

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL REPORT 1979



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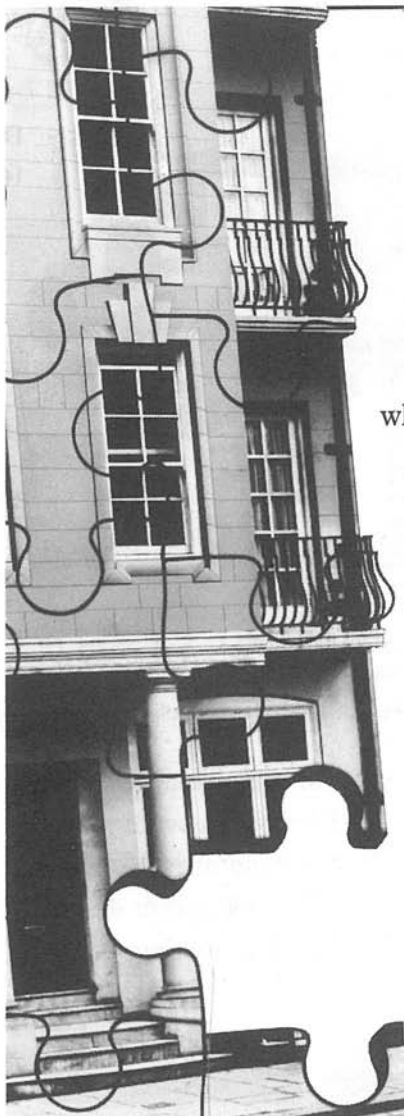
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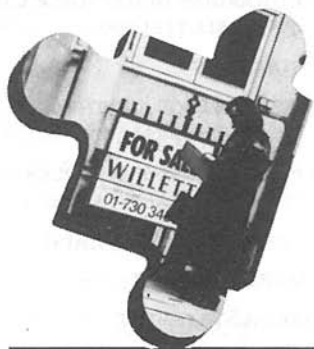
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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

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Vice-President

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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 particularly —
 - (a) stimulating interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea;
 - (b) encouraging good architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and proper maintenance of open spaces;
 - (c) seeking the abatement of nuisances;
 - (d) 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 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) a Chairman of the Council,
 - (b) an Hon. Secretary or Joint Hon. Secretaries,
 - (c) an Hon. Treasurer, and
 - (d) 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

- (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

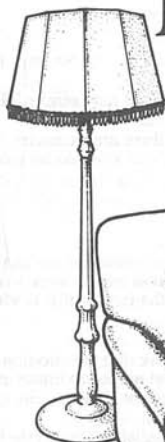
10. (1) These Rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting, if a notice in writing of the proposed amendment has reached the Hon. Secretary at least two weeks before the General Meeting. Provided that nothing herein contained shall authorise any amendment the effect of which would be to cause the Society at any time to cease to be a Charity in Law.
- (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 the winding-up of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Council of the Society and approved by the Meeting of the Society at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed.

**The existing rate is £3 annually payable on the 1st January, or a lump sum of £30 for life membership. The annual husband-and-wife rate is £5.*

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The Annual General Meeting

of the Chelsea Society

was held at The Chelsea College

(by kind permission of the Principal)

on Tuesday, 20th November, 1979 at 8.30 p.m.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Chalfont, P.C., O.B.E., M.C., President of the Society, took the Chair.

- 1) The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 14 November, 1978 were duly approved subject to the inclusion of the confirmation by members present at that meeting of the changes to the constitution of the Society, notice of which changes had previously been given to members of the Society. The President then signed the Minutes.
- 2) The Hon. Treasurer then presented his Annual Report. He explained that there had been a small surplus in 1978 of £74, but this was only due to £232 being received from the Jubilee Fund. He explained that inflation was constantly with us and that the finances of the Society were not in a healthy state and that almost inevitably there would have to be an increase in subscriptions, but that this would not take effect until 1981. The advertising in the Annual Report both for last year and for this year would clearly have a beneficial effect. The Hon. Treasurer also explained that because of the difficulties attendant upon a Life Membership subscription in later years as inflation continued, it had been decided by the Council of the Society that for the time being no further Life Members would be recruited. The Hon. Treasurer then expressed his thanks to Ian Frazer for his considerable assistance. The adoption of the report and accounts was proposed and seconded by Col. Rubens and passed by the meeting.
- 3) The President of the Society then called upon the Chairman of the Society to present his Annual Report. This was delivered in full to the meeting.
- 4) The President then addressed the meeting. He thanked the Chairman for his report and expressed his pleasure at being invited to become President of the Society. He referred to the many friends that he already had amongst members of the Society and how he looked forward to making new friends amongst the Membership. He commented on the vital role played by the Society and how essential it was that the Society must be prepared to resist the invasion of ugliness. He quoted the words of Thucydides: "The strong do what they are able, the weak do what they

must". It was essential that the Society should be strong. The President also referred to the words of Sir William Haley when a junior Leader Writer had suggested that there must be two sides to every question. He had said that "There are some things that are ugly and evil and cruel and no amount of fine writing will make them good or kind or beautiful". Likewise the Society must not hedge, but must side with what was right for the community. The President then concluded by saying that his first work on behalf of the Society had been in connection with the West Cross Route, of which mention had been made in the Chairman's Report, and that now as President he hoped to play an active part in promoting the vital work of the Society.

- 5) At this point the President declared the meeting open for discussion.

Mrs. Penny Pocock commented on the refusal of the G.L.C. to permit an archaeological survey at the Kingsley School site after two years of negotiations. This survey was in connection with the early history of the Chelsea Porcelain manufactory. The Chairman suggested that representations could be made to G.L.C. Councillor William Bell by members.

Mr. Jonathan Wheeler proposed that in view of the considerable costs of postage for all circulars to members some form of hand delivery system using volunteers could be set up to bypass the postal system. The Chairman suggested that those members who were prepared to assist should raise their hands in order to see what nucleus of support there might be. Following this, he proposed that those members who were prepared to assist should give their names to the membership secretary Miss Barbara Towle at the end of the meeting. Mrs. Margaret Haynes then raised the point that she and her husband, the Hon. Treasurer, did in fact do many hand deliveries, but there were particular problems such as various households not having letterboxes or being inaccessible in blocks of flats.

A member then raised the question of the passage of trains through Chelsea which she understood from the leaflet of the prospective Liberal Candidate for the Church Ward (Mrs. Jennifer Ware) were carrying nuclear waste. The Chairman commented that he was not aware of this particular problem in Chelsea, although of course many other Amenity Societies had been faced with it and he referred to the Windscale Inquiry. Admiral Bevan mentioned that he had been concerned with the containers carrying nuclear products and he assured members that these were built to withstand an impact into a concrete wall at 60 miles an hour, followed by a fall and then immersion into water. He assured members that none of the trains concerned would travel at anything like 60 m.p.h. Mr. Conrad Jameson said that this was not a matter which we should merely wish onto our neighbours. He was also concerned about the sabotage aspect.

Lady Wynne-Jones then commented on the current proposals for the Cardiothoracic Centre in Sidney Street and assured members that

whatever had been stated by the hospital authorities, there was definitely no sum of money available for the commencement of this work and in the circumstances no demolition of buildings should be allowed to take place. She had been assured of this by a senior permanent official of the D.H.S.S. and was awaiting confirmation of the lack of funds from the Permanent Secretary, Sir Patrick Nairn. The hospital authorities were threatening demolition very soon even though there was no prospect of the building works commencing.

Conrad Jameson then commented on W.L.T.R. and said that at this time there was unanimity of view in seeking proper enforcement of the lorry bans and the removal of juggernauts from Central London. However, the fact must be faced that at any forthcoming enquiry, there would be a divergence of opinion and W.L.T.R. would not be the vehicle to present all these divergent views. Consequently the Society must realise that although for the previous enquiry £10,000 had been raised, for the next enquiry the sum of £40,000 would be needed. Mrs. Lesley Lewis reiterated that we must be concerned with the current situation and seek improvements immediately, but also said that it was quite disgraceful that having previously raised the £10,000 thanks to the efforts largely of Mr. Noel Blakiston (who was then Chairman) the Society should be faced a few years later with fighting exactly the same battle on which a decision had already been made. This could happen yet again when £100,000 would have to be raised.

Mrs. Mary Colemore expressed her concern regarding the Rectory Garden and wondered if it would be possible that this could be preserved in private use. The Rector of St. Luke's, Prebendary Harold Loasby, replied to this by announcing that the well-known firm of architects, Messrs. Donald Insall and Partners, had been commissioned to investigate the best method of preserving the Rectory and its garden and the uses to which these could be put for the benefit of all parties. The Chairman welcomed this news.

Councillor Neville Robinson referred to the many small neighbourhood associations, there being 50 in his own Ward, and suggested that there could be a form of corporate membership of the Society by these Associations which in any event would allow for financial support to the Society. He then congratulated the excellent letters of comment on planning applications which flowed from Mrs. Eileen Harris the Planning Secretary. (Chairman's note: Mr. Mark Dorman, the Assistant Planning Secretary is also very much concerned with this work.)

- 6) The President then concluded the meeting thanking the Chairman on behalf of the members for the considerable and effective work that he did on behalf of the Society. He also thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for attending since he well knew of the heavy burdens imposed during their year of office. The meeting was then concluded.

Chairman's Report

1. *Membership*

Our membership at present is 847.

I am very pleased to welcome his Worship the Mayor, Councillor Walford and the Mayoress, Mrs. Walford, to our meeting this evening. Every time I open the local newspaper, which in my case is the *Chelsea News*, I see a picture of the Mayor performing yet another function in the same friendly and approachable manner. For the past two years we have in fact had to call upon the services of the Mayor as our Vice President to act as our Chairman at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. However, on this occasion, we can give some respite to the Mayor since I am very pleased that Lord Chalfont is with us for, hopefully, a long reign as the President of our Society. When I first approached Lord Chalfont I explained to him very carefully that this was virtually an honorary position calling for his attendance at our Annual General Meetings once a year. However, within weeks of his appointment Lord Chalfont was plunged into the battle of the College of St. Mark and St. John, initiating a mini-debate within the House of Lords, and ever since that time has been fighting on behalf of the Society, and of Chelsea College, and of Chelsea to ensure a favourable outcome to this particular struggle. Concerning this more later, but in the meantime I have great pleasure in welcoming Lord Chalfont as our new President and applauding his efforts.

2. *Summer Meeting*

So far we have been very lucky in the weather that has attended our Summer Meetings. This year was no exception and we had a large attendance at the meeting which was held in the garden of the Chelsea Rectory, thanks to Prebendary Loasby. The previous year the Summer Meeting was held in newly opened premises at the Chelsea Community Centre. Many of us were worried that this year's Summer Meeting was being held in premises that were about to be closed. It was a superb summer evening, marred only by the passing of jet planes which I particularly noticed since they interrupted my speech, and the thought that this wonderful private garden, said to be the second largest in London after Buckingham Palace, would be lost to us by the prospect of imminent development.

At about this time, I wrote to the Leader of the Borough Council, Councillor Nicholas Freeman, expressing the hope that the Borough might intervene by purchasing the site and financing this purchase by limited commercial development. This would preserve the Rectory Buildings and make available for the benefit and pleasure of all the tree-lined sanctuary of the Rectory Garden. I received a slightly equivocal letter in reply, but in my discussions with Council Officers since that time I have the feeling that their views and the views of the Society are not all that far apart. It would be totally inappropriate for the Rectory Garden to be developed as an expensive private housing ghetto which, without being too chauvinistic, would be unlikely to attract potential members of the Chelsea Society. We think that it is quite

impossible for the garden to co-exist with private housing, whereas a limited commercial scheme around, say, the borders, or some of them, would enable the garden to be safeguarded for the benefit of future generations.

At this summer meeting we had on display a Chelsea Society Stand which also appeared at the St. Luke's Fete on 23 June and the Chelsea Village Fair on 14 July. Most of the work in connection with the Stand was undertaken by Penny Pocock and Joan Rubens, to whom the thanks of the Society are due. We recruited some members as a result of the Stand at these different events, but pitifully few. I must therefore say more about membership later in my report.

3. *Dove House Green*

On 16 July a small ceremony was performed by the Mayor of the unveiling of a plaque at Dove House Green. In case our members have not noticed this, I would say that the plaque is situated on the Western flank of the old Registry Buildings and reads as follows:—

To celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth II 1952-1977
and the Golden Jubilee of the Chelsea Society 1927-1977
the Old Burial Ground given by Sir Hans Sloane in 1733
was laid out anew by the Chelsea Society in collaboration with
the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Since that date I am glad to say that we have been awarded a commendation from the Borough under the Borough Environmental Award Scheme. This will mean that in due course there will be a further plaque manufactured by the Chelsea Pottery to commend our efforts. At the time of the Mayor's unveiling ceremony, Dove House Green was in a particularly untidy state — an all-too-frequent occurrence. Our architect, David Le Lay designed the layout so that there need only be minimum maintenance. Unfortunately, the Borough seemed to have interpreted this as being maintenance free. To take a direct quote from last year's Annual Report, "It really now is the responsibility of the Borough, with whom we had admirable co-operation, to ensure that the place is kept clean and tidy and free of cans lurking behind benches".

4. *Financial matters*

Views of the Hon. Treasurer

Our Honorary Treasurer has presented a particularly gloomy picture of the Society's finances. As far as I am aware, these have never been particularly healthy, but the march of inflation makes it increasingly difficult for all Societies such as ours. We are delighted to have recruited so many life members in the past, but the £10 they then paid is of course quite unrealistic in terms of the present costs of running a Society. Although we can increase the Life Membership Fee, I have a feeling that inflation will continue to outstrip the return on the Life Membership Fund, which in any case is diminishing fast. The Council of the Society has therefore decided not to recruit any further life members for the time being.

