

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL REPORT 1976



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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

President

THE EARL OF ANTRIM, K.B.E.

Vice-President

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Council

Chairman QUENTIN MORGAN EDWARDS, ESQ., M.A.
FRANCIS BADEN POWELL, ESQ., A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL.
RICHARD BURGESS, ESQ.
SAMUEL CARR, ESQ.
MRS. BRYAN CARVALHO
THE HON. MALCOLM DAVIDSON
MISS JOAN DAVIS, S.R.N.
ROBIN DE BEAUMONT, ESQ., A.A.DIPL.
MARK DORMAN, ESQ.
JAMES ELLIS, ESQ., A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL.
MRS. CUTHBERT ORDE, B.A.
DAVID ROWE, ESQ.
MRS. CHARLES PICKTHORN
TOM POCOCK, ESQ.
SIR JAMES RICHARDS, C.B.E., A.R.I.B.A.
JOHN YEOMAN, ESQ., M.A.

Hon. Treasurer

MRS. PATRICIA C. GELLEY

Joint Hon. Secretaries

MRS. LESLEY LEWIS, M.A., F.S.A.
MRS. JOAN HAYES

Associate Hon. Secretary

MARK DORMAN, ESQ.

Hon. Membership Secretary

MISS BARBARA M. TOWLE, M.B.E.

Hon. Auditor

R. D. CLARKE, ESQ., F.I.A.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
23 SYDNEY STREET, SW3 3TT

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.

*The existing rate is £3 annually payable on the 1st January, or a lump sum of £30.00 for life membership. The annual husband-and-wife rate is £5.00.

The Annual General Meeting

of the Chelsea Society

was held at The Chelsea College

(by kind permission of the Principal)

on Tuesday, 2nd November, 1976 at 8.30 p.m.

The President, The Earl of Antrim, took the Chair.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held the 28th October, 1975 were duly approved and signed by the President.

The President said that as there were four vacancies on the Council due to three retiring Members (Rule 4 (9 and 10)) and one resignation and only four names put forward by the due date, it had been decided unnecessary to ballot, and the following had been elected to the Council of the Society:

MR. DENIS BROODBANK, A.R.I.B.A.

Proposer: Mr. Francis Baden-Powell, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL.
(Chelsea Society Council Member).

Seconder: Mr. Quentin Morgan Edwards
(Chairman, Chelsea Society).

DR. JACQUELINE DAVIS

Proposer: Mrs. Lesley Lewis, M.A., F.S.A.
(Hon. Secretary, Chelsea Society).

Seconder: Mr. Noel Blakiston, O.B.E.
(immediate past Chairman).

MR. IAN W. FRAZER, F.C.A.

Proposer: Mr. Francis Baden-Powell, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.DIPL.

Seconder: Rear-Admiral F. P. B. Brayne-Nicholls, C.B., D.S.C.
(Member Chelsea Society).

MR. JONATHAN WHEELER, M.A., B.SC., F.R.I.C.S.

Proposer: Mr. John R. H. Yeoman, M.A.
(Member of Chelsea Society Council).

Seconder: Mr. George West
(Chelsea Society Member).

The President then asked the Chairman to present the Annual Report.

The Treasurer's Report was read by the Chairman (due to the absence of the Treasurer through illness). No questions were raised on the Report. The President therefore moved the adoption of the accounts, Miss Joan Davis seconded, and the accounts were unanimously adopted.

The President then invited Members to open the Discussion, asking them to state their names and be reasonably brief.

Colonel Peyman thanked the Chairman for raising in his Report the matter of the proposed development of St. Columba's Church site by rebuilding 69/71/73 Pont Street and 1/3/5 Lennox Gardens. A Pont Street Dutch Defence Group has been formed which expresses totally contrary views to those of the Chelsea Society in this matter. Colonel Peyman agreed that we cannot all take the same view, but drew attention to pages 49 and 50 in the Society's 1975 Report under the heading "Cadogan Square and Its Surroundings" quoting from "This Area" (4 lines from bottom of page 49) to "St. Columba's Church" (3 lines down on page 50).

The Chairman said he had not previously heard of the Pont Street Dutch Defence Group, and that what he had said in his Report gave the Society's policy and its reasoning on this matter.

Colonel Retallack said he felt it very important that in the rebuilding on the St. Columba's site as much garden as there is at present remains around the Pont Street area.

Mrs. Marsden-Smedley said the plaque on the Old Vestry opposite the Old Town Hall to commemorate Hans Sloane had been stolen. The China figurines stolen from the Library could not be replaced, but would the Chelsea Society make strong representation to the Council to have the plaque replaced.

The Chairman agreed that this was an important point.

Mrs. Colemore asked: What about the poor tenants of the buildings due for demolition on this site? The Chairman replied that he understood that alternative accommodation was being arranged but that in any case the Society could not intervene in this matter or it would become a sort of Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Miss Eates said she would like to support everything the Chairman had said regarding the Planning Committee's lack of enforcement. Planners paid no attention to conservation, and she felt that the Planning Committee objected to the Planning Forums which were now turning into a form of eyewash. She would like to move a Vote of Censure on the Planning Committee.

Mr. William Bennett said he would like to know more details before agreeing to such a motion.

Mrs. Lewis agreed with Miss Eates and presumed she had in mind the building on the corner of Elm Park Road and Beaufort Street, but felt it preferable to pass a very strong recommendation that the Borough Council should enforce its *own* rules.

Miss Nesta Macdonald supported Miss Eates.

Mr. James Ellis said that by far the most effective way to achieve results was to press by letter individually to the Planning Committee.

Miss Eates said she would like a *general* resolution, backed by local groups if possible, to the Borough Council Planning Committee in regard to good planning and enforcement of the rules laid down by the Council.

Mrs. Patterson said that the major difficulty in regard to the enforcement of conservation is the 10% enlargement increase automatically allowed on any building. This is the main point which bedevils all planning rules.

The President said he felt it a mistake to pass a Resolution which is not on the Agenda. He suggested instead a letter to the Planning Committee embodying all the points which had been brought up at the meeting, and asked the meeting to support this. The suggestion was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. Figg asked if the traffic problem, which would arise if the Cardiotheracic Unit is built, had been gone into thoroughly. The Chairman agreed this was a most important problem, and he had particularly mentioned this point in his letter to the Planning Committee on the subject.

Mr. J. Figg said that in Sloane Court East during the war a number of American service men were killed by a flying bomb, and that he is hoping to organise the erection of a plaque to commemorate this disaster. The Chairman said he had the good wishes of the Society.

Mr. Hodgkin asked if he had heard aright that our Chelsea Library was going. The Chairman explained that there were proposals for a move to the Old Town Hall, as he had outlined in his Report, but the Chelsea Society was, for a number of reasons, against this proposal. The Chairman asked Members to write to their Councillors or the Borough Council in this respect.

Lady Napier asked what steps the Chelsea Society had taken in regard to the sale of Chenil Galleries, which would be sadly missed by the smaller exhibitor. The Chairman said that we realise Chelsea has to give up something in order to contribute to the cost of the new Town Hall in Kensington and felt that of the three public

buildings affected the Library would be the greatest loss. A strong letter had been sent to the Chairman of the Committees concerned on all these points and he had suggested that the smaller basement hall in the Old Town Hall should be resurrected for the use of the smaller exhibitor.

Miss Ida Cole asked for information on the Rectory Garden. The Chairman said it will be coming on the market in the fairly near future, he understood, and that it would be of the greatest advantage to Chelsea to keep this open space while there was still time to do something about it.

Miss Eates said this land would be governed by the new Glebe Measures and would not pass to future Rectors of Chelsea.

The President warmly thanked the Chairman for the able way he had conducted the meeting, and the Members for their continued interest in the Society, and declared the meeting closed.

SILVER JUBILEE SUMMER MEETING 1977

The Old Town Hall suite has been booked for Wednesday evening, the 8th June, 1977 (the date 50 years earlier on which the Chelsea Society had held its inaugural Exhibition in the same place).

The Chairman's Report

1. *Membership*

Our membership at present is 746.

2. *Summer Meeting*

Our Summer Meeting was held at the Royal Hospital on Wednesday, 23rd June, 1976 by kind permission of the Governor, General Sir Anthony Read.

He was good enough to welcome our members and their guests and referred to the close links that existed between the Hospital and Chelsea. The Chairman thanked Sir Anthony Read and went on to draw the attention of members to the plans then on view at Chelsea Old Town Hall, for the proposed Cardio Thoracic Unit. This was a rebuilding of the Brompton Hospital and other hospitals in Sydney Street and was the cause of considerable concern to the Chelsea Society. Members and their guests then enjoyed a glass of wine, wandered around the gardens on a perfect June evening and took the opportunity of visiting the Chapel, the Hall and the state apartments.

I am not sure what constitutes a normal year of the Chelsea Society since I have no point of comparison as Chairman. But probably this year has been typical in most respects: the normal day-to-day work going through all the planning applications, a few activities in which all our members can join, important changes in which we seek to press our view and use our influence, and some major events in which we have to make the greatest efforts to safeguard Chelsea. And of course the prospect that in some matters we will not necessarily see eye to eye with all our members or all residents of Chelsea.

3. *Appointment of new Council Members*

I would like to thank the retiring members of our Council for the years of work and support they have given to the Society, Joan Davies, Malcolm Davidson, Tom Pocock and, of course, Alex Orde, for many years a very hard working Secretary.

We welcome our new Council Members as we have already welcomed our new joint secretary, Joan Hayes.

I would also like to thank Dr. Ingram for allowing us the use of the hall tonight for our Annual General Meeting as on many previous occasions. Dr. Ingram has suggested that the Chelsea Society might like to combine with Chelsea College in some joint ventures, particularly an annual lecture. I very much welcome this

co-operation. The first lecture will be on the 10th February, 1977 at 5.30 p.m. and will be given by Sir Michael Young, Director of the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The title of the lecture will be "Magic Casements".

There must be many people in the hall tonight who remember Richard Stewart-Jones and the great service he rendered to the Society. His sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Pulford, is collecting material for a family record and would be very grateful for any contributions, letters, photographs, etc. Her address is Penlanole, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire. James Ellis of 100 Cheyne Walk will gladly act as a collecting centre if anyone finds that easier.

4. *General Activities*

We have had a few more special meetings this year. The first of those was a film show related to the closing stages of European Architectural Heritage Year. There was a European film on Conservation and a similar one on Kent. It was a successful evening, held at the National Army Museum thanks to the Director, and was linked to another showing to which we invited people who were concerned with conservation in Chelsea. These were councillors and officers, some landlords, and representatives of local amenity groups. This was an effort on our part to get closer to those invaluable Associations, and by means of a questionnaire, to try and find out what sort of links they wanted with the Chelsea Society. In fact this was a disappointment. No general picture emerged and no one seemed to want any formal link.

By courtesy of the Contractors and Architects, we also had a most enjoyable trip to the New World's End development. Our Annual Report will contain a full description of this by a most distinguished contributor.

Some of you may have heard of the Anglo-French Week which recently took place in the Borough. Its pinnacle was undoubtedly a match of Boules in Burton Court. The residents were represented by the Chelsea Society, The Kensington Society and The Chelsea Arts Club. This strong team was drawn against Sir Malby and Councillors Sundius Smith and Hanham. They had been practising at Hurlingham, but we came fresh to our task. Whereas their practice had been on hard baked grass, by the time of the match the rains had started and the pitch was virtually mud. The Society and its colleagues triumphed in their round, but just failed to hold their own against what was clearly a crack French team imported for the occasion.

These activities, particularly those at which all our members had an opportunity of participating, should be encouraged and if

any of our members thinks we could do more or has a specific idea, please do let us know. Our first outing, is in fact to be to the New Town Hall.

5. *Forum Meetings*

In last year's Annual Report reference was made to the Borough Plan, context papers, and public participation. This has been taking place throughout the year. In the case of Chelsea there have been two forums, one covering the Eastern half and one the Western. I am glad to say that your Chairman was the Chairman of the latter, and David Rowe, a member of our council, Vice-Chairman of the former. Francis Baden-Powell, long a member of our Council, was one of the Forum members. So the Society was well represented. These fora were constituted from members of the public who turned up at the initial open ward meetings at which the concept of the Borough Plan was introduced. By and large, all those who wished to participate at these successive meetings, at which the different context papers were discussed, have formed the membership of the fora. Most amenity associations are represented, as well as individuals who have an interest in our environment and wish to have some say in its future. Each of the context papers has been discussed in turn. Their subjects being Shopping, Leisure and Recreation, Education, Housing, Movement, Conservation and Development, Social Services, Hotels and Tourism, Employment and Resources.

An agenda, based on these papers, was prepared by Council Officers, and normally, but not always, formed the basis of discussion. In so far as was possible the Forum expressed its view by resolution. To expect unanimity of view amongst 'professional protesters' would be naive, but on occasion this was achieved. More frequently there would be a small core of dissent. Clearly a forum so constituted should not be considered representative. Nevertheless, our councillors and council officers should take heed of the views expressed and special heed when, as may well be possible, a particular topic is of universal concern throughout the Borough. In your Chairman's forum, when an attempt was made to establish an order of priority, the first three topics (out of about 15) were concerned with the environment. The third of these called for a strong development control policy. All these three indicated a degree of dissatisfaction with the status quo. But the Borough should be congratulated on this attempt at participation—provided it is not allowed to degenerate into a public relations exercise, "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing".

6. *Conservation Matters*

Houseboats—Two members of our Council, who live in close propinquity, have been keeping an eye on the houseboat scene. They have recently had nothing to report. The Borough Council have

published a planning guide on which the Society had the opportunity of commenting. The guiding principle was that the Houseboats should preserve at least a Nautical Association if not a Nautical Air rather than relapse into floating prefabs. This viewpoint has our wholehearted support. The question of Houseboats was dealt with at great length at our last Annual General Meeting and in the subsequent Report. Of particular significance since then is that it does now seem to be established that Houseboats must apply for planning consent. Welcome though they are as part of the Chelsea scene, though not in increased numbers, it is essential that alterations should be subject to the same controls, *mutatis mutandis*, as their land-based neighbours. It would appear that the Borough will enforce controls sympathetically and intelligently.

Pheasantry—Recent years would not be complete without some reference to the Pheasantry. Thanks to the researches of Nesta Macdonald we are devoting a whole article to its history. Its recent history shows a steady decline. Horrific schemes have been given planning consent, but the Society has attempted to do what it can.

In the earlier part of this year we wrote on three separate occasions to the Borough Planning Control officer pressing for more effective safeguards to the fabric and proposing improvements that could be incorporated in the elevational treatment and the linking of the various parts of the development. We received no replies to these letters until after the matter had been considered by the Planning Committee. Their decision in this matter appears to indicate that our recommendations for improvement were ignored. The letters we then had from the Borough Officers and from Mr. Freeman (Chairman Town Planning Committee) seem to say that they had to give consent to the elevational treatment and "detailed architectural design" since they were in "accord with those granted by the Secretary of State upon appeal".

However, the current edition of *Planning News* (September October 1976—Published by the Borough) relates that the Planning Consent granted by the Secretary of State "was subject to the following conditions, amongst others:

1. The detailed architectural design and facing materials to be used shall be agreed WITH THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY or be determined by the Secretary of State."

This would certainly appear to give the Planning Committee the authority to require the improvements which we sought. In our judgment this is one further unhappy decision for the Pheasantry by the Planning Committee.

However, we understand that at long last the Borough are going to undertake further protective work.

Tedworth Square—The scene of desolation around the Pheasantry is matched by the north side of Tedworth Square. This again has been a continuing sore in the Environmental scene. We wrote as follows to Mr. Sanders (Borough Planning Officer) on the question of the proposed demolition of the few remaining houses of the Terrace: actually forming part of St. Leonard's Terrace:

12th December, 1975

Dear Mr. Sanders,

33/36 St. Leonards Terrace SW3

We note that Masefield Estates Ltd., 117 Baker Street, London W1M 2EE have applied for Listed Building Consent to demolish the above houses, this Consent being necessary because of recent legislation applying even to unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas.

The application is stated to be for implementing "Planning Consent to redevelop the site for residential purposes", and you have assured us that there is no other plan current other than the one for which permission was granted to Cadogan Estate in 1973. Nevertheless, it does seem likely that the change in the general property situation may prompt the new owners of the site to submit material alterations to the original scheme. Therefore, pending express written confirmation that there are no changes, or an opportunity to inspect any new plans, the Society feels obliged to register its objection to Listed Building Consent.

We urge that replacement of this long terrace between Smith Street and Radnor Walk should be carried out as soon as possible. The present condition of this part of an important Conservation Area is deplorable and if the main site is to remain vacant for a long period, we would suggest it might be preferable to get the above houses rehabilitated to form the important corner block at the south-west end of Smith Street.

Yours sincerely,

Q. MORGAN EDWARDS,

Chairman.

Consent for demolition was refused.

