

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL REPORT 1971



*Price Thirty-seven and a half pence*

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# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

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*Vice-President*

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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY  
MRS. ORDE, 1 DURHAM PLACE, S.W.3

# CONSTITUTION

- (1) The Chelsea Society shall be regulated by the Rules contained in this Constitution.
- (2) These Rules shall come into force when the Society has adopted this constitution at a General Meeting.
- (3) In these Rules the expression "existing" means existing before the Rules come into force.

## OBJECTS

- The Objects of the Society shall be to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea by all available means and particularly—
  - by stimulating interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea;
  - by encouraging good architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and proper maintenance of open spaces;
  - by seeking the abatement of nuisances;
  - by promoting the interests of residents and practitioners of the fine arts, especially in regard to their enjoyment of their homes, studios and surroundings; and
  - by making representations to the proper authorities on these subjects.

## MEMBERSHIP

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

## THE COUNCIL

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

## OFFICERS

- The Council shall appoint the following officers of the Society, namely—
  - a Chairman of the Council,
  - an Hon. Secretary or Joint Hon. Secretaries,
  - an Hon. Treasurer, and
  - persons to fill such other posts as may be established by the Council.

## PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

7. (1) The Council shall prescribe the amount of the subscriptions to be paid by members of the Society and the date on which they are due, and the period in respect of which they are payable.
- (2) Membership of the Society shall lapse if the member's subscription is unpaid for six months after it is due, but may be restored by the Council.
- (3) Until otherwise prescribed under this Rule, the annual subscription and the amount payable for life membership shall continue to be payable at the existing rates\*.
- (4) Members are invited to pay more than the prescribed minimum, if possible.
- (5) Members who pay annual subscriptions are requested to pay by banker's order, unless they are unwilling to give banker's orders.

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

8. (1) In these Rules "General Meeting" means a meeting of the Society which all members of the Society may attend.
- (2) The Council shall arrange at least one General Meeting every year, to be called the Annual General Meeting, and may arrange as many other General Meetings, in these Rules referred to as Special General Meetings, as the Council may think fit.
- (3) General Meetings shall take place at such times and places as the Council may arrange.
- (4) The President shall preside at any General Meeting at which he is present, and if he is not present the Chairman of the Council or some person nominated by the Chairman of the Council shall preside as Acting President.
- (5) Any election to the Council shall be held at a General Meeting.
- (6) No person shall be eligible for the Council unless—
  - (i) he or she has been proposed and seconded by other members of the Society, and has consented to serve, and
  - (ii) the names of the three persons concerned and the fact of the consent have reached the Hon. Secretary in writing at least two weeks before the General Meeting.
- (7) If the Hon. Secretary duly receives more names for election than there are vacancies, he shall prepare voting papers for use at the General Meeting, and those persons who receive most votes shall be declared elected.
- (8) The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall include—
  - (a) receiving the Annual Report; and
  - (b) receiving the Annual Accounts.
- (9) At the Annual General Meeting any member of the Society may comment on any matter mentioned in the Report or Accounts, and may, after having given at least a week's notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary, raise any matter not mentioned in the report, if it is within the Objects of the Society.
- (10) The President or Acting President may limit the duration of speeches.
- (11) During a speech on any question any member of the Society may move that the question be now put, without making a speech, and any other member may second that motion, without making a speech, and if the motion is carried, the President or Acting President shall put the question forthwith.
- (12) If any 20 members of the Society apply to the Council in writing for a special Meeting of the Society, the Council shall consider the application, and may make it a condition of granting it that the expense should be defrayed by the applicants.

#### TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

9. (1) The existing Council shall continue to act for the Society until a Council is formed under Rule 4.
- (2) Within five months of the adoption of the constitution the existing council shall arrange an Annual or a Special General Meeting at which the first election to the Council shall be held.
- (3) The existing Officers of the Society shall continue to serve until Officers are appointed under Rule 5.

#### AMENDMENTS

10. (1) These Rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting, if a notice in writing of the proposed amendment has reached the Hon. Secretary at least two weeks before the General Meeting.
- (2) The Hon. Secretary shall send notices of any such amendment to the members of the Society before the General Meeting.

#### WINDING-UP

11. In the event of a winding-up of the Society, the disposal of the funds shall be decided by a majority vote at a General Meeting.

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*\*The existing rates are (i) for persons (other than life members) who became members before 1st July, 1961, fifty pence annually, and (ii) for persons who became members after 30th June, 1961, £1 annually payable on the 1st February or a lump sum of £10.50 for life membership.*

# *The Annual General Meeting*

of the Chelsea Society was held at  
The Chelsea College of Science and Technology  
(by kind permission of the Principal)  
on Friday, 15th October, 1971 at 8.30 p.m.

The President, Sir Anthony Wagner, took the Chair and thanked the Principal for putting the hall at our disposal.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd October, 1970, were duly approved and signed by the President.

The Chairman's Report and the Honorary Treasurer's Statement were then read and adopted.

## *Chairman's Report*

*[Items 1 to 9 of the Report were not in fact uttered at the Annual General Meeting as item 10 took up all our time.]*

### 1. *Membership*

Our membership at present is 775.

### 2. *Summer Meeting*

By the kindness of Colonel Peddie our Summer Meeting was arranged to take place on 19th June at the Duke of York's Headquarters. The aspect of the building was no doubt quite familiar to all our members but few indeed can have ever set foot in it. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Arnold Stevenson, was present and the meeting was well attended. Col. Peddie unfortunately could not be there, so the Chairman said a few words after tea about the history of the place.

Col. Peddie knew nothing of any threat, of which there had been rumours, of the selling off of the open space in front of the Headquarters for unseemly commercial development. The Chairman is assured on all sides that it is not possible in our time, with a Ministry of the Environment, that we should be presented with some overnight *fait accompli* of such proportions. May we hope that such a disastrous event may not take place. In this connection members may be interested in the following extract from *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates* (1908, 5th series, vol. 18, col. 498):

“*The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane)*: It has been decided that the site and premises of the Duke of York's School shall be purchased by the War Department. It is proposed that the whole site and premises shall be devoted to military purposes in connection with the Territorial Force. It is not intended that any part of the site or premises shall be sold for building or other purposes.”

“*Lord Alexander Thynne*: Are we to understand it is not the intention of the War Department to erect any further buildings on this site?”