Advertising

Last year we sold advertising in the Annual Report for the first time. It is of course the Annual Report that makes the greatest drain on our resources, as I explained in the Circular that went out with the Notices for this Meeting. This year we have been even more successful in selling advertising space and perhaps advertising will contribute almost £1,000 for the cost of the Report. This will be of the greatest assistance to us.

New Members

In the Circular I also referred to the recruitment of new members. I have found not the slightest difficulty in recruiting new members to the Society on a person by person basis. It really is not very difficult to persuade a neighbour or a friend to join the Society. I would add that the joint husband and wife membership of £5 is hardly a pressing financial burden and it is a very economic proposition for the Society. It is so easy to throw away these Circulars that come by every post, but I really would ask you to take the trouble to recruit more members for our Society so that we can increase our influence and mend our finances. It may indeed be necessary, as the Honorary Treasurer fears, that we have to increase the membership fees, but not if each one of you is prepared to play a part for the Society.

5. Planning matters

This is one of the few years when there have been no major new planning matters. I emphasise new because there are still many of the same important matters which seem to plague us year by year.

Cardiothoracic Centre

Last year I commented on the new plans for the Cardiothoracic Centre which had just been published. For the most part the Borough Council has a pretty appalling and pusillanimous record in its dealings with the various proposals that have been put forward for this new Centre. It has always taken the attitude that it would have more influence if it sought changes by persuasion rather than the threat of a public enquiry. So far this persuasion has achieved no results. The previous totally monstrous scheme was dropped, not because of any pressure that the Borough Council and its Planning Committee exerted, but because the costs soared far above those that could be allowed either by the D.H.S.S. or the Treasury. The current scheme does allow for the retention of the fine buildings of the Chelsea Hospital for Women in Dovehouse Street and Phase I, which covers the site opposite St. Luke's Church, has a roof line which only comes up to the roof line of the Church. However, the Convent Garden is almost entirely lost and the scheme itself seems to be designed without any regard to the neighbourhood and its important position in Sydney Street in relation to the Church.

Although the Society regrets the loss of the small surviving terrace of houses in Sydney Street, it was on other far more general grounds that we decided to press the Minister for a Public Enquiry.

Towards the end of October I chaired a meeting at which were present representatives of the four local neighbourhood associations. I am glad to say that we all agreed that a public enquiry should be called for even though each association had slightly differing views as to the reason for such an enquiry. This in part multiplicity of viewpoint is, I consider, a strength rather than a weakness. It is perhaps the case that the Borough cannot adopt a neutral stance, since it has been actively concerned in the sale of its properties immediately adjoining to the Hospital Authorities. However, it may just be that it will become aware of how little it has so far achieved and how much more it could achieve by calling for a public enquiry.

Gaping Voids

Some of the other gaping voids in Chelsea are now being filled. In particular the rebuilding along the North side of Tedworth Square and at the Pheasantry site. Last year we welcomed the intervention of Pearce of Bristol and this year indeed our Annual Report will contain an advertisement from this Company explaining what they are about. In this next year the Society will undoubtedly be concerned with any new schemes there may be for the very large Stowell's Site, particularly, I might add, as it is only 20 yards from your Chairman's house.

The Essoldo Site in the King's Road

A matter which has caused particular concern to many members has been the Licence for late-night viewing sought by the Classic Cinema chain for the old Essoldo site. Since the first applications were made, we had been concerned at the generation of traffic and noise that would ensue and had commented on this to the Planning Officers. Since the Society opposed the late-night licences the G.L.C. had to hold a public enquiry. At this enquiry, held on 10 October, many groups and individuals gave evidence or appeared as objectors. The Society appeared as an objector to the late-night licence, but not to the concept of the four cinemas proposed. I am glad to say that the licence was refused, but the cinema can apply each year for a similar licence.

6. College of St. Mark and St. John

When this Annual Report is published you will see that it contains an article by David Ingram, the principal of Chelsea College, and he is kind enough to refer to the assistance given by the Chelsea Society to his efforts to acquire the College of St. Mark and St. John for Chelsea College. Last year there was a unanimous vote of approval by members present at the A.G.M. in support of Chelsea College. Since that time the College had first of all to gain the support of the Borough, which I am glad to say was given wholeheartedly, and then seek the approval of the G.L.C. who are the owners of the site. The Society assisted in the first place by helping to organise the collection of almost 2,000 letters of support from local residents and these were available for presentation to the Secretary of State of the Department of the Environment. Your Chairman played some part in this and on one occasion this resulted in a small punch up, since the person whose support was being canvassed was apparently a Tottenham supporter and thought that the campaign was to get

rid of some unnamed old people's home. There was in fact a clear failure of communication which resulted in a visit to the Magistrate's Court a few days later, a substantial fine for the Tottenham supporter and compensation to your Chairman which I regret has not yet been paid. In the rather more elevated surroundings of the House of Lords your President initiated a short debate regarding the future of the College and there was universal support from all the speakers right across Party Lines. There next followed a public enquiry into the refusal of the Borough Planning Committee to give consent to the Planning Applications of the other contenders for the site. I gave evidence on behalf of the Society and there were indeed many other interested parties, all of whom, apart from the appellants, supported Chelsea College. The results of that enquiry and the decision of the Minister have not yet been made known. Then followed continuous pressure on the G.L.C. whose Committee seemed particularly reluctant to recognise the interests of Londoners in general and Chelsea Residents in particular. However, following the Euro-Elections, there was a complete turnaround and the G.L.C. Committee universally approved the sale of a long lease to Chelsea College at an agreed price. Since, as we understand it, there then followed an increased offer, this approval was expressed to be subject to that of the Secretary of State. Whether in the circumstances such approval is in fact necessary is something on which there are conflicting legal opinions. However, the approval was felt to be a mere formality to come swiftly from the Minister concerned. This has certainly not proved to be the case and rumours reached us in the last month or so that the officials in the Ministry were recommending that Planning Consent should be given to all the parties concerned to be followed by a public auction. It was at this stage that further representations were made to the Minister of State who was dealing with the matter by, amongst others, your President on behalf of the Society and by myself to the Prime Minister. You will perhaps also have seen that Nicholas Scott last week raised a question in the House of Commons, which I am afraid received a rather negative reply, and indeed that the Queen Mother, acting as Chancellor of London University, has written to the Secretary of State expressing her own concern and supporting Chelsea College. I must emphasise that this is not a case of spendthrift Government Departments or spendthrift Universities, seeking large sums from the taxpayer. At the moment the site is still costing the G.L.C. presumably at least £10,000 a week, since that was the figure that they themselves gave at one stage, and if the site were sold to Chelsea College this would represent a real saving in their running costs and be financed by the sale of other properties which would then be come surplus to their needs. I am sure that none of us need convincing of the importance of this, not only to Chelsea College but also to Chelsea, and your Council will continue to do all that it can to assist Chelsea College to acquire the site. After all, we have a promise from the Principal that we may hold our summer party there next year and I am sure the Principal would not renege on this agreement.

7. Western Inner Relief Road

Again in the Annual Report Members will be able to see an article by Lesley Lewis explaining something of the current proposals of the Western Inner

Relief Road and their background, particularly against the West Cross Route against which the Society fought so successfully under my predecessor. Lesley Lewis now operates as one of the Joint Organising Secretaries of W.L.T.R. As many of you know, W.L.T.R. is an Umbrella Organisation for many different Amenity Groups who are all equally concerned about the current proposals insofar as they are known. Another of the Organising Secretaries is Betty Woolf, who is a member of the Council of the Chelsea Society. In the circumstances it will come as no surprise that the Society strongly supports the work being done by W.L.T.R. and at this stage its efforts are largely through this Umbrella Group. However, on behalf of the Society I have written to the Enquiry on Lorries, People and the Environment being held by Sir Arthur Armitage and will doubtless in due course appear before it. I should add, however, that though we are all concerned with the Western Inner Relief Route and in particular the magnet effect that this is likely to have, drawing yet more traffic and yet more juggernauts to the Embankment, this is very much a long term matter. At the present time the Society and W.L.T.R. is concerned that the existing bans should be properly policed and that juggernauts generally should be banned from Central London. You will perhaps recall that in last year's Annual Report reference was made to the Borough District Plan. I think that without exception all the forums who participated and tried to influence this plan were totally unsatisfied as to the provisions of the movement chapter. It seems to us that this is one of those occasions when the Borough is apparently taking a line which is divorced from the interests of the Residents. I would strongly suggest that all members should exert as much influence as possible on the Borough through their local Councillors, protesting at their failure to protect residents, particularly against the juggernauts, which merely seem to use the Embankment and, indeed, even the Kings Road, as a handy throughway from the Midlands to Central Europe.

8. *Meetings*

For some time your Council has been of the opinion that the Society should do much more to encourage participation by the members and that it was not sufficient merely to hold a Summer Meeting and the Annual General Meeting. We have therefore decided to hold a series of evening meetings in the New Year and these will be on 20 February, 19 March and 16 April: talks given by lecturers on aspects of Chelsea. I hope that full particulars will be sent out with the Annual Report. Because of the costs involved in such meetings it will be necessary to make a charge, but I hope that this will not deter members from what I am quite sure will be most enjoyable occasions. The Council is very much aware of the fact that within Central London there are many rival entertainments, but we think that an Amenity Society such as ours should be able to offer its membership the opportunity of meetings of this sort. I do hope that we can look forward to considerable support from our members.

As a precursor of these meetings, a most enjoyable talk was given by Lady Longford on 15 October. This was in connection with a new book on Chelsea that is being published by Bamber Gascoigne by private subscription and to which all Chelsea Society members have been invited to subscribe. The book

itself will be a complete illustrated catalogue of prints of Chelsea from earliest times until about 1860. We are very grateful to Lady Longford for her talk and we wish Bamber Gascoigne all success in this publishing venture.

9. *Conclusion*

I would conclude by saying that the Society does have financial worries at the moment, although we are doing what we can to overcome them, and that the membership is increasing, although not nearly as fast as it should do. However it is in good heart and has a band of officers who work long and effective hours on its behalf. Its Council is very much aware of the major problems affecting Chelsea at this time and which will be with us for years to come, and of course the host of minor matters which have to be attended to if we are to achieve our main object, which is to "preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea".

Joyce Grenfell in Chelsea

by Joyce Grenfell

Most of my long life has been lived in the Borough. I am a Chelsea pensioner, with a small p. I don't wear a handsome scarlet coat, but for practically all of my youth and until six years after my marriage I lived within sight of the Royal Hospital. During the 1914-18 war my family had a first-floor corner flat, number 8, in Burton Court, Franklin's Row. Then in 1919 we moved over to the north side of Burton Court to number 28 St. Leonard's Terrace, one of the two five-storey houses of the earlier period; the ones with front and back gardens. Panelling in the tiny vestibule at 28 was said to date from the eighteenth century, although the studio it led into was a more recent addition and had been built on to the house by a horse painter, whose four-legged models came in through a gate at the end of the back-garden leading from Woodfall Street. They were led up a ramp into the studio. By the time we arrived the stable door-end of the long room had gone, and so had the skylight. A tall window, curtained in lipstick-red silk, with a matching cushioned window-seat, made an attractive improvement to a room for living in. Woodfall Street was then still in use as a mews, although most of the stables had been turned into garages.

For some reason (a sense of defeat?) the strip of gravel at the back of 28, overgrown with sooty privet, ground-elder and some non-flowering lilac bushes, was not made into a garden. This was before the Clean Air Bill; Lots Road power station gushed out plenty of visible pollution. The place was dirty and uninviting, and we seldom played there. But the many children living in Woodfall Street played — noisily — the other side of our garden wall, over which with monotonous frequency bounced their rubber balls. It was usually little boys who had to walk round, via Smith Street and then along the Terrace, to ring our front door to ask for the return of their ball. Sometimes little girls came to ask for a hoop or a battered doll that had somehow flown over the dividing wall. My mother once answered the door-bell and found two diminutive games-players standing on the door-step. The older of the two jerked his thumb at the younger and said: 'This yere bloke's lost 'is borl'. The bloke was at most four years old. It was a nuisance having to go out into the sooty bushes to look for whatever had been lost and I am not sure that the household always acceded to requests. I know I was often the one who had to do the unwanted searching job and I can't say that I always did it entirely with grace.

One of the blessings that that suspect word 'progress' has brought about — anyway in London — is the disappearance of the very under-privileged look. When I was growing up, in the 1920's, there were still Dickensian conditions to be found even in a modestly well-to-do neighbourhood like S.W.3. The big money preferred Belgravia and South Kensington, and of course Mayfair. Chelsea continued to be a 'them-and-us' society and children living less than fifty yards from our house were sadly seen to be both ill-dressed and

under-nourished. Thanks to St. Michael and other merciful levellers, this is no longer evident.

Just round the corner from St. Leonard's Terrace two of the larger houses in Smith Street, on the left going towards King's Road, were hostels. 'Beds for Men', it said on the brass-plate. On warm-weather evenings residents could be seen, through opened un-curtained windows, lying on thin-looking iron bedsteads. Further along Smith Street another, smaller, quieter house was a Shelter for Fallen Girls. I don't think it had a brass plate and if it had it would not have put it quite as bluntly as that, but I knew it was a place I was not to ask too many questions about. The gloomy beige rep half-curtains hid from my nosy gaze the sight of anyone, fallen or upright. I don't remember seeing anyone go in or out of the little house. I always hurried by Beds for Men but was less apprehensive about the Fallen Girls.