Pont Street—The proposal to demolish the flats adjoining St. Columba's Church is now a matter of great contention. The Society's viewpoint is expressed in the statement published in the *Chelsea News* as follows:

"The Chelsea Society was certainly not in favour of the demolition of old buildings, although it recognised that this was sometimes necessary. It was difficult to draw the line as to what should or should not be demolished, but a *prima facie* test would be whether or not the building was listed. These buildings are not listed and we did not consider that there was a sufficiently strong case to oppose demolition. We felt we could exert more useful pressure by suggesting modifications to the proposals. This we have done by keeping a watching brief since the St. Columba's proposals were first mooted. Our efforts have been largely concerned with trying to ensure that the new buildings are worthy of this important site. Substantial modifications had, in fact, been made both by reducing the height of the proposed building and the elevational treatment. We consider that these are significant and worthwhile improvements, although we are still not satisfied that the proposed building sufficiently complements the character and detail of the surroundings. The Society would like to see the height of the planning block further reduced. Naturally we sympathise with those who oppose demolition, but we are a conservation society as much as a preservation society".

This has been a matter of great concern to your Council and feelings have run high both as regards the proposed demolition and the stance taken by the Chelsea Society. I will repeat: We are not in favour of demolition, but we must make a judgment in a case like this involving demolition of an unlisted building in a Conservation Area. Where we oppose demolition it is unlikely that we will be able to exert any influence over the new development. If we oppose all demolition in a conservation area we lose our credibility. Generally speaking we would oppose demolition only when the building is listed or there appears to us to be some other significant factor to be taken into consideration. It has also been put about that in some way the Society failed to obtain the views of the local residents or amenity associations and purported to represent these. On many occasions we do obtain the views of the local residents' association and, where the matter is largely of local concern, particularly request that the views of neighbours should be ascertained. But it is the Borough Council's statutory duty to give neighbours the opportunity of expressing their views and where a neighbourhood association is dormant or non-existent there is nothing we can do about it. Close by, however, there is an active, well organised and established neighbourhood association, The Thurloe and Egerton Association. On this matter they have written to Mr. Sanders, the Director of Development Control as follows:

18th October, 1976

Dear Sir,

Proposed development of St. Columba's Church site:

69, 71 and 73 Pont Street and 1, 3, 5 Lennox Gardens, London SW1

Although this site is outside the area with which this Association is directly concerned, it is of visual significance to that area. I am therefore writing to ask that, in coming to a decision on the application now before it, the Council should consider the views of the Thurloe and Egerton Association Committee.

These views are:

1. The existing buildings on the site are not of particular architectural distinction in themselves, nor do they make an indispensable contribution to the street scene.
2. The building proposed for the site is reasonably in scale with its surroundings and care has been taken to select materials in harmony with the character of the Pont Street area.
3. The accommodation in the new development would provide family flats to a better standard than those now existing.

Holding these views, the Thurloe and Egerton Association Committee does not wish to raise any objection to the proposed demolition and redevelopment of this site.

Yours faithfully,

SUSAN WALKER, A.R.I.B.A.

Hon. Secretary.

Thurloe and Egerton Association.

Cardio Thoracic Unit—Although the Conservation matters so far raised are of importance, by far our greatest problem is the proposed Cardio Thoracic Unit in Sydney Street. This is not a new threat. About ten years ago there was a scheme to build here the largest hospital complex in the country; it would have stretched from the King's Road to Neville Terrace, demolishing all between. Hardly surprisingly the scheme aroused bitter opposition both from the ranks of the Medical Profession and virtually universally from everyone else. The Chelsea Society played its part in opposing the scheme as it now opposes the successor scheme. You have the opportunity of viewing the drawings (and model) and you may care to review what we previously said as reported in last year's Annual Report. You may also look at the letter which summarises grounds of opposition. The most important grounds are:

The loss of the Convent Garden and buildings and their replacement by a service yard and boiler house;

The loss of a perfectly serviceable and desirable building, the Chelsea Hospital for Women;

The inevitable overshadowing of St. Luke's garden and playground;

The lack of any provision for future expansion;

But above all, literally above all, the massive bulk of a huge and dominating complex, completely at odds with its neighbours and quite unbelievably out of scale with the immediate surroundings.

I now understand that the Committee will not object, subject to the service yard being re-sited at the southern end of the development rather than in the Convent Garden. I find this an almost unbelievable decision on the part of the Planning Committee. All will be well if we plonk the service yard down by the Old People's Home. I understand that the tactics of those concerned with planning in this borough are to approve this development subject to certain provisos. In this way, it is said, some control can be exercised. However, if the hospital authorities are able to achieve this re-siting our Planners will have lost all control. The provisos previously laid down were a very feeble lot, bearing in mind the importance of this development. Of the four we considered important, one was partially met, one is being persisted with and two have been conveniently forgotten by the hospital developers and our planners. Although I appreciate that there may well have been a strong dissent to this decision, if this is the best our planning committee can do on one of the major post-war developments in Chelsea, how infinitely preferable it would have been to seek a public inquiry even at the cost of admitting their own impotence.

The letter to the Chairman of the Town Planning Committee, listing the Society's objections, is reproduced below:

15th October, 1976

Councillor Nicholas Freeman,
Chairman of the Town Planning Committee,
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea,
Chelsea Old Town Hall.

Dear Mr. Freeman,

Proposed New Cardio-Thoracic Centre

As the time is shortly approaching when the Planning Committee will be considering this new Hospital complex, I think it essential that you should be in no doubt as to the views of the Chelsea Society which in turn reflect the views of many residents and all the neighbouring residents' associations.

In Mr. Sanders' letter of the 9th May, 1975, your committee apparently accepted the scheme subject to certain provisions. Although all of those provisos were important, Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 strike us as being crucial. At the meeting held on the 9th June, 1976, the hospital authorities presented their answers to your provisos. We discovered that:

1. (4) Although a floor was said to have been removed, the height remained largely unchanged and the 'bulk appearance' was largely unaltered.
2. (5) The Convent garden was still to be lost and to be replaced by the service yard and, at that stage, the oil storage facilities.
3. (6) No attempt was being made to incorporate the buildings of the Chelsea Hospital for Women.
4. (7) There is no proper provision for car parking other than at the previous North Block, i.e. a considerable distance from the site.

Since only one of the vital provisos was partially met, I assume that the plans as they now stand have failed to meet the Council's criteria and you would reject the scheme as being unacceptable. I trust I do not misinterpret the Committee's viewpoint.

I must point out that the provisos your Committee laid down come nowhere near meeting the objections of the Chelsea Society and others. These, in addition to those covered by your provisos, are as follows:

1. This is the wrong site for a development of this size. The scheme appears to have been propounded without any regard to basic planning consideration and is pursued purely because the hospital authorities happen to own the site.
2. The building is totally out of scale with the immediate surroundings and would be an environmental disaster in relation to St. Luke's Church (recognised as a Masterpiece of Victorian Gothic) and its neighbourhood. After all, this is a conservation area and particular mention is made in Circular 80 of proposed developments where 'there could be a very substantial effect on the character of a conservation area'.
3. The project could not conceivably gain planning consent as a commercial development.
4. The bulk of the building is so great that in our view it would lead to serious overshadowing of St. Luke's gardens and the playground. In their presentation the Architects of the scheme deliberately excluded the sun angles at the crucial times of the day and the season. The council have a legal duty as trustees to preserve the amenities of their gardens which I hope will be fulfilled.
5. It appears to us that the angles of light have been presented in a misleading manner. For example we are unable to understand the significance of the diagonal lines shown on the Cale Street elevation among the submitted drawings. These appear to be angles of light

taken to the northern end of Dovehouse Street between Cale Street and South Parade, and thus not relevant to the main site under development.

6. Under the present traffic policy the council is opposed to further street closures as being against the interests of the community as a whole. In no way can the closure of Cale Street be compensated by its preservation as a pedestrian thoroughway.
7. Any development on this site must inevitably cause alteration in the traffic flow. In the immediate area this will effect the delicate balance at the northern and southern traffic lights of Sydney Street. But this development, at twice the normal density and with the closure of an important ancillary road, could well have repercussions over a far wider area.

It is no answer to say that there would be no change from the existing hospital traffic since:

- (i) it is in a different location, not on Sydney Street;
- (ii) this will be a much larger complex;
- (iii) the buildings vacated will be put to other uses generating other traffic;
- (iv) Cale Street would be closed.

There would surely be 'a significant planning impact beyond the Department's own site' (Circular 80).

8. Although in an earlier paper, the Hospital authorities stated that 'possibilities exist for accommodating any future expansion', we have now been told quite categorically that there will be none. We find it quite impossible to accept that there will never be a need for future expansion and quite extraordinary that no provision is being made *ab initio*. The only explanation that seems feasible is that the Hospital authorities appreciate that a requirement for expansion at this stage would prejudice any chance of public acceptance.
9. The Hospital authorities have flatly rejected the idea of using the Kings Mead site in order to spread the bulk of the building.
10. There has apparently been no liaison whatsoever between the Brompton and the Marsden whose future plans are quite unknown to us and, presumably to yourself. This is the more surprising since both hospitals operate in a linked field.
11. Although much has been made by the Hospital authorities of the net reduction in beds, this is in fact an amalgamation of three different hospitals, and it would not be realistic to judge the size of this hospital and research complex purely by the number of beds.
12. No provision has been made for satisfactory open recreational space either for staff or patients. At the present time both use the garden of the Brompton. There is already a serious deficiency below G.L.C. standards in public and semi public open space.
13. Apparently no attempt has been made by the Hospital authorities to seek any alternative site although many suggest themselves. St. George's and the Charing Cross have both chosen sites outside central London. Why not the Brompton?
14. The financial Provision for the Hospital seems particularly uncertain and we believe that funds for the scheme have not been approved.
15. The programme of two quite separate phases adds to the difficulties. In the intervening period there would be planning blight, inefficient use of resources, scope for abandonment of Phase II or a complete change of plans.
16. Bearing in mind the size and importance of the development it is

surprising that virtually no drawings have been revealed other than elevational sketches.

However, we remain of the opinion that the fundamental objection to the proposed development is that it is grossly excessive in the bulk of the building to be erected. As a measure of this over-development, it is worth considering the plot-ratio of the new development. We have not had the benefit of seeing or measuring floor plans, but on the basis of the earlier plans submitted, and taking into account the reduction of one floor in the amended scheme, we believe the floor area of the proposed buildings to be approximately:

Phase I	50,000 sq. m.
Phase II	10,000 sq. m.
<hr/>	
Total	60,000 sq. m.

In comparison the effective area of the St. Luke's Hospital site (including the Convent site and half of Sydney, Cale Street and Britten Street) is about 10,000 sq. m., and of the total site (including half of Dovehouse Street and Britten Street) 20,000 sq. m. Hence the approximate plot-ratios are:

Phase I	4 : 1
Phase I and II	3 : 1

We believe the zoned density for this site and for Chelsea is a maximum of 2 : 1. Thus the proposals exceed the zoned density by a factor of 200 per cent in Phase I and 150 per cent in the final development. These figures do not include any floors below ground level which would of course result in an even greater excess.

We would be glad to have your confirmation of the figures involved since ours have been, as stated, very approximate.

Whilst appreciating that plot-ratio rules may not be strictly applied to developments such as the proposed hospital, we consider that the degree by which the proposed development exceeds the plot-ratio for the site is so great that it raises fundamental principles of over-development.

Although the Hospital authorities have expressed themselves as being anxious to meet objections and allay public anxiety they have not been prepared to compromise on any matters of substance or consider any alternative approaches to the problems of bulk and siting.

In view of this intransigent attitude and the many problems which we have outlined in this letter, we believe that a public inquiry is essential before the scheme proceeds any further. We would therefore request that the Borough take the necessary steps to institute such an inquiry by the Minister.

Yours sincerely,

QUENTIN MORGAN EDWARDS,

Chairman.

Chelsea Society.

C.C. Sir Malby Crofton, Bt.
Alderman Mrs. Elizabeth Gullick
Councillor The Viscount Montgomery
Councillor Roger Brooke
Councillor Brian FitzGerald
The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Scott, M.P.
Mr. R. R. Martin
Mr. E. A. Sanders
Members of the Planning Committee

These are the major matters of concern to us, but during the course of a year, until the end of this August, we considered and

commented on 257 planning applications. 201, to which we had no objection were passed. Of the remaining 56, about half (25 in fact) we objected to and the Borough refused consent. We objected to 15 others and consent was granted by the Borough and for the remaining 16 we raised no objections but consent was in fact refused. Precisely what influence we have is hard to say. BUT where there has been no planning consent, or where there is a drastic alteration without further consent, there should be proper enforcement. There have recently been too many breaches and the response from the Borough has been feeble or non-existent. This is a serious and continuing failure on the part of the Borough and I trust that Council officers and the Planning Committee themselves will insist that authority is consistently upheld. This is not just the viewpoint of the Chelsea Society, there are complaints from individuals, from local amenity groups and from many members of the Forum that I chaired.

7. *Chelsea Old Town Hall*

To the north of Kensington Library the finishing touches are being made to a £13m complex. Who is paying? The taxpayer, the ratepayer, doubtless our foreign creditors. But the heaviest burden seems to be falling on the citizens of Chelsea. We are to lose the Chenil Gallery, much loved and much used. We are to lose the Registry buildings. Squash the offices in Chelsea Old Town Hall, but must we also lose our library? We are all part of one borough, but this must entail even-handed treatment for north and south. The contrast between the municipal splendour "up there" and the anticipated sales "down here" is getting too great. We have an excellent library at the moment, though not on quite the magnificent scale of our neighbours. But I understand that a move, if there is one, to the Old Town Hall would cost well in excess of half a million pounds and no one has yet suggested that there would be any improvement. What space will there be for any "branch offices", particularly planning?

I trust that our members agree with the line that the Society is taking, namely to resist this re-siting until, if ever, it can be clearly established that the benefits outweigh the losses. Should any member disagree, would he or she so indicate in our later discussion. (None so did.)

The letter to Councillor John Yeoman (Chairman of the Library and Amenities Committee) setting out the Society's viewpoint is shown below:

29th October, 1976

Dear Mr. Yeoman,

As you are aware, there was not sufficient time at the last Council meeting of the Chelsea Society to discuss the possible Library move. However, at our meeting in June considerable apprehension had been

expressed concerning the possible rearrangements. Since then there have been further developments which caused us to question the wisdom of the proposals so far as we know them.

We appreciate that:

- (a) There will be vacant space in the Old Town Hall.
- (b) A final decision has been taken, regrettably, to sell Chenil Galleries so that Chelsea may contribute to the cost of the Kensington Town Hall.
- (c) It would be logical to move the offices of the Social Services etc. from the Registry to the Old Town Hall.

But we do not think that a case for a move of the Library to the Old Town Hall has been made. This is the exchange of a purpose-built building for some sort of conversion scheme in a building designed for totally different purposes. It seems unlikely that the facilities would even match, let alone be an improvement on, the existing facilities. It has been suggested that the cost of the move would be in excess of £500,000. If this is an initial figure, what is the final one likely to be?

The present Library building has quiet, space and charm and one of the most delightful reference libraries that I have ever worked in, the fittings of which are built-in, of the highest craftsmanship and could not be moved.

If this proposed move of the Library took place, the traffic noise outside the Old Town Hall is intense and there will also be considerable noise from the public swimming baths, particularly when schools are using the baths and when galas are in progress—both quite frequently. There would be disturbance also from public functions in the Old Town Hall which would probably increase in number following the closure of the Chenil Galleries.

In an earlier letter to you I commented on the need to consult the views of the senior staff, who, as professionals, could be expected to have the interests of Library users (my fellow ratepayers) at heart. Naturally it is neither possible nor proper for us to canvass their opinions, but I trust that these—whatever they may be—will be given their proper weight.

Prima facie I feel that the Library move is not in the best interests of Chelsea, and there would have to be an overwhelming case for its sale.

But there are other important considerations. How much space is there going to be available for other Departments scheduled to move? I doubt very much. What branch offices will be retained in the Old Town Hall? The Society naturally has in mind a branch office of the Planning Department so that Chelsea plans can be inspected without a long trek to Kensington. This might be inconvenient for the bureaucrats but it is of the greatest importance to people living in Chelsea. It is no answer to say that people from the north of the Borough now have to trek to Chelsea. This has only been a temporary measure until all departments are centralised in Kensington.

It appears all too likely that the Borough might well attempt to cram everything into the Old Town Hall so that every department suffers including the Library.

If the Library remains in Manresa Road, would this not allow for the resurrection of the small basement Hall? This hall was previously used for public functions, has its own entrance in Chelsea Manor Gardens, and would help to appease the smaller Charity and Art Exhibitors who, through the years, have so consistently used the Chenil Galleries. To put this hall in order could be done at a fraction of the cost of the proposed conversions, and be an additional source of income.

