comprises:

Michael Stephen (Chairman)	
Sir Paul Lever KCMG (Brompton Hans Ward)	Julian Turner (Royal Hospital Ward)
Martyn Baker (Chelsea Riverside Ward)	Michael Parkes (Stanley Ward)

### The Royal Brompton Hospital

**We have heard that the Hospital may be planning to move south of the river, and we are campaigning to keep it in Chelsea. We are encouraging members to sign a petition and have published the link on our website.**

Policy CK1 of the RBKC Local Plan provides that "The Council will ensure that social and community uses are protected or enhanced throughout the borough and will support the provision of new facilities. To deliver this, "the Council will...i. protect land and/or buildings where the current use is or the last use was a social or community use, for re-use for the same, similar or related use".

The Chelsea Society will resist the grant of planning permission for any land vacated by the Royal Brompton Hospital for any purpose other than community use, and preferably medical use. We think that preference should be given to use by the Royal Marsden or Chelsea & Westminster hospitals and their associated research institutes.



# PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

## The Curzon Cinema – Kings Road

The Chairman of the Society’s Planning Committee, and the members of the Committee for Stanley Ward and Royal Hospital Ward visited the site of the redevelopment of the cinema on 21st February 2020 by kind permission of the owners, Cadogan, and their main contractors, Wates. The redevelopment is expected to be completed in 2023.

When completed it will comprise a 400-seat cinema with two smaller cinemas, retail units and a pub on the Kings Road, retail units in Chelsea Manor St., and apartments and offices above. The apartments will be let by Cadogan on Assured Shorthold tenancies at market rents, save that five of them will be made available to RBKC for letting. The intention is to keep the Waitrose store open throughout, although it will be much smaller for several months.

The Committee members were impressed by the efforts being made to reduce disturbance to local people by recycling most of the demolition-materials on site instead of transporting them out in heavy trucks and bringing new materials in. They will also be using the least noisy form of piling, and are doing noisy work during limited hours on weekdays only. They have an apprenticeship scheme, and they allow employees time off during working hours to help in community projects.

We will make another visit in six months’ time.



## Colebrook Court – Sloane Avenue



**The Chelsea Society has obtained, through the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the records of pre-application discussions about the proposed development of Colebrook Court (AR/19/04913).**

The Society’s Planning Committee member for Brompton-Hans Ward, Sir Paul Lever, has written to RBKC to express our concern, indeed our horror, at what the developers have in mind; and has urged the Council to oppose them vigorously.

Colebrook Court is a low rise building surrounded by blocks of flats which are mostly around eight storeys high. To replace it with a 26, 23, 18 or 16 storey steel and glass skyscraper would be an act of wanton vandalism, and would dominate the whole of the surrounding area. In the Council’s exchanges with the developers they rightly drew attention to the impact on the view from the Royal Hospital. But a tower block of the size proposed would be widely visible throughout this part of Chelsea and would be a blight on a landscape which does not feature high buildings. We urge the Council to look not just at the heritage implications for one particular location, but at the impact on the Chelsea Conservation Area as a whole.

## Mallord Street

**The Society successfully opposed an application to convert the old telephone exchange into a 400-pupil school.**

The owners of the land, the Sloane Stanley Estate, are now proposing to lease it for use as a Health Club and gymnasium, and have briefed the Chairman of our Planning Committee and the Committee Member for Stanley Ward. For details see the note of the meeting on our website.



# PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

## Peter Jones

The Chairman of the Society’s Planning Committee and several members of the Society attended a briefing on 6th February on plans for the external refurbishment and enhancement of the Peter Jones buildings, which are Grade II\* listed.



**The Society welcomes these proposals in principle. More detail later.**

## Sutton Estate



The owners of the Estate, Clarion Housing, having been refused permission for a comprehensive redevelopment, have now decided

**to refurbish many of the flats to modern standards and bring them back into use.**

The Chelsea Society welcomes this decision, and requests that flats are made available for letting to key workers, and for affordable housing, as well as social housing. A report by the Society’s Planning Committee member for Stanley Ward is on the website.

## The Queen’s Head – Tryon Street

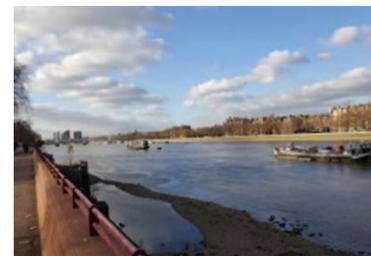
**The member of the Society’s Planning Committee for Royal Hospital Ward visited the Queen’s Head pub on 29th January 2020 to see how the development was progressing.**

The owner together with his architect, contractor, and site manager all attended to show him the site and to enter the big hole in the ground supported by much steelwork.

They discussed the project in detail, including how it affects the neighbours, and traffic management issues. He was impressed by the project itself and their willingness to engage with the Society and to deal with any concerns we may have.



## Thames Conservation Area Appraisal



**After continuous pressure, from The Chelsea Society, the Cheyne Walk Trust, and others, a Key Decision has been made by the RBKC Lead-Member for Planning, to adopt the Thames CAA.**

The CAA outlines the character and appearance of the conservation area and will help guide development management decisions within the conservation area. It will replace the existing Thames CAPS which is considered out of date.

The Chelsea Society looks forward to the commencement of work on a management plan for this Conservation Area, in which the Society is willing to participate.

## Business Improvement District?

**The Chairman of the Society, together with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and two members of the Committee have met with the Proposers of a Business Improvement District for the King’s Road, and heard an outline of what is proposed.**

The Society is in principle very much in favour of improving the King’s Road, but we would need to see a detailed B.I.D. Proposal before deciding whether to support it.

If we did support it, the Society would wish to have a representative on the Board of the company managing the B.I.D. The key issue for us is whether such a scheme would be welcome to, and supported by, the small businesses who currently operate in the King’s Road. The full text of our response is on the website.





**THE CHELSEA SOCIETY**