My parents were not well-off. There was often a faint *crise* at the beginning of the month when bills came in, but they managed to employ a cook-general, a house-parlour-maid and, to look after my brother and me, there was a much-loved nanny. Every morning during the week tradesmen called at the backdoor for orders. I remember a special friend from the village-like grocer's shop that stood, where there is now a furrier, between Smith Street and Wellington Square. The shop smelt as such places should of bacon, spices and freshly-ground coffee. Orders were written in a little book and delivered within an hour. The same service came from the butcher, greengrocer, and the fishmonger, who also sent round big blocks of ice, to be housed in primitive zinc-lined ice-boxes, to keep fresh the perishable foods. Milk came in great highly polished brass churns mounted on a hand cart, and was ladled into customers' own jugs. There was seldom room to store them in the ice-box, so the jugs, covered in dampened butter-muslin or coarse crocheted nets edged with blue beads, stood in cool corners, often on the window-sill of the semi-basement kitchen. In summer butter was seldom very firm.

Our newspapers and stamps came from a little newsagent-cum-post office in the middle of the block now occupied by Safeways. It was run by another agreeable friend and his smiling wife. They reserved copies of *Puck* and *Rainbow* for me, and when bills came to my parents they were headed Sidney Smith, Lieut.

I described some of these things in a book of memories *Joyce Grenfell Requests the Pleasure*, published in 1976, but I don't think I wrote about the taxi-rank and cabmen's shelter that stood in Royal Hospital Road and could be seen across the cricket ground, in Burton Court, directly opposite our windows. I even remember its telephone number though I'm not sure of the exchange; I believe it was Sloane and the number was certainly 2525. When my mother, a lavish user of taxis, lifted the ear-piece and spoke the number into the daffodil-shaped instrument, the girl at the exchange put her through at once; and we could watch the cab-driver come out of the little dark green shelter, shaped like a land-fast Noah's Ark, get into his taxi and hurry round to our front door. It seemed there was always a cab on the rank when we needed

it. In the 'twenties, and well into the 'thirties too, there was also always a policeman on his beat patrolling our area. We got to know our guardians of the peace and as a small child I was taught to greet them as friends and allies. I was comforted by their presence, particularly at week-ends when the pub in Smith Street closed down, and sounds of song and unnerving expressions of exuberance reached me up in my little bedroom on the fourth floor of number 28.

Another amenity that worked splendidly was the postal service. There were at least five deliveries a day, two before midday, three during the afternoon and evening. The clang of the heavy metal door of the pillar-box (no longer on the corner of the Terrace and Smith Street) rang out about 11 p.m. and signalled the last collection of mail. A letter posted before 9 a.m. was delivered in London the same evening. Stamps for a letter cost a penny; postcards and unsealed envelopes went for ½d. Telegrams were cheap. I think we paid 1/6 (about 7½p) for twelve words and they arrived quickly after dispatch.

Eccentrics have always been part of the Chelsea scene and as children we were fascinated by the bizarre characters we came to know by sight, in particular the pretty, but sad, lady in black with a chalk-white make-up and flowing black draperies over her picture-hat. And there was the Jesus-man with his long golden hair and unnaturally pink-and-white complexion. He looked like a sentimental illustration in the New Testament; it was rumoured that he was an artist's model and posed for religious pictures. In those days artists really did look like artists in books. We marked them down by their wide-brimmed black felt hats and flowing ties. Some of them even wore velveteen jackets.

We often saw Augustus John, not only in the King's Road and down by 'The Blue Cockatoo' on the embankment, but also having his luncheon in Queen's Restaurant just off Sloane Square in Cliveden Place. Epstein and his wife with her straight-cut black fringe, and Laura Knight in a feminine version of the black felt hat were also familiar sights. Their fame added colour to our lives, and at that time they seemed like giants.

While we were still living in Burton Court I went to a small dame school kept by Miss Berman who was a very small dame indeed — at most five foot tall. This was at No. 35 (or was it 36?) St. Leonard's Terrace, one of the later houses at the Tedworth Square end of the Street. When we moved on to 28 I went to another school, the Francis Holland in Graham Terrace, where I stayed until I was fourteen and went away to boarding-school.

As little children we had taken our picnic-tea into Ranelagh Gardens, the eastern part of the Royal Hospital grounds, but after the move to St. Leonard's Terrace there was no longer time for such frivolities. It was in the same grounds that the Chelsea Flower Show and the Theatrical Garden Party were held; both were important events in my youthful calendar. I still enjoy the Flower Show but the Garden Party no longer exists.

From my nursery window in the corner of our Burton Court flat we had a perfect view of the crowds coming and going from these occasions. As well as making an early visit to the Flower Show with my parents I often went again with my nanny later in the week, on the last day when plants and cut flowers were sold off cheaply. We staggered home with booty for our 'garden', a three-foot-long twelve-inch deep balcony ledge outside the French window in the nursery. But between the ages of ten and fourteen THE big day for me was The Theatrical Garden Party. I had been stage struck since I'd first been taken to a theatre, aged seven, to see a war-time revue at the Hippodrome.

My parents knew many people on the stage and my mother escorted me to Ranelagh Gardens — me panting with anticipation — to spend my shillings and sixpences, at stalls run by her friends, in aid of the Actors Orphanage. The great names of the era were Gladys Cooper, Fay Compton, Noël Coward, Gerald du Maurier, Owen Nares, Ivor Novello, Gertrude Lawrence; and of course Chelsea's own Sybil Thorndike, Lewis Casson, Nicholas Hannen and Athene Seyler. These stars presided over side-shows and took part in brief entertainments in big marquees. One of the shows was called The Grand Giggle, and with like-minded little friends, as steeped in star-worship as I was, I queued for ages to see my favourites. No teenager today, with a screaming crush on a pop star, can have had half the delight I found in the silent admiration I felt for actors and actresses seen 'live' in the bright sunshine.

When I married, in 1929, my husband's grandmother and one of my generous aunts jointly gave us the freehold of number 21 St. Leonard's Terrace as a wedding present. For the record it had four bedrooms, a double drawing-room, study, dining-room and all the usual offices as well as little gardens, back and front, and cost £3,500. All of it was on a small scale, but perfect for us. After living there for a few happy years we let it, for economic reasons, and moved to the country. Then came the war. Number 21 was requisitioned, occupied by some Belgians, and fire-bombed. It deteriorated a good deal and sadly we first let it on a long lease and finally sold it. But I have never left Chelsea for very long. After the war we rented for ten years an inconvenient and deafeningly noisy flat in the King's Road, over Mr Kent's toy and sweet shop, opposite Habitat, then the Gaumont Cinema. In 1956 we moved to Elm Park Gardens, where to this day we very much like living.

It is a waste of time to hanker for the past and I don't. But it was a *good* past, it *did* happen and I am very grateful to have known Chelsea when King's Road was an overgrown village street of character, with small shops — only Ashby's and Beaton's remain — and not a blue jeans shop, supermarket or men's outfitters to be seen. Number Eleven buses actually came on time, and often. Low be it spoken but I preferred Chelsea when it was on its own and not linked to that other area further north. But linked or not it is the Borough that I choose to live in, and St. Leonard's Terrace is still one of the prettiest streets not only in London but probably in the entire kingdom.

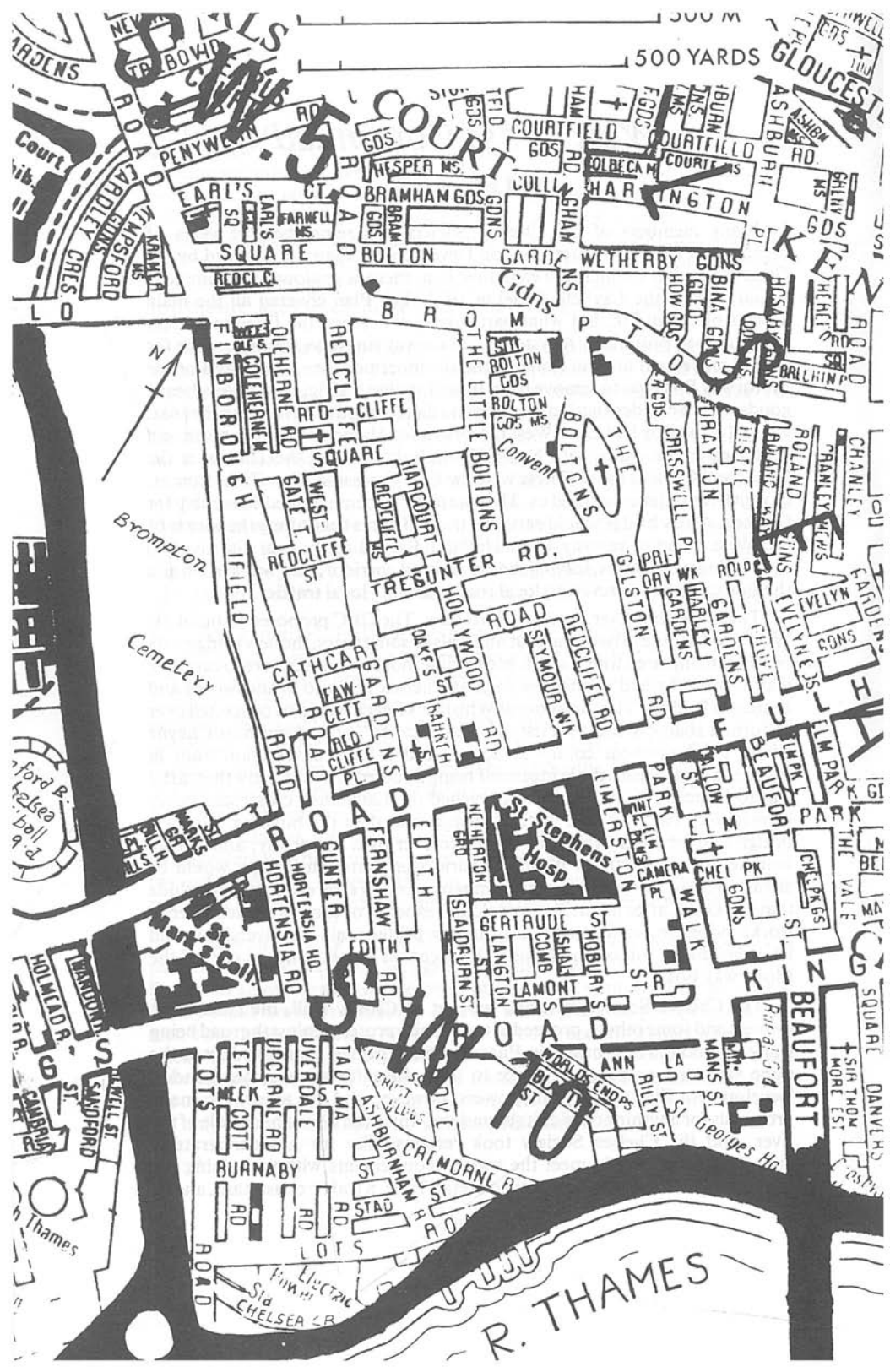
West Cross Continued

by Lesley Lewis

Many members of the Chelsea Society will remember the years of preparation for the Greater London Development Plan put forward by the Greater London Council and examined in numerous sessions of a mammoth Inquiry under the Layfield Panel in 1972. The Plan covered all the main aspects of urban life, but what particularly concerned the Chelsea Society were the road proposals. A system of motorway ringways was to provide for orbital movement around London and the innermost one, Ringway 1 or the Motorway Box, was to remove from Inner London traffic, particularly heavy goods, which had destinations outside and did not need to go through the area. Roughly, the Box had East/West motorways at Hampstead to the north and Battersea to the south, with North/South links crossing the Thames at the Docks and Chelsea Basin. These were the East Cross and West Cross Routes, of which the latter concerned us. The completed scheme seemed admirable for Chelsea. A new bridge would carry the traffic from a road along the course of the West London railway from Holland Park directly over the river to connecting motorways, leaving the Earls Court corridor, one-way system and the Embankment to revert to local roads carrying local traffic.

There was, however, a very serious flaw. The GLC proposed to build the West Cross Route in two phases at intervals of some years, the new bridge only being contemplated for Phase II. Meanwhile motorway links were to carry the traffic from the end of the new road at Chelsea Basin to Wandsworth and Battersea Bridges. The foreshore at Whistler's Reach was to be concreted over to form a road divided by a narrow "landscaped" strip from west Cheyne Walk, the houseboat colony removed, and a huge intersection built at Battersea bridgehead, the bridge itself being doubled in width. How the traffic was to be accommodated when it reached the Latchmere crossroads never seemed very clear. For an interim measure pending the building of a new bridge Cheyne Walk was to be ruined forever by a motorway; and a huge volume of new traffic, if it did not turn over Battersea Bridge, would be attracted to the whole length of the Embankment. We were forced to conclude that the GLC, after incurring the colossal expense of these so-called interim works, hoped to avoid ever building the new bridge at all. The riverside would be irremediably ruined and come to be accepted permanently as part of the Motorway Box.

