THE CHELSEA SOCIETY REPORT

1985

BARRY FANTONI

what I like about the C.A.C
is that's ltsh the only club you
get thrown into for being drunk

(It's an advertisement for the Chelsea Arts Club)

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THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
38 Whitelands House,
Cheltenham Terrace,
SW3 4QX.
Registered Charity 276264

The Annual General Meeting

of the Chelsea Society

was held at St. Luke's Church Hall,

St. Luke's Street, Chelsea, SW3

Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt., J.P., D.L., President of the Society, took the Chair.

He then, on behalf of the Society, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting, in particular the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Sir Marcus said this was the first occasion on which he had taken the Chair and found it most flattering that one of "Yesterday's Men" had been elected. He was delighted that Mrs. Lewis had approached him and with whom he would be pleased to campaign. He felt sure the Mayor would be in agreement that a responsible civic society was a vital one involving a great deal of hard work. It was easy to be a protest group, but much more difficult to be a constructive civic society.

Sir Marcus paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Noel Blakiston who died in December 1984. He had been an excellent Chairman of the Chelsea Society and, moreover, a very Chelsea Person. He had led the Society's campaign against the proprosal for the West Cross Route which would have involved Cheyne Walk becoming virtually a motorway. He was mainly responsible for raising the £10,000 required by the Society to be properly represented at the Public Inquiry in 1982. Sir Marcus warmly welcomed Mr. Blakiston's widow to the Meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 6th November 1984, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman then asked the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. William Haynes, to present the Accounts for 1984. On the proposal of the Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Tom Pocock, these were adopted with an expression of gratitude to Mr. Haynes and those who had assisted him.

Sir Marcus announced the retirement of Miss Barbara Towle, who had been Hon. Membership Secretary for the last ten years, and of Mr. William Haynes who had served as Hon. Treasurer for eight years. Both had given valuable and devoted service for which the Society was most grateful. He welcomed the appointments of Mrs. Patricia Gelley and Mr. Ian Frazer as Hon. Membership Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

The Chairman's Report was given by Mrs. Lewis, at the end of which Sir Marcus thanked her for a marvellous dissertation.

With regard to the state of houses in Coulson Street and Anderson Street, referred to in the Chairman's Report, Mr. Morgan Edwards pointed out that the backs of adjoining properties in Kings Road were in an equally bad state and suggested that the Cadogan Estates should be approached. Mrs. Lewis said it would be advisable to wait until December, when the future of Coulson Street and Anderson Street should be known and the whole matter could be investigated.

Regarding planning applications, Mr. Denis Howard asked about liaison between the Chelsea Society and other organisations in the area and what happened if there was conflict. Mrs. Lewis confirmed that there was liaison whenever this could be achieved and she was most anxious to keep in touch with residents' associations, but had to rely on them getting in touch with the Chelsea Society: there was no duplication.

Mr. Neville Robinson said Ward Councillors should ascertain that copies of planning applications were passed to the residents' associations.

The Mayor said he noted the attention given to the restoration of details of historic buildings in the Notting Hill area and wondered if this was applicable to Chelsea. Replying, Mrs. Lewis said she was very concerned about restoration in Chelsea and was glad to hear the same applied to Notting Hill. She hoped to review the matter when all the Conservation Area statements were completed.

Mrs. Lewis then made the following announcement regarding the Chelsea Society's Diamond Jubilee in 1987:

Your Council has considered the celebration of the Society's Diamond Jubilee (60 years) in 1987 and agreed that help to the Physic Garden is the most urgent and suitable object with which to associate it. You will remember that for our Golden Jubilee in 1977 we collaborated with the Royal Borough in the rehabilitation of Dovehouse Green. Support for the Chelsea Physic Garden would be equally well within the Chelsea Society's terms of reference, and a substantial contribution to its Appeal would be very welcome.

We propose to you that we should hold a *Chelsea Physic Garden Charity Auction* of works of art, small items of antique furniture, silver, jewellery, porcelain etc. and give the whole proceeds to the Physic Garden Appeal. Mr. Grimwade, as you know, has strong connections with Christie's and through him we were able to approach them, with the result that they would hold our sale at Kensington on a date provisionally approved as 26 March 1987. This of course is subject to your approval of the scheme, which I hope you will give us tonight. Christie's favour a Thursday for the sale and if any of you hear of any function, apart from a General Election, which might clash badly with us on the date suggested will you please contact me immediately.

Christie's will undertake, most generously, to receive, insure and catalogue the gifts, and to hold a sale at about 6.30–8.30 pm. Wine and minor refreshments would be provided, to be included in the cost of a ticket for entrance, probably something like £4. The Chelsea Society's part will be to

persuade donors to part with their treasures, and to persuade as many people as possible to come on the night, and bid each other up to giddy heights, no holds barred.

We would start seriously on the preparations in July 1986 and would probably be able to send out a circular with the notice of the Summer Meeting. Meanwhile will you please start thinking about what you can give, what you can ask others to give, and how best to get word round about the Sale. People with experience tell us that the personal approach is invaluable.

Please contact me with your suggestions from now on, and offer me any help you can. Mr. Grimwade is here and will be pleased to answer questions. After due discussion I should like to propose:

a. The celebration of the Society's Diamond Jubilee by an Auction in aid of the funds of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

b. Authorisation to the Council to use their discretion in paying out of the Society's funds such amounts as seem to them reasonable for publicity and general expenses, and to set up such sub-committees as seem necessary.

Colonel Rubens commented that the Society was very fortunate in having Mr. Arthur Grimwade to help organise the proposed Charity Auction. The Meeting voted unanimously in favour of the proposal put forward by the Council.

Mr. Basil Waters of the Central Tideway Branch of the River Thames Society gave a short resume about their activities. These were to promote, protect and maintain the riverside: to liaise with the Thames Water Authority and with the press. He thanked Mrs. Lewis for giving him an opportunity to speak at the Meeting.

Mrs. Lewis announced the following lectures for next year:

Wednesday, 19th February 1986 — by Professor W. T. Stearn on Sir Hans Sloane and the Chelsea Physic Garden.

Wednesday, 19th March 1986 — by Mr. Boris Mollo on an aspects of the National Army Museum.

Mr. Duncan Donald, Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, thanked the Council and Members of the Chelsea Society for the most generous way in which they had voted to hold a charity auction on behalf of the Garden.

Colonel Rubens thanked Sir Marcus for the charming and efficient manner in which he had conducted the Meeting, showing he was one of today's men, not yesterdays. He added that the Society was fortunate in having another outstanding Chairman — it was a pleasure to work with Mrs. Lewis.

The numbers present were in the region of 100.

The Meeting ended at 7.45 pm., when members and their guests adjourned to the back of the Hall for wine and conversation.

Chairman's Report

This is the first Annual General Meeting at which our new President, Sir Marcus Worsley, has taken the Chair and we most warmly welcome him. Many members have already met him and Lady Worsley because they were happily able to come both to the Summer Meeting and to one of the lectures, and both of course are well known for their work in Chelsea.

The retirement of the Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and the appointment of their successors, have already been announced but I have a few changes in the Council to report. The Rev. Derek Watson, Miss Harriet Cullen and Mr. Denis Howard have been co-opted and Mrs. Venetia Okell has resigned in view of her many commitments. We thank her for her contribution to our work and feel sure her gifts will not be lost to us in amenity matters, including the guarding of Wellington Square from undesirable King's Road encroachments. Miss Mary Fisher, as administrative Secretary, has been responsible for the smooth organization of general meetings and the lectures, as well as preparing the Minutes and helping in all sorts of ways. I rely on her greatly. The Editor, Mr. Tom Pocock, produced a much-admired Annual Report for 1984 and we eagerly await the one for 1985. We thank too the Vice-Chairman, Colonel Alexander Rubens, and all the Council members who have so loyally given their time and thought to the Society's affairs, and their support to me. The membership remains steady at 756.

1. *Planning Matters.*

Members who have joined fairly recently may not know exactly how the Society deals with Planning, one of the most basic concerns of an amenity society such as ours. Every week the Borough Council issues lists of planning applications of which our planning secretary, Dr. Eileen Harris, her assistant Mr. Mark Dorman, and myself, receive copies. The related plans can be seen in the Information Office at Chelsea Old Town Hall, and I must here thank the Information Officer, Mr. Campbell, and the staff of the Chelsea Public Library for their friendly help throughout the year. Eileen and Mark study the lists and plans and whenever they think objections should be raised, and a look at the site has confirmed this, they type letters to the Borough Planning Officer. I sign, or authorize, these and copies are also sent to Ward Councillors concerned. When an architectural opinion is necessary we consult Mr. Hugh Krall who always provides us with sound advice with admirable promtitude. It matters very much what we say in the first instance because we may have to stand up for it in subsequent revisions, or in written, or oral evidence at Public Inquiries by the Department of the Environment. I should like to record here the Society's appreciation of all this highly knowledgeable and responsible work which goes on year in, year out.

Cases

a. Cardio-thoracic Institute in Cale Street & Phase I of the new Brompton Heart Hospital in Sydney Street (note contributed by Mrs. Joan Hayes, Chairman, Residents Association).

In 1959, Sydney St. and District Residents' Association, with other interested groups, fought to save such an unsuitable area as Sydney Street from becoming "hospitalised" — but in due course a Royal Commission, resulting in the Tod Report decreed otherwise.

This year in January a public meeting was held under the auspices of the Brompton Hospital at the request of the Sydney St. & Residents Association in conjunction with the Dovehouse St. Residents Association, as at long last plans for the building of the Institute (coming under the University of London) and the new Hospital were to go ahead. The Institute is to be sited in the old Convent and garden (at present a Youth Hostel) in Cale Street, and was planned to start in September this year, but there has again been some delay. The new Hospital will be opposite St. Luke's Church bounded by Britten and Cale Streets. It will have some 200 beds, operating theatres and the latest medical technical equipment, and building is planned to start next summer.

On the final plans drawn up for the Brompton Hospital for these buildings parking space for about 23 cars was allowed, and it was on this point that residents felt so strongly. The Borough Council held firmly that parking space must be allowed on the land owned by the Hospital between Britten St., Sydney St. and the backs of King's Road buildings. Much correspondence ensued after the public meeting between all parties concerned. The Hospital finally agreed that parking space or a covered car park with suitable space would be catered for, to cover staff and hospital visitors' requirements. In order to avoid additional traffic in the area the general public would not be allowed to use the parking.

Phase II of the Hospital Scheme, covering the ground at present occupied by Chelsea Garden Designers and Chelsea Farmers Market, is very much in the future, no official hospital plans having yet been drawn up. Certain suggestions were made in regard to changing road patterns in the area, but the ideas would not appear practical.

b. *Numbers 3,4,5,8 Coulson Street and 13,14 Anderson Street, SW3*

These houses, in good early nineteenth century terraces, in a conspicuous position just off the King's Road, have been largely unoccupied and deteriorating for several years. The Borough Council twice failed to obtain Compulsory Purchase Orders because the owner represented that he intended rehabilitation. Nothing was done and a third application was made in 1984. It was to be the subject of a Public Inquiry on 2 May 1985 but this was cancelled because work had been begun, with an undertaking that it should be completed by the end of December, 1985. Work however ceased after a few weeks and the houses were left, we suspect, in an even more precarious state than before, demolitions at the rear having exposed them to the

elements. We hope indeed that the rehabilitation will be completed in due time and that, if not, the Borough will undertake it with the powers it possesses. The house are all listed. An Anderson Street resident has been indefatigable in watching the situation and making representations. May I take this opportunity of urging people who see the need for objections to things not readily visible from the street, to notify the Society and, if they have written to the Borough, give us copies of their letters. We are always ready to support what we think a good case if we have the information.

c. *Drummonds Restaurant, King's Road, SW3.*

We welcome this more seemly successor to the notorious Drug Store but we supported residents of Royal Avenue in an important objection. It was a condition of the original planning application that a side door in Royal Avenue should only be used as an emergency exit. At a later stage the developers appealed against this condition and we joined in the residents' representations that it should stand. It was most satisfactory that the Department of the Envionment dismissed the Appeal.

d. Several important planning matters are in progress or pending, and may appear in our 1986 Report. Works on houses, flats and shops have started on the large site at 77 King's Road, but nothing yet at 97 King's Road. Consequently nothing definite is known about the expected move there of Safeways Supermarket. An application for the creation of the shopping mall, and other changes, in the King's Road, Culford Gardens, Blacklands Terrace island has been withdrawn, allaying, if only temporarily, the apprehensions of existing residents. The Territorial Army is selling A Block of the Duke of York's Headquarters (on the King's Road east of the main entrance) and it is proposed to convert the ground floor to shops. This seems a reasonable development if the Territorial Army no longer needs it but we shall watch with some care the changes made to this dignified and conspicuous building.

Planning Applications remain very numerous, probably reflecting more confidence and plenty of money to spend, not always in the public interest. Constant change, however trivial some of it is, has a cumulative effect in destroying atmosphere and character. Most damaging is the progressive enlargement of buildings by vertical or lateral extensions, encroaching on the space, air and light necessary in good planning, and reducing the attractions of Chelsea as a place for civilized living. However, not all changes are for the worse and the Royal Borough makes annual Environmental Awards for improvements on a relatively small scale. If members notices such things as recently replaced railings, cornices, or porches, a new infill building etc. which they feel ehance the scene from the street will they please tell me of it so that a recommendation to the Borough can be considered.