“*Mr. Haldane*: I should not like to say that, because we may have to erect some accommodation for the Territorial Force, probably in substitution for the buildings subsisting now. What the hon. Member means is whether we intend to keep a large open space there, and we do intend to do so.”

### 3. *The Village Fair*

The Chelsea Community Association's Village Fair took place in the Rectory Garden on 3rd July. Our Society was asked to take a stall which we did with pleasure. For the construction of the stall and imaginative planning of our exhibition we are indebted to Mr. Baden Powell, Miss Jane Lewis and Mr. Hugh Krall. Our striking show of prints and coloured slides, which attracted much interest, was entirely devoted to our campaign to save the Embankment. We are most grateful to Miss Lewis for preparing the Manifesto, and for earning by the sale of ice creams enough to pay our expenses and to give £10 to the Community Association. Congratulations to the Association on the success of the Fair, and to our team for its most successful efforts.

#### 4. *Christchurch Street*

In last year's Report a letter was quoted which we had written to the Borough concerning the threat to Christchurch Terrace. On 19th November, 1970, a similar letter went to Lady Dartmouth, Chairman of the Greater London Council Historic Buildings Board; but demolition was already taking place before the end of November. On 1st February, 1971, the Chairman wrote again to Lady Dartmouth:

"After the abrupt loss of Christchurch Terrace, I write in good time to ask whether anything can be done for the preservation of Christchurch Street which I gather to be under threat of demolition in a couple of years. Is there any chance of having these houses listed? They seem to us a most valuable part of 'Chelsea Village' which we would hate to lose."

On 23rd March an answer was received to the effect that the Secretary of State for the Environment was unlikely to list these houses and the best safeguard, in the circumstances, would be their inclusion in a Conservation Area. Lady Dartmouth had written to the Borough Planning Officer suggesting this. We wrote at once to the Town Clerk to re-enforce the request. The Borough however did not see its way to taking any action, though Mr. Christopher Leaver, a Borough Councillor for Cheyne Ward, spoke in the Council on the theme of Christchurch Street. He also met the Cadogan Estates and appreciated the landlord's argument that the houses are in very poor condition.

The interest of our Society in Christchurch Street is mainly in the architectural aspect of the houses. We share the sentiments of Stephen Gardiner on this terrace expressed in the *Observer* of 4th March last:

"Forget a surface shabbiness that a coat of paint and a bit of touching up can cure. Look instead at the windows, their generosity of shape, the way the glass is divided; notice the surrounds to these windows (and to the doors) and the large spaces of brick between them; list the minute but important variations of detail. The secret of the Georgian method, which respected the identity of the individual while, at the same time, glancing up to the scale of the community, lies here, in this short length of spirited houses.



The Christchurch Street area, however, is also good because it is part of something that is larger than itself, and from which it is architecturally inseparable; and this is a chain of distinguished events which begins with Margaretta Terrace, continues through Oakley Gardens and finishes with Royal Avenue. Thus the preservation of Christchurch Street means that a vital link in this chain will remain, and without it the whole neighbourhood would begin the inevitable slide into anarchy."

#### 5. *Albert Bridge*

As was said in last year's Report our Society, in line with the "Albert Bridge Group", wrote to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government asking that a Public Inquiry on Albert Bridge should be held. As a result of these and other representations the request was granted and the Inquiry was opened on 1st July, 1971 at the Kensington Town Hall. It lasted four days during which time representatives of our Society were continuously present. The Greater London Council presented a comprehensive report on the bridge, which was designed by R. M. Ordish and opened in 1873. Experts traced the history of the bridge and of the steps taken at various dates to assess its condition and impose weight limits. Its importance as a river crossing in the general transport context was analysed. As a result of its researches the G.L.C. was applying for Listed Building Consent under the Town and Country Planning Acts 1962 and 1968 to construct a central supporting pier as being necessary for safety and to enable the bridge to carry the required amount of traffic.

Battersea's "Albert Bridge Group" and the River Thames Society offered interesting expert evidence on the nature of this very unusual bridge, now the only one of its kind extant in the world. They objected to the G.L.C.'s proposal both on aesthetic and structural grounds, and suggested alternative measures whereby the bridge's original weight-bearing capacity could be restored without the offensive central support. It certainly seemed that they had produced alternative proposals which deserved further exploration by the G.L.C. and the Society hopes that the Inspector took this view. The energy and resourcefulness shown by the objectors in making such a good case and employing counsel and expert witnesses to state it is much to be commended. The Chairman could not

help feeling that our side of the water was, by comparison, not making much of a show. Still, the communication that he read out should have made it clear that we do care and look forward to participating, in the near future, in the strategic plans that are to be made for all our Chelsea bridges including Albert. Our communication was as follows:

“This Society is greatly concerned about the preservation of Albert Bridge, both for its unique qualities as a triumph of Victorian engineering and because it is a much loved feature of our riverside. We are apprehensive about the proposal to build a pier to support the centre of the structure, thereby enabling the bridge for a few years to continue to carry a weight of traffic such as it now carries. We fear that after the passage of those few years the bridge will have merely deteriorated further and will then be likely to be condemned as useless for any purpose. Our hope is that the bridge will survive for many many years, possibly being restricted to pedestrian use. We hope that its future will be fully debated when the momentous decisions concerning the West Cross Route, and the river crossings associated therewith, are made in the coming months. We trust that the question of building a pier can be deferred until such debate, in the very near future, will have taken place.”

6. *39/41 Royal Avenue*

An application to make extensions at the back of these houses was objected to by this Society in a letter of 8th February, 1971, in the course of which the Chairman wrote:

“... these extensions are planned to cover the whole width of each of the two houses, a condition that has not, so far as I can see been allowed in the case of any other extensions at the back of houses either in Royal Avenue or Walpole Street. If such extension is permitted in this case, it is hard to see how similar extensions could be refused in other cases and presently the garden areas behind these houses could disappear.”

Such was the substance of what he said at a public inquiry that took place with regard to this application. The Inspector decided against the extensions.

### 7. *The Pheasantry*

Further to our last Report, some new plans were submitted in October 1970. On 15th November we wrote as follows to the Borough Planning Officer:

“In a general way we accept the new plans. There remain, however, three matters with regard to which we raise objections:—

1. Cannot the front of no. 12 Jubilee Place (listed Grade II) be incorporated in the entrance to the new building from the west side?
2. We are concerned by the way the Pheasantry is only kept as a shell. Why not keep it intact as a building, even if used as a high class boutique?
3. The gate on King's Road. Cannot this be given a more positive link with the new building, so that it will remain the way in, and not a detached feature?”