The Chelsea Society, with the support of Crosby Hall, the Houseboat Owners and some others, proceeded to organise protest against the road being started without a new bridge in Phase I. Our Borough Council adopted the same view and prepared evidence to that effect for the Greater London Development Plan Inquiry. Its powers, however, did not allow it to make proposals for anything outside its boundary, which ran down the middle of the river, and the Chelsea Society took responsibility for a wider strategic approach which would meet the traffic requirements without ruining the riverside. The Society commissioned Stefan Tietz, a traffic consultant, and he



500 YARDS

NEW TR BOWLS
PENYWEN
EARL'S SQ
KEMPSTON
LAURENCE

SW4
COURT
GOS
GOS
GOS
GOS
GOS

ASHBURN
GLoucester
GOS
GOS
GOS
GOS
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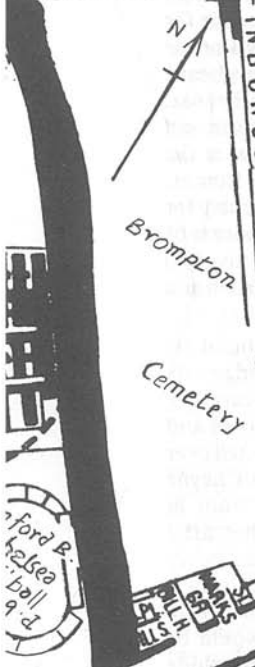
THE BROMPTON
REDCLIFFE SQUARE
HARDCOURT T
TREGUNTER RD
CATHCART
FAW CETT
REDCLIFFE PL

St Stephens Hosp
BERTRAUDE
LANGTON
LAMONT
ST HOBURY'S

St. Mark's Coll
MORTENSIA RD
EDITH T
EDITH RD

BEAUFORT
MANS ST
St. Georges Ho
SQUARE DANIEL'S
MORRE EST

R. THAMES



HOLMEAD
SAUNDERS
WILL ST
ROAD
ROAD
ROAD
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produced a report showing how an adequate bridge of smaller capacity than that visualised by the GLC could be built in the first phase and integrated with the main road network at no greater cost than that of the two-phase scheme. It must be emphasised here that the objection of the Borough Council, the Chelsea Society and its supporters was never to the Ringway nor to the West Cross Route in its completed form, but only to the starting of the latter without a new bridge.

To pay for expert evidence and effective legal representation the Chelsea Society had to raise over £10,000. Members and local organisations contributed generously according to their means, but other sources had to be tapped to raise so large a sum. We shall never quite know how the Chairman, Noel Blakiston, did it because he never told us, but when the money was needed it was there. We were able to have Derrick Bretherton of Linklaters and Paines as our solicitor and to be represented at the Inquiry by George Dobry QC, one of the leading figures in planning matters. So far so good, but a cloud appeared on the horizon. To attempt to relieve the acute traffic problems of Earls Court (but ignoring those of Cheyne Walk and the Embankment) the GLC applied for permission to build the West Cross Route without a bridge as a local relief road in advance of the whole Ringway. It seemed we might have to fight two inquiries at corresponding expense but in the event we were able to give only formal evidence at the GLDP Inquiry and concentrate all our resources on the West Cross Route Inquiry which would result in a ministerial decision.

The Inquiry started at Fulham Town Hall on 28 March and ended on 23 June 1972. The proceedings covered not only the main issue of whether the road should be built but all the matters of land acquisition, closure of highways, costings, etc. which it would involve. Evidence was taken from some forty associations and commercial concerns, about eighty individuals appearing in person and many others sending in written representations. E. G. Goldring and E. A. Sanders, for the Royal Borough, stressed the necessity for a bridge, (Inspectors' Report para. 3.242): "The West Cross is put forward as a bypass for north/south traffic. It cannot function properly unless it crosses the river and in fact the GLC provide for this but in a tortuous and damaging way" $\frac{3}{4}$ i.e. over Battersea Bridge $\frac{1}{2}$. The Joint Committee of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the Georgian Group, Victorian Society and Civic Trust was represented by Leslie Ginsberg, who criticised the GLC's traffic surveys as inadequate, also stressed the need for a new bridge and added (para. 3.511) "The effect of increased traffic volumes and lorry traffic on the Embankment with the adjacent areas of Cheyne Walk would be unacceptable. These are areas of especial historic and architectural interest and part of a Conservation Area. The Development Plan called for a high standard for the areas bordering the Thames (Section 11) and exhorted London Borough Councils to give special attention to the operation of better public access with new and improved river walks and an insistence on high quality for all riverside design and landscaping. The Thames is the largest and most important open space in London and must be protected".

Expected line of proposed Western Relief Road (opposite).

The Chelsea Society's evidence (paras. 3.63, etc. in Inspector's Report) took four days and the witnesses, in order of appearance, were: S.B. Tietz, traffic scheme and analysis; Lesley Lewis, architectural survey; Lord Conesford, criticising the GLC's scheme which he had already castigated as "insane" in the House of Lords; Marcus Worsley MP, F.R. Baden-Powell, Noel Blakiston, N.J. Grantham, objection on environmental grounds; H.T. Cadbury-Brown, effect on the Worlds End development of which he was the architect. On 16 June George Dobry delivered his closing speech. In the words of Noel Blakiston (*Chelsea Society Report 1972*): "For nearly four hours he laid about him. It was a treat."

In May 1973 the Secretary of State for the Environment communicated his refusal of planning consent for the road. According to the Press Release: "On the evidence before him he is not convinced that a strong enough case has been made for the proposals solely as a local relief road unsupported by a purpose-built river crossing." Main points were summarised in an Annex to the official Letter of Decision and para. 2.75 emphasised the unique quality of the riverside as demonstrated by the Chelsea Society and Joint Committee: "*If it were accepted that the interests of traffic should be paramount here and that the particular proposals for traffic were the best that could be evolved the fact that some aspects of existing conditions would be improved might be welcomed: but this is not the view we take. The Embankment generally and this section in particular have a special importance and potential as an amenity. The present proposals do not sufficiently recognise this, but emphasise the traffic importance in a way which is likely to be irreversible. The nature of the changes would restrict the possibility of different criteria prevailing in the future.*"

It might have been expected that the words emphasised above would at least have been taken notice of by our own Borough, which had done so much to influence the result of the Inquiry. This was apparently not the case and the ink was hardly dry on the Secretary of State's decision before our officers and those of Hammersmith and Wandsworth were joining the GLC in a West London Study Group. Their report recommended the building of a local relief road, without a bridge, on almost exactly the same line as the West Cross Route though on a smaller scale. Meanwhile the newly elected Labour majority at the GLC had thrown out the whole Ringway system, which had remained the ultimate justification for the West Cross Route (with a bridge), even though this had been rejected as a local relief road without one. No new traffic analysis of any depth seems to have been undertaken to lend support for the findings of the West London Study and upset those of the Inquiry. There is however no recognised analogy between contempt of court (with its consequences) and the flouting of Public Inquiry verdicts!

On 14 July 1978 the *Chelsea News* carried a front page Press Release on a Relief Road proposed, though not yet formally announced, by the GLC's Central Area Planning Committee chaired by H.H. Sandford. It was, however, sufficiently indicated that this was still the same West Cross Route which, although on a smaller scale, constituted exactly the same threat to the

Chelsea riverside and seemed no more capable of giving long-term relief to Earls Court. The Leader of the Borough Council, Nicholas Freeman, the Chairman of the Works Committee, Gerald Gordon and, strangest of all, William Bell, GLC member for Chelsea and Chairman of the GLC Historic Buildings Board, were reported as welcoming the scheme. Those of us who knew the past history of the West Cross Route Public Inquiry and the part the Borough Council had played in it rubbed our eyes in astonishment. Some Councillors seemed never to have heard of the Inquiry's result while those who had, and the officers concerned, must have forgotten. Difficulty in re-assembling the records of it, in our Town Hall, at County Hall, and at the Department of the Environment supported the impression that these papers had not recently been consulted.

In 1972 the Chelsea Society took the lead in protesting, but this time it is happy to find itself in partnership with associations covering the length of the Embankment and Cheyne Walk. Conrad Jameson, of 92 Cheyne Walk, set up a Chelsea Riverside Action Group (CRAG) which performed invaluable service in publicising the issue through leaflets, public meetings, a television programme and press coverage. The Cheyne Walk Residents' Association and its Secretary Dr. May Maguire, were very quick off the mark in spreading information, obtaining a sketch-map from the GLC, alerting Nicholas Scott MP and arranging a deputation to H.H. Sandford at County Hall. Those of us who attended it received very strongly the impression that the Central Area Planning Committee, although purporting to plan a relief road for Earls Court, was primarily interested in a new road to carry more commercial traffic. The concern of other elements in the GLC for amenity, conservation of historic buildings, the interests of tourism, recreational developments, etc. seemed to play no part in their thinking. At the western end of the embankment Ashburnham Community Association, represented by Betty Woolf, took issue in the interests of their area of benefit, which includes the embankment and the General Improvement Area. They gathered together other associations affected by the proposed road, some from the other side of the river, from Earls Court and West Kensington, among whom Jennifer Ware is representative, came to meetings and joined in discussions. As a result West London Traffic Reform (Ashburnham Community Centre, Uperne Road, SW10) was formed as an umbrella group, of associations rather than individual members, to keep the various bodies in touch with each other and to combine in joint action whenever possible.

At the time of going to press the constituent bodies forming WLTR were: Ashburnham Community Assn., The Battersea Society, The Boltons Assn., Chelsea Reach Ltd., Chelsea Riverside Action Group, The Chelsea Society, Chelsea Yacht and Boat Co., 1-20 Cheyne Walk, Cheyne Walk Residents' Assn., Cornhill Mansions Residents' Assn., Earls Court Amenities Group, Earls Court Square Residents' Assn., Edith Grove Residents' Assn., Friends of Chelsea, Gunter Grove Residents' Assn., Ifield/Finborough Residents' Assn., Kensington Traffic Committee, Kensington and Chelsea Residents' Assn., Longridge Road Residents' Assn., Lots Neighbourhood Council, The

National Union of Railwaymen (Earls Court Branch), Nevill Court Residents' Assn., Philbeach Residents' Assn., Redcliff ATAC, "Response", Russell Road Residents' Assn., "Save London Alliance", The Ten Acres Assn., The Wandsworth Society, West Kensington Environment Campaign, Worlds End Housing Co-operative, Worlds End Tenants Assn. Each organisation has its own committee and officers and plans its own activities. WLTR keeps in touch with them through three co-ordinators, Michael Bach, Betty Woolf and Lesley Lewis, while Councillor Timothy Boulton of South Stanley Ward chairs its meetings.

Inevitably there are many different opinions about the proposed relief road. To Chelsea the architectural and amenity values of the riverside are again being threatened. Many in Earls Court see it as the answer to their appalling traffic congestion. Some people are opposed to all urban motorways and to any increase in road capacity as attracting more traffic. Yet much has emerged from our discussions on which we are all agreed. Whether or not we favour the road, the GLC has given as a conservative estimate that it could not be built in under ten years. We all know this is too long to wait since Earls Court as a community is being battered to pieces; the traffic, and particularly the juggernauts ever increasing in size and number, make residence along Cheyne Walk and the Embankment ever less tolerable and the priceless buildings, nearly all of them listed, will become ever more difficult to maintain. There is growing anxiety as to the effect of petrol fumes on health, particularly that of children. The constituent members of West London Traffic Reform have therefore for the time being put behind them consideration of the road and are doing all in their power to urge the authorities to institute traffic controls and to enforce those which already exist. They have pressed the GLC to undertake a proper origin-and-destination study to assess the need of all this traffic to be on the one-way system of Earls Court or on the Embankment. Spot-checks suggest that for many it is neither the nearest nor most convenient way. Keith Buchan from Campaign Against Lorry Menace (CALM) and Harley Sherlock of London Amenity and Transport Association (LATA) were among the speakers who addressed a public meeting in Kensington Small Town Hall on 26 February. From 10 to 16 June WLTR took part in a Londonwide anti-traffic week, demonstrated in a civilised but resolute way, and carried an anti-juggernaut petition to County Hall (with many others from all over London), presenting one too to Nicholas Scott at the House of Commons.

This is the Chelsea Society's Annual Report and in view of our former role in West Cross affairs members will want to know how we stand now. The situation is still fluid because the GLC has not yet formally proposed the road, although the building of it "preferably with a new river crossing" is in our Borough District Plan. (Movement 5.10). I have retired from the Society's Council and my excuse for writing this article is my deep involvement as an Hon. Secretary and as a witness in the 1972 Inquiry. I can speak only from personal views and cannot forecast what line the Society will feel it right to take in the future. It would be comforting to know that we only need stonewall as before for a new road down the West London Railway line and over the river

by a new bridge, thereby relieving West Kensington and the riverside of north/south traffic which has no business in our area. Unfortunately it is not as easy as that. The GLC's decision to abandon the proposed ringways has removed the strategic network within which local roads could be rationally organised. It seems probable that most of the preparation for new motorways has disappeared, that houses kept empty for demolition or road-widening are now reoccupied, that new development has been permitted where the roads would have gone. The opportunity offered by the traffic proposals of the Greater London Development Plan has been lost for the foreseeable future, perhaps for ever. Proposed work on roads is piecemeal, taking traffic from one place and dumping it in another, attracting new traffic into an area without giving it a proper exit as, for instance, pouring it over Battersea Bridge and along Battersea Bridge Road, to end up at the Latchmere public house. This is no good at all and it does seem to me now that the best function of public participation is to press and press, and press again, for analysis of traffic, its purpose and destination, for reduction in the size and weights of commercial vehicles, for night-bans, speed-bans, checks on safe loading and for recognition that most streets are for living in rather than for travelling along. Control and management will increasingly be needed whatever the future holds in the building of new roads, and in applying them the authorities can learn a great deal more than they know at present about what new roads to build.

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The Edwardian Buildings of Chelsea

by Charlotte Gere

The recent appearance of a book of photographs of Chelsea covering the last 120 years (John Bignell, *Chelsea seen from 1860-1980*) has tended to confirm the widely held view that we live in an eighteenth and early nineteenth-century village, full of quaint corners and still supporting a population of licensed eccentrics, but now much marred by later building developments which, from the mid-nineteenth century onwards have gradually displaced and spoilt the village character. Like all good villages, Chelsea can boast one or two fine buildings, some unaltered early urbanism, plenty of trees and lovingly tended gardens, and a good-intentioned and vociferous lobby of residents ready and willing to protest at the further despoilation of their chosen corner of the world. The crucial question must be asked — how far do their sympathies extend? We have seen that it is possible to preserve the not very distinguished façade of the old Pheasantry Club in the face of plans which must have represented the business-like solution to the problem of that particular site. But this Pyrrhic victory can hardly compensate for the loss of C.R. Ashbee's own studio house, the 'Magpie and Stump' in Cheyne Walk (a half-hearted attempt to incorporate some of Ashbee's more characteristic design ideas into the stolidly conventional shell of the old Stanley Arms can hardly be said to represent an adequate substitute), and it must be assumed that the failure to save this building was the result of too few people being interested in the work of this important artist of the turn of the century.