2. *Chelsea Rectory*

Another phase of the long, sad story of the Rectory ended when on 2 September, 1985, the Secretary of State for the Environment gave his decision after a Public Inquiry held 26-28 March 1985. He granted planning

permission to Mr. Sabah al-Rayes to build a very large private house for the use of his family. The volume of building approved is not far short of the amount of office space which the Borough Council thought unacceptable under an earlier application, even in exchange for the public use of most of the garden. It is therefore a bad bargain for Chelsea. We acknowledge, albeit with regret at the consequences, the responsibility of the Trustees of the Diocesan Fund to sell the property in the open market as a private residence, without planning permission, rather than risk a lower purchase price by a compromise on the amount of office space. It was inevitable that once the site passed into private hands it would be lost to Chelsea residents, who had for generations enjoyed the best of both worlds through the benevolence of Rectors who opened the garden to good causes.

We are relieved that the Secretary of State disallowed an intrusive squash court but we fear that the modest Georgian core of the Rectory will be overwhelmed by a mass of new building and this was a view taken by the Georgian Group and many other objectors. As to Old Church Street and the surrounding area we hope that the quiet enjoyment of a quasi country house and garden is the paramount aim of the new owner, for which he has our goodwill.

An interesting result of the Inquiry was that, thanks to the researches of Dr. Philip Whitbourn of the Greater London Council, we know more than we ever did before about the architectural history of the Rectory. I attended the Inquiry throughout and gave evidence for the Chelsea Society in support of the Borough's opposition to the proposals. It was most scrupulously conducted by the Inspector, Mr. Stephen Marks, himself an architect, but, given our feeling that the people of Chelsea should somehow have managed to hang on to their Rectory, the result was unlikely to recommend itself to us.

3. *Activities.*

Lectures.

We had two very interesting lectures at the National Army Museum by kind permission of the Director, Mr. William Reid. On 20 February Mr. John Schofield, Field Officer, Museum of London, spoke on "Crosby Hall in its City Setting". Basing his talk on original research into old maps and deeds he brought to light a picture of the mediaeval City. He demonstrated that Crosby Hall was unusually magnificent for its day and by no means a typical rich merchant's dwelling. He traced its various uses and vicissitudes until the demolition which caused it to be moved to a more dignified position in Chelsea at the beginning of this century.

The second lecture, on 20 March, was given by Mr. James Compton, the Garden Supervisor, on "The Chelsea Physic Garden Today and Tommorrow". Speaking without notes, he held his audience spellbound for an hour, and we were pleased to see many visitors with special gardening interests.

The Summer Meeting.

This was held on the evening of 16 July at Leighton House, with about 100 members and guests present. Proceedings started with a brilliant twenty-minute talk by the Curator, Mr. Stephen Jones. He described how Lord

Leighton designed the house and its contents as a studio and as a place of entertainment for many of the most famous people of his day. However magnificent his hospitality, however, Lord Leighton would brook no interference with his early rising to get on with his painting. He had no spare rooms and there was no question of his guests sleeping where they dined. The house is in the care of the Royal Borough which is progressively bringing it back as nearly as possible to its former glory.

4. *London Road Schemes.*

Pending the abolition of the Greater London Council there has been no positive move about the proposed West London Relief Road, but there seems to be much jockeying for position by the Department of Transport vis-a-vis the Boroughs. West London Traffic Reform has continued to monitor the situation, under the able co-ordination of Mrs. Betty Woolf, and we have been kept informed about it. The Greater London Council's London-wide night and weekend ban on lorries exceeding 16.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight was due to start in December. This followed a ruling by the Court of Appeal (29 October 1985) against the claim by the Secretary of State for Transport that a Public Inquiry was necessary before implementation. The GLC has now postponed the start of the ban till 31 January 1986 in response to protests by traders that it would interfere with Christmas shopping deliveries. As this date would only allow the ban to operate for two months before the demise of the GLC we fear that the Department of Transport may after all frustrate it. The Royal Borough would prefer a limit of 7.5 tonnes but institution of the 16.5 ban would still be a resounding victory for common sense, and provide invaluable evidence of the relief to be gianed from the M25. Let us urge our Borough to continue to support it.

5. *News Items.*

a. H.R.H. the Princess Anne took the Founder's Day Parade at the Royal Hospital with dignity and charm unimpaired by the bad weather. By courtesy of the Governor my husband and I were present to represent the Chelsea Society. H.R.H. the Princess of Wales came to Chelsea on 27 September to open the Alan Lennox-Boyd Day Centre for the Elderly, off Draycott Avenue, and gave as much pleasure talking to the inmates as to the children gathered outside to greet her with flags and homemade banners.

b. Mr. Ronald Ryall, Chairman of the London Society, and a member of the Chelsea Society, has presented us with five large Chelsea scrapbooks which are now being held by the Chairman with the Minute Books and other essential records. These scrapbooks are a splendid source of information on Chelsea, and Mr. David Sagar has undertaken to index them and advise on the best means of making their contents accessible for study. We are most grateful to Mr. Ryall for this most generous gift.

c. Our member Mrs. Playford has with enormous perseverance won from the Greater London Council a Blue Plaque for her house, 108 Cheyne Walk,

once the residence of the Victorian sculptor John Tweed. There will be a full account of this in the Annual Report so I will say no more here except to congratulate Tam on her achievement.

d. The Friends of St. Luke's held a much appreciated inaugural lecture at the National Army Museum on 16 October, by Professor Mordaunt Crook on "St. Luke's and the Gothic Revival". We wish them every success.

e. I evidently had sympathizers when I complained last year of the inadequate arrangements for clearing up rubbish in the streets. Ex-Councillor George Pole initiated a pressure group which resulted in the Borough setting up a sub-committee to examine the matter and suggest improvements. We are grateful to Mr. David Collenette for keeping the Chelsea Society informed on this. In another context he has also followed the proceedings of the new Police Consultative Committee on our behalf, and Colonel Rubens has offered to consult with the Police about the recent wave of vandalism on cars parked at night in residential streets. Several members have reported this to us.

f. Riverside residents will have watched with interest the emergence of the spectacular Japanese Peace Pagoda on the Battersea bank. While appreciating it as an attractive building we feel it should not create a precedent for any further encroachments on the leafy charms of Battersea Park. Also concernig Battersea we had many well-founded complaints about the crude colours in which the bridge has recently been painted. From informal talks I gathered that the authorities concerned were sympathetic but the official explanation was that "the starting point for the present scheme was the Eastern design of the balustrade, and the colours chosen were considered appropriate for this detailing". We hope that at the next repainting in a few years time the tonality of the landscape will be considered rather than the style of the bridge.

g. There was considerable rejoicing when it was announced in May that the Worlds End Branch Post Office was not to be closed after all. The Borough Council had strenuously opposed this very bad idea, protested to the Post Office and enlisted the help of local M.Ps. There were representations from many quarters, including the Chelsea Society, and it was concluded that "continued retention of the Worlds End Branch Office was justified". Well done the Borough Council.

h. The Chelsea Art Society held a highly successful exhibition at the Chelsea Manor Street Gallery 19-26 October. This was their thirty-eighth and it goes from strength to strength, attracting artists from all over the UK as well as from Chelsea. The Private View and Soiree are popular social events, and the achievement of the Society in mounting such a large annual exhibition of such high quality is greatly to be admired. There were 415 entries of which a high proportion were sold.

i. Miss Jo Jones, a distinguished painter who is a member of the Chelsea Society, held an impressive retrospective exhibition at the Alpine Galleries 4-15 February. Her gift for rich and exotic colouring led her to and was inspired by the landscapes of Hamaica and Morocco, while the nine years she spent with the gypsies in Southern Spain in the 1950s developed her eye

for character. Her first major exhibition was at Wildenstein's in 1935 but she is still painting, though now mainly in Dorset.

j. Another member Mrs. Suzy Miles, who was one of the prizewinners in the competition following the "paint-in" of Whistler's Reach organized by the Friends of Chelsea Riverside last year, had a successful exhibition in Guernsey in the summer. The catalogue describes her as having always lived in Chelsea, and now with her husband Christopher, her daughter Sophie, a cat, two tortoises and a goldfish. Some of her work is connected with the films directed by Christopher Miles which include "The Virgin and the Gypsy" and "The Priest in Love" (D. H. Lawrence) much of which was made in Mexico.

k. We have received greetings to the Society from Mr. Ernest Biggin, who wrote from the Isle of Wight wishing us well and kindly enclosing a donation towards our expenses. Dr. Elizabeth Graham-Ker, now retired, sends regards to any members who remember her, and I am sure ther must be many. She says her days at Pitlochry, in a charming old stone house dated 1840, are even fuller of activities than when she was doing daily surgeries and working most weekends. It is pleasing to know that life members no longer living in Chelsea still think of us and read our Annual Reports with avidity.

6. *The Chelsea Physic Garden*

Last but not least I have the pleasure of reporting another successful year at the garden, under the Curator Mr. Duncan Donald. About 12000 visitors went there on Open Days or in groups at other times. Several parties and functions of a suitable kind were held there, the hiring charges being a help to the takings. There was a brilliant occasion on 29 May when H.R.H. The Prince of Wales was present at a "Dinner for the Benefactors of the Garden" and my husband and I were there along with several other members of the Chelsea Society who have contributed in some way to the cause.

We have still to remember that well-being of the Garden, now and in the distant future, depends on the raising of the balance of the Endowment Fund needed to finance it as an independent charity. We are still about half a million short of the target of one-and-a-quarter million and the Appeal Committee is anxious to get this in as soon as possible. In the next item on the Agenda you will hear the suggestion, unanimously approved by the Council, that the Chelsea Society's Diamond Jubilee in 1987 should be celebrated by an effort to raise a substantial sum for the Garden. And with that I close my report for 1985.

The disinherited

by Neil Kearney

Those who can remember Chelsea as it was a quarter of a century ago will mourn the subsequent weakening of the strong social mixture that made it such an agreeable place in which to live. Within a square mile every sort of person, drawn from every social category and income-group, mingled, their diversity bound together by the character of the place itself and by the classless bonds of an artistic tradition. The success of this social chemistry has, perhaps, been its undoing because Chelsea has become so fashionable a district that its personality has been changing in recent years to something less attractive.

As a Chelsea councillor and Leader of the Opposition in the Royal Borough, Neil Kearney has had continual opportunity to study the reasons for, and the effects of, these changes and here reports upon them and presents his ideas for a remedy.

"I feel as if I've won the pools", a fourth generation Chelsean told me recently. He was referring to the £200,000 price tag just placed on the local cottage he had bought for less than a tenth of that seven or eight years ago. Almost in the same breath he explained that he would certainly sell the house and leave the area. A common enough response to escalating property values in Chelsea, but one which threatens to destroy the cohesion of the local community.

My constituent was a willing departee. Many others are very less happy at being forced to quit the homes where they have spent most of their lives. But, they are leaving under the pressure of rocketing property prices and impossible lease renewal terms, monstrous service charges, and sometimes harassment from landlords and unaffordable rents in public housing.

Most of Chelsea's long established leaseholders became home owners in the belief that this would free them from the wilder exesses of landlords. Unfortunately, they could never have anticipated the long-term problems that have arisen with some local head leaseholders and freeholders. Service charges have soared at the same time as blocks of flats have fallen into disrepair. Terms for the renewal of leases are generally way beyond the means of the middle aged and elderly occupants of many of the blocks concerned. These problems and the huge repair bills many leaseholders are now facing are forcing growing numbers to quit the local scene. With them goes a lifetime of commitment to the area.

Local accommodation for renting at reasonable terms has almost disappeared. Those tenants remaining, most of them elderly, are under intense and continual pressure from landlords and particularly from property

developers to get out. Where persuasion, or inducements, or both, don't work, a growing number of developers are not above using methods akin to the Rachmanism of the 1960s. Not surprisingly, many tenants cannot take the strain and again a lifetime of commitment is lost to Chelsea.

The decline in the private rented sector has not been compensated by a growth in council housing locally. Consequently, demand for the limited homes available has intensified and, in the main, a fair degree of social deprivation must exist to gain access to public sector housing today. Of course, this upsets community balance and has contributed to the drop in morale in Chelsea's council estates. Just as worrying, from a community's point of view, is the loss of most of the area's young people on marriage, because of the unavailability of suitable local housing at reasonable cost. In addition, as rents have doubled in recent years, the drain of long established local families from the area has grown.

The combined effect of all these pressures on traditional Chelsea residents will, if unchecked, drain the lifeblood from a historically vibrant community. Already the effects can be seen and nowhere are they clearer than in the Electoral Registers for the six wards which cover the original Chelsea constituency. These show a decline in the indigenous population of about 1,000 a year. This trend is most noticeable at the Knightsbridge end of Chelsea, but it is extending westwards. Hans Town Ward has lost 1,350 electors in the past six years and 850 have gone from the Royal Hospital ward and 750 from Church Ward. Even the South Stanley ward, large parts of which have undergone rehabilitation in recent years, has lost 450 electors.

There is little doubt that the decline is accelerating. Overseas capital continues to flow into London. Not surprisingly, property in a convenient and agreeable area like Chelsea provides a pretty secure investment vehicle. Other factors are also contributing to the accommodation shortage locally. Many overseas companies have switched from the use of hotels to maintaining units of accommodation for quasi hotel use in central London. Some are even buying up accommodation locally to use as holiday accommodation which is offered as a reward to their most successful employees.

A common feature of properties in overseas hands in this way is their long periods of unoccupancy. For example, one house in Chelsea has been used only six days in the past year. Even the amazing historical resilience of the Chelsea community cannot compensate for the gap left by accommodation lying unoccupied for long periods.