Meanwhile the Royal Fine Art Commission had accepted the proposals and on 14th January, 1971, a Report by the Architect of the Historic Buildings Board of the Greater London Council recommended that the Borough be allowed to grant planning permission for the redevelopment and to seek authorisation for the demolition of no. 12 Jubilee Place and the rear parts of the Pheasantry. A chapter seemed to have been closed when, to the general astonishment, in August 1971 the Secretary of State for the Environment “called in” the development for a public inquiry. To those who have been as reluctantly acquiescent in the plans as ourselves, this is surely good news. The inquiry is to be held on 11th January.

### 8. *Chelsea Cloisters*

Although the Society was not eligible to make any formal appearance at the Public Inquiry held on 25th May, 1971, on the use of this block of flats, it sent a representative to report back on a subject which might well concern members, and is a matter of public concern. It sympathises with the Borough's objection that the use of part of this block as an hotel is incompatible with the amenities of the area, and hopes that their case will succeed. Quite evidently there are grave dangers to the environment if hotels spring up outside the Borough's general planning proposals.

#### 9. *Shop to Restaurant or Café*

On 7th July Mr. Marcus Worsley asked in the House whether the Secretary of State for the Environment would amend the Use Classes Order so that planning permission would be required for a change of use from a shop to a restaurant or café. Mr. Graham Page answered that the matter was under consideration. Chelsea residents will most gladly welcome the measure for which Mr. Worsley is pressing, a measure that will enable the Borough to limit to some extent the nocturnal din which is such a torment to many of us.

#### 10. *West Cross Route*

The Chairman started by reiterating our basic opinions in this matter. We accept the scheme for a West Cross Route as part of the pattern of Ringway I. The proposed phasing of the work of building the West Cross Route would, however, cause Chelsea Embankment to serve for many years as the south side of Ringway I. Our main endeavours are directed to preventing such a disaster befalling our Embankment.

He briefly sketched our activities during the year, namely our appointment of a Study Group under the chairmanship of Mr. Francis Baden-Powell, its terms of reference being to examine technical aspects of the West Cross Route and the Embankment, to prepare evidence for inquiries, to brief consultants to give such evidence and to co-ordinate with other bodies in Chelsea. As a result of the Study Group's activities, and in consultation with Mr. Derrick Bretherton of Linklaters and Paines, our lawyers, we commissioned a Report from Mr. Stefan Tietz and Partners, Associated Planning Consultants. We asked the Consultants to produce, if possible, a feasible alternative to the G.L.C.'s scheme for the first Phase of the West Cross Route that would avoid the disaster we fear.

There seemed to be three possibilities. The first was to stop building the West Cross Route at Cromwell Road Interchange until such time as a bridge and the necessary connections south of the river, should be able to be built in one phase with the rest of the Route. The second was a proposal by the Borough of Wandsworth to sweep the West Cross Route down westwards over Wandsworth Bridge. Neither of these plans was found to be half as promising

as the third upon which our consultants have fixed their attention, namely upon the building, simultaneously with the West Cross Route, of a bridge over to Battersea along the line of the bridge ultimately intended by the G.L.C. Such a bridge would be built to half the final width to connect with a West Cross Route that in its first phase would also only be half-width, both, that is to say, consisting of two lanes of traffic either way. This bridge, which could be conveniently absorbed in the later bridge, would, on reaching the south side of the river, be connected with an elevated road alongside the railway embankment that would descend to ground level at Battersea Park Road.

It is our contention that if such a bridge is built there will be no need for the great works proposed by the G.L.C. upon the widening of Battersea Bridge, and the building of a major road between the Chelsea Interchange and Battersea Bridge-head, and the filling in of Whistler's Reach to take such a road, and the construction of such an enormous Chelsea Interchange as is planned by the G.L.C. The money thus saved should, in our opinion, go a long way towards paying for our reduced bridge.

The traffic that, by the G.L.C.'s proposals, would pass between the West Cross Route and Battersea Park Road by two sides of a triangle, namely by Whistler's Reach and Battersea Bridge, would by our proposals, pass by the third side of the triangle. By our proposals Cheyne Walk and Battersea Bridge would not suffer the violence that the G.L.C. intends for them and they would indeed be left as they now are, with, we would hope, even a reduced flow of traffic upon them—while Battersea would suffer no more than the G.L.C. certainly proposes it should suffer. The Chairman (after a sentimental apostrophe to Father Thames) did his best to assure members of the Battersea Society who were present on this point.

He then spoke about the interest shown by the Borough in our case, not only by Councillors Methuen and Collenette on the Planning Committee, but also by the Officers. It had not been possible to enter into close discussion with either Borough Councillors or Borough Officers until we received the go-ahead from our Counsel, Mr. George Dobry, Q.C., which we did only receive a little more than a week ago. At the moment then it was only possible to say that we had found much common ground.

He then reluctantly was compelled to speak about the Society's financial position. At the recent meeting with the lawyers it had become apparent that there would probably be two Inquiries at which we would have to be personally represented, first the Greater London Development Inquiry before the panel which will be resuming its hearing of objections to the transportation section of the plan in December, second a local Inquiry before an Inspector of the Ministry of Environment concerning the West Cross Route in January. It is possible, however, that the Minister may telescope these two Inquiries into one. If we are to be represented by Counsel at two Inquiries, we may need twice the sum of money we have already collected, in fact another £4,000. This figure would cover the payment also of our consultants, a charge we had not anticipated a year ago. After the optimistic financial report of this time last year, when we had, it seemed, not only enough but a good deal to spare, it is disagreeable to have to broach this matter again to our members—our members who have already shown themselves so generous.

It has seemed to us that the best way to raise this new sum will be by guarantees, for we are at present quite uncertain how much we may need. Mr. John Ehrman and the Chairman have formed themselves into a sub-committee for the collecting of such guarantees. The opening of the Guarantee Fund as part of our Chelsea Embankment Fund is herewith announced. The Fund has got off to a good start with guarantees already amounting to £750.

Our President, in his wisdom and caution, had warned the Chairman that he must undertake that the Chelsea Embankment Fund would be kept entirely separate from the Society's General Funds and its existence would depend entirely on special voluntary contributions. He willingly gave such an undertaking.