As early as 1972 — and this was none too soon — Marc Girouard was already lamenting the philistinism which allowed so much of the work of E.W. Godwin to be lost in Tite Street, ironically leaving intact buildings by his less distinguished successors like R.W. Edis, Frederick Beeston and F.S. Waller. Only the Tower House (1885), though somewhat altered, remains to show what we have lost. These acts of vandalism in Chelsea mostly took place at a time when the difference between a late nineteenth-century house and an eyesore was not widely appreciated. Now there is a growing band of admirers of this era and of the period from the turn of the century until the outbreak of the First War (curiously, the best work of the 'twenties and 'thirties has never lacked defendants, and has not therefore been in such danger of ignorant destruction), and Chelsea is rich in examples of the work of many leading architects of the day.

Patronage of the more daring and unconventional architects had become a noticeable tradition in Chelsea by the end of the century, having started promisingly in the 'sixties and 'seventies with the employment of G.E. Street in Cadogan Square — his fine corner house (no. 4) repays careful study — and of Richard Norman Shaw both in Cadogan Square and in Cheyne Walk. Philip Webb, the architect of William Morris's 'Red House' at Bexley Heath, was building West House in Glebe Place for Rossetti's friend and patron, the artist G.P. Boyce, in 1869. It is now somewhat defaced by alterations to the



38, 39 Cheyne Walk. C.R. Ashbee, architect. See page 45.



12, 14 Hans Road. C.F.A. Voysey, architect. 63, 64 Sloane Street. Fairfax Wade, architect. See pages 42, 44.





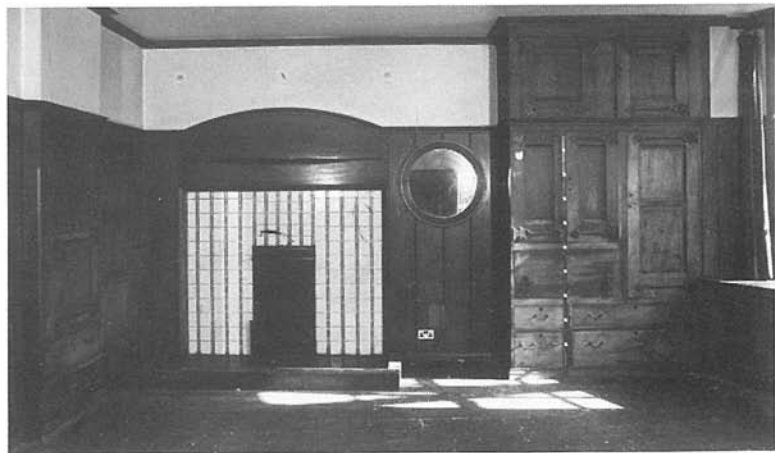
The former Library, Manresa Road. J.M. Brydon, architect. See page 42.

Mallord House, Mallord Street. Ralph Knott, architect. See page 41.





25 Cadogan Gardens. A.H. Mackmurdo, architect. See page 44.



*Garden Corner, Chelsea
Embankment Gardens.
Details of the decorations
by C.F.A. Voysey for the
house originally designed
by P'Anson. See page 45.*



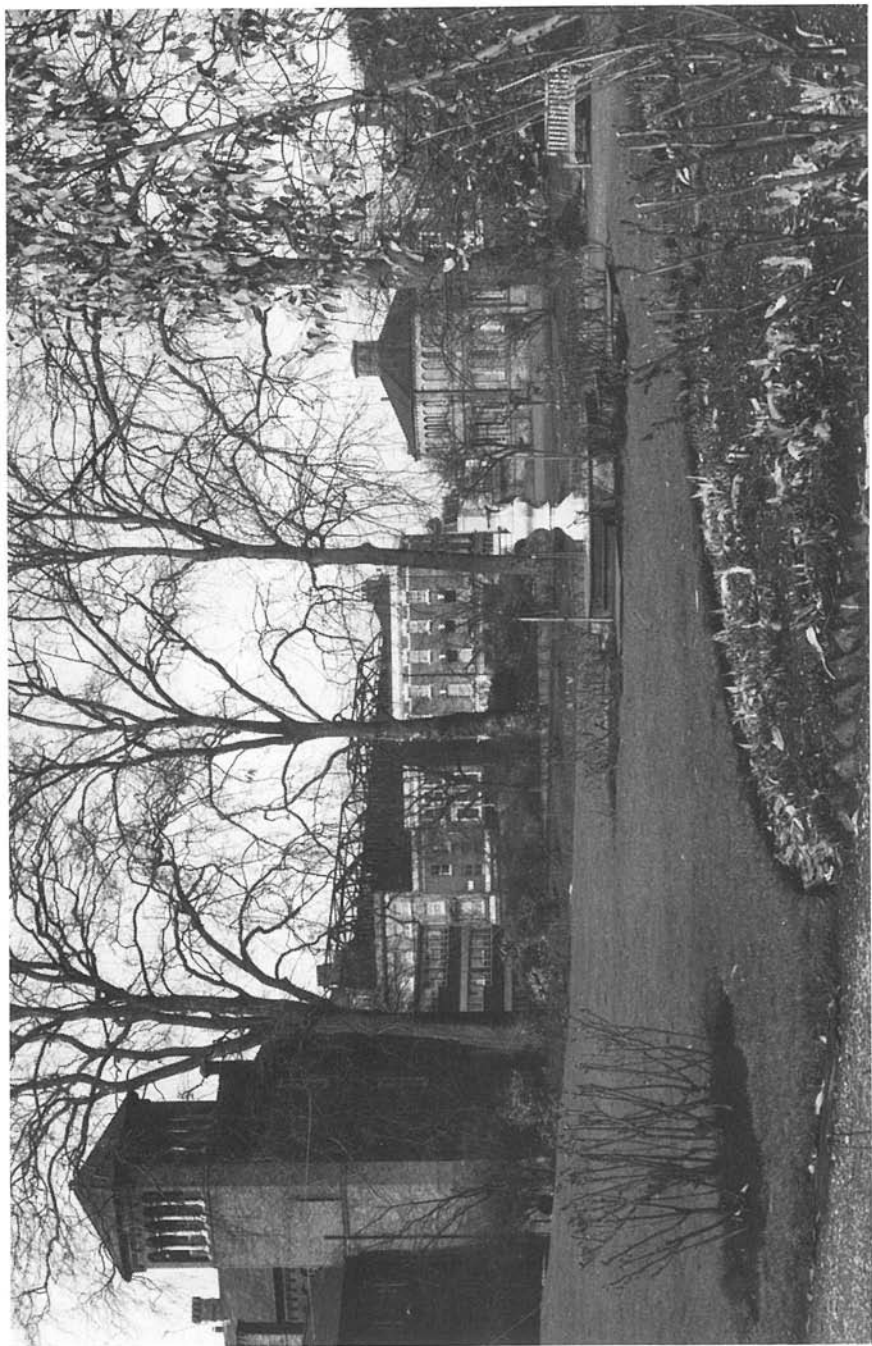
The Michelin Building. F. Espinasse, architect. See page 38.



The Duke of York's Headquarters (originally the Royal Military Asylum for the Children of Soldiers of the Regular Army). Architect, John Saunders, 1801-1803. (Photograph by courtesy of Donald W. Insall and Associates, architects.)



A detail of the dilapidated brick- and stonework. See page 51.



The College of St. Mark and St. John. To the right is Edward Blore's Octagon (1843). See page 46.

façade and confusing additions to the porch, and is not a particularly interesting example of Webb's work, but it is worth studying for the way in which he articulates the deeply indented frontage on the street. Even some of the Board Schools which were put up to fulfil the requirements of the 1870 Education Act are interesting essays in the Robson and Stevenson manner. The school beside Boyce's house was designed by this successful partnership, and Boyce records in his diary that he went to call on them to discuss the proposed plan. He seems to have been disarmed by being shown one of his own drawings hanging in the office, which was kept there expressly to demonstrate to intending patrons the beauty of brick and stone combined as building materials.

Sir John Betjeman, in a recent review of the book of photographs mentioned above (*Books and Bookmen*, April 1979), has pointed out that, with few obvious exceptions (i.e. Wren's Royal Hospital, the marvellously self-confident St. Luke's Church in Sydney Street and J.D. Sedding's intricately ornate Holy Trinity, Sloane Street), Chelsea does not abound in great architecture. Few villages do, though one might perhaps enter a plea for Leoni's beautiful 'Argyll House' and Norman Shaw's 'Swan House' as being, if not 'great', at least 'fine'. Few good Victorian buildings are now in danger of slipping through the planning net; even the area so felicitously described by Betjeman as 'Hanseaic Hans Town' will find advocates to oppose any drastic redevelopment, as will the exuberant liver-coloured terraces of 'Pont Street Dutch'. It is rather the Arts and Crafts architects, with their more understated vocabulary, that may need some words of explanation to ensure that their importance is recognised and their Chelsea buildings preserved. It must remain a matter of considerable mystery why the most complete monument to the Arts and Crafts Movement, Holy Trinity, Sloane Street (incidentally, the subject of one of Betjeman's most evocative poems) should ever have been threatened with demolition.

The roll-call of successful architects who worked in Chelsea is satisfyingly long: no. 226 King's Road, for example, is by Sir Reginald Blomfield. Who, of the crowds of people who pass it each day, spares it a glance? Yet though not a very exciting building, it is not entirely without a certain solid dignity, and the echoes of the French eighteenth century are delicately handled. Blomfield was probably more important to his contemporaries as a theorist and writer. His books on architecture were widely influential in opening people's eyes to the interest, and potential material for revival, of a simple and monumental classicism, exemplified in the case of the National Westminster Bank building in the King's Road by the bold rustication of the arched windows. Halsey Ricardo, whose patronage by the Debenham family resulted in a house in Addison Road which is widely known and written about, in Chelsea is represented by a more modest, but not uninteresting studio house, no. 117 Old Church Street, built for C. Maresco Pearce, the artist. Close by, on the corner of Mallord Street, is Ralph Knott's somewhat forbidding 'Mallord House', in dark red brick with small, private windows, which Henry Russell Hitchcock might have been tempted to include in his wittily descriptive category of buildings 'defensible only in the military sense'.

In Sloane Street two eccentric houses, nos. 63 and 64, must often have caught the eye of the passer-by, rivetting his attention by the originality of the ornamental detail, with the marvellously intricate upper windows leaded in a pattern inspired by a spider's web. These were designed by the little-known architect, Fairfax Wade, who stands out among his contemporaries for his comprehension of the fundamental difference between the problems encountered when designing for an urban environment and for an open country site. His Sloane Street houses were tackled from a radically different standpoint than his work on Northforeland Lodge in Hampshire, which is an enlarged and glorified cottage in the vernacular style.

It is not necessary here to remind the reader of the existence of one of London's rare *Belle Epoque* buildings, the Michelin Building in the Fulham Road, designed in France by François Espinasse, an engineer who had joined the Michelin company in 1906, to match the style of the Company's French buildings. The ornamental tiles were also made in France by Gilardoni Fils et Cie., and the work was completed in 1911. Although Julian Barnard has compared this building with the tile-decorated printing works designed in Bristol by W.J. Neatby (an architect probably better known to members of the Chelsea Society for his tiled decorations in Harrod's Food Halls), it stands outside the mainstream of English architectural building at this period. Comparison with Voysey's 'Sanderson' building in Chiswick is perhaps more relevant. The two buildings, the one so ornate and the other so plain, point up the fundamental differences between French and English architectural thinking at this period. The Michelin Building was at one time embellished with a representation of the famous M. Bibendum, the tyre-man himself, who was allegedly the inspiration of M. Edouard Michelin, an artist *manqué*, in his youth the pupil of the famous academic painter, W.A. Bouguereau. The contrast between M. Bibendum with his 'pneumatic bliss' and one of Bouguereau's notorious Venuses is almost too preposterous to contemplate!

Although the period of his residence takes him beyond the scope of this article, it should not be forgotten that C.R. Mackintosh, now generally accepted as one of the outstanding architects active at the turn of the century, settled in Chelsea with his wife, the hardly less distinguished Margaret Macdonald, in 1915. They lived in adjacent studios at no. 43a Glebe Place, in a building then, as now, known as Hans Studios; just up the road, at no. 48 Glebe Place, can be discerned the few remaining traces of the studio-house which Mackintosh designed for Harold Squire in 1920. His other plans for buildings in Chelsea, all unexecuted, included two more studio-houses and a theatre for the experimental actress and dancer, Margaret Morris.

By taking a wide view of the extent of the Edwardian period it is possible to include in this brief survey a look at the work of J.M. Brydon, whose best building in Chelsea is surely the purpose-built Library in Manresa Road, which has lamentably been handed over to the Polytechnic (also the work of Brydon), whose students may be less appreciative of its excellent design than the old residents of Chelsea. The Library was designed in 1900-1, but Brydon had already made an important contribution to the appearance of Chelsea by

winning, in 1885, the competition for an extension to the back of the old St. Luke's Vestry Hall in the King's Road. Although in many ways a fine and eccentric essay in English Baroque, somewhat in the manner of Hawksmoor, this building suffers from having a purposeless centre. While one can admire the ornamentation; be astonished by the variety of the detailing and the inventiveness of the curious rustication; and marvel at the sharpness of the stonemason's work, Brydon's building is marred by having had to be tacked on to the existing Vestry Hall. When the old Vestry Hall was pulled down along with the old Public Baths (replaced by a firm of engineers in what seems to be almost a parody of Brydon's style), Leonard Stokes was faced with a similar problem when he was asked in 1904 to extend Brydon's Vestry Hall as far as the King's Road, to provide the recently (1899) constituted Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea with a Town Hall.