Present trends threaten the balance which has long sustained local community life. That balance included, over the years, frequent injections of new blood, but there was always continuity. That is very much in danger of disappearing if urgent remedial action is not soon taken. Indeed, there are some who claim that the decline in local community life is irreversible.

The District Plan drawn up by the Royal Borough in 1982 acknowledges that Chelsea is, first and foremost, a residential area where land is at a premium with a great demand for housing and commercial uses. Says the Plan: "The demand for residential accommodation is very high and most

private dwellings are expensive whether owner occupied or private rented. People of moderate means can gain access to this housing only if they are willing to occupy very small flats or to share with others, neither of which is possible for most middle income families with children . . . The population is in danger of becoming polarised between higher and lower income groups and the young and the elderly with few middle income residents and no families."

Tragically, three years on, this understates today's polarisation. And while the District Plan established a multiplicity of planning policies designed to help maintain the local population by retaining and protecting existing residential uses and increasing the amount of housing, there is little evidence to suggest these have been successfully applied. While the overall aim was to preserve existing communities, mixed both socially and by family size, looking around Chelsea today it is clear that little progress has been made towards fulfilling that aim. Major property conversions proceed apace. Long established residents drift away and the decline in community is reflected in the relentless replacement of long established local shops by the boutique and antiques brigade.

If there exists a genuine desire to preserve the Chelsea community then a much more aggressive and radical stance is going to be needed. Most of the solutions can no longer be found locally. Legislative action is probably the only way to salvage something from the present situation.

First, there is now a clear need to halt the extensive purchase of local properties by non-resident overseas interests. Switzerland, alarmed at developments there some years ago stamped on such sales. It is time Britain did likewise. Sales to overseas interests should only be permitted where a property is for genuine personal use.
Leaseholders are in urgent need of protection from unscrupelous landlords and uncontrollable service charges. Legislation is needed to give leaseholders the statutory right to purchase the freehold of their own block.

Powers to protect tenants in the private rented sector currently exist. If properly used, these could eliminate the speculators causing such concern in Chelsea today and an urgent clamp-down on the worst landlords is needed. So too are legislative changes to give tenants the right to buy their own accommodation. Finally, an expansion of public sector housing in Chelsea is overdue. Greater sensitivity, too, needs to be exercised in housing allocation and better provision made to retain and attract families with children.

In reality, all I am suggesting is that the Chelsea community should have restored to them choice and flexibility over where they live and control over their homes and their environment. This is not a lot for any community to ask.

Whether Chelsea can recover its verve and vitality , or whether it is destined to becoming an inner city preserve of the ultra rich and the very poor and devoid of all elements necessary for an active community really depends on whether enough of its residents care enough to fight to resist current trends. The Chelsea Society and others with the interests of Chelsea at heart have their work cut out for them in the years ahead.

A rare breed

by Guy Topham

The habitat is Tite Street; the endangered species, the artist. So a sighting of Julian Barrow heading for his studio there is noteworthy in the natural history of Chelsea. At the beginning of the century there were twenty-six large studios in Tite Street — all of them purpose-built for the prosperous artists of the day; sixteen of the studios still exist but only two of them are occupied by artists.

Chelsea cannot now be called the Artists' Quarter. No longer are artists instantly recognisable in the King's Road by their beards, broad-brimmed black hats and floppy neckties, as they were in the 'Thirties. Many had to leave after damage to their studios by wartime bombing. Before 1939, there were estimated to be 316 purpose-built studios in the square-mile of Chelsea and many more converted from stables, garages and large rooms with a north light. Bombing destroyed thirty and damaged many more so that, by 1950, the number of artists had fallen to a little over three hundred. Most of them have since been driven out by high rents and rates (let alone the cost of freeholds) and the influx of the rich who like to affect a pseudo-bohemianism by living in a studio.

So Julian Barrow is a rarity. Not only is he a painter, living by his work, but his wife and young children live in Tite Street, too, evoking the happy domesticity of such as the Mervyn Peakes but not the chaotic home life of Augustus John, who worked in a second studio that Barrow owns in the same block. The Barrow family's connections with Tite Street go back to that time and before because Julian Barrow's grandfather came to a studio here — as did so many late Victorian and Edwardian worthies — to have his portrait painted.

Those were the days when Barrow's principal studio was occupied by John Singer Sargent and Whistler was in a studio on the ground floor, having had to sell his beloved White House down the street so that he felt he was "living next door to myself". This block of studios at 33 Tite Street had been built in 1880 by the architect Colonel Sir Robert Edis as a speculation for an Oxford Street furniture company. Other large, red-brick blocks were built hereabouts, notably the Tower House opposite where Whistler also worked.

Walter Sickert was amongst the many who painted at 33 Tite Street and Barrow's studio was used by F. Cadogan Cowper, famous in his day as a Post Pre-Raphaelite with a fondness for Arthurian subjects, and Glyn Philpot the portrait-painter. More recently another portrait-painter worked here: Guy Roddon, whose robust, bearded figure and ebullience recalls the jolly days when all the members of the Chelsea Arts Club were artists.

Julian Barrow has himself worked here for twenty years, in Tite Street

for twenty-five and in Upper Cheyne Row before that, although he is aged only forty-five. His mother was an amateur painter and he was determined to become a professional, training briefly at the Royal West of England Academy at Bristol, then in Italy, before coming to London and starting work as a picture-restorer for the National Gallery and in Bond Street. He was attracted to Chelsea by its charm and atmosphere and by the river, where he has painted nocturnes and loves to walk on the shore at low tide watching the changing light at dusk as Whistler would.

He began to paint Chelsea and his small canvases of streets and houses became so popular and commissions to paint portraits of houses have come at such a rate that he thinks he must have painted six hundred since 1958. Pictures apart, the most striking ornament in his studio is a huge, gilded Venetian arch that had once belonged to Sargent. It was made in 1610, presumably for a church in Venice, where it is thought to have adorned a chapel of St. Cecilia. Sargent bought it from an antique-dealer for his studio; half a century later, the painter Norman Hepple saw it in the Royal Academy Schools bought it and installed it in Tite Street; when Julian Barrow took the studio, he put the pediment back in place.

A few years ago a second studio in the block came up for sale and Barrow was determined that it should continue to be used for its true purpose. So to pay for it he began painting in the Middle East; mostly house-portraits commissioned by well-to-do Arabs in the oil states. Sometimes he uses it himself; sometimes he lets it to another artist; always it is full of canvases, paints, brushes and the smell of oil-paint and turpentine.

Barrow's work is in increasing demand in this country; particularly since he began painting conversation-pieces, adding family groups to the foreground of his portraits of country houses. Those who cannot afford a series of family portraits and another of their house can now combine all in a single picture. Last May, Julian Barrow's work was exhibited at the Morton Morris Gallery in Bury Street, St. James's, *(see illustration, page 34)* and production in the Tite Street studio is at full stretch.

"I am so worried about Chelsea studios," he says. "Glebe Place has already gone and so have many more. I am lucky to have my studios and I am determined to pass them on to other artists. Otherwise there is no way they can be protected unless a millionaire benefactor comes along."

Chelsea in Hansard (cont.)

When Lord Chalfont, the former President of the Chelsea Society, warned the House of Lords last year about the dangers arising from the Lybian Government's ownership of the former Kingsley School in Glebe Place, the Government spokesman Lord Elton replied that "we do not have such suspicious views as perhaps does the noble Lord." Yet further indication that Lord Chalfont's apprehensions were well-founded came on 14th. April this year when, under the headline *Gadaffi London squads plot new terror drive*, the *Sunday Times* published a report by John Witherow of which this is an extract:

A year after policewoman Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead by Libyans in St James's Square, London, supporters of Colonel Gadaffi in Britain are reorganising and again demanding that hit squads eliminate his opponents.

At a meeting in London last week, infiltrated by *The Sunday Times*, about 100 Libyan students chanted "liquidate them and shed their blood". One speaker told an enthusiastic audience about the "rotten elements and traitors who must be purged and eliminated inside and outside Libya". Another said the fact that they could meet in "hostile territory" meant that the Libyan revolution was still active in Britain.

The students gathered in Libya's only remaining property in Britain: a red-brick school in Chelsea. There they worked themselves into a revolutionary fervour, repeatedly chanting: "Revolution is within our hearts. We would rather die than sacrifice it."

At a small planning meeting afterwards, Gadaffi's supporters decided to reorganise revolutionary committees on a regional basis. They also discussed the Libyan leader's recall of students from Britain and decided that loyal students should remain here while more dubious ones should return.

The London meeting coincided with indications of yet another violent campaign by Gadaffi against his opponents, or "stray dogs", abroad. Last weekend a Libyan dissident was shot dead in Bonn just four days after he had been refused entry to Britain, and two West German passers-by were seriously wounded . . . .

The police are watching developments closely. One anti-terrorist squad officer said there was nothing they could do to stop such legal meetings "apart from getting rid of thousands of students". But he said the fanatics were limited in number and the security services were aware of what was happening.

Six days later, the following exchange took place in the House of Lords:

Lord Chalfont: My Lords, I beg leave to ask the Question standing in my name on the Order Paper.

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is true that political meetings have taken place at the Libyan School in Chelsea; and whether

they are still of the opinion that this establishment poses no threat to national security.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Glenarthur): My Lords, I understand that political meetings have been held at the Jamahiriya School, Chelsea. I have no information to suggest that anything sinister has occurred, but if there were any ground for thinking that this establishment posed a threat to national security, the police would take appropriate action.

Lord Chalfont: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that reply. If political meetings of any kind have taken place at this establishment — and there is, as the Minister has said, substantial evidence that they have — is this not in itself a matter for grave concern? The establishment concerned is meant to be a school. In the light of the fact that there is substantial evidence of the infiltration of terrorist groups from Libya into this country in recent months, does the Minister not agree that the activities of this school require far more attention and supervision than they appear to be receiving at the moment?

Lord Glenarthur: My Lords, the school, as I understand it, is a *bona fide* educational establishment, and so long as the activities of all those who use the school remain within the law there are no grounds on which the police may act. At present the police have no grounds for believing that there is anything untoward about the school or its activities.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos: My Lords, will the Minister deal with the point raised by the noble Lord, Lord Chalfont, concerning the infiltration of terrorist groups from Libya into this country over the past few months? Can the Minister confirm that that is true? If so, what are the Government doing about it?

Lord Glenarthur: My Lords, there is no evidence to suggest that people from Libya who should not be in this country are here.

Sir Hans is home

by Lesley Lewis

Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1735), having in 1712 bought Chelsea Manor from Charles Cheyne, included in his many benefactions to art and science the rescue of the Chelsea Physic Garden. The Society of Apothecaries, which had founded it in 1673, could no longer afford to keep it up and Sloane quite literally gave it a new lease of life by granting a leasehold in perpetuity to the Society. A marble statue of him was commissioned in 1733 from one of the leading sculptors of the day, Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770) and later installed as the centrepiece of the Garden. It looked very splendid but the progressive effects of weathering and air pollution reduced the statue to a shadow of its former self. Old photographs show how much detail has been lost, especially in the present century when the damage accelerated.

In 1983 the newly constituted Trustees of the Garden asked the Stone Section of the Conservation Department of the British Museum for a report, and the following quotation from the British Museum Society Bulletin, July 1985, shows how gloomy it was: "The marble surface had become granular, indicating a serious breakdown of the stone's structure, and a heavy, black, sulphated dirt layer covered most surfaces, which were beginning to blister and peel away. The overhanging trees had caused a growth of lichen and algae on the upper surfaces, especially the face and wig."

The only way to prevent further decay was to put Sir Hans Sloane indoors, and it was agreed with the Trustees that the statue should be loaned to the British Museum in return for a replica. The latter has now been completed and stands proudly on the original plinth in its old position in the garden. The original will be on display in the Front Hall of the British Museum.

The replication undertaken by the Facsimile Service of the British Museum was one of its largest tasks for many years. First the statue had to be consolidated, and Nicholas Lee and Robert Loewenthal, working from a scaffold in the Garden, applied a solution of silicone resin. After six weeks of "curing" the whole surface was cleaned with distilled water to remove the lichen, algae and surface dirt. The original colour of the marble was revealed but, sadly, only a few traces of the fine detail survived, in deep recesses under the robes. Ermine was worn smooth and the quality of the lace cuffs barely visible.

The difficulties of moving the statue to the top floor workshop of the Museum's outstation in Nile Street N.1. were successfully overcome, and the application of silicone rubber as a moulding material was begun. Owing to the deep undercutting in the original both the inner flexible mould and the outer non-flexible one of glass fibre and polyester resin had to be made in many separate pieces and joined together. After completion they were taken apart and reassembled as three large sections from which the replica was finally cast in epoxy resin. Seam lines were smoothed off and the colouring brought back as nearly as possible to that of the original.

Within its limitations the operation appears to have been remarkably successful. The limitations of course are that a moulded work never has the same character as a carved one, and the many beautiful details and fine surface quality worn away in the original could naturally not be recreated. Unquestionably the right solution has been found and Chelsea must feel deeply grateful to the British Museum, its Principal Conservator, Mrs. H. Lane, and her staff, for their dedication and resourcefulness. I must also thank Mrs. Lane for her help in the preparation of this article.
(See illustrations, page 33).