Although we are the Chelsea Society, I hope our outlook on the Borough is not too intensely parochial. But in this case the contrast is

really too great. Our Chenil Galleries are sold in order to contribute to the costs of the new Town Hall—likewise the Registry Buildings. But does it now have to be our Library as well? And what comparisons are local residents likely to make between a conversion job in the Old Town Hall and the enormous Library Buildings recently erected in Kensington? Fair's fair but this isn't. I think a drastic rethink is necessary and I will be canvassing the views of our Members at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Two other points of relevance:

The Registry building, fine architecture but neglected for years, desperately needs a face lift. What an improvement would result from cleaning the stonework and the bricks. Either the Borough could attend to this prior to the sale—resulting in an enhanced price—or its cleaning to a satisfactory standard could be a condition of sale. I do think this important.

The site of the Library was given by the Earl Cadogan. Until recent legislation it would have been impossible for the Borough to use the funds from the site for other than our original Library purpose. However, in the Indenture dated the 25th March, 1904, being a Deed of Exchange in respect of two adjacent sites, there appears to be a restrictive covenant whereby "the said Council for themselves their successors and assignees hereby covenant with the said Earl that the said Council their successors and assignees will use the said land hereinbefore conveyed as part of the site of the said Chelsea Public Library and for no other purpose whatsoever". This strikes me as being unequivocal and I cannot see how the piece of land in question could ever be part of a site of a library situated in the Old Town Hall.

Rumblings of discontent concerning the Library move are making themselves felt. Perhaps now is the time for further consideration.

Yours sincerely,

QUENTIN MORGAN EDWARDS,
Chairman.

8. *The Rectory Garden*

You will have seen reference to the Rectory Garden in the local press. We have held summer meetings there and enjoyed the hospitality of the Rector and his wife, needless to say, stalwart members of our society. The garden represents a large and vital asset of the Church of England from which they are fully entitled to benefit. But it is a large and vital asset to Chelsea and we also should benefit. This seems to me to be a case where the Borough will have to start thinking about putting its hand very deep into its pocket. Chelsea is well below the G.L.C. standard of public open space and I cannot see how there would ever again be the opportunity of acquiring a ready-made Park in the heart of Chelsea.

9. *Fiftieth Anniversary*

The last topic for tonight. Next year sees the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Chelsea Society by Reginald Blunt. I don't know which is the oldest amenity Society in the country, but we must be amongst the seniors. Now is not the time to relate our achievements, particularly at the end of a rather long and concentrated report. But I am sure all our members

would agree that this calls for some celebration and something tangible to mark the occasion. It is of course also the Queen's silver jubilee year and this is a happy conjunction. The Civic Trust and the London Committee have expressed the view that something permanently of value is to be preferred. After much consideration your Council have decided that the best possible scheme would be to sponsor and support a scheme for the complete rehabilitation of the Old Burial site at the foot of Dovehouse Street fronting the King's Road. You are all aware what a mess it has been for some years and how desperately a face-lift is needed. You may well say that this is the Borough Council's responsibility. But their funds are drastically limited at the moment and insufficient to achieve the comprehensive improvement that is needed. Your Council think that a joint venture would be particularly apt. The Borough Council would be able to make it a part of their Silver Jubilee programme and the Society would be seen quite palpably to be fostering the amenities of Chelsea. The Chairmen of some of the committees involved have already expressed their support for this. The Council of the Society have already considered some plans, prepared I am happy to say by a Landscape Architect Member of the Chelsea Society, but no final decisions have yet been taken concerning any particular scheme. As soon as we have done so, I hope within a few weeks, we will be in a position to launch the fund, solicit your support and of people and institutions generally.

I feel that this would be a really worthwhile task of the Chelsea Society and a most fitting and permanent way in which it could celebrate its fiftieth birthday. I hope that members of the Society agree with me in this.

At last my report is finished. My first year as your Chairman is now also concluded. I have certainly enjoyed it, but I am very conscious of the many things that remain to be done. I would like to thank our officers for the hard work they have put in, the members of our Council, particularly the Architects, Lord Antrim for chairing our meeting this evening, and our members and guests for coming this evening. Thank you one and all.

Reflections

by Edward G. Goldring

(Former Director of Engineering and Public Amenities to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea)

I am on holiday, sitting beside the lovely little lake of Orta in Northern Italy. But my thoughts are seldom far from my beloved Chelsea. Before I retired at the end of June your Chairman, Quentin Morgan Edwards, asked me if I would write an article for your Report on my period of office in Chelsea. It is a great honour to do so, but I find it difficult to squeeze my thoughts into a few pages or to mention all the people who have been helpful and kind and who have readily given me much expert advice.

When I was Deputy Borough Engineer of St. Pancras, I got to know the then Borough Engineer of Chelsea, Mr. Gough, very well and, on his suggestion, applied to the Chelsea Council for one of the Elm Park Gardens flats. I was in fact allocated one some ten years later—long after I had got married and had already got a place of my own.

Mr. Gough had a heart attack in the office and died suddenly. He was followed as Borough Engineer by Mr. Shackleton. After a very short period he, too, died tragically, having been accidentally electrocuted. I was appointed to succeed him as Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

There were quite a few problems then awaiting to be resolved and, although we didn't always agree, I had tremendous help and guidance from the Chelsea Society; firstly from the late Alderman Basil Marsden-Smedley, whose foremost interest in life seemed to me to be to turn Chelsea into a forest of trees and to preserve its village atmosphere. Discussing Street Lighting, I remember commenting on one of his suggestions that we might just as well revert to oil lamps. He promptly replied: "What an excellent idea, Goldring".

Later, when he became Mayor, like most Mayors it seems, he wanted to go down a sewer. I tried to dissuade him as it would be difficult because the Mayor had a paralysed arm and the vital statistics of the Mayoress made it essential to find an entrance manhole of adequate dimensions. I well recollect a young reporter who asked Hester for her measurements, receiving the blunt reply—"44, 44, 44". But what a wonderful couple they were! I have much to thank them for.

After Basil Marsden-Smedley there followed as Chairman of the Chelsea Society another good friend in Noel Blakiston. There was hardly a day without our being in touch over something or

other. In fact I used to seek the advice of the Chelsea Society whenever possible because it gave me a good indication of local opinion and it made life easier if we were able to do things the way the ratepayers wanted, rather than dictate our ideas without consultation.

We were able to agree on the major reconstruction of Chelsea Embankment carriageway and footways; the latter in best Lancashire Stone as York was unobtainable. We thinned out and replanted the planes along the whole length of the river front and the Borough is reaping the full benefit from what at the time seemed to be somewhat drastic treatment.

We never did agree, however, on the felling of some *Ailanthus* trees in Cheyne Row, which were leaning dangerously over the street; picturesque they were, I agree, but, according to my own calculations, they should have fallen years before. I lost the argument. I was definitely the only one in step at the time and the trees remained—at least until ten years later, when one crashed onto the house opposite, miraculously without loss of life, although the house suffered considerable damage.

Alderman Marsden-Smedley and I used to comb Chelsea for sites to plant trees—it became a regular pilgrimage. He even wanted gas and water mains moved to find additional sites. After he died, I was asked to become one of the Trustees of the Basil Marsden-Smedley Memorial fund, which has the object of planting trees in Chelsea.

I kept two of these sites for myself, one on the river bank itself and one in St. Luke's Gardens, where my wife planted a Bird Cherries, one to commemorate the arrival of each of our two children.

I remember, too, a vigorous argument, at 7 o'clock one morning, with an eminent Member of the Chelsea Society over the removal of the main trunk of a dead Mulberry tree by Battersea Bridge. I agreed it was an attractive feature, but felt that the removal of the dead wood might stop the die-back and give the rest of the tree a chance of survival. Lord Cadogan was Chairman of the Works Committee at that time, and quickly arrived on the scene and decided the issue. The dead part was removed and the Mulberry remains, and is flourishing.

What a superb Chairman Lord Cadogan was, too; decisive, scrupulously fair and punctual—so punctual one could set a clock by him.

Soon after my arrival at Chelsea, because of increasing costs and low efficiency, the Council was obliged to convert the whole of Chelsea's street lights from gas to electricity.

Various trial installations were erected and, with the support of the Chelsea Society, both the main and side roads were re-lit. The late Sir Edward Maufe, R.A., and Sir Arthur Richmond, both members of the Chelsea Society and of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, gave personal help and guidance. Most accepted the change, but, as usual, one or two quite unreasonable people attempted to alter the Borough Council's decision—it wasn't my own decision—by spiteful vilification of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairmen of the Committees, the Town Clerk and myself. There was little else I could do than to take effective means to stop this unwarranted attack on myself, which I did successfully. I have always regretted that such recourse to the Law became necessary because the people involved were intellectually brilliant and well-intentioned—but necessary it was.

Some time later, the Council decided it didn't like the aluminium finish to the lamps and columns, and I suggested we painted all the columns in Flood Street with different colours, and asked the residents to give their choice of colour. Being a Tory Borough, I suppose it was natural for the majority of replies—I believe it was 8—to be for 'blue', but there were several, including William MacMillan, R.A., who said they thought it was a wonderful idea to paint the columns in different colours, and they hoped the rest of the Borough would be similarly treated.

My first contact with the Royal Hospital came shortly after my return from Suez (where I had been as a T.A. reservist). The Town Clerk was having some difficulties in negotiations with the Royal Hospital and its advisors on the renewal of the Lease of the South Grounds. At a conference in the Town Clerk's Office between all the parties, the then Lt. Governor, General Sir Douglas Campbell, himself a Sapper, seeing the Sapper tie I was wearing, suggested that if the two Sappers got together, they might arrive at an acceptable solution. We did; and have remained good friends ever since.

From that meeting in the Town Clerk's office, there has been continued friendship with the Royal Hospital.

I made friends as well with many of the local artists. Whenever there was any artistic aspect to a job there was always an abundance of skill and knowledge ready and waiting to advise. Sir Charles Wheeler, R.A., one-time President of the Royal Academy, William MacMillan, R.A., Charles Cundall, R.A., Vincent Harris, R.A., and dozens of others were amongst the foremost of those who freely gave their valuable advice on many occasions.

The Royal Hospital Commissioners readily gave their approval to a suggestion for the Borough to take over the Royal Avenue and later to close it off from the King's Road. The Ministry of Works was about as indecisive as it was possible to be on the design of the

low posts and railings which had to be provided exactly to their approved design. The fencing has never been satisfactory, but I expect most of the residents blamed me for it.

One of the most indomitable of local Chelsea people was Miss Iris Medicott. I used to call her the Queen of Royal Avenue! I have never met anyone with more determination to get what she wanted, but always in such a charming manner. She was usually successful in her requests.

Iris Medicott was like that over the pigeon problem, too, but the star performer was unquestionably Lady Widgery, wife of the Lord Chief Justice. She always kept the garden staff on its toes to ensure that the tiny but attractive Chelsea Common was well planted and properly maintained—and, above all, was kept free from pigeons.

One day we had tried out a so-called 'pigeon repellent' on the lawns and beds and in order to test it out I asked the owner of the nearby Delicatessen to let me have a few pieces of bread. These I threw down by the treated flower-beds, but the pigeons descended as usual in a cloud. A lady in bright emerald green pounced on me equally quickly: "Would you mind *not* feeding these horrible vermin—Oh Mr. Goldring—how could you?" It was Lady Widgery. Every Christmas since then I have received a card from Lord and Lady Widgery with a pigeon on it. But last year it was a partridge instead—wishful thinking perhaps. But really how much better Chelsea would be if there were more nice birds in the Borough—and I do not mean the King's Road variety!

One day the Secretary of the London Sketch Club came to see me. They had to move from their premises in St. Marylebone and were anxious to acquire Augustus John's Studio in Mallord Street. I knew instinctively that this would be quite unacceptable to the residents; but we did all we could to help them to find an alternative headquarters. They eventually succeeded in buying No. 7 Dilke Street, thus bringing into Chelsea a group of famous artists which it would have been a tragedy to lose to another part of London.

Wellington Square, that charming little cul-de-sac off the King's Road, has often produced headaches. Motorists, parked indiscriminately over the road and footways, damaged the railings and caused disturbances at night. At long last, at the suggestion of the Wellington Square Residents' Association, we were able to narrow the entrance, to move the telephone kiosks and to bring, it is hoped, a little more peace and quiet to those who live there. But those residents themselves were not always at peace with each other. I remember years ago being asked to obtain approval to the removal of some overcrowded trees in order to allow the remainder to develop satisfactor-

ily. There was strenuous opposition from some of the other residents. I took the easy way out and let the two opposing sides fight it out between them. I called it the Battle of Wellington Square! General Sir Geoffrey Evans, former Chief of Staff to Field Marshal Slim, was on one side and an Admiral and a Queen's Counsel on the other. The General won—but he had expected to anyway.

Five years after I became Borough Engineer and Surveyor of Chelsea, I married Janet, like myself a Whitstable Native. The Reverend Basil Carver, M.A., Rector of Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, performed the Ceremony at Ashford in Kent. The late Miss Acland, then Mayor of Chelsea, and many of my Chelsea friends came too. Our two children, Anne-Marie and Christopher, were both christened by Basil Carver at Holy Trinity, and like all my family, share with me a great love for Chelsea.

One of the greatest and kindest of friends we have had in Chelsea has been Canon Alfonso de Zulueta of the Church of the Holy Redeemer and St. Thomas More. How much we have always enjoyed the Carol Service there every Christmas Eve.

Dame Sybil Thorndike was always another great friend. She loved our two children and when I was President of Chelsea Rotary Club she, Sir Charles Wheeler, Sir Geoffrey Evans, the Duke of St. Albans, and Noel Blakiston came as guest speakers.

Perhaps the one thing which brought my Department and the Chelsea Society closer together than anything else was traffic. To the average resident, the solution to excessive traffic is quite simple—it just needs diverting somewhere else. But in an area like ours, it isn't easy to find somewhere else which can accommodate it or which would willingly accept it. The Chelsea Society and Chelsea Borough Council were in complete accord in objecting to the West Cross Route proposals without a bridge crossing the river, and my consulting engineer friend, Stefan Tietz, with our co-operation put forward an excellent case for the Chelsea Society which was parallel to that put forward by the Royal Borough.

Alderman Arthur Sims, in a letter to *The Times* later led the demand for a relief route to prevent unnecessary traffic from traversing the Borough; without it there really is no chance of easing the chaotic conditions which exist in many parts of the area. The Greater London Council knows this full well, but blindly shuts its eyes to the growing problem, and, like Micawber, just hopes that something will turn up to provide a solution.

The underground garage in Cadogan Place can, I suppose, also be partly blamed on me, because I suggested its consideration. But that is where, in my opinion, cars should be put—underground or out of sight.

The garden above the garage which the objectors said would be ruined, has now turned out to be one of the most pleasant in the Borough and nobody would believe that there are spaces for nearly five hundred cars below.

It should not be forgotten, either, that it was the Chelsea Borough Council which first persuaded the then Minister of Transport to accept the principle of special parking provisions for residents in Controlled Zones, and legislation was eventually made to cover it.

No other Borough in the Country has the same privilege of interavailability which the Royal Borough enjoys.

Ropers Gardens by Chelsea Old Church, with its statues by Ledward and Epstein, was another scheme initiated by Basil Marsden-Smedley.

The 'Dog's Loo' was my own idea, and this had television coverage from Canada to Japan—even Concorde did not get more publicity. The huge thoroughbred Pyreneen Mountain dog 'Digby', which I borrowed from a neighbour in Cheam, to perform the opening ceremony failed us at the crucial moment, but a local Chelsea mongrel obliged and stole the limelight.

Every summer, whenever there was any hot sunny weather, a lady from the nearby flats would complain that girls were sunbathing on the grass in bikinis. It seemed a pity that this should annoy anyone—but one day I went to see for myself. The loggia in the garden and all the seats were fully occupied by elderly gentlemen who were obviously enjoying the scenery, and I thought I could be excused for taking no action on the complaint. In any case, I think the lady must have stood on a chair to get the view *she* found so objectionable.

The long-established Chelsea Swimming Club has always been able to give a good account of itself, and I suppose I was largely responsible for it merging with the West London Dolphins to form the Chelsea and Kensington Swimming Club, with Headquarters at the Kensington New Pools. Unless I am much mistaken, that Club, already of International and National repute, will produce for the Royal Borough its first Olympic representative.

The other two local associations with which I am still closely involved besides the London Sketch Club, are the Chelsea Arts Club and the Chelsea Rotary Club. Both of these have brought me many friends whose interests are deep in Chelsea.

Apart from the West Cross Route, perhaps the Greater London Council's proposals for the pedestrianization of the King's Road brought the Chelsea Society and myself into the closest contact.

From the very beginning, the Scheme seemed to me to be ill-conceived and impracticable.

As Dame Evelyn Dennington, the then Chairman of the G.L.C. Committee responsible for it, was about to go onto the flower-decorated stage in the Chelsea Town Hall to open the Public Meeting, she turned to me and said "Do you think we shall be alright, Mr. Goldring?" I replied "No, Dame Evelyn, but we have some lovely flowers ready for you!" Thank goodness for Chelsea, the scheme died a sudden death. The King's Road has already deteriorated enough as it is.