Sir John Betjeman much admires Chelsea Town Hall (as witness the book review cited above), an opinion shared by some people recently discussing it on a 'bus in the King's Road. It would be foolhardy to disagree with one of our most distinguished architectural historians — one, moreover, who has done so much to open the eyes of the public to the beauties of the architecture of the post-Georgian period — but it may be felt that an ornate projecting clock hardly compensates for the unresolved middle in this design. Stokes' Town Hall could be regarded with temperate admiration were there not an unfortunate comparison to be made with Deptford's Town Hall, an wholly original masterpiece of almost exactly the same date. Much in the same genre, using the same Edwardian Baroque style, but infinitely more self-confident and daring in conception and execution, Lanchester and Rickards' Town Hall at Deptford would have distinguished the King's Road as Chelsea deserves.

By the time Brydon was designing the Library and the Polytechnic (1901-5), he was already past the peak of his career. Nurtured in the offices of Eden Nesfield and Richard Norman Shaw, with both of whom he worked when he came to London from his native Glasgow, he was imbued with the post-Pugin historicism which characterises the work of his two masters. His immediate successors were to seek solutions to the problem of style which deliberately rejected the use of historical precedent, and the reasons why they felt compelled to do this are nowhere more convincingly demonstrated than by the crazily eclectic façade of no. 7 Embankment Gardens. While it is basically in a heavy neo-Greek style, the architect seems to have taken leave of his senses when inventing the ornament of the street frontage. The neo-Greek porch, with its heavy anthemion cornerstones jutting upwards, is almost lost in a riot of Grinling Gibbons swags and masks which in their turn are dominated by a band of the circular Japanese 'family badges' which Nesfield called 'pies'. Clearly a *tabula rasa* was the only solution to this degree of confusion, and Chelsea is fortunate in having within its boundaries a bold experiment in this paring-down process, designed by an original and inventive architect for an original and demanding client. No. 25 Cadogan Gardens was built in 1899 for Mortimer Menpes, the artist, by A. H. Mackmurdo. (Menpes may consciously have been emulating his master and idol, Whistler, whose own patronage of Godwin had resulted in the startlingly original White House in Tite Street,

now lamentably lost to us.) Although there are echoes of Shavian 'Queen Anne' in the three oriel windows of the studio, the refinement in detail in the shaped upper panes and the exaggerated elongation of these oriels, which are enabled to continue into the upper storey by the interposition of solid black and white panels, show the distance which Mackmurdo had travelled beyond Shaw's more conventional proportions and over-elaborate ornament.

Menpes is best known for his pictures of Japan, and the interior of his house was to be in the Japanese style. His *Japonaiserie*, running riot over the principal rooms, is a far cry from the rush matting and sparse furniture installed by E.W. Godwin in the house that he shared with Ellen Terry; more elaborate, even, than the interiors designed by Thomas Jekyll for F.R. Leyland. The decorative features and furnishings took no less than two years to complete, being made in Japan under the anxious supervision of Menpes himself. After all this great effort, he was to occupy the house for only a decade. In 1909 the whole place was sold up with the interior decoration intact, and a record of this exotic scheme is preserved in the illustrated sale catalogue of which a copy is in the Chelsea Reference Library. The description in a leaflet of the same date of no. 25 Cadogan Gardens as 'the most wonderful house in the world', is something of an exaggeration; the refinements of ornament on the exterior certainly repay the detour.

The other example of Mackmurdo's work that can be seen in Chelsea forms the third of a trio of houses, all built for the same client, Archibald Grove, in Hans Road, two of which were designed by C.F.A. Voysey. Mackmurdo accepted the commission only after Voysey had fallen out with his client, and it is not a particularly distinguished example of his work. But even here some of the details show him at his inventive best, notably the strong central composition of the porch and the bowed window above. Voysey's houses, on the other hand, are early works, designed in 1892, and are fine examples of his style which show him using uncharacteristic materials with considerable success. These two houses in red brick, dressed with stone, sparsely but effectively decorated with curvilinear ornament, are compactly fitted into the vertical space dictated by an urban terrace site. Like Webb, and his own contemporary Ashbee, Voysey has solved the problem of avoiding specific historical precedents by studying the vernacular architecture of Southern England and adapting traditional forms to his own use. The chief defect of the vernacular style for architect-designed buildings is that, since it is essentially modest in scale and function it does not adapt well either to a more grandiose scale or to an urban environment. The use of the vernacular simply spreads the design horizontally in a thoroughly unwieldy manner. In Voysey's case this was deliberate since he was obsessed with horizontal exaggeration as many of his country house designs demonstrate; whereas in an urban environment the necessity for economy in the use of ground-space spreads the design vertically but no less satisfactorily.

At no. 25 Cadogan Gardens, where the site by London standards was spacious, Mackmurdo solved the problem by exaggerating the vertical thrust; but Voysey's interesting use of carefully juxtaposed but unsymmetrical

fenestration across the two façades in Hans Road would be equally successful if the houses were sliced horizontally and made into a long low building only two stories high. This is not a mistake that any neo-classically inclined urban architect would have made, and it makes inevitable the return to eighteenth-century urban proportions exemplified in Chelsea by the handsome houses in the Vale which date from the years immediately before the First World War.

The same criticism of the misuse of style could be levelled at Ashbee's two groups of houses in Cheyne Walk, now sadly reduced to two of the houses that occupied nos. 37-39: his own house (no. 37) and the whole of the group encompassing nos. 71-75 having gone, the latter during the war.

However much these experiments by Voysey and Ashbee (whom Lutyens once referred to as an 'artist and furniture freakist') might seem fatally flawed in their solutions to urban building problems, such wholesale destruction of Ashbee's work must be a matter for regret. Voysey is more fortunate; nos. 14 and 16 Hans Road are well cared for and unaltered in any significant respect, while another interesting example of his work is even now in the process of being rescued from the decay into which it had been allowed to fall.

With considerable — even foolhardy — courage, an architectural partnership has bought and is about to restore and use, no. 13 Embankment Gardens. Known as 'Garden Corner' from its enviable position overlooking the Physic Garden, this house was built in the 'seventies by I'anson, in a bold but conventional classical style. The original appearance can be judged from a lithographic illustration to *The Builder* of 1878, which shows that the shell still remains largely unaltered. In 1907 the entire house was refurbished by Voysey for the owner, E.J. Horniman, Liberal M.P. for Chelsea from 1906-10. Horniman, in employing a forward-looking and original architect for his project was following in the footsteps of his father, the eccentric F.J. Horniman, also an M.P., and the founder of the Horniman Museum which was designed by C. Harrison Townsend to house his ethnographic collections.

Voysey was faced with a formidable task, and one to which his talents were in many ways not entirely suited. Throughout the house he engages in a titanic struggle with the recalcitrant personality of I'anson. The fundamental difference in approach between the two men was largely a matter of proportion. In some of the rooms Voysey has simply failed to dominate the innate Victorianism of the original house; then in rooms where his idiosyncratic manner could least expect to come off he is triumphantly successful. His changes to the exterior of the house are, of course, clear to any observant passer-by: the alteration of the glazing-bars on the windows of the two main floors, and the front door with its typical lettering are unmistakably Voysey; but the interior will be visible only after a huge programme of restoration work has been undertaken. The preservation of Voysey's work in this house, and the eventual access which, it is intended, shall be available to seriously interested visitors is an act of homage to a distinguished predecessor. One can only hope that such conscientious and sympathetic owners will be found for some of Chelsea's other problem buildings of this date before they are destroyed by commercial interests.

See illustrations on pages 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.

Chelsea College and the Chelsea Community

by **David Ingram, MA, DSc, Hon. DSc.**
Principal, Chelsea College

During the past year, Chelsea College has been very much aware of the help which the local Chelsea community and the Royal Borough have given us in our attempts to acquire the site of St. Mark and St. John, and we have been extremely grateful for this support. The wholehearted way in which the local community was backing us in our attempts to acquire St. Mark and St. John's site for higher educational use became clear at the Annual General Meeting of the Chelsea Society in November, which was held shortly after we made our own decision to make an all-out effort to secure the site. The Society kindly allowed me to present our case to the Annual General Meeting which then generously passed a unanimous motion as follows:

“The members of the Chelsea Society present at their Annual General Meeting strongly support Chelsea College in their efforts to acquire the site of the College of St. Mark and St. John thereby strengthening the links between Chelsea College and Chelsea, ensuring an institutional use of the site, preserving the grounds and buildings and making possible public access to these grounds.”

From that time forward the Society has given us help and assistance in every way, including personal canvassing around the streets with a petition on our behalf during the winter months, and also in the early summer when the President, Lord Chalfont, and the Vice-President, Sir Malby Crofton, and the Chairman, Mr. Quentin Morgan Edwards, kindly signed a letter to members of the GLC Planning Committee when decisions were being taken whether to accept the bid from Chelsea College. The College has been particularly grateful for this continued and effective support and it was appropriate that at the summer meeting of the Chelsea Society I was able to express our thanks in this way. I hope that before long the matter will be satisfactorily settled and we will then be able to welcome the Chelsea Society to the Marjohn site for their summer meeting in 1980.

I mention these facts, not because this article is an appropriate place to attempt a full account of the negotiations in relation to the St. Mark and St. John site, but to say how much the College has appreciated the strength of support and the warmth of the encouragement which the Chelsea Society has given the College throughout these past twelve months. We have been conscious over some years that the College ought to have made greater attempts to foster links with the local community, but it has taken this particular operation in which both the college and the community had a common interest to bring us together so effectively and we are now anxious that these links should not only continue, but grow and develop.

Links between Town and Gown are not always as fruitful as they should be. Indeed, as I mentioned at the Chelsea Society summer meeting, quite a number of our colleagues in the university world have been amazed and envious of the support which the local community has given us over these last months. We on our side would now like to make it clear that we want to continue these links and foster a growing association between the College and the rest of Chelsea which I am sure will be for our mutual benefit. In saying this, one does not want to imply that no such interaction has taken place before, since we have always been aware that the people of Chelsea might well be interested in some of our activities. We have moreover been sharing some of these, such as our Wednesday lunchtime concerts, with all those from the community who could join us. On the other hand, I think the events of the last 12 months have given an added impetus to such plans and the fact that the College will now be consolidating in the Chelsea area for the foreseeable future, rather than planning to move across the river, gives very strong additional motivation to the development of such links.

It might help if I began by giving a brief outline of the present College activities in which members of the local community do currently take part and then go on to discuss other ways in which such co-operation could be extended. One might start on the academic side and mention that there are evening courses and short courses given during the vacation period which the academic departments in the College mount at the request of members of the public and these do seem to be fulfilling a real need. Some of these courses are specialised, such as those run by the Department of Pharmacy for members of the public, and those in industry who are particularly interested in the potentialities and problems associated with modern drugs, their use and abuse. Others have been organised at the request of those working in industry or the government services. A good example of those are the recent courses which our Electronics Department is giving on microprocessors and their applications. In these the expertise available in the College is passed on to the public to bring to their attention very recent scientific developments which are going to have an immense impact on their work and life. We realise that such academic courses as these are limited to the relatively few members of the community who have particular interest in the topics in question, but we do also run other courses of a slightly less specialised nature, such as those in immunology for the medical profession where a wide range of those interested in medical and paramedical fields, including local doctors and others interested in the application of scientific research to medical advance, are brought up to date with the latest scientific advances in those fields.

Apart from the courses of a scientific nature in which the College tries to make the most recent advances in knowledge available to the lay public, we also mount a large number of courses on the Humanities side which are designed for the interested layman and are not of a specialised nature. These have included courses in French and Russian studies and also those associated with modern film appreciation. Our own Department of Humanities runs a special diploma course in modern cultural studies, which embraces a number of these topics.

The College not only offers its academic interests to the community by way of lectures, tutorials and laboratory classes, but also endeavours to share its interests in the more practical way of concerts and drama productions. Thus, each Wednesday lunchtime in the autumn and spring terms we hold a recital in our College Hall and members of the Chelsea community have always been welcome to attend these, and we have been most encouraged in recent years at the number who have been able to come. These concerts cover a wide range of tastes; some appeal to the older members of the community, while others are aimed at younger listeners. We have often been surprised to discover how wide a cross section of the community is represented at these concerts. It is certainly an effective way of mixing both college and community and the different age groups at the same time. We are in close touch with the Chelsea Community Centre on the production of these concerts, and this is exactly the kind of activity which we hope will extend considerably when St. Mark and St. John site becomes available.

We have always been glad to invite members of the public to our College drama productions although our production facilities are somewhat limited at the moment with only one hall available for both drama rehearsals and the many extra-curricular activities which go on in the college during term-time. Nevertheless, we have always maintained a close association with the local community in this connection, not least through our Christmas Pantomime for local children and older folk. This has proved to be one of the most effective ways in which we have been able to inter-act with the local community. As mentioned earlier, however, the drama side is one that would particularly benefit from the availability of the St. Mark and St. John site. We hope to develop it in every way, including drama festivals in the summer months.

This summary of ways in which present college activities have been developed to provide a relationship with the neighbourhood may show that the College has not been entirely idle in this respect; indeed we much enjoy the association with the local community which has thus been brought about. There is no doubt however that the facilities available on the St. Mark and St. John site would make a large number of these activities very much easier to develop and it might therefore now be appropriate to turn to the main topic of this article and outline the ways in which we hope we may be able to welcome members of the community to share in our activities at the St. Mark and St. John site.