Planning applications

The Society's planning secretaries regularly monitor the lists of planning applications, and make objections to the Borough Planning Officer when either public or private amenities appear to be adversely affected. They can however only operate from the outside unless they are notified by residents that the proposals threaten amenities only visible from the inside or the rear of the premises. If residents desire the support of the Society in any objections they should at the earliest possible moment notify one of the Society's officers as indicated below, giving particulars with copies of any letters written by them to the Borough. The Society will in suitable cases support any reasonable objections, whether or not the residents are members, but membership of the Society makes contact easier. It is especially desirable that Residents' Associations should include some members. Particulars can be obtained from the Chairman, or other officers, or from the Information Office, Chelsea Old Town Hall.

Officers to be notified:
Chairman. Mrs. Lesley Lewis, 38 Whitelands House, Cheltenham Terrace London SW3 4QY. Tel. 730 6030
Hon. Planning Secretary. Dr. Eileen Harris, 16 Limerston St, SW10 0WH. Tel. 352 2420
Hon. Assist. Planning Secretary. Mark Dorman Esq. 35 Smith St. SW3 4EP. Tel. 352 7390

A time to remember

Heavy traffic along Cheyne Walk and Chelsea Embankment has almost obliterated the memory of the riverside as the greatest delight of Chelsea. So we quote an extract from the autobiography of Beatrice Curtis Brown, *Southwards from Swiss Cottage,* which was published in 1947, recalling her family's move to 27 Cheyne Walk soon after the end of the First World War. Such were the delights we have lost but might, perhaps, regain.

I left boarding school at eighteen: The war was just over; we had moved from Hampstead to Chelsea. In Hampstead I had not known about the Thames, but here in Cheyne Walk our house was right on the Thames — it was across the street. I remember looking out of my bedroom window, at the top of the house, and being astonished by the fact that here was a river, right in front of our own house, flowing right through the city I knew. It was almost like going to Venice. We were going to live on the river, by water.

It was an unusual house, too, for it had five walls, being on the turn of a crescent. One wall was very short — in fact the house was, as someone said, rather the shape of a grand piano. It was one of a row; all three of the row had a pillared porch and an ironwork verandah running along the first floor, shaded by a green metal frilly roof — a regency hangover, for these houses were built shortly after Victoria came to the throne. The rooms inside were more spacious and altogether grander than the rooms in St. John's Wood Park. The drawing room was panelled and picked out with rich, rather pleasing wood mouldings. It was the very house for someone of eighteen who had just left school and was now to turn her attention to this world of which she had heard so much.

Opposite us, across the river, lay Battersea Park, a fuzz of green trees. To the right stood up the four giant chimneys of Lot's Road power house, which supplied the electric power to the Underground. After that the river turned a corner and you saw it no more.

In the evening a blue haze came up from the river. From Albert Bridge, the spidery iron suspension bridge opposite our house, it looked less like a haze than an en-bluement (if one can say this) of the whole air — it was the colour of Love-in-the-mist, scarcely darker. The buildings along the Embankment lost their outlines, but the chimneys of Lot's Road looked more solid, more elemental and permanent. Then the lights would prick out, the blue haze deepen till it turned into night and the lights would come into their own, shining brightly as though polished . . . .

But what I remember best is the happy strolling about at week-ends. I remember wandering up the small cottagey streets north of the Kings Road on Saturday afternoons, putting our elbows on low walls and gazing at star-shaped beds of geraniums and plots of pansies; passing the bony St. Luke's

Church, with its domesticated tombstones and tidy lawns; passing through its parish backstreets where village shops sold, as village shops do, toys, tobacco, sweets, buns and pencils. I remember stopping to regard a florally inscribed brass plate proclaiming the name and services of a chimney sweeper, established in 1885, and finding ourselves in conversation with the master sweeper, as he leant over his half door and told us about the decay of the trade.

Or on Sundays, we would go out to see the world in late afternoon, and walk down the Embankment towards the Lots Road chimneys. All Chelsea was there, parading by the river, with dogs and children. On the river the barges and the moored rowing boats rocked slowly in the tide. The road was empty of traffic; all was leisured and content; all that we saw was familiar and beloved — the sure, brown tower of Chelsea Old Church, the little terrace alongside it, the gracious row of white, long windowed houses, set back in their gardens beyond. Lindsey House, Whistler's house we passed, and finally came to where the Embankment stops suddenly under the very shadow of the chimneys. And then we turned and went back, facing now the spidery bridge and the green bushiness of Battersea Park, and ended up at tea time at the five-walled house on Cheyne Walk.

Here evening light, reflected from the river, came in between long gold-coloured curtains and shone on the steel fender, on the silver teapot and the china with its rose and blue device. Evening deepened, and the passing tugs on the river flashed green and scarlet lights at our windows. A horse clopped over the bridge pulling the coffee stall which, every night, was set up across the road from us. All night its lights would gleam through the windows and at any time in the night there would be a group clustering around for a warm drink. Before we were awake, the horse would come from Battersea and pull the stall away again.

And later that night we would walk in the silence of summer, under the benign and shadowy planes, past the summer-scented gardens of Cheyne Walk and, if we were lucky, we would see above the roofs, the moon rising over London.

Chelsea Old Church: the phoenix of Cheyne Walk

The 50th anniversary of the canonization of Sir Thomas More has been celebrated this year at Chelsea Old Church, where the 14th century chapel that he himself re-modelled in 1528 survived the bombing in 1941 to become a focal point in his commemoration.

For the Chelsea congregation there have been domestic anniversaries to celebrate amongst themselves for in 1985 it is 40 years since the ordination of the Rev. C. E. Leighton Thomson, and 35 years since he arrived to become vicar of a Chelsea Old Church still be to rebuilt.

To mark the occasion, the Editor asked the vicar to reflect on his years in Chelsea:

"When I came to Chelsea in 1950, only the More Chapel survived of the original Chelsea Old Church. But I was one of those who had known it before the bombing so remembered what it had been and hoped it would again become.

"I had visited the Old Church in the 1930s, when one of my brothers was a curate at St. Luke's. We had been born and brought up in China, where my father — an American of Scots ancestry married to a girl from Shropshire — was a medical missionary. It had been a hard life and my parents had had to cope with the appalling climate, cholera, malaria and bandits; indeed it broke my father's health and he died of tuberculosis at the age of 41.

"I had been sent to school in Victoria, British Columbia, then Shrewsbury School and finally to Pembroke College at Oxford.

"One of my brothers had already been ordained and become one of the several curates at St. Luke's and I used to stay with him in Chelsea, where I met Ralph Sadleir, who was Incumbent of the Old Church when war broke out. After my own wartime work as an Admiralty geographer, I, too, was ordained and my first job was as a curate in the parish of Anerley near the Crystal Palace in South London. My next was a chaplaincy in Alexandria and, in the heat and dust of Egypt I used to dream of becoming a parish priest in an idyllic English market town.

"But when Prue and I did return with a son aged five and a daughter aged three, I heard that Prebendary Arrowsmith, the rector of Chelsea, was looking for somebody to take over at Chelsea Old Church because it had just been decided to rebuild. This appealed to me far more than any dream for there was the exciting prospect of building something new in several senses.

"The rector told me that it would be tough going because I would start work with no church, no vicarage and no parish hall. But I would have a devoted congregation, who had worshipped at the Old Church before the

bombing and had returned to the More Chapel. This congreation *was* the church.

"Oddly, the next three decades fall into distinct periods. The Fifties was the time of rebuilding and money-raising. The years from 1950 to 1958, when the rebuilt church was reconsecrated, seemed never-ending. The £40,000 we had to raise was a huge amount of money at the time and the task was daunting. Then there was the frustration of delays in obtaining building licences, for this was still a time of shortages. It was an exhausting time but most rewarding when this initial task was done.

"It was in the Fifties that we began the Thomas More sermons, which are still being preached each year by distinguished scholars. We started the childrens' service, which also continued, at that time and some of the children from those early congregations are now giving a lead in the life of the parish.

"At the beginning of the Sixties, we became conscious of a growing materialism — for this was the time of 'You've never had it so good' — that became rampant materialism. It was a time of national confusion, particularly difficult for parents and children. The Church of England was critical of such materialism and tried to get across the idea that the good things of life should be enjoyed with restraint.

"It was a time of increasing mobility, too, and many parishioners were now regularly going away to the country at weekends.

"Yet it was at this time that we began to respond to the stewardship movement by which the congregation would support its own church and all money from collections — except those at Easter and Whitsun — would be given away as alms.

"And it was also a time for generosity on a much wider scale because, despite the materialism, this was when such great movements as Oxfam, Inter-Church Aid, the Save the Children Fund and Voluntary Service Overseas were launched.

"The ecumenical movement was growing, too, and when the statue of Thomas More was unveiled in front of the Old Church in 1969, Archbishop Ramsey and Cardinal Heenan were both present. This continued into the Seventies and the present time. It is a constructive movement but we also have to remember that while the church exists for the benefit of those who are not its members, its sacraments are for those who belong to Christ by baptism and are committed members of the church.

"I am quite often asked to marry a couple in the Old Church and find that one or other has not been baptized. This can lead to such people deciding on baptism but it is important that qualifications should not be watered down and it would be wrong to compromise. Such problems can present very real difficulties.

"During the Seventies, we became involved in liturgical reform. This had begun early in the century in the Church of England and after the great work of translating the Bible into contemporary English during the Fifties and Sixties, the Church Council took the decision to remain in the main stream of reform. There were mixed feelings, however, so we became a

"both-and" rather than an "either-or" church, using both ancient and modern versions.

"My own feeling is that the revised Cathecism is one of the good things to come out of this reform and the Baptism and Confirmation services have been made much clearer.

"Since the 500th anniversary of the birth of Thomas More in 1978, the number of pilgrims to the Old Church has increased to the point where we became the natural site for the commemorative conference marking the 50th anniversary of his canonization and are happy to be described as guardians of the More Chapel.

"Others visit the Old Church for many different reasons. Some come to follow the steps of those commemorated here; others to study a particular monument. But it is not a museum of sepulchral art; it is something alive. I am very aware of the way in which I believe God is at work: there is a need to have a sense of being a child of the past.

"An awareness of history is important in assessing where we're going. I've long had this sense of past and present and belief in a divine purpose. So I'm always glad when others agree with me that the Old Church again has something of the atmosphere we remember nearly 50 years ago. An important part of the role of the church is to help people to maintain their peace of mind. This is something that Chelsea Old Church and its sense of continuity can give to those who come here."

See illustrations, page 39.

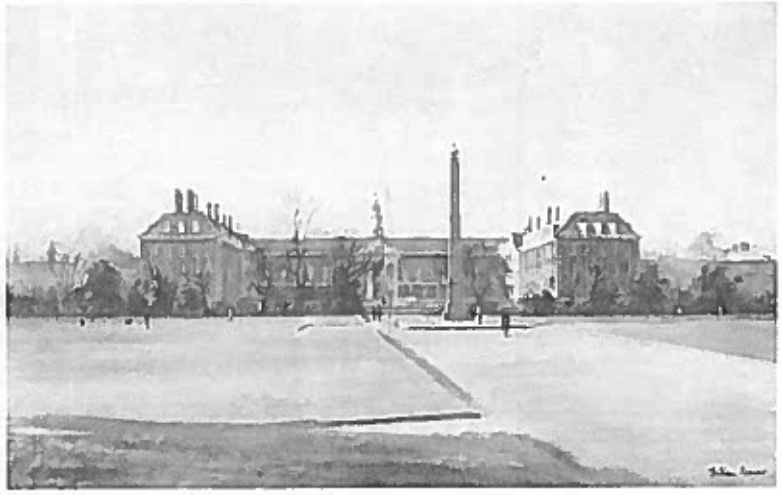
Sunsets and nocturnes

The homes of Chelsea's two most celebrated painters, Turner and Whistler, standing some hundred yards apart in Cheyne Walk, came on to the market this year. Once they were quiet retreats amongst the pubs and little shops, the wharves and boatyards between Battersea Bridge and Cremorne pleasure-gardens. They still look across the great sweep of river that is now called Whistler's Reach, where he painted his nocturnes, to Battersea church, where Turner painted the sunsets he also watched from a small platform on his own roof. No. 118, where Turner lived, is much changed, partly because of repairs following bomb-damage and has, apart from a large studio, three bedroom and bathroom suites and space for a fourth. The price for the freehold was £750,000.

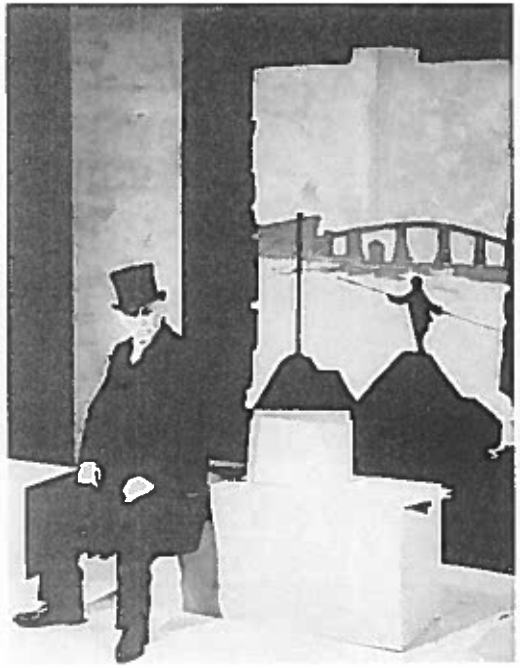
To the east, No. 101, was the first house Whistler shared with his mother in Chelsea after they left his sister's house on the corner of Sloane Street and Hans Street, which was demolished to make way for the curious Danish Embassy building. It is little changed. The room where he painted the famous portrait of his mother is much as they new it and, in the first-floor drawing-room, the white marble mantlepiece against which his mistress Jo Heffernan leaned in a white dress when posing for his painting *The Little White Girl* is still there. This five-bedroom house is also being sold by Hamptons at an asking price of £465,000.