Sir Anthony Wagner then spoke as follows:—

“Ladies and Gentlemen, we come now to the discussion of the West Cross Route proposals and the Society's actions in regard to these, and I should like first to express on your behalf the gratitude of us all to our Council and especially to Mr. Noel Blakiston, for the immense amount of enthusiastic work and effort they have given to the matter. You and I cannot do this work for them, but we can support them and I would now ask each of you,

and especially those most concerned and most able, to consider your response to the Chairman's plea. I suppose this is the greatest planning issue Chelsea has faced in our time, or is likely to face in the years to come. Let our response then be worthy of it. What further expense may be involved we cannot at this moment know, therefore, as the Chairman has explained, what he seeks are guarantees, to be taken up only in case of need, and these clearly are essential if action is to go forward unhampered, for the Society itself lives on a shoestring and its minute funds cannot be put at risk. In the same spirit I want to thank those members who have already contributed so generously to the special fund which has been raised for action in this matter.

We all know and understand that the specialist services of legal advisers, counsel and professional consultants in preparation for and at Public Inquiries are necessarily costly. This makes it the more unfortunate that we are faced with the prospect, unless the Minister comes to our aid, of two separate Inquiries being held, each involving its own set of costs, to deal with what appears to be essentially one question. On this point I want to make a public plea to the Minister.

It has often been insisted upon by the Planning Ministry, now a part of the Department of the Environment, that its policy is to make appearances at Planning Inquiries as cheap and simple as possible for those whose interests are affected, and that an objector can therefore appear for himself without the expense of paying for counsel or professional advice.

Nevertheless, as the Ministry itself agrees, the complexity of the issues raised by such proposals as we are now concerned with, is such that it may well be impossible for objectors to make any impression unless they *do* go to such expense. This situation raises issues of public policy which are, I know, under consideration at the present time.

But in the present case we have the possible additional burden of having to appear, not only at the Greater London Development Plan Inquiry into the Ring Road, but at a separate Ministerial Inquiry into the West Cross Route, dealing, as I have said, largely with the same issues. May I here publicly beg the Minister to consider whether this

double burden might not be avoided by amalgamating the two Inquiries into one, always, of course, provided that nothing relevant to the larger proposal, that into the Ring Road, was excluded from consideration at such Inquiry.

One other aspect of the situation I would mention at this point, namely our hope, already mentioned by the Chairman, that we may have the help and support of the Borough in our representations. The Chairman has already spoken to you of our hopes of what could immensely strengthen our action and relieve our burden.

The question is now open for discussion."

The meeting was then opened for discussion. It soon became apparent that our consultants' proposals for a new bridge with suitable links to the road network south of the river could not be easily understood without a more complete presentation illustrated by slides and diagrams. It had been impossible to prepare this in time for the Annual General Meeting because the Society's lawyers had (as already said) only the week before approved the scheme as a good arguable case and advised that it should be publicised. The Society, however, hopes to organise a public meeting to demonstrate the proposals fully before its Objection is heard at the Greater London Development Plan Inquiry. Mr. Lane of Battersea, Margot Eates, Mr. T. C. Mitchell and some other members still resist the whole conception of Ringway I. All, however, are now aware that the West Cross Route might still be built independently as far as Chelsea Creek without a new bridge. That this would be catastrophic, supporters and opposers in principle of Ringway I agree. The Chairman took the opportunity of repeating the Society's view that the West Cross Route is totally unacceptable without a bridge, and that this is the fundamental point of our case. Mr. Philip English, Councillor Collenette and others spoke in warm support of the Society's Chairman and Council and of its policy. A Vote of Confidence called for by the President was carried with only one dissident.

The Chairman thanked all who had attended the meeting and concluded proceedings by emphasising the fluid state of these affairs: how shall we adapt ourselves to two Inquiries, where is the Borough going to take its stand, what is the attitude of the Minister going to be towards our business?



# *An Attempt to Grow Raw Silk in Chelsea in the Eighteenth Century*

By Barbara Smith

In the comparatively peaceful days of 1718, the future must have looked promising, even exciting, to Mr. John Apletree. The war with Spain was over and many domestic schemes to make money were springing up, stimulated, in part, by the prospect of a period of stability. The government actively encouraged new processes, especially schemes which would provide employment for the poor. On 23rd May, 1718, Mr. Apletree took out a Royal patent to cover his "way of raising Silk in this our Kingdom of Great Britain to as great a perfection as in any part of Europe," and during the next few months he established a company to grow silk in Chelsea called the Raw Silk Undertaking or sometimes the Raw Silk Company.

That John Apletree of Worcester should embark on a scheme to raise silkworms for raw silk in Chelsea is not at all surprising. In the early 18th century, the introduction of new, and preferably, exotic plants and fruits was part of the general curiosity and willingness to experiment. Fascination with the mulberry tree was not new, however. The tree had been introduced into England during the reign of Henry VIII. The earliest one on record was planted at Syon House in 1548 and is still flourishing today.

By the reign of James I, the English wished to break the French monopoly in silk. As silkworms were fed on mulberry leaves, James I wrote numerous letters to various landowners, encouraging them to plant mulberry trees and various unsuccessful attempts were made to raise raw silk in England. By the 18th century, the expansion of the thriving silk industry was hampered by having to import expensive raw material. Thus the Raw Silk Undertaking was conceived.

If raw silk was a promising product, Chelsea was also a promising and agreeable site for a mulberry plantation. The Physick Gardens had been established in 1613 with Sir Hans Sloane's generous patronage. Sir Robert Walpole had formed his own large collection of exotics in his garden adjacent to

the Royal Hospital grounds. In the neighbourhood of King's Road, were several nursery gardens which "besides furnishing the choicest variety of early-raised flowers, have each succeeding season something new to present to the botanical world".

In 1718, the development of the Raw Silk company was supported and encouraged by Mr. Henry Barham, a writer on natural history. He wrote pamphlets commending Chelsea Park, a pleasant open field, as a suitable site for a mulberry plantation. He took a house in Church Lane (now Old Church Street) which was one of the boundaries of the Park and even paid the rates on behalf of the company for the years 1718, 1719 and possibly 1720.

Chelsea in 1718/19 was still a small quiet village and a peaceful retreat. Chelsea Park was formerly part of the grounds of Sir Thomas More's estate and comprised 40 acres of land bounded by the modern streets of Fulham Road and King's Road, Park Walk and Old Church Street. Almost 2,000 mulberry trees were planted by the Company, and houses to keep the silkworms and their eggs protected were built.