One of the most general ways our association with the public is envisaged is the fact that we are offering to allow the public access to the College grounds so we can all enjoy the splendour of a rural sanctuary in the middle of London. The precise way in which this can best be arranged is still under discussion with the Borough offices. We hope to open up two small gateways, one in the King's Road wall and one in the Fulham Road wall, to make access easier and to provide a walk through the garden area. This would include seats so that the older members of the community can relax and look across the lawns which form such a feature of the St. Mark and St. John complex. In inviting members

of the public to share the garden area with us we would of course like to remind them that the primary purpose for the whole site is that of a higher educational institution and would hope that all those passing through the gardens would bear this very much in mind. In saying this we realise that our own students are not always models of perfect behaviour, but nevertheless we are sure that it will be appreciated that certain things are more appropriate in this setting than others. We would indeed like to try and engender the atmosphere of an Oxbridge college in this respect, where the College seeks to share its inheritance with the members of the public by making the gardens available to them.

A large number of activities are being currently discussed which may well develop with the College of St. Mark and St. John as their focus and could prove to be of significant interest to the local community. Such ideas include music and drama festivals during the summer months, when it might be possible to offer residential accommodation to visiting orchestras or drama groups. There may well be other occasions where the College facilities can be made available to a wider public during vacations when our own students are away. These no doubt will develop very much on a "one-off basis" initially as various projects are attempted. We will need to learn from each occasion to develop a more effective and efficient organisation for the ones that follow.

However, it may be of more interest in the immediate future to summarise the activities which we hope to initiate, which might well enable the local community to develop permanent links with the college. As mentioned earlier, there is no doubt that the St. Mark and St. John site would enable us to extend our musical activities and indeed the facilities available in St. Mark and St. John are very noteworthy in this connection. In our present setting in the College Hall at Manresa Road we have been limited to relatively small musical productions and indeed our lunch-time concerts have normally been confined to quintets or the like. The specialised facilities at St. Mark and St. John, and the theatre when re-furnished, should provide a better setting for a full range of instrumental and vocal works. In a similar way the facilities for drama and other literary activities will be much increased and it should be possible to have regular poetry readings and other related events if this appeals to local people. In making these suggestions we are aware that we will need to work closely with other drama groups and similar bodies in the area and we would be anxious to seek advice from the local arts council.

It will be appreciated that most of these plans are of necessity at a preliminary stage. We are anxious to obtain a contribution to our thinking from members of the local community before going too far with detailed preparations. Our intention to interact with the local community has however already been incorporated into the brief given to our architects for the refurbishing of the site. It might here be mentioned that we are hoping to develop a circular walkway around the main building complex to act as a general communication line linking the social and other facilities within the college and which should make it much easier for the public to participate. We are hoping to develop easy and rapid access between the main features of the

site, such as the theatre, the refectory, the common room and leisure centre activities, so that there will be no difficulty for those joining from outside to enter quickly into the activities with the College itself.

In this connection we have already started discussions on the best way in which the Chapel can be adapted for use both by the College and the Community. We have in mind that it should be available for services of all denominations, and also be developed as a meeting place where general discussions or debates might take place.

Maybe the best way to end an article like this is to emphasise that our thinking is still in a preliminary stage and we would welcome comments from those in the community who might have a direct interest in one or other of the activities we are hoping to develop. We believe that the retention of the site for educational purposes is most important not only for ourselves in the higher educational field, but also for the community as a whole. We would like to take this opportunity to share our thinking with those in the community who have already helped us so much in our efforts to acquire the site and who may now be able to help us further with ideas on how it can best be utilised.

See illustration on page 40.

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The Restoration Of The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea

by Gerald Dalby, A.A.Dipl., R.I.B.A.

Standing discreetly off the King's Road, only two minutes walk from Sloane Square, is the group of buildings known as The Duke of York's Headquarters, the headquarters of the Greater London Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association. These buildings are a distinguished Chelsea landmark. Their dignity, fine proportions and careful Portland stone detailing may not immediately be obvious to the public passing outside the defensive railings but closer inspection reveals a design of very considerable charm and merit. Indeed in 1808 The Duke of York's was considered so outstanding that it was illustrated in the *New Vitruvius Britannicus* and almost all of that building survives.

These buildings have always housed a military establishment, but the original inscription over the portico, "The Royal Military Asylum for the Children of Soldiers of the Regular Army", discloses its earlier use. This institution was paid for out of public funds at the instigation of George III's brother, the Duke of York and was built between 1801 and 1803. The architect was John Sanders (1768-1826), the first of Sir John Soane's pupils. After the completion of the Duke of York's, Sanders became architect to the Barrack Department of the War Office. His other work included altering for use as barracks, the King's House at Winchester, Wren's unfinished palace for Charles II, and he was responsible in 1811 for the Royal Military College at Sandhurst.

The Duke of York's is laid out symmetrically with wings to either side of a central portico. In the south wing were housed 300 girls and in the north wing, carefully segregated by the central block mess halls, were 700 boys. The boys wore red jackets, blue breeches, blue stockings and black leather hats. They were taught reading, writing, arithmetic and various trades such as boot making and tailoring. The girls in red gowns, blue petticoats, white aprons and straw bonnets were spared the trades but were employed instead in knitting, needlework and household tasks. Some of the children were orphans but should the parents have been surviving they were permitted to take back their children whenever they had an opportunity of providing for them and the *Microcosm of London* adds that "the rest are disposed of in the army" where no doubt their skills would have been usefully employed. It would be pleasing to know that some of them ended their days as Pensioners at the nearby Royal Hospital. This masterpiece by Wren had been completed in 1691 and with its colonnaded chapel and mess hall flanked by two wings, must surely have influenced Sanders in his design for The Duke of York's. The girls did not stay at The Duke of York's long but moved to Southampton in 1823. The boys continued to occupy the whole building until 1909 when they left for Dover.

From just before the First World War until 1968 The Duke of York's was the headquarters of the former County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, the forerunner of the present occupier. Perhaps above all The Duke of York's has been best known to countless thousands of soldiers who mobilised there in both world wars. At The Duke of York's are both the headquarters of the Greater London TAVR, which is responsible for over 600 TAVR centres in the area and also the headquarters of the Army Cadet Force in London. There are 14 TAVR Associations throughout the United Kingdom and their co-ordinating body, the Council of TAVRAs is similarly located in The Duke of York's. In addition numerous other TAVR and Regular Army units are there, ranging from the 10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment to The Household Division Musical Instrument Workshop, FANYs, 257 (Southern) General Hospital, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Military Historical Society, to name but a few. As well as being a focal point for the TAVR throughout the United Kingdom, The Duke of York's can fairly be said to be a household name in the British Army.

Over recent years it had become increasingly apparent to the TAVR Association that a major repair programme for The Duke of York's was necessary. In 1976 the architects, Donald Insall and Associates, were commissioned to prepare a report on the condition and repair of the main façade of the building.

The façade is of brick and Portland stone. To clean the brickwork was essential both for aesthetic reasons and to reveal the condition of the walls. The yellow London stock bricks had been blackened by 175 years of soot which in places had become encrusted, sometimes destroying the surface of the bricks. The rubbed brick arches are particularly attractive with their fine joints. The main cornice, string courses and impost mouldings are of Portland stone. Much of the detailing has been eroded away and the "chanelling" of rainwater has left clean white streaks through the soot blackened stonework marring the overall appearance of the building. Some of the stonework is being replaced by new Portland stone to restore the original crispness of the detailing. Elsewhere the damaging erosion by rainwater can be mostly prevented by setting lead flashings on the top surfaces of the stonework and throwing water clear of the mouldings below.

Other tasks on the façades include replacing the concrete arcade steps by new stonework and repairs to the portico. Here the surviving Portland paving and steps are badly fractured or worn and have in places been replaced by York stone or concrete. This distinguished portico demands particular attention. The steps and paving are to be renewed completely in Portland stone. During the last war a fire bomb damaged the roof of the centre block. The central section of the roof is now a flat asphalt roof which leaks and both the portico roof and ceiling were lost. The main pitched roof, the portico roof and portico ceiling are all to be reinstated. An important feature of the façade is the two curved screen walls. These were found to lean outwards an alarming 6" out of plumb. They are being strengthened by L-shaped steel props encased in

concrete and connected to a reinforced concrete ring beam at the wall top. The steel and concrete is all concealed within a brick skin.

The original brief did not extend beyond reporting on the façades, but during the survey it quickly became obvious that while the building was scaffolded the roofs should be repaired. The major cause for concern was the lead parapet gutters. Despite careful maintenance by the Association the leadwork, which was almost entirely the original, required constant patching. It was past piecemeal repair. Complete renewal was necessary to remedy the leaks and to reduce the cost of expensive maintenance. The roofs are also being re-slatted, with old slates on the more prominent roof slopes and new slates elsewhere. Two chimney stacks were in a most precarious condition and they have been rebuilt entirely. While the roofs are being repaired the attic floors are being refurbished internally.

In 1978 the main contract was awarded to Ashby and Horner Limited and the Stone Firms Limited were nominated to carry out the stonework repairs. The harsh winter has not assisted the progress of the contract and serious outbreaks of dry rot, caused almost entirely by rainwater penetrating through old lead gutters, have presented additional problems. Investigation of the dry rot has revealed widespread outbreaks which descend from attic to third and to second floors. The accommodation at The Duke of York's is very fully used and temporarily re-allocating offices during repairs is not at all simple for the Association. Discoveries of this nature are to be expected when repairing historic buildings but these problems are proving more serious than had been anticipated.

The cleaning and repairs to the roof façades are already revealing The Duke of York's in its former glory. On completion of the internal repairs The Duke of York's will be fit for many more years active service.

See illustration on page 39.

Some facts on the proposed Cardio-Thoracic Centre in Sydney Street

Members may be interested to know some facts relating to this long drawn-out and important proposal, with its reverberations on the tax-payer, about which so many differing viewpoints have recently been circulating — including the suggestion that if Sydney Street were renamed Dickens Street it would conserve the street for private dwellings for ever!

Sydney Street has lived with hospital threats for many years. We have already had two partial reprieves. The idea of a vast post-graduate hospital complex in Chelsea stems from the Principal of London University in his report for 1961-62. The Principal was involved as, under the post-war arrangements for medical education, the London Teaching Hospital Medical Schools had become Colleges of London University. The Royal Commission on Medical Education 1965-68 (the Todd Report) reproduces this report in paragraph 443.

In 1961 the Minister of Health announced proposals of this kind which would have meant the demolition of the whole of the West side of Sydney Street. At the time we did not appreciate the reasons behind all this. The first reprieve came as a result of opposition not only from Chelsea interests, but also from the medical world, and the Minister abandoned his previous plans, leaving the field to the Brompton and Royal Marsden Hospitals to develop along their own independent lines.

After the removal of St. Wilfred's Convent and the Oratory School new developments by these two hospitals became possible. The Royal Marsden's have so far been modest as they have only involved the adaptation of the former school buildings for non-patient purposes and these have now been completed. The Brompton Hospital's proposals have been more ambitious. The proposed Cardio-Thoracic Centre in Sydney Street is destined after a decade to become the Brompton Hospital of tomorrow. The first plans divulged in 1976 were horrific and were instantly condemned. Our second reprieve came when these proposals too were turned down by the D.H.S.S. and the Hospital was told to try again.

Last October the Chairman of the Chelsea Society presided over a meeting of a number of amenity organisations and it was agreed that each should separately approach the Secretary of State for a Public Enquiry. Our Association's approach was that with hospital ideas now nearly 20 years stale a Public Enquiry should be held to answer the following questions:

- 1) Is a National Heart and Chest Centre required in the national interest?
- 2) Is the proposed site in Chelsea the best available for any such Centre?
- 3) Is the present proposed development suitable to meet both medical and environmental considerations?

E.L. HAYES

Chairman of the Sydney Street and District Residents' Association

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ending 31 December 1978 show a surplus of income over expenditure of £74.86 as against a loss of £101.68 for the previous year. When this surplus is set against the losses for 1976 and 1977 amounting to £103.64, we still have a deficit of £28.78.

The surplus for 1978 is due solely as a result of a payment of money back from the Jubilee Fund, over and above its debt to us, of £232.00. Had this not been received, the loss for the year would have been £157.14, making a total deficit as at 31 December 1978 of £260.78. In addition to this we have been bolstered up on the general fund by borrowing £200 from the Life Fund, which is only less than half recovered by the amount of interest, after deduction of income tax, received on the Life Fund monies invested in the Post Office account.

This withdrawal together with those made previously must be replaced over the coming years or the Life Fund could become extinct. There will of course be no repeats of monies received from the Jubilee Fund and from the costs for this year received to date, there is every indication that we will incur a small loss in 1979.

Turning to subscriptions, in spite of the Chairman's letter sent with the A.G.M. Agenda, these will have to be increased in the future. There has already been an increase in Postal Charges since that letter was written which comes into effect early next year and these will increase our costs. Further advertising has been sold for the Annual Report upon which no doubt the Chairman will comment in his speech and this will help to meet rising costs in 1980.

The Covenant Scheme has produced a little extra money but only about 30 people have joined this scheme and many more will be welcome. Prompt payment of subscriptions does assist us as reminders are very costly to issue (about 25 are still outstanding for this year, some Bankers Orders are still not up to date).

I would like to thank those life members who have sent donations through the year, this certainly helps the Society as the amount of income received from the original payment does not cover the running costs even at the £30 rate.