The return of Sir Hans Sloane. The statue by Michael Rysbrack restored to the Physic Garden in replica. The original marble figure, much worn by wind, weather and pollution, will remain on display in the main hall of the British Museum. (See pages 26-7).

A survivor of an illustrious breed: Julian Barrow, Chelsea artist. Well-known for his paintings of fine buildings, he exhibited his picture of the Royal Hospital (above) in the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy this summer. In his Tite Street studio, once occupied by Sargent, he is seen with his latest house-portrait on the easel (below). Julian Barrow owns two of the remaining 16 studios in Tite Street so that they, at least, can be used for their intended purpose. (See pages 22-3). Photograph by Christopher Cormack.



Walter Greaves on stage. Stephen Bateman (right) as the Chelsea waterman artist in Sam Dowling's moving play Riverman, which was present at the Tabard Theatre, Turnham Green, this summer. Below, Walter Greaves with his sister Tinnie, played by Hilary Sesta, is a scene from the play. (See page 57).

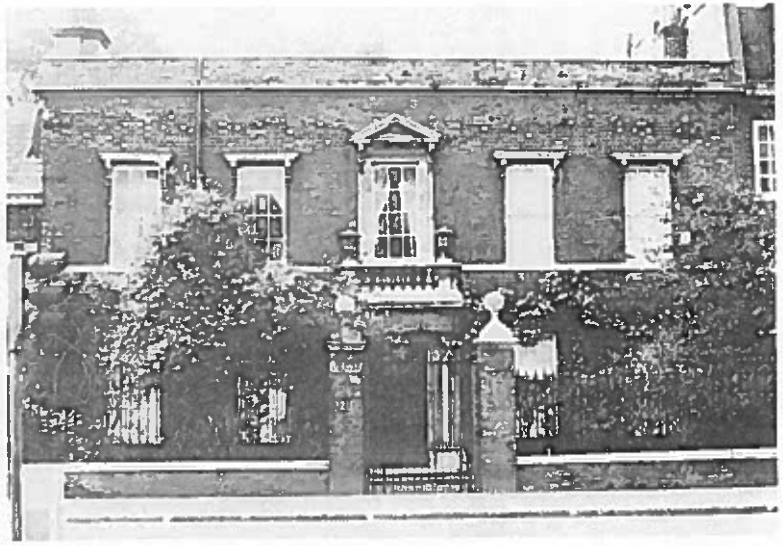


A Chelsea sculptor remembered. The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor David Campion, and the Mayoress, after performing the dedication ceremony on the steps of 108 Cheyne Walk. With them (left) are Mrs. Tam Playford and, in the doorway, Mrs. Lesley Lewis, Chairman of the Chelsea Society. (See pages 41-2).

Sculpture by John Tweed. The head of Thomas Carlyle (above), now in his Cheyne Row house and the statue of Robert Clive (right) overlooking St. James's Park from the steps leading to King Charles Street.

John Tweed and friends. The sculptor (right) with Auguste Rodin (centre), under whom he studied in Paris, and Edouard Lanteri, who taught at the Royal College of Art, photographed in London at the turn of the century.

The King's Road palazzo. The doorway of Argyll House (left), designed by the Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni, who was also responsible for Moor Park in Middlesex and Clandon Park in Surrey. The house — 211 King's Road — was built in 1723. (See pages 43-4).



The King's Road front of Argyll House. Despite its noble proportions, it was built as "a little house" of seven main rooms beside earlier houses of more usual London design. A new wing has been added in this century but otherwise it remains much as it was in the 18th century.

The Rev. C. E. Leighton Thomson in the prize-winning garden of Chelsea Old Church, where he has been vicar for 35 years and this year has celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination. (See pages 30-32).

Chelsea Old Church, as the Rev. C. E. Leighton Thomson can remember it, with Lombard Terrace on the opposite corner of Old Church Street. Soon afterwards Lombard Terrace was demolished and then the church itself was almost destroyed by bombing. This drawing is for a mural by David Thomas, a Chelsea artist who drew it on the wall of the Civil Defence post, where he was a warden during the Blitz, in the Kingsley School, Glebe Place. The mural has been preserved beneath boarding in what is now the Libyan School.

The 1985 Summer Meeting of the Chelsea Society at Leighton House. The President, Sir Marcus Worsley, in conversation with the Mayor of the Royal Borough.

A new riverside landmark. The Japanese pagoda in Battersea Park adds an oriental touch reminiscent of Whistler to the view of the Thames from Chelsea.

In the year when the 40th anniversary of the Second World War was remembered, some Chelsea people recalled the end of the First World War in November, 1918. Miss Alice Weatherall has shown us this photograph of Chelsea children gathering for the celebrations on the steps of Nos. 21 and 22 Lawrence Street. In the latter six-room house lived Mr. George Procter, a coal merchant, and 13 members of his family.

John Tweed: a forgotten sculptor remembered

by Tam Playford

When we came to live in Chelsea in 1972, I saw John Tweed's name and occupation on the deeds of our new home 108 Cheyne Walk. A few years later I read a *Times* article on the revival of interest in Victorian sculpture, which quoted several art galleries and dealers in this subject, including one in Arundel, where my aunt had just gone to live. So I called in on the gallery; the owner said that John Tweed was his favourite Victorian sculptor and had never been duly recognized; his reference library contained Tweed's biography; started by his daughter, Dr. Lendal Tweed, and completed by a couple called Watson, who published it under their name: a vital clue as I was able to ask for the book in the Victoria and Albert Museum reference library. I spent many fascinating hours there, learning about the artist who lived in this house.

John Tweed was born in Glasgow in 1869 and started his artistic career as a painter; he changed his medium in London where he joined the studio of Edgar Boehm (sculptor in ordinary to Queen Victoria). Here he met Hans Thorneycroft R.A. and later moved to Paris where he studied under Rodin; this friendship was to be life-long and greatly influenced Tweed's style. However his works showed a greater emphasis on beautiful posture than Rodin's, an idealism of tranquility and absence of passion: more Greek Ideal than Renaissance, but showing a sense of poise and strength to a supreme degree. His statue of Latona (mother of Apollo and Diana) which was shown at the Royal Academy, and also at the *Académie des Beaux Arts* of which Tweed was elected a member.

Rodin wanted Tweed to join him in his studio, but Tweed decided to return to London, as he had to make a living to support a wife and three children and he took on monumental memorial work, mostly for well known subjects. His friend Cecil Rhodes persuaded him to go to Africa, where he made many memorial plaques and statues, including one of Rhodes himself, who disliked his one statue in Bulawayo. Tweed also worked with Lutyens in India and so has been called "Sculptor of the Empire".

Tweed's studio was in Upper Cheyne Row and there he fashioned large equestrian figures such as Sir George White (now in Portland Place) a life size Lord Clive and later Joseph Chamberlain in a frock coat. When the young sculptor of the Wellington tomb in St Pauls Cathedral died, Tweed finished the work but did not put his name to it. He is also the artist for the Rifle Brigade memorial in Grosvenor Gardens, which visibly bears his signature and the mark of the Pimlico founders, and he also did the bust

of Carlyle (in his house in Cheyne Row), the reredos in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street. The Tate gallery have two items given to them by the Victoria and Albert (they are now stored in Acton, but perhaps the Tate will bring them out on view.)

Tweed was renowned for his kindness and help to all, especially fellow artists and was particularly faithful to Rodin, who turned to him in his last days; Tweed arranged and paid for a memorial service to him in St Margaret's, Westminster. Rodin had stated that Tweed was the man to carry on his work; he had come over to England in 1916 with seven large statues for exhibition and, after his death, Tweed gave them to the Victoria and Albert.

Tweed himself left a legacy to the Victoria and Albert Museum; if it has not already been spent, perhaps it could be used to buy one of his own works for that collection?

This year my ambition to see a Greater London Council blue plaque commemorating John Tweed on the wall of 108 Cheyne Walk has been realised. Everybody was so helpful in supporting my efforts: the Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea came to the official "unveiling" of the plaque; the Chelsea Society (represented by their founder Reginald Blunt at Tweed's funeral service at Chelsea Old Church in 1933); the National Trust; various museums and foundations and artistic institutions.

I have even discovered a relation of Tweed — herself a sculptress. She is Jill Tweed whom I contacted when I saw a photograph of her equestrian statue of a military policeman at Chichester, so like Sir George White in Portland Place. Miss Tweed lives in London and has been commissioned by the Queen to sculpture horses and has also made a bust of the Queen Mother. She had never heard of John Tweed, as she was brought up abroad, but said the photograph was like her father.

This brings me to another coincidence. When I became interested in Tweed's life I opened a seldom used cupboard in a bookcase when a book fell out — open at a photograph of Rodin, Tweed and Lantéri (an Italian sculptor in their studio). I had bought the book, written by Clare Sheridan in Bournemouth in 1942 and had never read it. I now did so and found that she had written: "Chelsea could never have excelled itself more in sheer conversation and art than at 108 Cheyne Walk".

It has been a fascinating experience to investigate the background to all these memorials of stone and the characters who created them. I am so happy to have helped John Tweed to receive the place among the immortals that he so rightly deserves.

See illustrations, pages 36 and 37.

The mystery of the King's Road palazzo

by Lewis Kennedy

In the King's Road, at the corner of Oakley Street, No. 211 stands back behind its railings and privet hedge with gentlemanly retiscence. Only those with an eye for architecture are likely to notice that it is something special, something unlike any other building in Chelsea. It is a small Venetian *palazzo* and it seems to give Chelsea a touch of that mixture of beauty and mystery that is unique to Venice.

To passers-by, the first mystery is: who lives there? It is not a busy house and the name of no Chelsea celebrity springs to mind. It does not belong to the Duke of Argyll, although it was named after the fourth holder of that title who moved there in 1769 for the last two years of his life. It is, in fact, the town house of the Marquis of Normanby, whose seat is Mulgrave Castle in Yorkshire, and this year he and the Marchioness opened its doors to a party from the Georgian Group.

Amongst the advantages of membership of this erudite and effective pressure-group is that it arranges for its members access to private houses rarely seen by any but the family and friends of the owners. These houses may be anywhere in the country but, for Londoners, it is the prospect of exploring the hidden interiors of Georgian buildings, whose exteriors are so familiar, that is beguiling. Last summer, London houses visited by the Georgian Group also included Spencer House in St. James's, Old Battersea House and 18 Folgate Street in Spitalfields. So popular are these visits that lots have to be drawn for the limited numbers in each party and some are bound to be disappointed.

Those lucky enough to be chosen for the Argyll House visit gathered at that handsome doorway, wondering what treasures awaited within. They were greeted by Lord and Lady Normanby themselves, told something of the house's history, allowed to explore it and, over glasses of sherry, presented with the mystery: why was it built?

Lord Normanby wondered why so small a house should be so grand. If it were for entertaining in summer then, surely, its grounds would run down to the river as those of Chiswick House once did. It is too close to London to be for overnight halts on journeys to and from the capital. Perhaps the architect built it as a sample of his work conveniently close to London for display to potential patrons?

What is known is that the Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni built it in 1723 as a remarkably simple little palace. Originally there were only three principal rooms on the ground floor (two of these have now been combined

in a single large drawing-room) and there are four main bedrooms upstairs. There is a basement but staff quarters have in recent years been built on to the east end of the house.

But perhaps Leoni could not resist building in the grand style, rather than the plain, formal manner of the row of three older houses next door? Born about 1686 in Venice, he had been architect to the Elector Palatine in Germany before arriving in London around 1713 and meeting the Duke of Burlington, builder of Chiswick House, and other great house-builders of the time. Soon after his arrival he published the first English edition of Palladio's works and then put those theories into practice with his design for Queensbury House in Burlington Gardens — alas, long gone — as the prototype of the Palladian town house in England. He was responsible for other notable houses, particularly Moor Park in Middlesex (together with Sir James Thornhill), Clandon Park in Surrey, Lyme Hall in Cheshire and Carshalton Place, also in Surrey, which was never completed. As he did not die until 1746, there are doubtless other houses from his drawing-board.

But Giacomo Leoni himself answered the mystery of Argyll House — then not so named, of course — in plans with accompanying text in the appendix of his folio volume *The Architecture of L. B. Alberti*, printed by Thomas Edlin in London and published in 1726. In this he writes of "a little country house upon the King's Road between Chelsea and London", explaining that "this little house of my invention was built for Mr. John Pierene [or Perrin]. The kitchen, buttery and other offices are in the basement. The apartments are of a size suitable to a private family.

"The door in front is Doric with two columns and two half-pilasters. The ornaments of the windows are all of stone, as is also the great cornice; the rest is grey brick, which in my opinion, sorting very well with white stone, makes a beautiful harmony of colours. At the further end of the garden behind the house, into which you descend from a small terrace, are the stables and coach-houses with lodgings for servants. The front towards the road has a courtyard enclosed with an iron palisade."

The outbuildings have long disappeared, together with some of the grounds but otherwise the Venetian's "little country house" remains much as he designed it, grand but plain within and without.

The handsome, wide staircase is the most striking feature of the interior. The marble chimney-piece in the drawing-room is another but, although that is probably by Leoni, it is not original to the house; it was once at Moor Park and Lord Normanby brought it here.

Nobody knows why Mr. Perrin wanted such a home but it becomes clear from the words of the architect himself that there is no real mystery. The little *palazzo* is no more than what estate agents describe as a "family house" with more style than most.