There was the Sloane Square Bun House suggestion which seemed to pop up at regular intervals. I remember seeing the Bun House at the time of the Festival of Britain and I thought how it spoils the appearance of the lovely open square. As a very temporary experiment perhaps it might be worth a trial if the Society and the local residents really want it, but it ought to be realised that there is a maze of pipes, conduits, sewers, and the Tube railway below the surface, and access to every one of these must be allowed at any time.

The suggestion of siting the Katyn Memorial, with which I have been closely connected, in St. Luke's Gardens was also publicly stated as being the suggestion of the Borough Engineer. It wasn't, and I am sure everyone will be happy with its new home in Gunnersbury Cemetery. Ryszard Garielczyk, the Consulting Engineer and Designer has my personal congratulations on the efficient way he has gone about his extremely difficult task.

I am sad that the old burial ground at the corner of Dovehouse Street and the King's Road still remains neglected and little used. Years ago a local artist friend, Emiel Hartman, produced an excellent scheme, which was approved by one of the committees of the Council and could have been completed the same year. Then more grandiose ideas were put forward. Then came proposals to include the Katyn Memorial, and now the Cremorne Gates; and the Chelsea Society hasn't made up its mind on what it wants either! To me, in this focal point of Chelsea, it has stuck out like a sore thumb. How nice it would be to see the site opened up into a neat and tidy grassed area where people can sit and rest.

So far, I have made no mention of the traumatic period of change from the Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea to the Greater London Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; and because I have as yet not mentioned Kensington, it may be said that these reflections are the ramblings of one of the 'Chelsea Rabble'. That is not so. I have been asked to write specifically of my association with Chelsea and that is what I have tried to do. But I could just as well have written about the equally delightful people I have had

so much to do with in the Kensington part of the Royal Borough, and would mention in particular the Norland Society, the Abbotsbury Road Society, the Ten Acre Society, the Ladbrooke Association, and of course, the Kensington Society itself. One of my most treasured possessions is a beautiful coloured print of the Old Village of Chelsea, given to me by the Kensington Society as a parting gift to express their thanks, and because they knew I loved Chelsea. It does prove that the Royal Borough has now become one large family and I hope I have done a little to achieve that end.

Finally, I have been embarrassed by the number of kind remarks I have received from residents in the Royal Borough and from members of the Chelsea Society in particular. I have always tried to do my best for the residents and the results would not have been possible without a talented and loyal staff, which it has been a great pleasure and honour to lead. I know Mr. Hennings, my successor, and his team will continue the happy relationships of the past.

Meek Street/Lots Road

by Betty Carvalho

The Inspector of the Inquiry into the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's application for outline Planning Permission to develop the Meek Street area has recommended refusal of the application.

Our concern has been, and continues to be, with the continuation of blight in this large area of Chelsea and all that that entails in environmental and sociological terms.

Our representation at the Inquiry is summarised in the Inspector's report as follows:

"The Society did not oppose the application and welcomed the intention to rehabilitate the area. It noted that 4½ acres of open space could be provided without demolishing any existing houses and suggested that the balance of 1½ acres (to make up the 6 acres required by the Department of the Environment) might be provided in the Wharf area near to the World's End Development. In that way houses could be saved from demolition and much needed improvement to the amenity of the riverside achieved. Fears were expressed that future highway proposals might prejudice the area and it was suggested that the larger area, extending to the Chelsea Creek and the River, should be considered together with the application site."

The Secretary of State's decision is now awaited. Outright refusal will of itself do nothing to expedite the rehabilitation of the existing houses only 35 of which out of a total of 223 are so far gone as to warrant demolition. It will also not resolve the uncertainty over the zoning of part of the area for light industry, as specified in the Development Plan, which the Borough, with a 15,000 long housing list (5,175 families), sought as part of their application to have re-zoned for housing.

Unfortunately when houses in multiple occupation are rehabilitated to modern standards fewer people can inhabit them than before. In the circumstances one wonders whether it is really necessary to keep the density of this site as low as 100 per acre.

Regeneration of North Kensington

Seminar — 14th May, 1976

by Lesley Lewis

Sir Malby Crofton called a one-day Seminar at the Information and Aid Centre, Ladbroke Grove, to review the activities of the Borough Council, the main Housing Trusts, the Greater London Council and the voluntary organizations. Although Chelsea has no problems like those of North Kensington, it is of great interest to know of these projects in another part of the Borough and I attended to represent the Chelsea Society.

Sir Malby outlined the ten year housing scheme and emphasised that the aim now was not to break up communities. Mr. Martin, Director of Architecture and Planning, sketched the history of the different parts of the area, which includes the St. Charles, Golborne, Kelfield, Avondale and Colville Wards. Mr. Draper, Health Officer, described how commercial and residential premises were classified, inspected and improved to satisfactory standards. Mr. Fred Smith, officer in charge of the Colville/Tavistock rehabilitation schemes, spoke of the social requirements of open space, play streets, etc., and explained how ILEA, the Borough Council, Housing Trusts and local people were involved. The session was wound up by Mr. Webber, Director of Finance, who gave horrifying figures for the cost of rehabilitation and stressed the need for central government aid.

Delegates then made a tour of the Centre, with its pleasant offices for social workers, and saw the Luncheon Club for the Elderly, before proceeding in a coach to see the Housing Action Areas, the Talbot Tabernacle and the Old and New Pools. A buffet luncheon at the latter enabled the delegates to meet for discussion. Other tours were made in the afternoon to see new housing, and the gathering dispersed at 4 p.m. after a most instructive day. For some, the high spot of the tour was perhaps the Talbot Tabernacle, a fine mid-Victorian chapel complex which is being transformed into a Community Centre.

A La Recherche du Faisan Perdu

by Nesta Macdonald

The history of 'The Pheasantry', now exposed in the midst of desolation, has been the subject of much legend. However, legend wilts when faced with documentation, and the facts are far more fascinating.

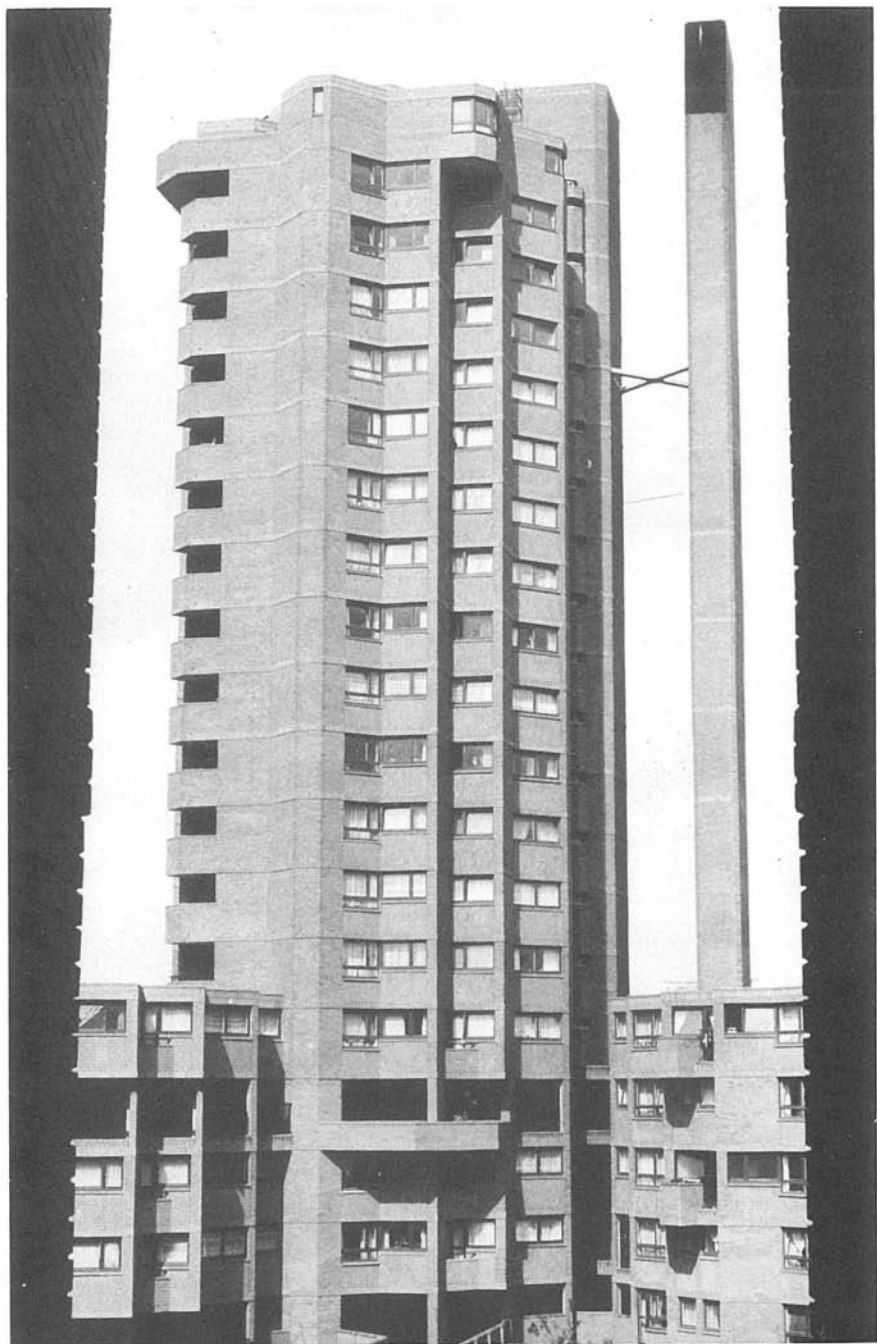
Once upon a time there *were* pheasants at the bottom of that garden; the house was named when they moved in in 1865. Its modern life began when they left in 1878 and the Jouberts took it over in 1880; but the story had better begin by setting the scene.

Many people have the idea that 'The King's Road' was a highway and, in its Chelsea stretch, a busy village shopping street. Not so. The great palaces of Chelsea were built near the river. This was the highway; travel between the City and Whitehall and Chelsea was by boat. The busy east-west thoroughfare was Paradise Row (now forming part of Royal Hospital Road). The 'King's Road' was but a narrow track, and by 1719 had acquired such an evil reputation for footpads that George I wished to close it to the public between Sloane Square and Church Lane (Old Church Street). Yielding to local feeling expressed in a Petition which included Sir Hans Sloane himself amongst the signatories, the King granted local residents the right to use it. They were supplied with bronze tokens. It remained closed until 1830. This naturally retarded urban development.

Soon after 1800, the area west of Sloane Street began to change as the fields were commercialised. It became one ribbon-development 'garden centre'. Houses were needed for more workers, and the small streets adjacent to King's Road were built for this purpose.

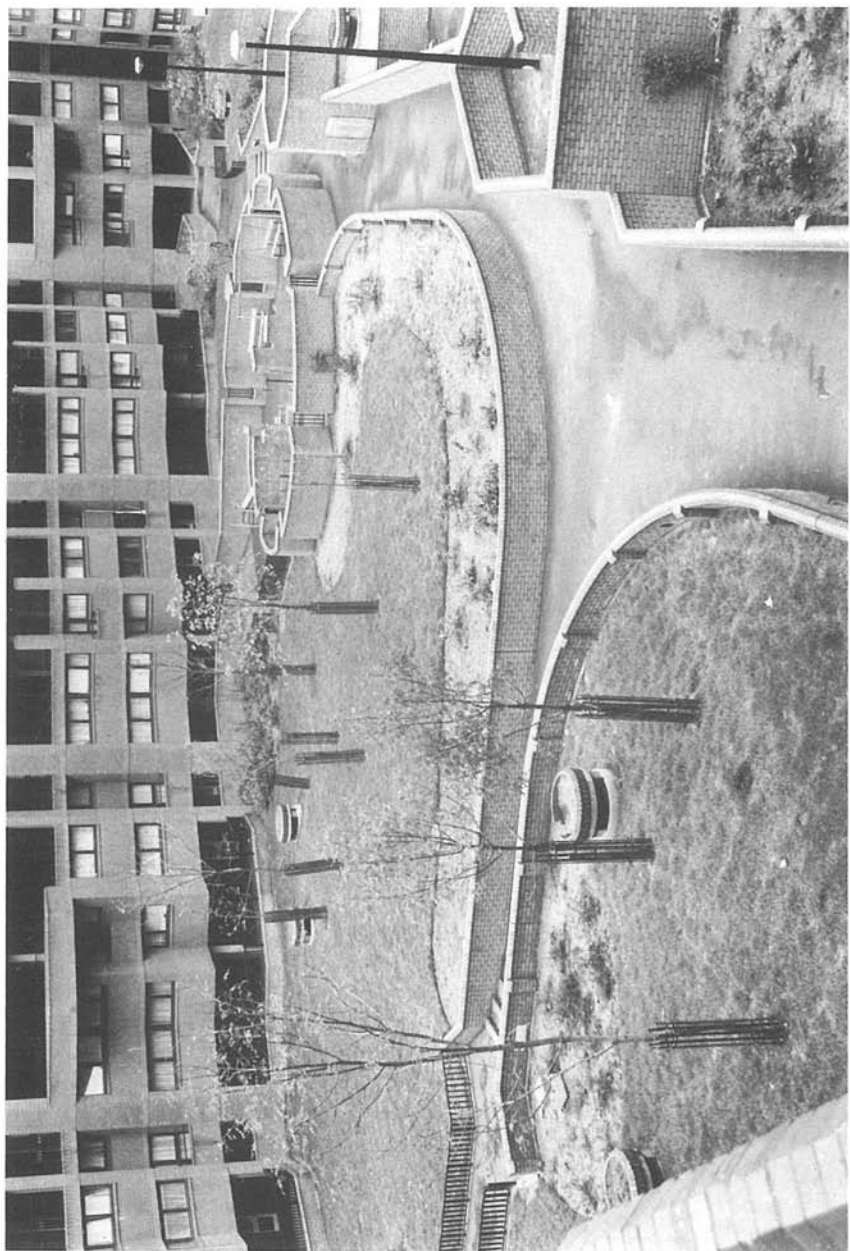
Here is the story of the house which it is most convenient to call 'The Pheasantry', though it was about a hundred years old before it acquired this name. It has been put together from a study of maps, ratebooks, registers, and directories. Street numbering only started in 1859, when the numbers in King's Road were fixed as they still remain. 'Box Farm', built in 1686, and demolished in 1900, which occupied the site of the Classic Cinema, was the clue in the early years.

Before examining the maps, look at the building itself. The evidence of the eye is especially clear on its Markham Street flank. There you can see two enlargements. The original house barely reached to the level of the balconies of the principal floor. As for the façade, I have pointed out for years that this was faced with Victorian, machine-made bricks, quite different from the older, handmade bricks of the main structure.



The World's End Development.

Architects: Eric Lyons, Cadbury-Brown, Metcalfe, and Cunningham. (See pages 55-56.)





Landscaping at the World's End Site. (See pages 55-56.)





"The Resurrection": General view, and detail, from the painting by Sebastiano Ricci in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital. (See page 61.) (Reproduced by permission of the Department of the Environment. Crown Copyright Reserved.)



Victorian Chelsea. From Cassell, Map of London, c. 1862. Both these facing maps are reproduced, with permission, from B. Curle and P. Meara, An Historical Atlas of Kensington and Chelsea, 1971. (See page 68.)

This first rating of the 'House and Garden' shows that it was built towards the end of 1765, and tallies with the maps and with the first brickwork. Incidentally, there is absolutely no connection whatsoever with the family of Earl Amherst, which never owned any land in the King's Road area.

Samuel Baker was obviously ambitious. Designated 'Merchant', he acquired addresses in Dockland by 1770, and in New Bond Street by 1774. He was also in Beaufort Street, Chelsea, which had practical advantages compared with the shut-off King's Road, as it was easy of access both by river and along Paradise Row.

Possibly the John Evans who sought election to The Vestry in 1826 was the son of the man who paid rates in 1790. The family ran the dairy farm, and organised the grazing on Chelsea Common. John Evans also had a shop at Sloane Square, where he was listed as 'Grocer and Tea Importer', and bought up many other properties round and about.

So far there is no indication as to Pullam Markham's vocation. The naming of Pullam Terrace and The Markhams is seemingly in tribute to his memory. It could be that on the occasion of a marriage in 1804, Pullam Markham bestowed Box Farm, or the money to buy it, upon an Evans, turning the family into freeholders, and earning this gratitude. The descendant, Pullam Markham Evans, was a Chartered Accountant, head of his own firm in Basinghall Street, when he sold Box Farm in 1899. His spinster sisters were living there until the sale, though he had removed to 25 Cheyne Walk, some years before.

One can see all these families as energetic, thriving, and moving up in the world.