The Annual Report now costs about £1.30 per member to prepare and send out for example, and there is no way sufficient income can be raised from the Life Subscriptions to cover each member's operating costs. The Council of the Society has now reluctantly decided to suspend all future new Life Members with immediate effect, as these members are being supported from the annual payers. This step is regretted, but it is felt to be in the best interests of all concerned.

Once again I would like to express our thanks to our Hon. Auditor, Ian Frazer, who unfortunately cannot be present this afternoon, for all his help in auditing and producing these accounts for us which I hope you will agree are presented in a more readable form this year.

Thank you, Ian, very much, together with Roger Seddon of your office for this splendid work.

WILLIAM HAYNES
Hon. Treasurer

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1978

Income and Expenditure Account — General Fund

		1978	
		£	£
<i>Income</i>	Annual subscriptions		1,165.05
	Transfer from Life Membership Fund ...		200.00
	Donations received		82.00
	Donations received from the Jubilee Fund ...		232.00
			<u>1,679.05</u>
<i>Less:</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>		
	Cost of Annual Report	1,160.26	
	Stationery, postage and miscellaneous ...	405.27	
	Cost of Annual General Meeting	31.66	
	Donations to other organisations	7.00	1,604.19
			<u>1,604.19</u>
	<i>Surplus of income over expenditure for the year</i> ...		<u>74.86</u>

Income and Expenditure Account — Life Membership Fund

	Balance of Fund at 1 January 1978		840.66
<i>Income</i>	Life membership fees		60.00
	Post Office savings account interest ...		150.00
			<u>1,050.66</u>
<i>Less:</i>	Expenditure — Transfer to General Fund ...	200.00	
	Income Tax	65.48	265.48
			<u>265.48</u>
	<i>Balance of fund at 31 December 1978</i>		<u>785.18</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1978

Current Assets

	Debtors — Interest on Post Office Savings account	...	...	...	...	150.00
	Balance in Post Office accounts	...	...	...	...	1,616.16
	Balance at Bank	...	...	...	...	<u>358.35</u>
						2,124.51
<i>Less:</i>	Current liabilities					
	Creditors	...	...	...	...	1,349.11
	Subscriptions received in advance	...	...	...	...	<u>19.00</u>
						1,368.11
	Net assets	...	...	...	...	<u>756.40</u>
	<i>Represented by:</i>					
	Balance of Life Membership Fund	...	...	...	...	785.18
<i>Less:</i>	Adverse balance on General Fund					
	1 January 1978	...	...	...	...	(103.64)
<i>Less:</i>	Surplus for the year	...	...	...	...	<u>74.86</u>
						<u>(28.78)</u>
						<u>756.40</u>

W.S. HAYNES, *Hon. Treasurer*

REPORT OF THE HONORARY AUDITOR
to the members of THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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.

20 November 1979
London EC2A 1EP

I. W. FRAZER
Chartered Accountant

New Books About Chelsea

Chelsea seen from 1860 to 1980. A collection of photographs old and new selected by John Bignell. (Published by John Bignell, Studio B, 1 Beaufort Street, London, S.W.3. £7.50.)

To get together a collection of old photographs of any particular district is generally not too difficult. That the photographs should be representative, chronologically, thematically and geographically, and that they should be outstanding pictures in their own right, is an aim much harder to achieve. It is a measure of John Bignell's success that his book reaches the highest standard in all these respects.

Provided you have the cash, it is also relatively easy to produce and publish your own book, but then in most cases the book itself is evidence of its amateur origins. Again, *Chelsea Seen* is an exception to this generally reliable rule. In terms of production and design it is the professionally-produced books which might suffer by comparison. Part of the explanation lies in the fact that John Bignell is in reality no amateur, but, as many examples of his photographs here reproduced show, as gifted a recorder of Chelsea as was his great predecessor of a hundred and more years earlier, John Hedderley (though *his* avocation was that of sign-writer). Because he always has a discerning eye for the subject, John Bignell has been equally discriminating in choosing the pictures to illustrate his book.

The arrangement of the material is for the most part in terms of areas, as it might be Sloane Square and Sloane Street, the King's Road, the Old Church, the Riverside, the World's End, the Duke of York's and the Royal Hospital, the Royal Flower Show, and St. Luke's. There are also some subject sections interspersed among the topographical ones: Artists and Studios, naturally enough, Sport (including the first, 1905, Chelsea Football Club group), Chelsea People, Fun and Games, Trade and Industry.

The pictures might be said to centre round the nucleus spreading out from the Old Church, just as, for centuries, Chelsea itself did so. What evil-smelling, poverty-stricken streets those were, and yet how impossible it is not to be sorry that they have gone. Only short stretches of Old Church Street and Lawrence Street survive as partial reminders of a Chelsea unimaginably different from the Chelsea of to-day.

The period covered by the photographs in John Bignell's valuable and beautiful book continues up to 1978, but for the most part these pictures show the streets and squares and riverside known by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and George Eliot, by Whistler and Walter Greaves, by Carlyle and Swinburne, by Charles Conder, Henry James and Ellen Terry. The reader half expects to identify some of these famous Chelsea men and women among the nonentities to whom these old photographs give an anonymous immortality.

S.C.

In Pleasant Places, by Joyce Grenfell. (Macmillan. £6.95).

Joyce Grenfell has for long been one of our members, and for longer a resident of Chelsea. She contributes some memories of her early life in the neighbourhood of St. Leonard's Terrace to the present number of the Society's *Report*.

This second autobiographical volume is largely concerned with what happened when she *wasn't* at her flat in the King's Road, or, later, in Elm Park Gardens. But it was to these homes that she returned when she had been performing in America, perhaps, in Australia or Canada; and it is sometimes of her Chelsea friends — Athene Seyler and Nicholas Hannen, Sir John Betjeman, Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson — that she affectionately writes.

Famous men and women constantly appear amongst the pages, and just as frequently, and not less interestingly, do obscure ones. What gives the book its flavour is Joyce Grenfell's perceptive eye, her retentive memory, and her accomplished, witty and charitable pen. The jokes are what the reader particularly remembers and of these some of the worst are, so to speak, the best. ("How do you tell a drunken Italian in an air-raid that bombs are falling?" "Hi, tiddly Eyetic — pom-pom").

S.C.

The following list, kindly supplied by the Reference Library of Chelsea Library, lists publications of Chelsea interest which have appeared during the past twelvemonth:

- BIGNELL, John — *Chelsea seen*. £7.50. 1978. Studio B.
DAVIDSON, Lionel — *Chelsea murders*. £3.95, Cape, 1978. 99p. Penguin, 1979. (This book which won the Golden Dagger award for crime fiction is to be serialised by ITV in the near future.)
FITZGERALD, Penelope — *Offshore*. £4.50. 1979. Collins.
GAMBLE, Rose — *Chelsea Child*. £5.25. 1979. BBC.
GRENFELL, Joyce — *In Pleasant Places*. 1979. Macmillan.
HOLME, Thea — *The Carlyles at home*. 1979 reissue of 1965 edition. OUP.
HUNTERIAN MUSEUM. — *Charles Rennie MacIntosh: the Chelsea years, 1915-23*. 1979. Catalogue of an exhibition at the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow.
ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA. Draft District plan. 1979.
ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA. Earl's Court study report. 1979.

Obituary

JOYCE GRENFELL

Joyce Grenfell's death has taken away one of the world's most original and witty entertainers. Chelsea has lost a faithful citizen. She was half American and her interests and work took her to many countries. She had travelled all over the British Isles giving her sparkling performances. But Chelsea was her home and indeed she had lived in or very near Chelsea all her life. Her ageless, lithe figure was well known in the Kings Road (where once she lived over a sweet shop). She might be seen watching the evening light on the River Thames. She often wandered in and out of old and new streets, up and down Tower Blocks. She went shopping in the Fulham Road near which she last lived; in a flat with a view, she delighted to say, looking across trees with changing coloured leaves but always beautiful as trees are, whether covered or bare branches.

Joyce's love of beauty in places, persons, things inspired her powers of observation. She could see beauty where others could not and this all served to make her varied performances so enchanting. She had no training for the theatre except love of life and personal experience. Ordinary people she knew well or had sat next to in a bus or stood behind in queues gave her material. She would adapt often, invent, she said, never. Everything interested her. War years with ENSA, contacts with rich and famous, insight into every walk of life. She was critical where needed, mocking at undue pomp or exaggerated circumstance. But always understanding and kindly.

Much has been written about her plays, films, television, and broadcasting, her books and articles. Here are two little Chelsea stories about her.

Once she was 'compère' at a young peoples' charity ball. There was a remarkably shy youth who was trying to escape from the party. She caught him and to his at first annoyance guided him into a dance. His awkward movements and her grace made an amusing combination. They were soon performing alone in the centre of the floor. He shed his shyness then and there and said much later on he never feared dancing again.

She often played and sang to the old and sick in St. Luke's and erstwhile Kingsmead. She bent down beside a bed-ridden patient, then straightened up, smiled and sang a North Country folk song which she alone could interpret from a breathless almost tuneless hum. Then bending down again she gently took the limp hands in hers, patting them together. 'First time I've helped applaud myself', she said.

H. M.-S.

List of Members

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

- *MRS. A. ABELES
*MISS J. F. ADBURGHAM,
L.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., F.I.L.A.
*THE LORD ADEANE
ROY ALDERSON, ESQ.
*MISS HELEN ALFORD
I. G. ALLAN, ESQ.
*LT.-COL. J. H. ALLASON, M.P.
*MISS D. C. ALLASON
MISS C. J. M. ALLEN
*MRS. RUPERT ALLHUSEN
*J. A. W. AMBLER, ESQ.
*THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB
MISS SOPHIE C. M. ANDRAE
*DOUGLAS H. ANDREW, ESQ.
*MISS G. P. A. ANDREWS
*THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
JAMES ARBUTHNOT, ESQ.
J. N. ARCHER, ESQ.
*MRS. JOHN ARMSTRONG
MAJOR G. LEONARD ARTHUR
MRS. LEONARD ARTHUR
*DAVID ASCHAN, ESQ.
*MRS. M. G. ASCHAN
MRS. J. ASHTON
*MAJOR A. L. ASHWELL
THE HON. NICHOLAS ASSHETON
*MRS. R. J. V. ASTELL
*MRS. PHILIP ASTLEY, O.B.E.
*HON. M. L. ASTOR
- MRS. M. J. BABINGTON-SMITH
F. R. BADEN-POWELL, ESQ.
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MRS. E. A. BAKER
MISS J. K. BAKER-WILBRAHAM
MISS PATRICIA BANKS
D. BARING, ESQ.
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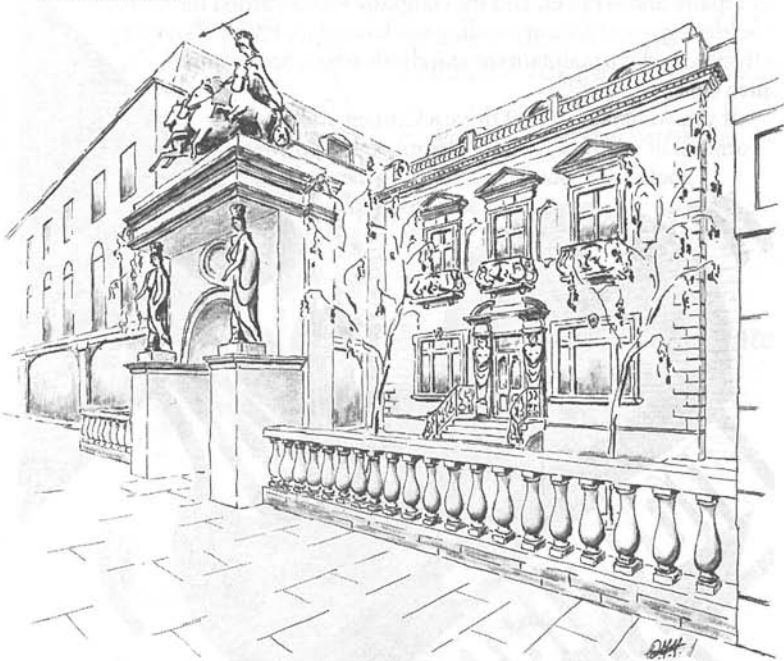
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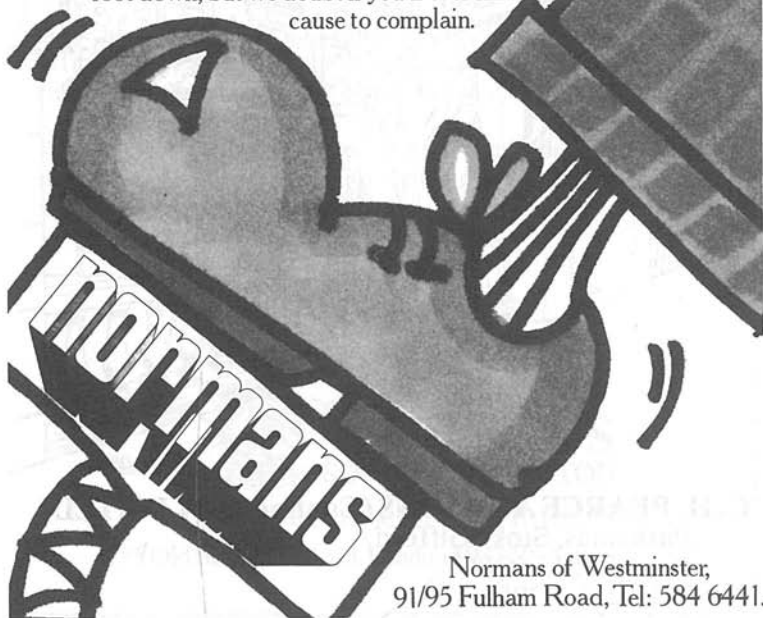
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