See illustrations, page 38.

A link with Nelson

In the spring of 1799, while Lord Nelson was at Palermo defending the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (as he saw it) and "inactive at a foreign court" (as the Admiralty put it) and beginning his love affair with Lady Hamilton, his wife Fanny was still regarded as his consort by the Nelson family and subject to much flattery. Indeed, her brother-in-law, the Rev. William Nelson, rector of Hilborough in Norfolk, had asked her to recommend a school in London for his daughter Charlotte.

Then, in April of that year, he wrote to her, "When I was in Brecon last week I saw Mrs. Thomas Berney, who enquired particularly after my children and, upon my saying that we had thought of sending Charlotte to some school in or near London, immediately mentioned a school at Chelsea called White-Lands House, the conduct and management of which, she said, she knew to be unexceptionable and the attention paid to the health and *morals* of the young Ladies *unequalled* by any other school in or near London.

"I told her that at present the business was in your Ladyship's hands but I would write to you upon the subject and, if you were not fixed, we should be happy to pay attention to her recommendation; Mrs. Berney further added that 'Misses Clarke and Thomas', the Governesses of the School, were well-behaved, good-tempered, accomplished people and that she looked upon them more as sisters than anything else; we must allow Mrs. Berney is a good judge, being so accomplished herself."

So Charlotte Nelson was sent to White-Lands, which was given Emma Hamilton's approval two years later, when she returned from the Mediterranean with Nelson, and poor Fanny Nelson was discarded by her husband and then spurned by William Nelson and his family. The school was within easy visiting-distance of Merton Place, where Nelson and the Hamiltons were to live, and Emma noted that, thanks to her Chelsea schooldays, Charlotte was "charming and so improved".

The school thus eulogised had been founded in 1772 by a clergyman, who specialised in lecturing upon such subjects as *Female Education and Christian Fortitude under Affliction*. In 1842, it was bought by the National Society for the Training of Schoolmistresses and became known as Whitelands Training College, being rebuilt in 1890.

In the 1930s, shortly before its demolition, it briefly became the headquarters of the British Union of Fascists and older Chelseans may remember the disagreeable sight of its members strutting about in black uniforms and jackboots. Shortly before the Second World War, the Victorian building was replaced by the block of flats that stands in the King's Road between Cheltenham Terrace and Walpole Street today.

Tom Pocock

Incident Report

When the 40th anniversary of the Second World War was commemorated in 1985, older Chelsea people who had lived here at that time remembered the Blitz and the V-weapons. One of them, Mr. E. A. Wheatley of Lawrence Street, who served in Civil Defence as a boy, showed us the log-book of the duty officer in the Borough Control Room Mr. J. Trevor Williams, and turned to the entries for 16th April, 1941, thereafter known as "The Wednesday". That was the night when Chelsea Old Church was bombed.

For those unfamiliar with the abbreviations, their meanings are as follows: DW — District Warden; DDW — Deputy District Warden; IO — Incident Officer; XR — Express Report; RSD — Rescue Squad (Demolition); UXB — Unexploded Bomb; IB — Incendiary Bomb; AFS — Auxiliary Fire Service.

20.58. Air Raid Message — Yellow.
21.05. Air Raid Warning — Red.
21.28. Flares reported south of river by Post B.
21.34. Flares over Lots Road — by Post B.
21.40. Flares south of river.
21.45. DW Hanstown reports flares other side of Victoria.
22.35. DW Hanstown reports big fire between them and Victoria.
23.29. Post K report Wardens saw one falling. Hit Chelsea Gate, Royal Hospital. AFS called. Fire.
23.32. DW Hanstown reports cloud of black smoke near Royal Hospital Infirmary. Hit, Caversham Street — Tite Street. South part Tite Street badly damaged. Casualties trapped. Tommy Wallis says major incident.
23.40. DDW Hanstown reports casualties trapped, 25 Cheyne Place. Incident Officer on job.
23.45. Post K reports several ambulances required Royal Hospital. Gate nearest end of Tite Street best approach. Many casualties. Queer object with wires attached at junction of Redesdale Street.
23.50. DDW Hanstown reports escape of gas opposite No. 25 Cheyne Place. He says he can't send XR — damage too widespread.
23.55. Daley, No. 1 of 20 Squad, reports ambulances urgently required. One very bad spine case.
23.58. DDW Hanstown reports 25, 29, 31, 33, 35 Cheyne Place badly damaged. Approx. 70 casualties trapped. Amb. and Rescue required.
23.59. DW Hanstown reports flares over Victoria. Something dropped close to them while he was talking.

00.20. Royal Hospital Infirmary reported 40 trapped casualties. No amb. arrived. One RSD only arrived.
00.40. Royal Hospital requests ambulances to take away old people. One man 101 years. All shock cases.
00.45. Rang K for information *re* Rest Centres. They are sending people to Marlborough schools and Park Walk schools.
00.56. Officer from Chelsea Barracks requests more ambulances for Royal Hospital.
01.00. End of mine found in Shawfield Street and taken to Hall of Remembrance. About 50 casualties at one time in Hall of Remembrance, but they have been sorted out and distributed to Rest Centres.
01.10. Lansdell (F South) reports that about 41 sitting cases have been cleared from Hall of Remembrance to St. Luke's Hospital and Marlborough Schools. End of mine has hinge with ropes attached, not silken cords.
01.20. DDW Hanstown reports. Royal Hospital Infirmary reputed 40 trapped. Cheyne Place, 25. Nos. 29, 31, 33, 35 badly damaged and collapsed. Caversham Street backs of houses. One dead in 17. Evans, Incident Officer.
01.25. Rang D to confirm Danvers Street ambulance station mishap. Told to get off line for XR.
01.30. Post B confirms Old Church hit, and debris extends to King's Road.
01.35. Ring D *re* damage to Danvers Street. Report everybody on their heads over Chelsea Old Church incident.
01.45. Squad-Leader Daley rang from Royal Hospital for Mr Horton.
01.55. Post D rang confirming bomb on Chelsea Old Church, and Danvers Street ambulance station out of commission.
02.00. Blankets required for dead — Post K.
02.10. Rang D for sitting ambulance. Report that a minute baby has swallowed some dust, and is suffering from shock. Is at Post D.
02.11. Rang K, who confirm HE near Chelsea Bridge. Chelsea Bridge Road, 20 yards west. No casualties, but barriers required.
02.12. DW Hanstown rang for information of other Chelsea incidents. Asked him to confirm on behalf of Mr. Crandell if bomb was UXB, and, if so, how long after falling did it explode.
02.17. Post B rang saying IBs falling Chelsea Park Gardens to King's Road.
02.20. Post K report IBs falling over bombed area.
02.30. Post K report fire at S. end of Paradise Walk. AFS know, but report that hoses have run out.
02.41. Post K say they cannot confirm if there is a crater near Chelsea Bridge and they are at the fire at Paradise Walk, which is reaching considerable proportions.
02.45. Post D say that they can keep the baby on request — until after the blitz.
02.49. DW Cheyne reports about 11 casualties Chelsea Old Church, and that he has been blasted out of his office.

New at the Library

The annual list of acquisitions drawn up for us by the Librarian at Chelsea Public Library.

CASSON, Patricia *ed.*	*'My Dear One': a Victorian Courtship.* Julia Macrae, 1984. (An account of the courtship between Dame Sybil Thorndike's parents in the 1880s — stocked at Brompton Library.)
CASTLE, Dennis	*Sensation Smith of Drury Lane.* Charles Skitton, 1984. (Theatre scenic artist, born in the Kings Road.)
FOX, Alistair	*Thomas More: history and providence.* Blackwell, 1982.
GWYNN, Robin D.	*Huguenot Heritage: the history and contribution of the Huguenots in Britain.* Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985. (An absorbing account which mentions Chelsea briefly.)
HOLDEN, Donald	*Whistler: landscapes and seascapes.* Phaidon, 1976.
KAPLAN, Fred	*Thomas Carlyle: a biography.* C.U.P., 1983.
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA, ROYAL BOROUGH. Planning Department	*Planning Handbook* 1985. (Aims to inform those applying for planning permission, and those interested in protecting the fabric of the Borough — available free from the library.)
LOCHNAN, Katharine A.	*Etchings of J. McNeill Whistler.* Yale U.P., 1984.
MARIUS, Richard	*Thomas More: a biography.* Dent, 1984.
MICHELL, John	*Eccentric lives and peculiar notions.* Thames & Hudson, 1984 (A collected biography which includes the life of Amanda Fielding, a Chelsea General Election candidate in favour of Trepanation — stocked at Brompton Library.)
STAMP, Gavin	*The Changing Metropolis: earliest photographs of London. 1839-1879* Viking, 1984. (Includes some Hedderley photos of Chelsea.)

Gardening then and now

by Penelope Pocock

Browsing amongst the shelves in the Chelsea Rare Books shop in the King's Road, my eye was caught by a little red book. It was called *Chelsea Window Gardening,* its author was L. M. Forster and it had been published in 1886. Glancing at the Introduction, I noticed a reference to the Chelsea Flower Show. But, as those who have read the late Hester Marsden-Smedley's excellent history of that great event will know, the Chelsea Flower Show was not founded until 1913, when the Royal Horticultural Society moved its annual exhibition from the grounds of the Inner Temple to those of the Royal Hospital.

The earlier Chelsea Flower Show must have well-established by 1886, when it was held under canvas in the garden of the Rectory in Old Church Street, for the little book had been written because so many exhibitors there had asked the author to recommend a guide to London gardening and he — or she, whichever the author was — did not know of one. Perhaps L. M. Forster was a judge at the show for she — or he — was certainly a knowledgeable gardener, living near Dorking at West Hackhurst, which, to add to the mystery, I have been unable to find on the map. In writing the book, the author was helped by two professional gardeners: a Mr. Payne, the head gardener at Abinger Hall, presumably near West Hackhurst, and Mr. Rayson of Veitch's famous nurseries to which Hester Marsden-Smedley frequently referred in her book.

L. M. Forster's advice was directed to the "window gardeners" and "cottage gardeners" of Chelsea. The former were not solely concerned with window-boxes, although wooden boxes bought from egg-merchants and greengrocers were recommended as simple to convert for that purpose (here I must suggest that the present plastic egg-boxes make useful little seed boxes). Pot plants were more usual upon window-sills and house-plants grown inside windows were included, for the author was careful to urge that the more delicate should be brought indoors at the first hint of a chilly night in September, about a month before I would think of doing this.

A great deal of the advice given to those Victorians holds true today. Occasionally, however, it underlines changes in the London environment, as when it is recommended that soot should be regularly washed from leaves. In a city of horse-drawn traffic — particularly Chelsea, which was a transport centre and had stables housing many hundreds of horses in Old Church Street and in its mews — there was no difficulty in finding manure. But there was another form of garden-fertiliser sometimes to hand for pots and gardens. "Soapy water is a kind of manure," wrote L. M. Forster. "And, if you wash at home, you should use the water you have washed in for any pot plants which are growing fast or flowering freely. As a rule, once a week is often enough to use liquid manure . . ."

In order to "help Nature", it was important to know how much or how little to water plants. This, the author thought, was much a matter of intuition and it was useful to think of winter and summer as night and day and not to disturb plants, by watering or moving them, too much in winter when they slept. The watering of seeds was thought "a dangerous job" and of course, they lacked our advantages such as the electronic monitoring devices which indicate by whines or clicks exactly how much water should be given to a particular plant, and the mist-sprayers which have replaced the rose of a watering-can for seed-boxes.

At the end of the book, a long and comprehensive list of plants suitable for window-boxes, pots, tubs and cottage gardens is given and with most of L. M. Forster's choices I would concur. Amongst the annuals recommended for Chelsea are mignonette, lychnis, baby blue-eyes, Busy Lizzie (which L. M. Forster listed as balsam), nasturtiums, petunias, phlox drummondi and lobelia; amongst the perennials, fuschias, geraniums, hydrangeas, London Pride, Japanese anemones and campanulas. Most of the bulbs that we plant and many lilies, are suggested, and, amongst climbers, jasmine, clematis and wistaria.

What seems strange is that nowhere are roses mentioned — perhaps they would not grow in the smoke-polluted air — for amongst the climbers I would suggest growing in London are roses and honeysuckle. The garden plants I would add to the list were then only seen in hot houses, the orangeries of country houses or botanical gardens, I would imagine. First amongst these I put camellias: one of mine, flourishing in a chill, shady corner of a tiny Chelsea garden, produces a magnificent display of pink blooms for Christmas each year. Then there are azaleas, hostas, alchemilla mollis and my favourite plant of all, daphne odora aureo marginata, a small evergreen shrub which flowers in February with the most exotic scent.

L. M. Forster's Chelsea Flower Show must have been fun, although nothing like so grand as the occasion which was to take its name. Perhaps the nearest we now have to it is the Chelsea Gardens Guild, where we meet to exchange information, listen to experts and show off our own gardens and window-boxes. Perhaps not so much has changed, even though most of us do wash at home these days.

The Chelsea Gardens Guild

The Chelsea Gardens Guild was founded in 1926, a year before the Chelsea Society. There are now about three hundred members and meetings are held monthly from November to April at St. Luke's Church Hall; there are talks with slides and a Gardeners' Question Time with a panel of experts, spring and summer competitions and on annual garden party and prize-giving, followed by visits to the prize-winning gardens; and an outing by coach to a notable country garden on which friends can be invited. Several local nurseries offer discounts to Guild members. The annual subscription is £2 minimum (50p for OAPs). The membership secretary is Mrs. Pamela Sheridan, 24 Paultons Square, Chelsea S.W.3.