There is a drawing on the sale catalogue, which shows Box Farm as three-storeyed, stuccoed, its façade typically early nineteenth-century, and its windows embellished with Coade Stone ornaments. These are identical with the model used on the west side of Smith Street, opposite, which was built about 1804. Whilst the interior had remained 'quaint', it looks as if the alterations modernising the exterior had been made then. Possibly 'The Pheasantry' was enlarged and even made to match at the same time. Its attic windows and roof correspond to many of that period in the district.

Aviaries were popular all over Europe, and trade in exotic birds was big business. Consul Swinhoe, "our man in Cathay", was only one servant of the Crown to add to his wealth by handling the export of live birds from China.

For many years, the directory entry of Samuel Baker was inconspicuous. In 1839 it suddenly appeared with this splendid spread, printed in beautiful large type:

BAKER, Samuel C. and Charles N.
Dealers in Ornamental Poultry, Live Wild Fowl, Gold, Silver, White,
Pied and Common Tame-bred Pheasants, Pheasants and Poult, Foxes
and Cubs for Stocking, etc.
3 Half-Moon Passage, Gracechurch Street.

Once the King's Road was re-opened to the public in 1830, it began to fill with all sorts of crafts and trades. No shortage then of painters, carpenters, or plumbers! One Mr. Edward Dench outgrew his premises in Box Cottage, nearer to Markham Square, and, in 1857, moved into 'The Pheasantry'. He paid rates for the dwelling and the workshops in which he made boilers for hot-houses. In 1860, a third count was added—Photographic Institute! But his tenure was not to last for long.

In 1864, the Samuel Baker of the day started paying the rates on 'House and Garden' once more, albeit curiously as a tenant.

And so, at long last—*Enter the Pheasants.*

The Bakers advertised from Beaufort Street almost every week in *The Field*. The move was noted in their standard advertisement on 8th April, 1865:

PHEASANTS. Messrs. Baker beg to invite their patrons, customers, and gentlemen interested in the breed of PHEASANTS to an INSPECTION at their new Establishment, 152 King's Road, Chelsea, of Specimens of the different varieties of the BREEDING-STOCK (Previous to being penned for the season), conspicuous amongst which will be the Versicolor or Japanese Pheasants, with first and second cross, which cannot fail to be interesting to all desirous of improving the breed.

Note the gentlemanly reticence—not a word is said about price! However, a rival firm in Leadenhall Market advertised the same week: Philip Castang charged fifteen guineas for a pair of versicolor pheasants—no mean sum in 1865.

Pheasants were not the only creatures dealt in by the Bakers, though they seem to have dropped the foxes from their list. Another Baker advertisement had been running in *The Field* for a long time, classified under 'Farming'. On 18th April, 1865, it appeared with the address quietly altered:

BRETONNE COWS. Original importers—A gold medal was awarded to Messrs. BAKER, by the Royal Agricultural Society, for their Breton bull PRINCE, bred by themselves, and they beg to inform their customers of the arrival of another handsome HERD of these useful animals, calved and down-calving. Intending purchasers are respectfully invited to view the above, or to communicate for further particulars. Messrs. Baker have now completed their final arrangements for the importation of the above cattle (the same variety as originally imported by them) which, after many years' experience, regardless of expense and trouble, has enabled them to offer this pure breed of cattle at prices so low that only the sale of a large number will compensate the importers. The above must not be confused with the common cows of the country.

The Pheasantry, 152 King's Road, Chelsea.

The reason for importing this particular breed is obscure. They were black-and-white cattle, and an expert said that "if fed plentifully, these will fatten readily, but bulls rapidly become so high-spirited that they are unmanageable". Add to this the fact that they are not heavy milkers, and it is even more mysterious.

But that is how, in April 1865, 'The Pheasantry' was christened.

From 1866 until 1878, the rates on House, Stables and Garden were paid by Charles Newcombe Baker, Bird Dealer, alone; he also had premises in Jubilee Place.

And so, in 1881—*Enter the Jouberts*. Whence came this family whose name persists today in the flats they built in 1894 in Jubilee Place?

Here is their entry in the Post Office Directory for 1881:

JOUBERT, Amédée and Son (late of 6 and 7 Percy Street, W.).

Upholsterers, painters, gilders, ecclesiastical and domestic decorators, cabinet makers, artistic furniture and parquet flooring manufacturers by patent machinery.

'The Pheasantry', 152 King's Road, Chelsea.

Though the family tree is incomplete, Jean-Baptiste Amédée Joubert was descended from a family of cabinet-makers of whom the most famous was Gilles Joubert, *ébéniste du roi* from 1763 until his death in 1775. His brother, Pierre, was a skilled *menuisier*. The family was strongly Royalist, and in later generations devoted to Louis XVIII and Charles X. (And, of course, they were not Huguenots.) Their arrival in Maddox Street in 1831 leads one to suppose that they followed Charles X into exile after the July Revolution of 1830. Four children were born there; William Amédée, the eldest, born 1831, died in Chelsea in 1907. Henry Charles René, born there in 1835, was baptised at St. George's, Hanover Square, in July 1836. He set up in business in Percy Street in 1867, and in 1869 married a Miss Francatelli, of Upper Chelsea, at Trinity Church, Sloane Street. Their only child, Felix, was born in Percy Street in 1872.

Maddox Street was in the heart of fashionable Mayfair; Percy Street in the district of skilled craftsmen. The move to Chelsea in 1881 was astute, as it was close to the newly-developing area of 'The Cadogans'. To match it, out came the Joubert sense of presentation—the Joubert sense of fun, best expressed in that dated word, 'Japing'. They carried out an expensive act of exhibitionism. They Frenchified the façade of 'The Pheasantry'.

They gave it the red-brick and dressed-stone look of many a seventeenth-century *manoir*. They emphasised the windows, and added balconies in the Louis XV style. In panels they listed their skills in letters incised and gilded. They enlarged the shallow house

at the rear. They turned the interior into period showrooms, and devoted one to fabrics and wallpapers.

The Joubert who left the biggest mark was Felix. Trained as an architect, he was only 25 when he built Turret House for himself, in Jubilee Place. A synthesis of all the *chateaux* of the Loire, had this been sited a-top a hill, approached by darkly-forested slopes, it could have served as every child's image of the palace of *La Belle au Bois Dormant*.

Felix was sculptor, jeweller, armourer, decorator. He was also a champion fencer. He assisted in the arrangement of the display of arms at Windsor Castle.

When, in the early 1920's, the idea arose at a dinner-party of making a Dolls' House which would incorporate the finest contemporary craftsmanship, to be presented to Queen Mary, Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect who designed it, wilyly sent the estimates for some items to his own clients. Joubert made thirteen frames, in appropriate styles, for the State portraits, for which Mrs. Marshall Field stumped up £50, and the cradle for the night nursery set back Mr. Konig, of Tyringham, £30. From 'The Pheasantry' also came the balustrading for the garden, and Felix made one of the miniature suits of armour, and a pair of foils and fencing masks, which were his personal idea and gift.

Were Sotheby's to describe the most intriguing of these articles in a catalogue, it would read like this:

A rare Louis XVIII style applewood cradle with ebony pin-head inlaid decoration, with ormolu and ivory mounts, the faceted octagonal tester surmounted by an ormolu crown on an ivory cushion, enclosing Prince of Wales' Feathers in ivory, the body conforming to the tester, and the pyramidal end post supporting an ormolu Guardian Angel, on eight ivory flattened bun feet. Height approx. 10.2cm, length approx. 11.5cm.

It looks as if another Joubertian joke lurked here. Felix's daughter showed me an engraved receipt, dated 1821, acknowledging a donation from 'M. Joubert' which, it said, 'would go towards Chambord'. At its head a christening is depicted. Now, in 1820, the future Charles X's son was assassinated, and *his* son, born posthumously, was heir-presumptive. In 1821, a fund was raised to purchase the Château de Chambord for this infant, who was given the title of Comte de Chambord. The Jouberts were passionately devoted to this royal family, and probably made a cradle which they would have topped off with fleurs-de-lis. Felix must have made this cot as a replica, substituting 'Prince of Wales' Feathers' for the French emblem.

It seems odd that Felix Joubert should be so little remembered in Chelsea, until one understands the reasons. He had a villa near Antibes, and when war broke out in 1939, was caught there, unable

to get back. He was, however, for many years of his life, very deaf, and greatly cut off by this affliction.

The Jouberts may be said to have replaced the artisans with artists. In 1916, they acquired a truly exotic tenant who occupied the main floor until her death in 1934—Princess Serafina Astafieva, whom the Blue Plaque commemorates. Born a Princess, she kept her own family name through two marriages, bestowing it also on her son, Slava (who died only this year). She was born in Rostov, near the mouth of the Don, in South Russia, in 1876. Her father had fought against Britain in the Crimean War; her mother was a relative of Baron Fredericks (Court Minister to Czar Nicholas II).

One of her grandfathers had married a sister of Count Leo Tolstoy, and she used to say that, as a child, she sat on his knee and pulled his beard, and he let her put snuff under his nose. When she was recovering from a serious illness, it was Tolstoy who suggested that it would help to build up her strength if she were to be taken away from the Smolny Institute and entered instead in the Imperial School of Ballet, in Theatre Street.

She graduated in 1895, and joined the company of the Maryinsky Theatre. She married a brother of Mathilde Kschessinska (who had been the mistress of the Czarevitch, later Nicholas II). Astafieva's son was about the same age as Kschessinska's by the Grand Duke Andrei. The two women always remained friends, and spent a holiday together every year on the Côte d'Azur.

By 1905, Astafieva had married again. Her second husband was a Russian of British descent, and a high official in the Russian Red Cross. Though the least domesticated of women, Serafina helped him near the front during the Russo-Japanese war, organising hospitals.

This marriage had also ended when, in 1909, Diaghilev persuaded her to join the company he was forming to show Russian Ballet in Paris for the first time. Though not a first-class dancer, she was beautiful, tall, moved well, and was an excellent mime. She took on some of the rôles created for Ida Rubinstein. When the Diaghilev Ballet first came to London in 1911, for the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, Astafieva took Ida's part as Cleopatra.

When war broke out in 1914, her son was in Switzerland with a tutor. Astafieva picked him up and came to England. She started a Russian Dancing Academy in a dreary drill-hall in Maiden Lane, and in 1916 moved it into 'The Pheantry'. Her teaching was recognised from the start as outstanding. She offered general classes as well as ballet, and among her pupils were June (later Lady Inverclyde) and a pretty child called Marjorie Robertson, who

became famous as Anna Neagle. (When Dame Anna's husband, Herbert Wilcox, decided to make a film about Nell Gwynn, it was his own idea to invite Astafieva to create dances for it.)

Diaghilev returned to London in September 1918, and became a frequent visitor at 'The Pheasantry', dropping in to salute Astafieva and drink tea. (He had many friends in Chelsea, including the Sitwells.) He took her two star pupils into his company—first Anton Dolin, and, before her fifteenth birthday, Alicia Marks, who was to become Dame Alicia Markova. The third star from 'The Pheasantry' nest had spent only one year there when Astafieva died. She was Peggy Hookham, later known as Dame Margot Fonteyn.

A pupil who did not seek to become a performer was Arnold Haskell, who was to become the first Director of the Royal Ballet School, and whose mother, Emmy, modelled a delightful head of Astafieva of which two casts were made in bronze, presumably by Joubert. Sir Arnold has one, and Astafieva's pianist, Ronnie Longville, entrusted her copy to me to give to the Theatre Museum. Emmy used to bring down gorgeous hampers crammed with goodies so that everyone could feast! (Usually they all had lunch at a café a few doors away, run by Ada Reeve's sister, and they also favoured the Unity, opposite.)

Diaghilev used the studio for rehearsals, and Massine worked in it on his ballets, including *La Boutique Fantasque* and *Le Tricorne*. Robert Sielle, the framer, was an exhibition dancer with Annette Mills, and often rented the studio for practice. He would ask Astafieva to think up new routines; perhaps they sought guidance in the teatime sessions he recalled, when everyone clustered into the small sitting-room. The tea-leaves had to be read, and out came the ouija-board. There was plenty of hard work, but a *vie de bohème*, too. (And all the other studios were occupied by artists.)

Astafieva had beautiful legs, and usually wore white tights—and always a bandeau. She could look like a hippie, or the epitome of elegance. She was wildly generous, and would give a rich jewel—whilst she still possessed any—to the teller of a hard-luck story. At the end of a lesson, she would say, "Those who can—pay!" Of one fact she was proud. "I was never a refugee. I was already here, earning a living. I started my Academy with sixpence."

Astafieva wasn't a saint, but her personality had great richness. Perhaps it is just as well that she didn't care a fig for material possessions, otherwise she might haunt those who have desecrated 'The Pheasantry'.

© Nesta Macdonald

Europa Nostra in Vienna

by Betty Carvalho

At 5 p.m. on 7th July a fanfare of trumpets rang out above the chandeliers in the beautiful Congress Room of the Hofburg, and the opening session of the Europa Nostra Conference 1976 had begun.

Of 200 delegates, including Ministers of the Council of Europe, more than half were Austrian, seventeen from the United Kingdom, and of those the Chelsea Society was the only London amenity society. Lord Duncan Sandys chaired all five sessions and our Austrian hosts together with Miss Freda Smith the Administrative Secretary ensured a well-organised, extremely interesting and enjoyable five days. Again and again, as delegates spoke in detail of problems, failures and achievements, we were reminded that most actual decisions are taken by local authorities and that the citizen has a vital part to play at this level. For this part to be informed and effective it was necessary to undertake the education of all citizens, beginning with the youngest, by mass media and in all kinds of schools. Only thus could results be obtained and the environmental intentions of legislation be implemented. Conservation must not be imposed but embraced. It was hoped in the near future to hammer out and establish international criteria for conservation and preservation together with a system of tax benefits for projects. What had been begun in the way of preservation of individual buildings was now extending to the surroundings of such buildings and the use they could be put to. Architectural Heritage Year had had the effect of 'sensitizing' great numbers of people hitherto unaware; it had given a great surge forward to participation and was indeed proving to be a beginning rather than an end in itself. Politicians were becoming interested in the idea of conservation, not for cultural reasons but sociological. It was now recognised that the crisis in modern planning could not be solved by architects alone; there had been a failure of technology due to a shortcoming of humanity, a lack of maturity. Man had yet to take a further step forward in his development and learn to live with and control technology. In this context we were shown a remarkable film called the 'Green City', produced jointly by the Austrian Government and UNESCO. This film gives, in the most acceptable and visually pleasing fashion, some surprising facts and figures on the optimum use of land and optimum provision of green space, interspersed with scientific diagrams showing the chemical and meteorological effect of shrubs and trees in a concrete or tarmac desert. I hope we will be able to get this film to show in Chelsea, and I took the initial steps in this direction immediately after seeing it.

A moving contribution was made by a delegate from Italia Nostra who said the Italian example was unfortunately a negative one, 'a horrid situation', showing the whole world the results of uncontrolled forces hostile to civilisation and culture. Again public opinion must insist on Government action to implement and ratify, for instance, the UNESCO Convention of 1972. Later we heard from representatives of the Tourist Industry (213m last year and a 56% increase expected to 1985 excluding tourists who did not leave their own country) that they were ready to join forces with the conservationists, having realised the imminent destruction of irreplaceable assets by over exploitation, this applying to towns, villages, open countryside and mountain areas. Other speakers referred to short-sighted regional projects for development designed to bring short term local prosperity. In Austria the Hohe Tauern and Neue Siedl National Parks needed international support to counter opposition, and on the other hand an East Tyrol power plant project was proposed which would destroy a most valuable area. Compulsory ecological studies were proposed so that the desirable objects of such projects could be achieved with environmental damage. In another well known area, the Luneburg in Germany, such a study had been undertaken in the interests of prehistorical and archaeological monuments as well as an ecological balance and, as a result, 4 million 'welcome' tourists have been separately routed as walkers, riders or motorists.

A fascinating account was given of a project in Picardy undertaken in order to reverse the destructive ecological effects on the coast and hinterland of an explosion of tourism. Already the migratory birds have returned and the hydrological balance of the region is being regained by an elaborate system of restoring the natural vegetation; the area has been divided into reserves for nature excluding man, zones shared by nature and man and zones for controlled development of the beaches for recreation including a unique type of specialised architecture. Already the quality of human life of many communities within the larger area has been improved and this improvement is expected to become general as momentum continues.

On the last day we were driven along the Danube in a northerly direction to Krems, a showpiece of rehabilitation. Many derelict homes and courtyards have been restored, some with skilful additions, and put to use as family homes or flats; one in the centre of the town is a school with the playground in the courtyard. The church, which had been both a cinema and fire station, and derelict monastery were now beautifully restored and used as a museum and art gallery together with the cloisters.

To close one must mention Vienna itself, beautiful as ever with much of the centre completely pedestrianised including the famous

Kaertnerstrasse. Then one comes upon the vast excavation on two sides of the Cathedral and peers with astonishment and apprehension into the depth of it. In due course this will be another underground pedestrian concourse with separated tramway affording great convenience and safety, and one is reassured by the fact that many have been successfully completed without in any way spoiling the street scene or endangering adjacent buildings.