The essential requirements were warmth and food. John Apletree's patent promised that his invention, an evaporating stove, would keep the eggs of the silkworm at a uniform temperature and that he "hath a certain and infallible method of feeding the said worms with undoubted success be it ever so wett". Henry Barham was more ambitious and claimed . . . "tis evident that the profit of this undertaking will make an increase beyond all the trades now to be undertaken in the knowledge of man in the World."

In great contrast to the quiet mulberry orchard in Chelsea village was the other centre of the Company's activities—the area in the City known as Exchange Alley. By the end of 1718 and 1719, when the Company became organised, Exchange Alley was feverish with excitement. Joint stock companies such as the Raw Silk Company were being established at an enormous rate and fortunes were being made as speculative capital poured into the city. The Royal Patent granted to Apletree was enrolled in Chancery and proposals for the organisation of the company were published.

The next most important step was the selling of shares in Exchange Alley. Defoe wrote in his *Anatomy of Exchange*



*Mulberry tree in the garden of 84 Elm Park Road*

Alley, "stock-jobbing is play: a Box and dice may be less dangerous!" Carswell wrote, "the crowd in Exchange Alley was as thick and almost as aristocratic as it was at St. James." The heady success of the South Seas Company and others, and the almost unbelievable fortunes being made, must have created a most exciting atmosphere. The subscription for the Raw Silk Undertaking was opened in January 29th, 1720, at the Marine Coffee Shop, Exchange Alley, with an authorized

capital of £1,000,000. The Raw Silk Company was born at the centre of a whirlwind.

Meanwhile, in Chelsea, the Undertaking appeared to flourish. A lease of the Park for sixty years was granted by William Sloane (nephew of Sir Hans Sloane) to John Apletree and the Company began to pay rates in its own name in 1721. Two thousand mulberries of both the black and white variety were planted.

By 1721 it seems to have been both agreeable and fashionable to pay a visit to the mulberry plantation in Chelsea. The *Weekly Journal* of Saturday, 12th August, 1721, comments: "We hear there is a great concourse of foreigners and others daily in Chelsea Park to see the Raw Silk Undertaking." Unfortunately, there seems to be no record of how the sale of the shares progressed but nine of the original share certificates issued to the Arundel family have survived.

In 1723, Ralph Thorsby, described in the *Dictionary of National Biography* as a painstaking diarist, records a visit to Chelsea in his diary. "I dined at Mr. Gales. . . . I saw a sample there of the satin lately made at Chelsea of English silkworms for the Princess of Wales, which was very rich and beautiful."

Suddenly, in 1724, the world of mulberry trees and gently heated silkworms fell apart. The *London Gazette* of 24th April, 1724, carried this sad little advertisement:

"The creditors of John Apletree, late of Woodstock, Mercer, who have not received satisfaction for their debts, are desired to send an account of such their debts forthwith to Mr. Brace in Milk Street in order for their receiving satisfaction for the same."

The reasons for the failure of such a promising venture (successful at Lullingstone Castle in Kent during the 20th century) lies in the realm of speculation. Unfortunately, it seems that no company records remain to explain the collapse of the Raw Silk Undertaking. Possibly a clue lies in the statement by Henry Barham in 1719 when he reported that 2,000 trees of both black and white mulberry were planted in Chelsea Park. Unfortunately, black mulberry leaves are too tough for the silkworms to feed on and this might have reduced their supply of food decisively.

Another possibility was the government's changing attitude to home industries, particularly textiles. Walpole began to implement a free trade policy in this period and import tax on raw silk was removed altogether in 1721. This move by the government must have been a severe blow to commercial confidence in the Raw Silk Undertaking and confidence was a valuable asset in the days following the collapse of the South Sea Bubble in 1720. T. S. Ashton describes the periods as a "mania of speculation: a crisis and finally universal stagnation." The trade in luxury commodities such as silk dried up.

In May 1724, a month after John Apletree became bankrupt, William Sloane apparently accepted the surrender of the Company's lease and granted a new lease of Chelsea Park to Sir Richard Manningham. In July, the new owner paid the rates on the 40 acres and three years later Chelsea Park was divided up into lots and sold off.

The only surviving trace in Chelsea of the Raw Silk Company is a black mulberry tree still flourishing in Elm Park Road and the names of Mulberry Walk and Appletree House in the Vale.

## *Bird Life in Chelsea*

By Nicolette Devas

Chelsea cannot boast of any great parks to attract the birds. There is a paucity of cemeteries, always dependable as a quiet refuge and the older the better with gnarled and possibly rotten trees full of delectable insect food. Though hidden away from people, except from the top of a bus, there is the Jewish cemetery at the junction of Old Church Street and the Fulham Road. With a rusted iron door locked against everybody, surrounded by a high wall, it is now overgrown with acacias. Wood pigeons build their twiggy and draughty nests above cat-level and sit on top of the tombstones sadly cooing, "Take two cows Taffy," or rather more sadistically "Your toes bleed Lizzie." The obelisk is the song perch for blackbirds. In the autumn this neglected cemetery serves as a rest halt for travelling parties of chiff-chaff and other small birds.

Chelsea has the Thames. An important highway for the birds, a natural thoroughfare where the wind and the tide scoop up the small passerines, as well as the more obvious duck and waders. At Chelsea Bridge—what more convenient; fly across the Embankment traffic into the sanctuary of the Royal Hospital Grounds. Seventy acres of food, cover and reasonable protection. And fed by the Pensioners as a bonus all the year round (though white bread in summer is a killer for fledglings).

In the herbaceous border of the Infirmary Garden, Dunnock who prefer to nest close to man, rear their young while the Pensioners as attentive as old nannies watch the brood grow and succour those in distress. The Greenfinch, a very choosy bird and difficult to please in the way of habitat, are satisfied here. A pair of Goldfinch made a nest in the old pear tree in the middle of the lawn, but at egg-laying time, a builder's crane engaged on some operation, frightened the birds away. Bullfinch, so handsome and so unpopular with gardeners, are regular visitors. The dawn chorus includes all the usual garden birds, the tits, and rather surprisingly the Coal Tit, the finches, with the occasional addition of those star songsters, the Blackcap and the Garden Warbler.

During the winter Redwing and sometimes Fieldfare, feed on the short grass of the football pitch where worms and grubs are easy to reach.