The Byron connection

by Roland Clarke

When the Chelsea Society was founded by Reginald Blunt in 1927, the first meeting took place in the Swan Walk house of Mary, Countess of Lovelace, who was an original member of the Society's Council and later became a Vice-President — a position which she held until her death in 1941. She was the widow and second wife of Ralph, 2nd Earl of Lovelace, grandson of Lord Byron, the poet. Her mother in-law, Ada, Countess of Lovelace, was a brilliant mathematician who assisted Charles Babbage, pioneer of the computer. (His "Difference Engine" can still be seen in the Science Museum.) Ada was the only child of the tragic marriage between Lord and Lady Byron; she died in 1852, aged 36 — the same age as her father.

Lady Byron lived on until 1860. In 1856 she inherited the Wentworth barony, but never used the title and on her death this passed to her grandson, Ralph King, who was thus able to sit in the House of Lords at the same time as his father, the first Earl of Lovelace. Father and son sat on opposite sides of the House and were not on good terms — a Byron family trait. In due course, Ralph inherited the earldom and on his death in 1906 the Wentworth barony went to his daughter, while the Lovelace earldom (which descended in the male line only) went to a cousin. After passing successively through the daughter, sister and niece of Lord Lovelace, the barony passed into the Lytton family and the present Earl of Lytton now holds it.

Lady Byron herself has some claim to distinction. She was a mathematician (though not so brilliant as her daughter, Ada, whom Byron called "the Princess of Parallelograms", an anti-slavery campaigner and a founder of schools for the education of poor children. She inherited great wealth from her mother, Lady Milbanke (née Judith Noel), who died in 1822. As there was no Married Women's Property Act in those days, Lord Byron came in for a share of this and changed his name to Noel-Byron.

Lady Byron was originally devoted to her son-in-law, Lord Lovelace; but after Ada's early death she quarrelled with him bitterly. She brought up her grandson, Ralph, to be hostile to his father; hence the antipathy between father and son.

Ralph, 2nd Earl of Lovelace, devoted much of his life to assembling papers concerning Lord and Lady Byron. These are known as *The Lovelace Papers* and were held by Mary, Countess of Lovelace, until her death. They are now the property of the Earl of Lytton. Such is our "Byron connection".

Distant echoes of sharp words

An historical miscellany

by Esther Darlington

Did you have a rose-tinted vision of Chelsea in the Olden Days? A place of tranquillity, of meadows full of new-mown hay, of Huguenot nursery gardeners growing musmillions, where even the incumbent of the French church was picturesquely called Monsieur L'Hirondelle? Do you long to escape from the planning rows, the acrimonious strikes, the tensions and quarrels of 1985 to that more polite world where chivalry and gentlemanliness, even in war, were the rule? Take off those rose-coloured spectacles and and I will show you some very different scenes.

First, the Earl of Lincoln versus his tenants in 1600. Intimidating Nicholas Holborne's servants to prevent them from ploughing Brickbarn Close, the Earl, that quarrelsome and possibly dotty nobleman, pursued his eccentric efforts to keep his neighbouring tenants in check.

His Lordship sent three servants to Brickbarn Close "with horses and Carts loden with Rubbyshe" which they deposited in heaps upon Holborne's newly mown grass. Not content with that "the next morneinge being a very wete morneinge" — and perfect weather for ruining hay — he sent his coach and horses in to spoil anything left over from yesterday.

Trivial? childish? Had the Earl, who lived in the Great House, once Sir Thomas More's, enclosed parts of Holborne's back yard? It was a moot point, hotly debated. Holborne let his house, possibly unable to take any more.

The next target, three years later, was Lodowick Bryskett, Holborne's tenant, who had begun to build "a longe house which he intended for a malting house" between the wall of Lincoln's great court and Bryskett's garden wall. This was asking for trouble. His Lordship had every intention of burning down the new building or at least of demolishing it. He "erected scaffolds adioynenge to his owen wall and provided ingens or hooks." Very soon "ther was some part of it pluckt downe by unknowen psons standing within the sayd Court." That was only for starters.

Then Lodowick planted cabbages; he was experimenting with barley. The Earl "took downe the pale which devyded the land and his workemen tooke and carried away all the cabage plantes and let in cattel to spoil the barley then beginning to shoote eare." In the afternoon the cows ate the lot.

By Easter 1605 Lodowick Bryskett had also had enough and Sir Robert Stapleton was next for the chop. Could the situation become worse? His Lordship seems to have had a recurring urge to dump rubbish on his neighbours' grass, and this time he surpassed himself.

During Lent two years later,

> "Ther was a dunge-bote or two loden with very detestable ffilthye dunge . . . unladen on the east and west sides . . . very near unto the two fountaynes . . . so as if the wynde were ether in the East or westerly", Sir Robert and his family "were incredibly anoyed with the stinche beyond beleeffe to the great danger of their infection."

The well was polluted and Sir Robert had to "fetche and borrow" water from his neighbours. Having put in motion this pleasing plan the Earl took the precaution of departing for Lincolnshire. Just as well. His servants were quite able to cope without him. They had already in 1601 prevented the Queen from paying a visit to the house and gardens with the Scottish Ambassador "from whence she was kept out in so rude a fashion" that she suspected they were put up to it. Her Majesty's revenge was to ask herself to dinner. Very expensive.

My next contretemps may seem small beer after these exalted goings on. From the minutes of the Chelsea Physic Garden Committee:

12 March 1739:

> "Ordered that no person be permitted to gather specimins in the Garden without leave from the Director or Gardiner and whereas Mr. Hill has exceeded all bounds of reason and good manners in this particular he is ordered by the Committee to be excluded for the future. N.B. No person whatsoever who is not a member of the Company [Apothecaries'] shall be permitted to walk in the Garden without the Gardiner attending him."

And while we sympathise with their war against takers of cuttings and stealers of seeds we notice that the powers-that-be at the Physic Garden were not themselves always blameless, as a letter to the Apothecaries' Company testifies:

Chelsea Jan. 26 1834

> "Gentlemen, Having received repeated complaints from severall housekeepers in the Neighbourhood of a public nuisance at your Garden in Paradise Row being a Chimney of your hothouse in the same street which at certain times, fills the same for some distance with noxious smoke to the injury of the health and Property of the Inhabitants, I hope you will take immediate steps to abate the nuisance or as Constable of the district it will be my imperative duty to present if forthwith to the Grand Inquest.
>
> I remain, Gentlemen
> Your Obediant Servt.
> Thos. Ascroft
> 35 Paradise Row
> Chelsea"

Several months later Mr. Ascroft regretted that the Company had taken no permanent action. "As a respectable Body I should think you would not refuse to subscribe into the Public welfare." He made threatening noises once more and signed himself "your humble servt." You will notice from

his address that the Constable had a vested interest in unpolluted air in Paradise Row.

I have saved my most stupendous, acrimonious and elegant row till the last. Here is a shortened version. Sir Edward Cecil to Sir John Lawrence on 29th April, 1621:

> "Sir,
>
> I received a letter from you wherein you tell mee of exceptions you take at a pue I made in the Church at Chelsea; which I had then answered, if your dwelling has beene so well knowne to mee, as mine is to you . . . when I came into the Church, I found all men accomodated with pues; specialle you and your house; sufficientlie becoming your person and qualitie. I intruded upon no man; but found out an unhandsome neglected corner, imployed in nothing but for the roome of an old rotten chest; seeing every man served I thought it no injurie to go into that poore corner myself to serve God in . . . I know not what greatness belongs unto you that you cannot contente yourselfe with a reasonable proportion is so little a church, nor what strange kind of malice it is you beare mee, that you seek to keepe me out of a place . . . that till my coming into it, you never made account to serve God in . . . In such a case there is a simile of a Dogge in a Manger . . ."

With a great deal more rudeness Sir Edward stokes up his rancour — and signs himself "Your friend, Edward Cecil." Sir John pointed out at some length that before he moved to Iver he had used his parents' seat in the Lawrence Chapel. Until Henry VIII built "a nursery in this Towne mine was ye manor house of Chelsy" and the right and possession of the chapel had continued undisturbed "time out of mind, till it pleased you sir, upon misconceived grounds so to do . . ." Sir John honoured Sir Edward, as always, and was prepared to offer him as a courtesy, not of right, a temporary place. However, he could not resist adding a nasty crack: "For yor Pue I desire not to make use of yor charge, I thank God (howsoever you vallue me) my fortunes are not so meane as I need it." He hoped Sir Edward would not make a disturbance in the house of God and threatened legal proceedings if Sir Edward tried to dispossess him. He signed himself "Your loving friend to command . . ." Sir Edward replied that he had not intended to intrude and had taken the advice of the parson and churchwardens. Not even Sir Arthur Gorges had warned him of Sir John's title to the chapel.

> ". . . understanding you a Gentleman of much discretion and humanitie, it did seeme exceeding strange unto me, that I having made the place better you should denie me Roome . . . but there may be mistaking in both of us."

So Sir Edward climbed gently down unwilling to make a disturbance in the house of God and moreover admitting that he could not with reason forsake his own honour by suffering indignity. If he had known how to answer Sir John's first letter he would have gratefully entertained the kind

offer then made "as I doe the same now. And thus I rest
your affectionate friend to deserve
your courtesie
Edward Cecill"

After that there must have been an uneasy truce between the two affectionate friends.

And now lest my readers should feel that all was grim and earnest in Chelsea let Sir Richard Steele of *The Tatler* have the final slightly barbed word. Speaking of one item in Don Saltero's collection at his coffee-house in Cheyne Walk:

> "which is particularly calculated to deceive religious persons, to the great scandal of the well-disposed, and may introduce heterodox opinions, he showed you a straw hat, which I know to have been made by Madge Peskad, within three miles of Bedford, and tells you it is Pontius Pilate's wife's chambermaid's sister's hat."

Heterodox opinions. Could Sir Richard Steele have been pulling our leg? Oh well . . .

The Friends of St Luke's

The Friends of St. Luke's, Chelsea, was founded in 1985 to promote the use of Chelsea Parish Church and support its restoration; the President, Earl Cadogan and the two Vice-Presidents, the Bishop of Kensington and Sir Marcus Worsley. The inaugural lecture, introduced by the Rev. Derek Watson, was given by Professor J. Mordaunt Crook on "St. Luke's and the Gothic Revival". This will be followed by other events, such as concerts, visits and more lectures, to mark the church's history and associations — musical, military and literary.

Applications for membership should be made to St. Luke's Parish Office, Sydney Street, London, SW3. Subscriptions are £5, single; £7, double.

Reviews
Books

THOMAS MORE
by Richard Marius
Dent & Sons, London £16.95

Sir Thomas More (1478-1535) was not only a great Englishman, martyr and saint, if you will, he was also a supremely great man, irrespective of climes and creeds. 'His character, both in public and in private life', wrote Lord Campbell in his *Lives of the Lord Chancellors,* 'came as near perfection as our nature will permit'. 'Strange words these', commented *The Times* on the occasion of More's canonization and the fourth centenary of his death, 'but can they be said to be an exaggeration?'. According to More's most recent biographer, Richard Marius, they can be said so to be.

This is because, while not underestimating More's essential greatness, Marius is concerned above all to look at him simply as a human being, stripped of the trappings of office and unobscured by the adulation of centuries. In some respects this may be regarded as a laudable objective, but in so far as he is bent upon exposing More's frailties and stressing the less pleasing aspects of his personality, it must be deemed to be iconoclastic in intention, especially in view of his insistence that More was not 'an altogether admirable man' and that it cannot be said that 'his virtues were always stronger than his vices'.

It is true that More has invariably been venerated as a man of exceptional quality and there has, in consequence, always been a tendency to emphasise his more, as opposed to his less, amiable characteristics, yet even so has it ever been supposed that More was a man without blemish or devoid of the weaknesses and defects to which all men are prone without exception? Were it otherwise, he would be less human and therefore less endearing as a personality to succeeding generations and less pre-eminently-great as 'a man of all seasons'. Indeed, it was just because of the dichotomy in his nature, between his carnal desires and his spiritual convictions, between his inclinations as a humanist, his merriment and his wit, and his aspirations as a Catholic, his austerity and his melancholia, that rendered his ultimate fulfilment of what he believed to be the Will of God intrinsically sublime. Since, though not without a certain predisposition towards asceticism, More was by no means a natural martyr. Hence in terms of the human conflict involved, no utterance more heroic could have been made than when, departing by barge from his garden in Chelsea for the last time, he finally said to his son-in-law, 'Son Roper, I thank our Lord, the field is won.' To infer, as the author infers, that More was insincere and that 'he died not for what he believed, but for what he wanted to believe', is not only imperceptive, but is as patently libellous as it is untrue.

This new, and allegedly more honest assessment of More's virtues and vices, is based on what the author claims to be a more extensive study of his writings than any hitherto undertaken, a study that would scarcely have been possible but for publication by Yale University of More's entire literary production, religious, polemical and miscellaneous. Assessments may differ, however, and without reference to specific chapter and verse we have no means of telling whether the author is, or is not, justified in his interpretation of the evidence.

These reservations apart, the book, which, though without a much needed Chronology and a proper List of Illustrations, is well documented, may confidently be recommended. The biographical narrative, discussed in its historical context, is treated *in extenso* and is pleasantly written in readable English, unmarred by the type of Americanism that is well on its way to defiling a superb tongue. It would therefore be regrettable were the potential reader to be deterred by its amateur presentation — its pitiful title-page, its quaint chapter-headings and its grotesque spine.