World's End Housing

by Noel Blakiston

Visit of the Chelsea Society at 5.30 p.m., 1st June, 1976

To those of us who had, soon after the end of the last World War, first heard of proposals by the Borough to develop large areas in West Chelsea, and who had then followed debates as to the propriety of building tower blocks on land obtained by demolishing several buildings of architectural and historic interest, not to speak of many sound Victorian houses in which people were living happily, indeed, says the Chelsea Society Report of 1963, were 'passionately attached to their homes', many of them artists and authors; as to the wisdom of extending the density limit at the World's End from 135 to 200 persons to the acre; and as to the folly of building over against Lots Road Power Station at the moment that it was to be converted from coal to oil, 'regardless of the noxious consequences of the daily emission of so great a quantity of poison gas' over Chelsea—to those of us, I say, who watched the Eric Lyons plans overcome these and many other objections at the start, and then survive, during the decade of the building, such desperate frustrations as all could see, it was a great day for our Society when the architects kindly arranged a conducted visit for us to parts of the new building that are already inhabited.

We were received in his site office by Mr. John Metcalfe, architect, who gave us a general introductory talk. Our party of about sixty people was then arranged in groups, each under a guide provided by the contractors, Messrs. Bovis. The tour was excellently managed. Our guides, who could answer every question, took us around several elevated walkways, showing us the layout of the whole area of building, with its towers and green spaces, and with many views out onto Chelsea and the river. The climax of the tour was a visit to the seventeenth storey of the Berenger Tower from which we could enjoy a superlative panorama of London. The dizziness which comes over some of us when we have gone up in a lift to a top room in a high office block, and look out of a window at an appalling void, and feel that the moment of suicide is upon us, becomes much less at the World's End skyscrapers by the way in which the shapes of the towers have been artfully disrupted. You do not look out upon a void. Only a few yards away from your window there projects a reassuring wedge of brown brickwork. You are part of something safe and solid.

From the Berenger Tower we re-assembled in the architect's site office for refreshments and discussed our experiences. My own general impression, which seemed, so far as I could judge widely held, was that we had seen a most imaginative building, or series of

buildings, worthily occupying this prominent site in Chelsea at a bend in the river. Whatever criticism it comes in for, nobody surely will call it boring. The variety in the heights and shapes of the towers, as in the various shapes of the rooms, should prevent that.

I have one or two questions. The day of our visit was a windy day. I wonder whether, as in the neighbourhood of most skyscrapers, the ground floor area of the World's End building is always windy. Then I was a bit doubtful as to whether there are enough lifts. And what about play space for children and teen-agers? It seems that there is hardly yet enough occupation for this last problem to be fully assessed; indeed that obviously cannot be done until the new community centre has been built between Dartrey Tower and the World's End pub. Perhaps it may be hoped that in the proposed Meek Street development the needs of the neighbouring youth at World's End may be generously considered.

Before leaving the site, several of our members accepted the kind offer of Mr. and Mrs. Fryer, Chairman and Secretary of the Tenants' Association, and Miss Carpenter and others, to show their own flats. There could be no doubt about the enthusiasm of these tenants for their new homes. The fact of their organising themselves into an association implies that they are a vocal body. And this is borne out by the news sheet they issue, which emphasises such matters as making an intelligent use of the excellent refuse chutes with which the tenants have been provided, cleaning the walkways outside their flats and disciplining their children, which show their determination to make the estate an attractive and enjoyable place to live in. There seems to be a fund of pride and goodwill that augurs well for a happy community life. The Chelsea Society will surely retain a lively interest in the welfare of this new township that has been planted amongst us.

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Metcalfe for organising our visit and the many guides and others who contributed to its success, particularly Mr. Bill Bowman, responsible for security on the site, who was most helpful in every way.

Arbori . . . What?

by P. M. Annett

(Arboriculturist for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea)

The trees of Chelsea are well known for their profusion and splendour; they have been a most important element in the scenery for many years. From the time of the large private gardens and market gardens to the present day, trees have provided greenery, and a change of form from the straight lines of the buildings and streets. Probably the oldest and most memorable of these trees would be the Mulberry, brought to fame by those planted by Sir Thomas More in the sixteenth century. Some are reputed to be still growing from these plantings, and many have been planted since that time to continue the tradition. Trees are of great importance to life in London—they provide colour, shelter for wildlife, and they help sweeten the air. In the last few years of population expansion there has had to be an increase in new housing, roads, industrial development and leisure facilities. There has been a corresponding increase in the effort made to plant and conserve trees of amenity, or aesthetic, value. This has resulted in a specialist field or work dealing with tree planting, preservation, tree care and maintenance. While the founders of the Physic Garden most certainly were experts in their field, most private householders know very little about trees and for this reason the Council employs a specialist in Arboriculture to maintain the Council's trees and advise private householders on tree problems.

The trees in Chelsea, as in any urban area, can be divided into private trees and public trees. These two classes must harmonise and link private houses and gardens to the roads and larger public buildings and offices.

The planting of street trees is not a straightforward business. Once a suitable position has been found from a visual inspection, a test hole has to be dug to establish the presence—or absence—of underground services, cellars and whether the soil conditions are suitable. If the test hole is clear then the species and form of tree has to be chosen so that as it matures it will fit into its surroundings. As the tree matures it may require pruning and maintenance. This is certainly necessary for the many mature trees at present growing in the pavements. This work consists, firstly, of the diagnosis and treatment of pests and diseases, many of which cannot readily be treated due to the situation or size of the trees. Problems may range from fungal decay to Anthracnose of Plane, a problem that is present all over London. Other diseases include Silverleaf disease and Fireblight, both of which seriously affect Cherries, Thorns, Mountain Ash and their related genera. (Apart from such disorders

there are also problems arising from damage by cars and lorries hitting trunks or breaking branches.) The principal example of this is at present Dutch Elm Disease, which is steadily removing the Elm from the scenery of London. Control of this disease is a controversial subject, but the overriding factor is the cost of treatment, bearing in mind the low success rate on older trees and those with more than 20% of the branches infected with the disease. The most effective treatment is to fell and burn seriously affected trees or branches.

Surgery may be necessary, especially where the tree has been weakened by the pattern of its own branch structure or by decay. Decay can arise from branches breaking and the subsequent wound not being treated, or by some break in the bark letting in fungal spores. Suitable treatment would include removing all decayed material, ensuring that water was either not allowed to enter or would have a means of draining from the problem area. For weak branch formations a method whereby cables brace branches together, has been developed and is now unobtrusive and efficient. A weak branch can be supported by a strong branch by fixing a thin flexible steel cable to both.

Pruning of street trees is a problem as many trees have been planted in the wrong situation; as the trees grow they become too large and cause difficulties with restriction of light and they may even damage property. In these cases pruning is necessary. Treatment is carried out to retain as much of the natural shape of the trees as possible by thinning or reducing the density, and pruning branches from adjoining properties. In some cases more drastic treatment is required in the form of reducing and reshaping a tree. This method of pruning is designed to retain a tree in a situation that it has outgrown or to provide a new lease of life for a tree that is deteriorating. The result is similar to letting down a balloon—the shape is retained but the overall volume is reduced.

There comes a time when a tree has to be felled, either through old age or by fatal damage. Where possible a replacement tree is planted nearby to continue the greenery in the area. Planting is carried out with trees about 4.5m (15ft.) high so that an impact is made immediately and so that the tree has a chance of survival.

For private trees there is a wider choice as many different species can be used and many different effects can be created. Some trees unsuitable for planting in the street are marvellous in a garden. Such trees include conifers, some of the larger trees like Beech and Oak, and many uncommon and more delicate trees such as Mimosa and the Judas tree. The main points to bear in mind when planting trees in a garden are the effect the tree will have on the garden and adjoining buildings as regards restriction of light, and the general

mass of the tree becoming overpowering. Roots will affect walls if the trees are planted too close; thus the siting of trees is important. Care should be taken first to choose a suitable site and then to select a tree with the height, habit and characteristics which conform to the site. Trees, like shrubs, can be chosen for autumn colour, berries, spring, summer or winter flowers, interesting bark or other outstanding features, and they should harmonise or contrast, as desired, with the surrounding features. The planting of young trees should be carried out as carefully as their selection so as to ensure that the result is appropriate.

Damage can be caused by compost heaps and fires, both of which generate heat and harm trees. Trunks can be scorched, killing off the sap cells under the bark. Very often there will be an area of bark missing from the base of a tree, with either dry or rotten wood exposed. In most cases this has been caused by a compost heap or fire and can be fatal to the health and structure of the tree. Branches can also be scorched and burnt by fire, creating an entrance for further infection by fungi or insect. It is advisable to keep all fires and compost well away from trees.

The maintenance of the trees is similar to that described earlier for street trees, although ideally little maintenance should be required. Regular pruning or pollarding is required on some trees that have been planted in the wrong place and this can be brutal treatment. It is better where possible to carry out careful pruning rather than drastic cutting so that the shape, size and amenity value of the tree is not severely reduced. Unless one knows exactly what should be done, all tree pruning and felling should be carried out by a specialist. There are many amateurs who solicit for work, but it is always best to employ a specialist contractor who is qualified and approved, and who is fully covered by insurance. One does not have to look far to see trees which have been mutilated by people who know little about tree surgery or pruning. The Royal Borough has tried to safeguard against this happening by placing Tree Preservation Orders on many trees which provide an amenity and by supplying a list of approved contractors who offer an expert tree surgery service. Tree Preservation Orders are made by the Council on individual, groups or areas of trees. Most pruning and felling work to preserved trees can only be done with the Council's permission, and unless the Council agrees, a preserved tree that is felled must be replaced, subject to the approval of the Council. Trees in Conservation Areas not already preserved, with trunks over 75mm (3 inches) in diameter, are also now controlled. Special attention is given to the appearance of these areas and so trees in them are particularly important. The Council must be given six weeks written notice of any pruning or felling work to such trees. If they are worth preserving, an Order will be made within this period and permission for the work granted or refused. For both Preserved trees and trees in

Conservation Areas a written application is required. An application for work to a preserved tree requires a formal letter of approval or refusal from the Council before any work can commence, while a tree in a Conservation Area can be treated according to details laid down in the application if nothing is heard from the Council within six weeks of the date of the application. Such an application should contain the location, number and type of trees (if known), the work proposed and reasons for it. Fines can be imposed for non-compliance with this procedure, up to £200 for unauthorised pruning and £400 for unauthorised felling. This, however, could be increased if the value of the tree is found to be greater than the sum of the fine.

There are about 2,500 trees under Tree Preservation Orders in Chelsea and about three-fifths of Chelsea is under Conservation Areas. Many people are unaware of the law relating to trees, both statutory and common law, and it is always advisable to check before any action is taken.

The tree on a development site is always vulnerable and every precaution should be taken to protect it during demolition and building work. So often one sees trees damaged by heavy machinery which may result in their disfigurement, instability or even death. Changes in soil level, either up or down, will affect the availability of water, to which trees are most susceptible. Contractors are controlled through Planning Conditions as well as Tree Preservation Orders, and advice is available on the best ways of protecting trees on development sites.

Trees, then, can add much to the appearance of an area, especially if they have been planted in suitable sites. Trees in gardens and trees in streets are both important and need to be looked after in much the same way. It is hoped that in the future as in the past Chelsea trees will continue to play an important part in the townscape and be a source of admiration for residents and visitors alike.

A Venetian Painter in Chelsea

by Jeffery Daniels

As a Chelsea resident and as the compiler of a *catalogue raisonné* of the works of the Venetian artist Sebastiano Ricci (1659-1734), recently published by Wayland of Hove (£45), I have a particular interest in the Royal Hospital, whose chapel contains one of the painter's most important works, a *Resurrection of Christ*, painted directly on the plaster of the semi-dome which crowns the apse containing the altar.

The Royal Hospital's foundation, sentimentally but erroneously linked with the name of Nell Gwynne, was the result of Charles II's desire to emulate his cousin Louis XIV's example in providing for invalided soldiers and veterans through the erection of the *Hôtel des Invalides* in Paris. The London equivalent, which was begun to designs by Sir Christopher Wren in February 1682 was ready for occupation some seven years later, although the chapel was not consecrated until 1691, by which time James II's daughter Mary II and her Dutch husband William III were ruling as joint sovereigns; some of the fine collection of plate, however, bears her dispossessed father's initials.

Sebastiano Ricci perhaps needs some introduction, as he is less appreciated in England than his nephew Marco (1676-1730), whose romantically wild landscapes and vigorous shipwreck scenes were much in demand as overdoors for the staterooms of country houses: the remarkable set at Temple Newsam House, Leeds is a good example. Sebastiano was the more highly considered in his time, being a 'history' painter who dealt with noble, religious, historical or mythological themes, often in an elegant, highly decorative manner that borders on the frivolous, as in his overmantels at Chiswick House, painted about 1713 for Lord Burlington and installed in 1729 during William Kent's decoration of the newly-completed villa. Ricci's social background was modest, and he was born in the small hill-town of Belluno, where he seems to have received only a very simple basic education. He transferred to Venice at the age of 12, joining first the studio of an expatriate Milanese painter, Federico Cervelli, and later that of the much more interesting Sebastiano Mazzoni, originally from Florence, but working in Venice, where he died in 1678.

Ricci's next move was to Bologna, whither, according to one contemporary source, he fled to escape the legal consequences of an attempt to poison his young mistress, whom he later in fact married. He seems to have appreciated his studies in Bologna, the birthplace of Academic art, and he collaborated during the mid-1680's with Ferdinando Galli Bibiena on frescoes in a small oratory just outside

Parma. The Duke of Parma, Ranuccio II Farnese proved to be his most important patron during these early years, and after commissioning a series of decorations for his summer palace in Piacenza, he sent Ricci to Rome to study, granting him a pension of 25 crowns a month and rooms in Palazzo Farnese. While in Rome he worked for the Colonna family, the Pope, Innocent XII and Louis XIV of France, for whom he completed a copy of Raphael's *Coronation of Charlemagne*. He already had contacts in Milan and Pavia, and so, when his patron Ranuccio died, just before Christmas 1694, he decided to move north to Lombardy, travelling via Florence, Bologna, Modena and Parma, where he would almost certainly have paid his respects to the new Duke, Francesco. His three years in Milan were disappointing and he seems to have found it difficult to obtain sufficient work, with the result that he decided to return to Venice (probably in 1698) where he found immediate success, painting frescoes and canvases for churches and participating in the embellishment of one of the most splendid rooms in Venice, the great *salone* of Palazzo Barbaro at St. Stefano, where his huge *Rape of the Sabines*, together with works by Balestra and the young Piazzetta, is inserted into a stupendous scheme of stucco decoration in high relief, which is one of the few of its date in Venice to survive.

In 1700 Ricci frescoed a chapel and painted an altarpiece in nearby Padua, and a year later made the longer journey to Vienna, where in the Schönbrunn Palace, which had been begun in 1696 to the designs of Fischer von Erlach, he frescoed the ceiling of a Hall of Mirrors with an *Allegory of Princely Virtues* and probably painted the *Ascension of Christ* for the Catholic Church in Dresden that now hangs in the Gemäldegalerie. From Vienna he returned to Venice, apparently by way of his birthplace where he decorated a charming ante-room with a series of canvases again part of a total scheme carried out in stucco. This Palazzo Fulcis group was unfortunately dispersed during World War I, but most of the pictures can be traced, including two depicting incidents from the life of Hercules. This was a subject that Ricci found very popular with his noble and aristocratic patrons, and his masterpiece in the field of secular art is almost certainly the *Sala d'Ercole* of Palazzo Marucelli in Florence, carried out in 1706-7; in collaboration with Giuseppe Tonelli, who provided the fictive architectural framework, Ricci covered the walls and ceiling with scenes from the life of Hercules, including his *Apotheosis* in the ceiling. Altogether he decorated five rooms in the palace, and before leaving Florence he again collaborated with Tonelli on a small ante-room for the Grand Prince Ferdinand de' Medici in Palazzo Pitti.

Ricci's second return to Venice was even more of a success than the first had been, and the date 1708 is proudly inscribed on the beautiful altarpiece that he was immediately commissioned to provide for Palladio's church of San Giorgio Maggiore: Ricci's

glowing colours and elegant composition are consciously modelled on those of his great sixteenth-century predecessor, Paolo Veronese, whose enormous *Marriage at Cana* then still adorned the Refectory of the adjoining monastery.