In the complex of the Royal Hospital Grounds, Ranelagh Gardens with its lawns, shrubberies, tall trees, and charming hilly layout, is in the full sense of the word, a bird reserve. A bird garden with a guardian in the person of the Superintendent of the Grounds, Mr. Sweeting and his team of gardeners.

An acute observer of nature with the intelligent understanding of the countryman born, Mr. Sweeting has, as he says ". . . been here a long time, with a long memory, and long eyesight too." He can tell one heron from another, "That old heron from the Thames still comes over and steals everybody's goldfish. Yes, Herons live to a great old age." The Pied Wagtail come up off the shore too.

Mr. Sweeting tells this story of the one-legged Mallard. ". . . for many years she nested on the flat top of a cut off elm tree (it's gone now) twenty feet high or so . . . She had great difficulty with one leg to rise from the ground and often hurt herself when she landed. But she could take off from the Thames and land on the nest all right, and launch herself off from the nest and land safely back on the water.

When the time came for the duckling to go down to the Thames, when they were nice and dry and chirpy, many's the time I watched the old duck drop twenty feet from the nest . . . and then the duckling threw themselves down after her. Sometimes one or two seemed a bit stunned, but they were so light, it was nothing serious, and off they went—"

"But the traffic on the Embankment?" I interrupted.

"No problem there, it always stopped while the old duck led them across. But the next bit, that was something—It's a rock shore by Chelsea Bridge and a drop of forty feet or more . . . I've seen those duckling all lined up in a row take their turn for the high jump.

But she would lose some in the gardens on the way down, seeing as she could not hurry to keep them together. My wife and I would rear the lost ones, they'd imprint in no time and follow me around. But get one alone, it always died after a time—it seemed it could not live without the company of other duck—duck being so gregarious. Now a single young Crow or Jackdaw won't mind, being more intelligent. . . ."

Though Ranelagh Gardens is a Paradise for birds, it has its 'snakes'. Jays and Crows are busy very early in the morning and steal the eggs of the song birds and will take the fledglings too to feed their young. Sparrow Hawks are fairly frequent visitors and make a killing with their specialised surprise tactics. By flying low behind a wall or hedge or round a shrubbery, the unsuspecting Sparrows are ambushed. Nor is the Blackbird or Thrush pulling at a worm in the grass, too big for a prey; the hedge-hopping hawk will make a swift pounce and kill.

The air above Chelsea is full of bird life often ignored by the people below. Kestrels fly over from Battersea where they used to breed on a wharf warehouse, now demolished. High in the sky over the World's End, a pair, sometimes with a rival third, can be seen and heard in early winter performing a passionate courtship display with wild, shrill screams as they dive and chase each other in dashes of flight. From where I sleep beside an open window, I have heard the dawn call of the Curlew and Golden Plover, the deep gaggling talk of Canada Geese, and much more exciting, the higher pitched conversational gackle and the honking call of White Fronts from Iceland. With the cleaner air, Swifts and Swallows have come back and are reputed to breed on the fringe of Chelsea in the Boltons.

The Tawny Owls have a good record in Chelsea. In the autumn they can be heard courting tee-whit-too-whow or sometimes uttering a harsh and savage scream in the night. In Elm Park Gardens where the trees are tall and old, a pair of them roost in a splendid and mature Tree of Heaven. The gardens are a good hunting ground for sleepy sparrows, beetles and mice. An Elm Park Gardens resident tempted the owls with an offering of raw chopped meat on the window ledge. The meat was often taken and the owl observed, a dark, winged Dracula shadow as it swooped and snatched in silent flight. It may have been the same owl seen at Christmas perched on a window sill of Sloane House and *looking indoors*, as reported by the son of the house. Mr. Sweeting has a pair resident for many years in Ranelagh Gardens. Now with the encouragement of a custom built nesting box, it is hoped to persuade the owls to breed where they may be discreetly watched.

It is consoling to know that the tower blocks we find so odious are used by the birds as cliff ledges. Feral Pigeons sun



themselves in corners sheltered from the wind, Seagulls keep a weather eye open, or more likely a scavenging eye for some dainty morsel infected with grubs.

Victorian architecture is well-known for a good roost, with its nooks and crannies. There is no real quarrel, though a lot of argument, between the Pigeons and the Starlings that share these roosts. For the Starlings settle high and are capable of sleeping comfortably on a perch, while the Pigeons prefer the lower, flat ledges.

Residents in Carlyle Mansions and some other great red-bricked blocks like gloomy old Rossetti Mansions, window-box feed the gulls when the weather is hard. The local butchers respond to the request, "fat for the gulls". If this breakfast is late, raucous screams wake everyone with a whirling, circular fly-past, scarlet beaks open in anger, scarlet feet dangling. After the feast the gulls find perches nearby and wait around like sentinels in the hope of second helpings.

The contemporary architecture of Barclays Bank on the corner of Markham Square, is particularly favoured by bachelor gulls. In July and August when the breeding birds have gone down to the estuaries, these 'clubs' congregate on the roof and balconies of the bank, above the traffic of the King's Road. Colony birds as they are, company is essential to them and the bustle in the road with the kaleidoscope of bright people on the pavement, must make a kind of substitute for the clamour and activity of a gullery.

The real V.I.P. birds to Chelsea were the pair of Cardinals that arrived November 1970 and stayed as far as I know for about four months. With their scarlet crests, grey jackets and white underparts, they added a really exotic touch to our drab winter. Originating in North America, the pair were without doubt escaped cage birds. For they were dangerously tame in the back gardens with a high cat population. Miss Ursula Fisher took a coloured photograph from inside her kitchen in Limerston Street, which alas would cost too much to reproduce here.

# *A Bun to Remember :*

## *Chelsea's Contribution to Gastronomy*

By Tom Pocock

Chelsea, like Yorkshire, Devonshire and Dundee, has achieved an agreeable form of immortality by inventing and giving its name to a food. Indeed the Chelsea bun has more of a mythology and iconography—and certainly more mystery—than any English confection that comes to mind. But this native of Chelsea was, for many years, mystified by the extraordinary appeal of a bun over three centuries.

Our bun, as most of us probably know it and certainly as we buy it in most chain bakeries, is a strip of dough dotted with a few currants which has been curled like a snail and lightly sugared on the top. Certainly this is nothing to excite such vast mobs as once jostled to buy it on public holidays at the confectioners' shrine, the Chelsea Bunn House.

The currant bun (if you will forgive me) seems unlikely to bear much resemblance to its early eighteenth century original "zephyr in paste", or the "great cakes frothed with sugar and decorated with streamers of tinsel", which Dean Swift described in his *Journal to Stella* in 1712. It must, I suppose, have been the equivalent of Walls' ice cream, Mars bars, and every other mass-produced sweetmeat, in the days when the principal delicacy at the nearby Ranelagh pleasure gardens was bread and butter. Certainly, like many great inventions, its recipe coincided exactly with an urgent, but perhaps unidentified, demand of public taste.

Probably the first buns were sold from booths on the Five Fields, between Chelsea and Westminster, where fairs were held on public holidays and which became the site of popular taverns and tea gardens. Swift recorded, "boys and wenches buzzing about the cake-shops like fairs," and there were vendors, like the later muffin-men, crying "r-r-r-rare Chelsea buns!"

It was the Hand family which perpetuated the skill of creating the buns. Their commercial success enabled them to build an elaborate bun-house just to the east of Chelsea, opposite the entrance to Ranelagh in Wilderness Row, which



*Captain BUN Quixote attacking  
the OVEN.*

*Engraved by Hogarth 1741*

is now Bloomfield Place. This has vanished totally, together with its competitors, but just across Pimlico Road from its site a contemporary establishment survives. There, as is inscribed in eighteenth century lettering on a date-stone, is Strombolo House, once a tavern and tea garden, now an antique shop.

The appearance of the Bunn House is recorded exactly in the Hands' trade-card engraved by Hogarth. It was a long single-storey building fronted with a colonnade and much decorated by the same sort of knick-knacks that filled Don

Saltero's coffee house in Cheyne Walk. There were lead models four feet high of Grenadiers presenting arms, a portrait of the Emperor of Persia and a model of the Bunn House itself with moving figures.

Four generations of the Hand family presided. One of them had been an officer in the Staffordshire militia and became a noted eccentric with a fondness for wearing a Turkish fez and a long dressing-gown. He was caricatured by Matthew Darly in 1773 as "Captain Bun Quixote attacking the Oven." Darly also drew him as "The Bun Macaroni" in his series of London dandies, together with one of his extravagantly-dressed customers, "The Chelsea Macaroni"—the ancestor of our contemporary denizens of the King's Road.

The seal of approval was set upon the bakery by royal patronage. The second and third King George and their families gorged there, so setting a fashion which all London could emulate since the buns only cost one penny. The Hands also had their "commercials" in verse, doggerel and songs.

*O flour of the ovens! a zephyr in paste!  
Fragrant as honey, and sweeter in taste!*

*As flaky and white, as if baked by the light,  
As the flesh of an infant, soft, doughy and slight.*

*Prelates and princes, and lieges and kings,  
Hail for the bellman, who tinkles and sings,  
Bouche of the highest and lowliest ones. . . .  
There's a charm in the sound, which nobody shuns,  
Of "smoking hot, piping hot, Chelsea buns!"*

King George III was so satisfied that he presented the Hands with five guineas in a silver tankard. The crowds were equally delighted and the bun was introduced into a pop song of the day:

*As I was going to Chelsea one day,  
I met with a pretty young girl on the way.  
I kindly saluted, but this was her tone,  
Why can't you be easy and leave me alone?*

Chorus:

*Let me alone and let me alone,  
Why can't you be easy and let me alone?*

*I told her my name, it was harmless James,  
I call'd her a thousand sweet delicate names.  
I told her her heart was as cold as a stone.  
No matter, says she, can't you let me alone?*

*I says, my dear love, I am not in my sun,  
If you go to the Bun-house, I'll buy you a bun.  
No, thank you, says she, I've got money of my own  
To buy half a thousand, so leave me alone.*

*I says, my dear girl, with you I shall dine,  
For at Finchback's I heard they sell very good wine,  
And more than all that, there is wax-work to be shewn.  
No matter, says she, can't you leave me alone.*

*I followed this damsel through field after field,  
With a deal of persuasion, I brought her to yield.  
Next day we were married, and she altered her tone,  
And she teases me now if I let her alone.*

The Bunn House continued well into the nineteenth century and a contemporary account records that "provided the weather was favourable, there were generally on Good Friday nearly 200,000 people collected in the immediate neighbourhood." On this day, in 1829, nearly a quarter of a million buns were said to have been sold but by that time there were other confectioners lining the road past the now derelict site of Ranelagh and time was short before Thomas Cubitt, the speculative builder, covered the Five Fields with his gleaming stucco terraces to create Belgravia.

In 1839, the Bunn House was sold and demolished and its knick-knacks auctioned for a few pounds. The lead grenadiers fetched £4 10s. and adorned a house in Eaton Place for a time before disappearing into the limbo of the antiques trade. As Cubitt went to work, the *Penny Magazine* reported in 1844: "The Chelsea meadows are now covered with bricks, either making or drying or built up into houses. . . . The far-famed Chelsea bun-houses have stepped back from the road where they formerly stood; they appear now as confectioners' shops in the line of houses forming the street. . . ."

The buns continued to be baked in Chelsea and for the Festival of Britain of 1951 a replica of the Bunn House was put up in Sloane Square. Recently, The Chelsea Bun, a coffee house and restaurant opened in the King's Road with plaster buns on its facade and dough buns inside.

But what *was* the Chelsea bun and how can its immortality be preserved?

Reginald Blunt, the historian of Chelsea, wrote in 1928 that its recipe was "something of a mystery" but that old Chelsea people had told him that it had been very rich, and full of butter, eggs, sugar, rind of lemon and spice but no fruit. Later, Blunt discovered a recipe published in an eighteenth century cookery book and gave it to a Chelsea baker, who thereupon took it as his own copyright and that secret is lost.

Another recipe, said to have come from an old Chelsea family, was published in the *Chelsea News* twenty years ago. This runs: "Take 1lb. flour,  $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. lard, 1 oz. yeast, 3 oz. castor sugar, 2 eggs,  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint milk, 3 oz. currants,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoonful salt,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoonful of cassia (cinnamon). Cream the yeast and add the warmed milk. Rub lard into the flour and salt. Add the yeast, cassia, milk and eggs. Beat all well together with a wooden spoon. Put in a warm place to rise to double its size. Roll into a long strip and sprinkle on the currants and sugar. Roll up firmly and cut across in pieces about one inch thick. Place in a greased baking tin and pack well together with the cut side upwards. Stand in a warm place for about half an hour and brush over with egg. Bake for about 20 to 30 minutes." Doubling the currants and using brown instead of castor sugar might be an improvement.