In the same year the Earl of Manchester appeared in Venice as Ambassador Extraordinary from Queen Anne to the Venetian Republic, and although the political results of his mission were negligible, the cultural repercussions were considerable, since, when he departed in October, he took with him Sebastiano's nephew Marco and another figure painter, Gian Antonio Pellegrini. The latter was considered to be something of a rival to Sebastiano, and the story goes that in England Marco and he quarrelled, with the result that Marco decided to return to Italy to fetch his uncle whose arrival he knew would effectively reduce Pellegrini's opportunities. Leone Pascoli writing in 1736, asserts that Sebastiano received a direct command from the Queen to come to London, but whichever story is true, there can be little doubt that he arrived in the winter of 1711-12. The chief prize available to a painter at that moment was the job of decorating the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, which had just been finished, and in fact another contemporary, John Talman, writing from Rome on 18th November, 1711 mentions this as the reason for Ricci's trip to London, describing him contemptuously as 'no more than a scene painter'. As we all know the commission went after much intriguing to Sir James Thornhill, as did that for the ceiling of the Prince of Wales' bedroom at Hampton Court Palace, and for the same entirely chauvinistic reasons. However, Ricci was patronised by several wealthy noblemen, notably the Earl of Burlington (the dismembered elements of whose staircase decorations still remain at Burlington House) and the Earl (later Duke) of Portland, the ceiling of whose 'Great Room' in his town house in St. James's Square Ricci painted with another *Apotheosis of Hercules*.

The Chelsea *Resurrection* was probably Ricci's last major English undertaking, and as the otherwise very full documentation of the building and furnishing of the Royal Hospital makes no mention of it, the assumption has always been made, probably correctly, that it was a royal commission. My own theory, which I first advanced in *The Burlington Magazine* in 1974, is that it was painted at the command of George I, as a memorial to the last of the Protestant Stuarts, Queen Anne, who died on 1st August, 1714. The obvious irony that Ricci was both a Roman Catholic and a foreigner would not have been lost on his contemporaries, and Ricci owed his good fortune to the fact that the most powerful man in the country during the Autumn of 1714 happened also to be a Catholic, and married to an Italian, the daughter of a Bolognese marchese: Charles Talbot, 1st and only Duke of Shrewsbury.

Virtually the same age as Ricci, he had been appointed Lord High Treasurer by Queen Anne on her deathbed, and it was in no small measure thanks to his efficiency and tact that the accession of the first Hanoverian king to the throne took place so smoothly. We know from George Vertue, whose *Notebooks* are the most useful source of information about artists in England at the period, that Ricci had earlier gained 'the interest and favour of the Duke of Shrewsbury who was then Lord Chamberlain and in whose power it was to imploy what Painter he pleas'd'. Having been prevented on that occasion from employing Ricci (to paint the Prince of Wales's bedchamber), it seems more than likely that once in a position of real power he should give his favourite painter this sensitive and prestigious commission. It could also explain the existence of two highly finished *bozzetti* or sketches for the composition: that now in the Dulwich College Picture Gallery is undoubtedly the prime original, presumably submitted for official approval before he began work on site, the other (now in the Columbia Museum of Art, South Carolina, Samuel H. Kress Collection) perhaps made as a personal present from the grateful artist to his influential friend the Duke. The technique is oil on plaster which, as Edward Croft-Murray has pointed out, was customary with painters working in England (for example Verrio and Laguerre), even when, like Ricci, they were capable of working in fresco, and the work suffered considerably during World War II, when the hospital was damaged by bombs. It was skilfully restored, however, and certainly makes a considerable impact on the visitor, who is understandably surprised on entering a Protestant chapel to be confronted by the floating angels and gesticulating figures of the Italian Baroque. The only pity is that so few people seem to know it is there.

Obituary

DAME SYBIL THORNDIKE (1882-1976)

Of necessity, theatre people are nomadic, so it was as unconventional as it was delightful for all of us, her neighbours, that one of the greatest of them should make Chelsea her home for so long. Dame Sybil Thorndike lived off the King's Road for well over half a century: first, at 6 Carlyle Square; then at 74 Oakley Street, where her brother Russell and his family lived subsequently; finally, at 98 Swan Court, off Chelsea Manor Street, for the rest of her life—with one break when she was bombed-out in the Blitz.

This is not the place to catalogue her theatrical achievements for she and her husband, the late Sir Lewis Casson, were as familiar in the streets of Chelsea as they were famous on the world's stages. When she first played Shaw's St. Joan in 1923, she was already well-known in Chelsea shops as a housewife in her thirties with four children. Their tastes were modest: for eating out, it would be small restaurants like the Bar-B-Q, or the old Six Bells and their favourite, Betty Rivoli's little restaurant in Swan Court. They rarely travelled by taxi and indeed my own earliest specific memory of her is of a meeting on a No. 11 bus when, as a small boy, I was mortified to be hailed by that magnificent voice: "*Darling! You lamb!*"

Sybil's three Chelsea homes were intensely active, the procession of visitors constant. The front door of the Swan Court flat was rarely locked and through it came not only the great people of the theatre—she regarded Lord Olivier and Sir John Gielgud almost as sons—but a flow of family, friends and admirers, some of them strangers. Many of those who had met Sybil only briefly assumed by the warmth and interest she displayed that they could regard themselves as close friends and Sybil was pleased, rather than irritated, by this.

When Sybil and Lewis were alone, activity seemed to increase to satisfy their intellectual curiosity. They were passionately interested in new ideas: *avant garde* plays, religious philosophies, political theories, literature and music. I remember Lewis, soon after their sixtieth wedding anniversary, watching a report of the first manned orbit of the Moon on television, saying, "This is the best present I could have had." I recall taking a university don—elderly but a decade younger than Sybil—to Swan Court and, on being asked what he was doing nowadays, saying that he still had his radio. "I adore radio!" Sybil had replied, "I'm just going to record some poetry and my son John, his daughter Jane and I are doing a three-generations programme. When can I hear you?" Well, mumbled her visitor, he had actually meant that he *listened* to the radio.

There were two pillars to Sybil's life in Chelsea. One was her family; after Lewis's death, six of them were still in Chelsea, others nearby. The other was her church. The relationship between Sybil and Christ Church and its vicar, Prebendary François Piachaud, was positive, for hers was an enquiring, rather than a passive, faith. Long after infirmity would have kept others away, Sybil attended Christ Church; as the end approached, her parish priest attended her and, afterwards, stood with her family as her ashes were given into the keeping of Westminster Abbey.

TOM POCKOCK

Book Reviews

THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

by Hester Marsden-Smedley. Constable. 1976. £3.50

The history of the Chelsea Flower Show has been most thoroughly and entertainingly researched by Mrs. Marsden-Smedley from the days when it was first held in the grounds of the Inner Temple in 1888 and where it continued to be held until 1911 (despite the misgivings of some Benchers over the strong smells of the "hot, pungent soups" provided in the Refreshment Tent for chilled and muddy patrons). Finally outgrowing these peaceful gardens the Great Spring Show was moved in 1913 to the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where it has taken root and increased in size, interest and variety drawing an ever increasing number of garden lovers.

The author has a delightfully noticing eye for the unusual, whether it is for the dramatic, in the attendance in 1912 of the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his garden-loving wife whose assassination was so shortly to alter the course of history; the parochial, in the delight of the children of Christchurch School in the wild flowers included in one of the outdoor rock gardens of the 1913 Show (an inclusion interestingly extended by the Kew exhibit of British wild flowers in 1976); the gastronomic, in a nostalgic list of wine prices from 1926; or the horticulturally outstanding in the arrival *in toto* of the Vilmorin *potager* in 1958.

The most encouraging piece of information garnered by the attentive Mrs. Marsden-Smedley is that a ten years' lease was signed in 1975 between the R.H.S. and the Royal Hospital authorities, so we can look forward to the annual spectacle of devoted and heroically burdened gardeners leaving the grounds as usual on the final Friday.

The book is well illustrated with photographs and has an admirable index.

A.L.

A PLACE CALLED CHELSEA

Edited by John Gullick. City Journals Ltd. £4.75

A Place called Chelsea is a scrapbook made up of short articles, drawings and photographs, all of them reprinted from the lamented *Monthly Times of Chelsea*. If, like other scrapbooks, it lacks coherence (apart from that given by the unifying approach of its compiler, John Gullick) that shortcoming is amply compensated for by the originality of many of the contributions. Where would you hope to find information about Chelsea Creek? Iris Oliver

here provides it. Or about the Blue Cockatoo and Hettie, its guiding spirit? Tom Pocock's article brings to life again a restaurant which played something of the same role for the thirties as had Don Saltero's, a hundred yards further east along Cheyne Walk, for an earlier period. Or about Dr. Phene and his extraordinary gingerbread castle in Upper Cheyne Row? Hester Marsden-Smedley rescues the Doctor from oblivion in one of her many contributions to the miscellany.

In spite of the lack of discernible arrangement in the presentation of the material, it might be divided up into articles on particular streets or areas (Old Church Street, Sloane Square, Tedworth Square, for example); Chelsea notabilities, living and dead (John Osborne, St. Thomas More, Joyce Grenfell, Sir Hans Sloane amongst them); and essays in graphic journalism. Amongst these last the photographs of John Hignell are particularly taking. Perhaps it is no surprise to conclude, however, that the article which is the most characteristic of its author is the one on Elm Park Gardens by Laurie Lee.

The book may be had from W. H. Smith in Sloane Square.

S.C.

AN HISTORICAL ATLAS OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Compiled by B. R. Curle and P. Meara

Kensington and Chelsea Public Libraries. £1-00

Although it has been available since 1971, all members may not know of this admirable publication (now in its third impression). In it are reproduced ten maps of Chelsea at different stages of its evolution during the years from 1717 to 1901. The earliest map, which is based on the survey made by James Hamilton in 1664, shows a Chelsea which by then had 'mightily increased' to a total of 350 houses. In 1901, the date of Bacon's map, the population had begun to decline from the peak of 75,196 which it had reached five years earlier. The reproductions are smaller than the originals, but it is not clear to what extent. Their quality is adequate. The *Atlas*, which includes an equal number of maps of Kensington, may be obtained from the Library in Manresa Road.

S.C.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 1975 show a deficit in income—for the second year running. Unfortunately, our annual subscription income has fallen, although Life Membership has increased.

As you know, we have now raised the minimum Annual Subscription to £3 for individuals, £5 for husband and wife and £30 for Life Membership. We have been loth to do this but costs are still rising and there was no alternative. However, I hope you will agree that this is still very good value. In this connection, may I take the opportunity to remind you that Bankers' Orders should be amended to cover the new rate and the new date of 1st January instead of 1st February. This change is largely administrative and I hope will ensure that all subscriptions are paid long before the Summer Meeting. If these are still outstanding by May, names will be removed from Membership.

We have made great efforts to economise and the Annual Report—our largest single item of expense—will, we hope this year be no more expensive than last, and very possibly be less.

We have not produced a new Christmas Card but are selling stocks of previous years. These can be bought this evening and cost 50p for ten cards with envelopes. I do hope many of you will buy these.

Also, I would ask you to encourage your friends to join the Society. We are coming to our fiftieth anniversary in 1977 and a membership of 1,000 would seem a nice round figure to aim for. Forms are available from the Membership Secretary.

Finally, my thanks again to Mr. Roland Clarke for his invaluable help in producing these accounts.

PATRICIA GELLEY,

Hon. Treasurer.

2nd November, 1976

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1975

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
General Fund at 31.12.74	177.87	Balance in Post Office Account	3138.35
Less Deficit for 1975 in Income and Expenditure Account	166.80	Balance at Bank	132.15
General Fund at 31.12.75	11.07		
1976 subscriptions paid in advance	22.30		
Sundry Creditors	1051.20		
Life Membership Fund 31.12.75	2185.93		
	<u>£3270.50</u>		<u>£3270.50</u>

General Fund: Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1975

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Annual Subscriptions	737.02	Cost of Annual Report	1051.20
Transfer from Life Membership Fund	500.00	Stationery, Postage and Miscellaneous	370.56
Interest on Deposit Account	2.99	Cost of Annual General Meeting	23.85
Net Surplus on sale of Christmas Cards	43.80	Donations to other organisations	5.00
Deficit for year carried to Balance Sheet	166.80		
	<u>£1450.61</u>		<u>£1450.61</u>

Life Membership Fund Account for the year ended 31st December, 1975

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
	£	£
Life Membership Fund 31.12.74	2221.63	
Life Membership fees for 1975	339.00	Transfer to General Fund towards current expenses
Interest on Post Office Account for 1975	261.15	Income tax 1971-74
Balance of interest for 1974	42.49	Life Membership Fund 31.12.75
	£2864.27	
		£2864.27

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.

P. C. GELLEY,
Hon. Treasurer.

R. D. CLARKE,
Hon. Auditor.

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.
 *THE LORD ADEANE
 *COMMANDER H. L. AGNEW, R.N.
 ROY ALDERSON, ESQ.
 *MISS HELEN ALFORD
 *LT.-COL. J. H. ALLASON, M.P.
 *MISS D. C. ALLASON
 THE LADY ALLEN OF HURTWOOD, F.I.L.A.
 MISS C. J. M. ALLEN
 *MRS. RUPERT ALLHUSEN
 *J. A. W. AMBLER, ESQ.
 *THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
 *DOUGLAS H. ANDREW, ESQ.
 *MISS G. P. A. ANDREWS
 *THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
 *THE EARL OF ANTRIM
 MISS E. ARBUTHNOT
 *MRS. JOHN ARMSTRONG
 *MRS. M. G. ASCHAN
 MRS. OSCAR ASHCROFT
 *MAJOR A. L. ASHWELL
 THE HON. NICHOLAS ASSHETON
 *MRS. R. J. V. ASTELL
 *MRS. PHILIP ASTLEY, O.B.E.
 *HON. M. L. ASTOR
 MRS. H. G. AUBRUN

 F. R. BADEN-POWELL, ESQ.
 LADY BAILEY
 LADY SARAH BAILY
 MRS. E. A. BAKER
 MISS J. K. BAKER-WILBRAHAM
 G. E. BALL, ESQ.
 MISS PATRICIA BANKS
 D. BARING, ESQ.
 *D. H. BARLOW, ESQ.
 J. C. BARNARD, ESQ.
 MRS. W. J. BARNES
 MISS RAIE BARNETT
 *MISS JEAN BARRIE
 W. J. BARROW, ESQ.
 *DEREK BARTON, ESQ.
 *MRS. DEREK BARTON
 MRS. IRENE BARTON
 MRS. ROGER BASSETT
 *MRS. L. BAYFIELD
 *COLONEL SIR TUFTON BEAMISH,
 M.C., D.L., M.P.

 *MISS VIVIAN BEAMISH
 MRS. ANNE BEARN
 *MISS A. M. G. BEATON

 *E. V. BEATON, ESQ.
 *MISS J. F. BEATON
 J. BECKER, ESQ.
 P. BECKER, ESQ.
 ROBERT BECKETT, ESQ.
 MRS. ROBERT BECKETT
 *WILLIAM BELL, ESQ.
 M. G. BENDON, ESQ.
 MRS. M. BENDON
 MRS. ANNE TREGO BENNETT
 *MISS ANNE BERRIMAN
 ANTHONY BERRY, ESQ.
 GILES BEST, ESQ.
 SIR JOHN BETJEMAN
 MRS. PATRICIA BEVAN
 *ERNEST BIGGIN, ESQ.
 MISS CELIA BIGHAM
 *MISS W. L. BILBIE
 VERE, LADY BIRDWOOD, C.V.O.
 *E. W. BISSETT, ESQ.
 MISS C. BLAKE
 *MRS. G. BLAKISTON
 *NOEL BLAKISTON, ESQ., O.B.E.
 W. BLOIS JOHNSON, ESQ.
 MRS. C. C. BLOIS JOHNSON
 *MISS MURIEL BOND
 *MISS NANCY BOOL
 *MISS S. K. BOORD
 MRS. REGINALD BOSWELL
 REGINALD BOSWELL, ESQ.
 *LADY BOTTOMLEY
 PHILIP BOUCAS, ESQ.
 MRS. PHILIP BOUCAS
 *TIMOTHY BOULTON, ESQ.
 R. T. BOUTALL, ESQ., F.R.I.B.A.
 MRS. TAUNTON BOUTALL
 MISS MURIEL BOWEN
 MRS. BOWIE-MENZLER
 *MISS M. D. BOYD
 R. M. A. BRAINE, ESQ.
 MRS. R. M. A. BRAINE
 REAR-ADMIRAL F. B. P. BRAYNE-NICHOLLS,
 C.B., D.S.C.