Too many Chelsea buns that I have eaten have been dry, tasting of cotton wool. But there is one variety of Chelsea bun which is not only the one food to which I am now hopelessly addicted but which would, to me, explain the frenzy of greed that seems to have possessed eighteenth century bun-eaters. Alas, it is not to be had in Chelsea, but in Cambridge.

For half a century the most ambrosial Chelsea buns have been baked at Fitzbillies, the pastrycooks in Trumpington Street, near the Fitzwilliam Museum. Light, succulent and sticky, rich with butter and currants, they have filled generations of undergraduates and, for a quarter of a century, I have been unable to visit Cambridge without returning laden with buns to show Chelsea friends what the place has lost.

As I expected, the recipe is Top Secret but the proprietor has kindly given some guarded but valuable hints. Mrs.

Annette Day writes: "We have been baking our Chelseas since 1920 from a recipe which has remained unaltered to this day. The particular flavour is obtained by using a special brand of brown sugar and cinnamon and, of course, nothing other than the very best Vostizza currants are used; finally, the buns are washed with syrup made from a very dark treacle."

It is to this that Chelsea has given its name. O zephyr in paste! What, one wonders, will future generations identify with Chelsea? O lost innocence!

## *Obituaries*

### GENERAL SIR HARRY KNOX

General Sir Harry Knox was Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, from 1938 till 1943. The relations between Governor, Staff and of course the Pensioners and the Chelsea Society has always been close. Many Governors have helped in different ways, but the co-operation of Sir Harry was of special interest. He took command as war threatened. His own task in planning and later moving some of his men and archives must have been a heavy one. But it happened too, as war began that he found time to advise Reginald Blunt, Founder and then Hon. Secretary of the Chelsea Society what part the Society might play in war years. The tragic destruction of so much including part of the hospital could not be foreseen. Yet he emphasised that whenever possible those loving Chelsea should watch the present and be ready for a future which might be (and is) so different from the past. The faithful small band of members who kept the Chelsea Society going during those frightful years were always sure of Sir Harry's help and wise counsel.

### MRS. MATTIE JENKS

Much could be said and some has already been written of Mattie Jenks, artist, campaigner, enthusiast. I would like to underline her neighbourliness, kindness and help to many struggling artists not only in material ways but in practical suggestions. She had at times a rather aggressive manner, that showed the campaigner. But though critical she was constructive in her criticism. She played a part in organising the Open Air Exhibition in Royal Avenue and was active in administration as well as in contributing some of her own work to many other Art Exhibitions. She had a remarkable collection of unusual china including some splendid Sunderland ware. She was a colourful figure of whom too many are disappearing but their influence and kindly memories remain.

HESTER MARSDEN-SMEDLEY



BALANCE SHEET  
AND  
ACCOUNTS

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1970

LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
General Fund at 31.12.69	...	413 17 6	Investments:—	...	210 0 0
Add Surplus for 1970 in Income and Expenditure Account	18 13 5		£500 3½% War Stock	...	997 5 10
		432 10 11	Balance in Post Office Account	...	472 5 1
Life Membership Fund at 31.12.70	...	974 8 0	Balance at Bank	...	5 14 0
Sundry Creditors	...	282 10 0	Cash in hand	...	4 4 0
		£1,689 8 11	Sundry Debtors	...	4 4 0
					£1,689 8 11

## General Fund: Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1970

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Annual Subscriptions	476	10 0	Cost of Annual Report	282	10 0
Transfer from Life Membership Fund	79	0 1	Stationery, postage and miscellaneous	273	15 5
Donations	25	5 0	Cost of Summer Meeting	31	12 6
Net Surplus from sale of Christmas Cards	109	0 3	Cost of Annual General Meeting	23	16 6
Interest on 3½% War Stock	17	10 0	Expenses incurred in connection with the Greater London Development Plan Inquiry	50	12 6
			Donation to London Amenity and Transport Association	5	0 0
			Donation to West Chelsea Playspace Group	10	0 0
			Donation towards Rossetti Memorial	5	0 0
			Donation to British Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise	5	5 0
			Donation to Kew Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise	1	0 0
			Surplus for year carried to Balance Sheet	18	13 5
		£707 5 4		£707	5 4

*Life Membership Fund Account for the year ended 31st December, 1970*

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£	s.	d.
Life Membership Fund 31.12.69	...	770	3 4
Life Membership Fees in 1970	...	220	10 0
Interest on Post Office Account	...	62	14 9
		£1,053	8 1
			£ s. d.
			79 0 1
			974 8 0
		£1,053	8 1

*Chelsea Embankment Fund  
Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1970*

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	£	s.	d.
Chelsea Embankment Fund	...	3,381	19 5
		£3,381	19 5
			£ s. d.
			3,039 7 11
			342 11 6
		£3,381	19 5

*Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1970*

	£	s.	d.
Donations	...	3,342	16 6
Interest	...	39	7 11
		£3,382	4 5
			£ s. d.
			5 0
			3,381 19 5
		£3,382	4 5

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and Accounts and I certify them to be in accordance with the books and vouchers of the Society.

R. D. CLARKE,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*

R. G. EDWARDS, F.C.A.,  
*Hon. Auditor.*

NOTE: The certificates for £500 3½% War Stock in the name of the Chelsea Society are deposited with Messrs. Barclays Bank Ltd., 348 King's Road, S.W.3.

## List of Members

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

- \*MRS. A. ABELES  
 \*MISS J. F. ADBURGHAM,  
     L.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., F.I.L.A.  
 \*COMMANDER H. L. AGNEW, R.N.  
 ROY ALDERSON, ESQ.  
 \*MISS HELEN ALFORD  
 \*MRS. M. ALFORD  
 \*LT.-COL. J. H. ALLASON, M.P.  
 THE LADY ALLEN OF HURTWOOD, F.I.L.A.  
 MISS C. J. M. ALLEN  
 MRS. G. R. ALLEN  
 \*MRS. RUPERT ALLHUSEN  
 MRS. L. E. ALTON  
 \*J. A. W. AMBLER, ESQ.  
 \*DOUGLAS H. ANDREW, ESQ.  
 \*MISS G. P. A. ANDREWS  
 \*THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY  
 \*THE EARL OF ANTRIM  
 MRS. K. B. ANWYL-DAVIES  
 MISS E. ARBUTHNOT  
 MRS. G. W. ARKWRIGHT  
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