 *THE HON. VIRGINIA BRETT
 *MRS. M. BRIDGES
 MISS E. M. E. BRIGHTEN
 MRS. E. BROADBENT-JONES
 DENIS BROADBANK, ESQ.
 A. H. BROOKHOLDING JONES, ESQ.
 C. R. E. BROOK, ESQ.
 J. ELLIOTT BROOKS, ESQ.
 *MRS. E. BROUGHTON-ADDERLEY
 *MISS ANTHONY BROWN

- FRANCIS BROWN, ESQ.
 *J. FRANCIS BROWN, ESQ., C.B.E.
 *RICHARD BROWN, ESQ., F.R.I.C.S.
 *MRS. SPENCER CURTIS BROWN
 MRS. U. K. BROWN
 *W. M. G. BROWN, ESQ.
 *MRS. A. BROWNING
 A. A. G. S. BUCHANAN, ESQ.
 MRS. E. J. BUCHANAN
 MISS A. BUCKLEY
 *MISS HILDA BUCKMASTER
 *MISS JACINTHE BUDDICOM
 *RICHARD BURGESS, ESQ.
 R. W. BURLTON, ESQ.
 MRS. ANNE BUXTON
 *THE HON. JULIAN F. BYNG
- *THE EARL CADOGAN, M.C.
 *R. A. W. CAINE, ESQ.
 MRS. GLADYS CALTHROP
 *MRS. HUGH CAMPBELL
 *MRS. RACHEL CAMPBELL
 MISS SYBIL CAMPBELL, O.B.E.
 MRS. CAMPBELL JONES
 *R. P. CARR, ESQ.
 SAMUEL CARR, ESQ.
 MRS. HENRY CARR
 *MRS. DONALD CARTER
 MRS. E. M. CARTER, O.B.E.
 L. CARTER, ESQ.
 MRS. L. CARTER
 *BRYAN CARVALHO, ESQ., M.B.E.
 *DR. R. R. N. CARVALHO
 *MRS. BRYAN CARVALHO
 JOHN CASSON, ESQ.
 MRS. JOHN CASSON
 J. A. T. CAULFIELD, ESQ.
 CAPT. M. K. CAVENAGH-MAINWAIRING,
 D.S.O., R.N.
 VICTOR CAVENDISH-BENTINCK, ESQ., C.M.G.
 *THE RT. HON. LORD CHALFONT, P.C.,
 O.B.E., M.C.
- I. O. CHANCE, ESQ.
 MRS. I. O. CHANCE
 MRS. PAUL CHANNON
 CHELSEA YACHT AND BOAT COMPANY
 *THE LORD CHELWOOD, M.C., D.L.
 MRS. A. W. CHEYNE
 J. R. CHISHOLM, ESQ.
 R. A. CHISHOLM, ESQ.
 MRS. R. A. CHISHOLM
 R. C. CHOLMELEY, ESQ.
 MRS. B. M. CHRISTMAS
 *THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS
 CLAPHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
 MISS D. O. CLARK
 *MISS EDITH CLARKE, O.B.E.
 R. D. CLARKE, ESQ., F.I.A.
 *R. S. CLARKE, ESQ.
 *SIR CHARLES CLAY, C.B., F.S.A.
- *MISS EDITH CLAY, F.S.A.
 *MRS. R. S. CLIFTON
 *THE RT. HON. LORD CLITHEROE, P.C.
 MRS. JACQUES COCHEMÉ
 *E. COCKSHUTT, ESQ., C.ENG., A.M.I. MECH. E.
 MISS IDA COLE
 *MRS. J. B. COLE
 MRS. P. COLES
 W. N. COLES, ESQ.
 MRS. M. COLMORE
 *AIR COMMANDANT DAME JEAN CONAN-
 DOYLE, D.B.E.
- *THE LADY CONESFORD
 MRS. EGERTON COOPER
 MRS. JOHN CORBET-SINGLETON
 DONALD COTTAGE, ESQ.
 *MRS. P. J. COWIN
 MRS. CLEMENT COWLES
 *DR. DAVID CRAIG
 *MICHAEL CRAIG-COOPER, ESQ.
 MRS. A. J. CREWDSON
 *LADY CROFTON
 *THEODORE CROMBIE, ESQ.
 T. S. J. CROOK, ESQ.
 CROSBY HALL LTD.
 F. M. CROWDY, ESQ.
 MRS. M. CROWDY
 MRS. MARY CROWTHER
 MRS. CATHERINE CURRAN, JNR.
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 MRS. DENIS DALY
 ION DANNREUTHER, ESQ.
 MRS. I. DANNREUTHER
 *MISS ESTHER DARLINGTON
 *MRS. MADELINE DAUBENY
 *MRS. OLGA DAVENPORT
 PETER DAVEY, ESQ.
 THE HON. MALCOLM DAVIDSON
 *ALBAN DAVIES, ESQ.
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 MRS. M. H. DAVIS
 MISS E. M. DAVIS
 BRIGADIER F. G. T. DAVIS
 MRS. F. G. T. DAVIS
 DR. JACQUELINE DAVIS
 MISS JOAN L. DAVIS, S.R.N.
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 PETER DAWSON, ESQ.
 *DAVID DAY, ESQ.
 K. L. DAY, ESQ.
 *DR. JOAN S. DEANS
 *ROBIN DE BEAUMONT, ESQ., A.A. DIPL.
 R. G. DE FEREMBRE, ESQ., F.R.S.A.
 J. DE FOREST THOMPSON, ESQ.
 MRS. J. DE FOREST THOMPSON
 BARON DE GERLACHE DE GOMERY, M.V.O.
 DR. JACQUELINE DAVIS
 *THE VISCOUNT DE L'ISLE, V.C., P.C.

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*MRS. EDWARD DENNY
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MISS JOAN DERRIMAN
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G.C.V.O., C.B.E.

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MRS. C. F. S. DE WINTON
THE REV. CANON ALFONSO DE ZULUETA
MISS V. I. DICK

*CHRISTOPHER DICKMAN, ESQ.

*MRS. DOROTHY DIX

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MISS C. C. DOOLEY

*G. M. DORMAN, ESQ.

*MRS. C. T. D'OYLY

MISS L. M. D'OYLY

MRS. P. DRYSDALE

*ERIC DUGDALE, ESQ.

MRS. ERIC DUGDALE

MRS. T. C. DUGDALE

*THE LADY DUNBOYNE

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MRS. S. M. DUNLOP

MRS. J. W. DURNFORD

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V. E. H. DYKES, ESQ.

*MARGOT EATES

MRS. BARBARA EDMEDS

*GUY EDMISTON, ESQ.

RICHARD EDMONDS, ESQ.

MISS J. J. EDWARDS

*MISS P. M. EGERTON

*JOHN EHRLMAN, ESQ., F.B.A., F.S.A.,
F.R.HIST.S.

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MISS E. ELLISON-MACARTNEY

MRS. T. K. ELMSLEY

MAJOR B. Emsell

*DAVID ENDERS, ESQ.

*PHILIP ENGLISH, ESQ.

O. M. ETOE, ESQ.

*PROFESSOR A. A. EVANS, M.A., F.C.P.

C. EVERITT, ESQ.

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*STUART FAIRE, ESQ.

BERNARD FANE-SAUNDERS, ESQ., C.B.E.

MRS. ELLIS MARY FANE-SAUNDERS, M.B.E.

J. W. FIGG, ESQ.

MISS E. M. FISHER, M.V.O., B.E.M.

*MISS U. M. FISHER

*MISS H. M. FITZ-HUGH

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*MAJOR HAMISH FORBES, M.B.E., M.C.

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LADY FORD

*MRS. C. FORDE

*THE LADY FORRES

*MISS MAY FOUNTAIN

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MRS. EILEEN GAIRDNER

PATRICK GARRETT, ESQ.

EDWARD J. GATT, ESQ.

MISS EILY GAYFORD

*MRS. P. C. GELLEY

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J. A. GERE, ESQ.

*MRS. PATRICK GIBSON

*A. D. F. GILBERT, ESQ.

*MRS. A. D. F. GILBERT

*REAR-ADMIRAL THE EARL OF GLASGOW

*THE COUNTESS OF GLASGOW

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MRS. RUPERT GLEADOW

*A. M. DE C. GLEN, ESQ.

*JOHN GLEN, ESQ.

*DR. ALAN GLYN

*MISS ELIZABETH GODFREY

*R. W. GOLLANCE, ESQ.

MISS V. GOLLANCE

EDWIN CAMPBELL GOODALL, ESQ.

*R. P. H. GOOLDEN, ESQ.

THE VISCOUNTESS GOUGH

*AUBREY GOUGH, ESQ., T.D.

MISS NANCY GOW, M.B.E.

G. M. GRACE, ESQ.

MRS. G. M. GRACE

*DR. ELIZABETH F. GRAHAM KERR,
F.R.C.G.P., M.A., M.B., B.CHIR.

HERBERT GRAHAM, ESQ.

*N. J. GRANTHAM, ESQ.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR JOHN GRAY, K.B.E., C.B.

JEREMY GRAYSON, ESQ.

MRS. JEREMY GRAYSON

COLONEL T. H. GRAYSON, O.B.E.

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F.R.C.P.

*MISS MARGARET GREENTREE

*H. ST. L. GRENFELL, ESQ.

*R. P. GRENFELL, ESQ.

*MRS. R. P. GRENFELL, C.B.E.

J. R. GRIERSON, ESQ.

TAWE GRIFFITH, ESQ.

*A. G. GRIMWADE, ESQ., F.S.A.

*MRS. GUINNESS

JOHN GULLICK, ESQ.
*MRS. JOHN GULLICK
COUNCILLOR MURIEL GUMBEL, J.P.
*MISS JOYCE GUTTERIDGE

*W. R. C. HALPIN, ESQ.
*MAJOR E. D. HALTON
*SIR PATRICK HAMILTON, BART.
*R. O. HANCOCK, ESQ.
*T. H. H. HANCOCK, ESQ., F.R.I.B.A.,
M.T.P.I.

MISS D. M. HANNON
M. R. HARDING, ESQ.
LADY CAMILLA HARRIS
R. J. B. HARRIS, ESQ.
*JOHN HARRIS, ESQ., F.S.A., HON.F.R.I.B.A.
*MRS. JOHN HARRIS, M.A., PH.D.
JOHN HARRISON, ESQ.
M. J. H. HARRISON, ESQ.
EDWARD HARVANE, ESQ.
MRS. ERICA HAUSNER
MISS ELSPETH HAY
*E. L. HAYES, ESQ.
MRS. E. L. HAYES
W. S. HAYNES, ESQ.
*MISS CONSTANCE HAYWARD
*LADY HEATH
*MRS. G. HELY-HUTCHINSON
*G. A. HENLEY, ESQ.
MRS. S. HENNIKER-HEATON
*MRS. H. L. Q. HENRIQUES
MRS. M. A. HERRON
MRS. P. H. HESELTINE
*DAVID HICKS, ESQ.
MISS C. HILLIERS
*P. D. J. HIPPISEY-COX, ESQ.
*ANTHONY HIPPISEY-COX, ESQ.
MRS. WILDER HOBSON
MRS. BARBARA L. HODGE
*ELIOT HODGKIN, ESQ.
*MRS. ELIOT HODGKIN
MRS. C. HOLMES
MISS R. M. HOMER
*THE HON. MRS. A. L. HOOD
*FELIX HOPE-NICHOLSON, ESQ.
MISS A. M. HORNBY
*MISS MARGARET HORNBY
MRS. BARBARA HOULDER
*MRS. I. M. HOWARD
MISS DAPHNE HOWESON
*MISS PRIMROSE HOWESON
*D. R. HOWISON, ESQ.
MRS. K. J. HUGHES
*MRS. T. M. HUGHES
*NEIL HUGHES-ONSLow, ESQ.
*JOHN R. F. HUMPHRY, ESQ.
A. C. B. HUNTER, ESQ.
*C. A. HUNTER, ESQ.
*MRS. C. A. HUNTER
*RICHARD HUNTING, ESQ.

*MRS. BRIDGET HUTH
DR. D. J. E. INGRAM, M.A., D.Sc.
LADY IRVINE
*COUNTESS OF IVEAGH

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B. J. JACKSON, ESQ.
*MISS PAMELA JACOBSON
*MISS PEGGY JACOBSON
LADY JAMES
*C. A. B. JAMES, ESQ.
*MRS. K. JAMES
MARTIN JAMES, ESQ.
CONRAD JAMESON, ESQ.
THE HON. MRS. GEOFFREY JAMESON
MRS. ANNE JARDINE
MRS. D. M. JARRETT
KENNETH JAY, ESQ., F.L.A., M.I.L., G.A.
*MRS. H. TREGARTHEN JENKIN
*THE LORD JESSEL, C.B.E.
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H. J. JONES, ESQ.
*P. L. JOSEPH, ESQ.

MRS. JOSEPHINE KAMM
*MRS. VERONICA KEELING
*H. KELLAND, ESQ.
MISS A. P. KELLY
*MISS M. KENNEDY-BELL
THE WORSHIPFUL MAYOR OF KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

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MISS B. O. KIEK
*ALLAN R. KING, ESQ.
*MISS F. B. KING
DR. F. L. KING-LEWIS
MRS. F. L. KING-LEWIS
*THE LORD KINNAIRD
*JAMES KIRKMAN, ESQ.
LADY KIRWAN
*SIR CYRIL H. KLEINWORT
*MISS J. M. KNIGHT
JAMES M. KNOWLES, ESQ., F.R.I.B.A.,
A.M.T.P.I.

LT.COL. F. O. KOEBEL
MRS. M. F. KOEBEL
MRS. M. B. KONSTAM
*HUGH KRALL, ESQ.
REDVERS KYLE, ESQ.

*ALBERTO DE LACERDA, ESQ.
J. D. LAFFEATY, ESQ.
GUY W. LAMBERT, ESQ., C.B.
MRS. GUY LAMBERT, M.B.E.
MRS. M. M. C. LAMBERT
K. E. LANDER, ESQ.
MISS M. M. LANDERS
R. J. O. LASCELLES, ESQ.

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 *W. A. J. LAWRENCE, ESQ.
 *MRS. W. A. J. LAWRENCE
 *GEORGE LAYTON, ESQ.
 REAR-ADMIRAL I. J. LEES-SPALDING, C.B.
 *JOHN LEHMANN, ESQ., C.B.E.
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 MRS. L. LEVSON
 *DR. D. J. LEWIS
 *MRS. LESLEY LEWIS, F.S.A.
 MISS P. JANE LEWIS
 MRS. E. LEWIS COX
 *SIR DAVID LIDDERDALE, K.C.B.
 *THE LADY CAROLINE LINGARD
 H. C. N. LISTER, ESQ.
 DAVID LLOYD, ESQ.
 MRS. DAVID LLOYD
 MRS. T. O. LLOYD
 *G. LLOYD ROBERTS, ESQ.
 *REV. HAROLD LOASBY
 MRS. HAROLD LOASBY
 MRS. EILEEN LOFTUS
 *MRS. LONG
 *THE COUNTESS OF LONGFORD
 *THE VERY REV. CANON JOHN L. LONGSTAFF
 *JOSEPH LOSEY, ESQ.
 *MRS. JOSEPH LOSEY
 *DR. PATRICK LOVETT
 MISS JILL LOWTHER
 JOHN LUDOVICI, ESQ.
 *MISS L. LUMLEY
 C. D. LUSH, ESQ.
 LADY DOROTHY LYGON
 S. D. LYON, ESQ.
 G. A. LYONS, ESQ.
- *E. C. MACADAM, ESQ.
 MRS. Y. MACCARTHY
 *MRS. H. MACCOLL
 *A. R. H. MACDONALD, ESQ.
 *MRS. A. R. H. MACDONALD
 MRS. B. S. MACDONALD
 *MISS I. M. MACDONALD
 MISS N. MACDONALD
 *MISS C. F. N. MACKAY, M.B.E.
 *JAMES MACNAIR, ESQ.
 *HIS HONOUR JUDGE M. J. P. MACNAIR
 *R. ALISTAIR McALPINE, ESQ.
 MISS M. L. McCORMACK
 J. B. W. McDONELL, ESQ.
 *COLIN I. McINTYRE, ESQ.
 *MRS. C. S. McNULTY
 MRS. GEOFFREY MADAN
 *MRS. B. I. M. MAGRAW
 MRS. MICHAEL MAJENDIE
 J. MALARKEY, ESQ.
 MRS. J. MALARKEY
 *GEORGE MALCOLM, ESQ., C.B.E.
 E. MALLET, ESQ.
 MRS. E. MALLET
- MRS. JEAN MANN
 MISS MARGARET MARCHANT, M.B.E.
 MRS. J. MARINDIN, O.B.E.
 FRANCIS MARSDEN, ESQ.
 MRS. BASIL MARSDEN-SMEDLEY
 LUKE MARSDEN-SMEDLEY, ESQ.
 DR. D. M. MARSHALL
 MRS. D. S. MARTIN
 *MRS. M. H. MARTIN
 MISS N. A. MARTIN
 *W. A. MARTIN, ESQ.
 *MISS M. G. MASSY
 MRS. M. MATTHEWS
 MRS. PATRICK LLOYD MATTHEWS
 *MRS. BEN MAUGHAM
 *RICHARD FRANCIS MAURICE, ESQ.
 *LADY MAY
 MRS. ANDREAS MAYOR
 MRS. P. MAYOR
 *MISS IRIS MEDLICOTT
 *SIR JOHN MEGAW
 *LADY MEGAW
 *THE HON. MRS. PHILIP MELDON
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