E. H. Ramsden

E. H. Ramsden is a leading authority on the Renaissance. Her most recent book is *Come Take This Lute: A Quest for Identity in Italian Portraiture*, published in 1983.

Theatre

The story of Walter Greaves and Whistler is one of the most potent, and most poignant, of Chelsea legends although it was true enough and there are still elderly people about who remember the waterman-artist down by the river. But its dramatic possibilities had been overlooked until the playwright Sam Dowling wrote his play *Riverman*, which opened at the little Tabard Theatre, Turnham Green, last June.

The play begins after the death of Whistler with Walter Greaves — a genteel, impoverished figure in shabby frock-coat and top hat — living on memories of his former friend and by selling his sketches of Chelsea. It tells of his sudden sensational rise to fame and his equally sudden fall brought about by the Pennells, the American couple, jealous of their assumed position as guardians of Whistler's reputation.

Those familiar with the story will have been as moved as those new to it by Stephen Bateman's performance as Walter Greaves, conveying the sweet simplicity of the man without the cloying touch of sentimentality. Mr. Bateman, like other members of the cast, has had a distinguished career of the stage and seemed to be enjoying this interlude at a small fringe theatre upstairs in a Bedford Park pub. Trevor Ainsley, who is well known as a television actor, gave depth and command to the character of William Marchant, the gallery-owner; here, however, the author has allowed the needs of the dramatisation to present the good hearted Marchant as something of an exploiter. Hilary Sesta was funny and touching as Walter's sister Tinnie and the other five members of the cast gave strong support.

Obituaries

Mr. Noel Blakiston O.B.E.

Noel Blakiston died on 22 December 1984 but as out Annual Report had already gone to press no notice could be included. Many members must however have read the obituaries in the *Times* and elsewhere which recorded his distinguished career on the staff of the Public Record Office. Many too must have read his books — *The Roman Question 1858-1870,* edited from Odo Russell's despatches from Rome; *A Romantic Friendship* composed of letters from Cyril Connolly, and his volumes of delightful short stories. Others will know of his Italian studies and his contributions to learned journals. Having noted these public achievements I should like to add something more personal. I first met Noel when, as a quite young man, he sat at a high desk in the Round Room of the Public Record Office, supervising and helping the readers there. I cannot have been the only young female reader to be bowled over by his outstanding good looks and I was soon to learn that these were more than matched by the courtesy and constructiveness of his professional advice. Those happy years of research however ended for me with the war and it was not until 1955, when my husband and I came to live in Chelsea, that I again picked up the friendship with him and Giana.

In 1967 Noel became Chairman of the Chelsea Society (an office he held for nine years), and he asked me to help the two then joint secretaries, Alex Orde and Iris Medlicott, with planning matters. We all saw a great deal of him and it was I think a tribute both to him and to all honorary secretaries that we always worked together so harmoniously without crossed lines. We got him to use carbon paper, which he claimed not to know about, and his scribbled notes would fly around between us, rapidly and often hilariously. Whatever he did bore his personal stamp of originality and humour but I never ceased to be impressed by his solid professionalism in everything to do with printed matter. He could read quickly and accurately the paper which flows into amenity societies, and he edited many of the Annual Reports himself, apparently effortlessly. He was an excellent Chairman of the Society, with a deep love of Chelsea and a knack of keeping on good terms with people who did not necessarily share his views or see his more subtle jokes. He was a far from cloistered scholar, enjoying to the full country pursuits, foreign travel, club life and the company of the young. He spent nearly all his married life at 6 Markham Square, a happy family home for him and Giana and their two daughters, where the door always seemed open to persons distinguished in the arts, or to old friends not particularly distinguished in anything. The Chelsea Society, although a venerable institution, remembers with affection and gratitude its wonderfully uninstitutionalized Chairman.

Lesley Lewis

Mr. I. O. Chance, C.B.E.

Christened Ivan Oswald but to all who knew him "Peter", my old friend and colleague for over fifty years was a Chelsea resident for most of his life and a member of our Society since 1951 when he acted as Honorary Secretary for the Chelsea China Exhibition organised by the Society for the Festival of Britain that year. His boyhood was spent in Draycott Place, his father a Brigadier-General and his mother a daughter of Sir George Agnew of the famous art dealing firm, members of which were also partners of Christie's. So that Peter's path in life was not hard to foretell and soon after leaving Eton he joined the King Street auctioneers in 1930, to be made a partner at the early age of 25 and after war service in the Coldstream Guards to become chairman of the firm in 1958 until his retirement in 1976.

On marrying in 1936 he and Paddy set up home in one of the newly-built Jubilee Place houses of Austin Blomfield and here they remained until the early 1960's. When they moved to Old Church Street in William de Morgan's onetime house at the corner of Elm Park Gardens, they created a beautiful setting for Peter's eclectic group of pictures in the top floor studio, which those who were privileged to know them will not easily forget.

Peter's real enthusiasm from his early art trips on the Continent was for the 18th century, particularly the rococo aspect of English and French decorative art and this of course made him an enthusiastic supporter and benefactor to the Georgian Group, of which he was to become successively a member of Council, Chairman and finally, for all too short a time, President. In this connection he found an ideal mission in the restoration of Thomas Archer's splendidly theatrical baroque church of St. Paul's, Deptford, for which he was the driving force. His energies were further devoted to the neglected and virtually unrecognised Regency house, Colby Lodge at Narberth in Dyfed, which he and Paddy acquired, and transferred it and its unusual hillside garden to an enchanting entity to be given in his lifetime to the National Trust for all to enjoy. It is a perfect and fitting memorial to a devoted couple whose whole life was spent in enjoying and teaching others to enjoy the arts of civilization.

Arthur Grimwade

Treasurer's Report

In presenting this, my eighth and final report, I am once again to record that the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1984 show an excess of income over expenditure. This time amounting to £1290.79 as against £1469.46 for the previous year — a decrease of £178.67. There is no particular reason for this slight reduction although advertising revenue for 1984 has fallen by a similar sum.

Donations for the year have fallen slightly again, but no direct appeal was made to Life Members. Here I must thank the Trustees of Mrs L. Smiley's Charity Trust for a further donation of £500 to us in 1984 which has been repeated in 1985. Their kindness in thinking of us again is much appreciated.

The Society has again acted as "Banker" for the cost of bulbs on Dovehouse Green so generously provided by the Joyce Grenfell Memorial Trust. You will notice that the donation was increased to £300 and resulted in that marvellous display on Dovehouse Green this year. The costs' shown as an "In and Out" in the accounts.

Turning to the Life Fund, no money has been withdrawn from this fund, for several years. The Fund is held in National Savings Bank Accounts, and the interest has been compounded over the last few years to show an increase in these Bank Accounts from £1981.63 at 31st December 1980 to £3225.65 at 31st December 1984. The Life Fund has now recovered from the withdrawals made from it in former lean years.

No doubt you are all anxiously waiting to hear what I am going to say about subscriptions. With the accounts in their present state there is no need for subscriptions to be raised for 1986. They were last raised, from £3 to £5 for single membership, on 1st January 1981 and therefore 1986 will be the sixth year at the present rate. The reason we have been able to hold them static for such a period is due to the Advertising in the Report, and the Donations, which between them account for virtually the whole of the surplus Income for the last two years.

This year NO fewer than 58 members who pay their subscriptions to me annually have not paid. Due to unforseen circumstances no final reminders were sent out to individuals in 1985, but anybody who has not paid the 1985 Subscriptions still has time to put the record straight!

On behalf of my successor I make my final fervent request that you all send your 1986 subscriptions to him as soon as possible to avoid the cost, in both time and money, of reminders.

I now come to my "Thank Yous", Firstly Robert Dove who again has prepared the accounts for 1984. Thank you once more Robert on both the Society's and my own behalf for all your help.

I now turn to our Honorary Auditors, Frazer Whiting & Co and thank them very much indeed on behalf of the Council, the Society and myself for carrying out the Auditing of the accounts and preparing the copies for this Annual General Meeting tonight. They have done these tasks for many years, and much more, for the Society and we are indeed very grateful.

I now welcome my successor Ian Frazer, who is no stranger to you and who was on the Council for a number of years until the end of 1984. I wish him every success as Honorary Treasurer of the Society and I ask you all to give him your support.

Since Ian is becoming Honorary Treasurer it will not be possible for his firm to Audit the Society's Accounts. A new Auditor is requested and if anybody knows of someone who can assist will they please let one of the Officers of the Society know as soon as possible.

WILLIAM HAYNES
Hon. Treasurer.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1984

Income and Expenditure Account — General Fund

		1984 £	1984 £	1983 £
Income				
Annual subscriptions			2,015.95	1,797.05
Donations received			531.00	546.71
Donation received from Jubilee Fund			—	1,000.00
Donation received from Joyce Grenfell memorial trust			300.00	250.00
Surplus of receipts from meetings over costs of meetings			21.40	9.00
Income tax recovered on covenants ...			119.14	111.85
Advertising revenue in 1984 annual report			600.00	787.50
Deposit interest recieved			288.93	227.65
			3,876.42	4,729.76
Less:				
Expenditure				
Cost of annual report		1,690.85		1,479.67
Stationery, postage and miscellaneous expenses		403.47		261.67
Cost of annual general meeting ...		141.73		176.51
Donations to other organisations ...		15.50		14.00
Cost of summer meeting		34.08		78.45
Payment to Borough for works on Dovehouse Green		—		1,000.00
Donation towards bulbs on Dovehouse Green		300.00		250.00
			2,585.63	3,260.30
Excess of Income over expenditure for the year			1,290.79	1,469.46

Income and Expenditure Account — Life Membership Fund

Balance of fund 1st January 1984 ...	2,419.84	2,111.31
Income National Savings Bank account interest	341.38	308.53
	2,761.22	2,419.84

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1984

Current assets			
Debtors		1,426.51	824.52
Balance in National Savings Bank accounts		3,225.65	2,917.12
Balance at bank — current account ...		1,568.05	2,298.79
— deposit account ...		5,380.79	4,091.86
		11,601.00	10,132.29
Less: current liabilities			
Creditors	1,756.15		1,884.89
Subscriptions received in advance ...	91.00		126.00
		1,847.15	2,010.89
Net assets		9,753.85	8,121.40
Represented by:			
Balance of Life Membership Fund ...		2,761.22	2,419.84
Add: Balance of General Fund 1st January 1984	5,701.84		4,232.10
Surplus for the year	1,290.79		1,469.46
		6,992.63	5,701.56
		9,753.85	8,121.40

W.S. HAYNES, *Hon. Treasurer*

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

We have examined the above balance sheet and income expenditure accounts set out above and we certify them to be in accordance with the books and vouchers of the Society.

Dated: 9th August 1985
London EC2A 1EP

FRAZER WHITING & Co
Chartered Accountants

CONSTITUTION

1. (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

2. 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 civil design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and property maintenance of open spaces;
(c) seeking the abatement of nuisances;
(d) making representations to the proper authorities on these subjects.

MEMBERSHIP

3. 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

4. (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

5. (1) The Council shall appoint the following officers of the Society, namely—
(a) a Chairman of the Council,
(b) a Vice-Chairman of the Council,
(c) an Honorary Secretary or Joint Honorary Secretaries,
(d) an Honorary Treasurer and
(e) persons to fill such other posts as may be established by the Council.
(2) The terms of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be three years and those of the other Officers five years from the date of appointment respectively. Provided nevertheless that the appointment of the Chairman shall be deemed to terminate immediately after the third Annual General Meeting after his appointment.
(3) The Officers shall be eligible for further appointments to their respective offices.
(4) Nothing herein contained shall detract from the Officers' right to resign during their current term.
(5) By Resolution of a majority of its members the Council may rescind the appointment of an Officer during his term of office for reasons deemed substantial.

5A As a Transitional Provision for the purpose of carrying out Rule 5(2) the existing Officers shall continue to serve within the provisions of this sub-rule.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

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

AMENDMENTS

10. (1) These Rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting, if a notice in writing of the proposed amendment has reached the Hon. Secretary at least two weeks before the General Meeting. 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 £5 annually payable on the 1st January. The annual husband-and-wife rate is £7.*

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
Mrs. Mary Acland
Frederick Akel, Esq.
Mrs. Frederick Akel
*Miss D. C. Allason
*Lt.-Col. J. H. Allason
Mrs. Nuala Allason
Mrs. Elizabeth Amati
*J. A. W. Ambler, Esq.
*The American Women's Club
Miss Sophie C. M. Andreae
*Douglas H. Andrew, Esq.
*Miss G. P. A. Andrews
*The Marquess of Anglesey
James Arbuthnot, Esq.
J. N. Archer, Esq.
Mrs. Victoria Archer
*Mrs. John Armstrong
*David Aschan, Esq.
*Mrs. M. G. Aschan
Miss D. M. Ashcroft
Martin Ashley, Esq.
Mrs. J. Ashton
*Major A. L. Ashwell
The Hon. Nicholas Assheton
*Mrs. R. J. V. Astell
*Mrs. Philip Astley, O.B.E.
Mrs. Douglas Auchincloss

Mrs. M. J. Babington Smith
F. R. Baden-Powell, Esq.
Lady Bailey
Miss Patricia Banks
D. Baring, Esq.
*D. H. Barlow, Esq.
J. C. Barnard, Esq.
Sir John Barran, Bt.
Lady Barran
*Miss Jean Barrie
Julian Barrow, Esq.
Mrs. Julian Barrow
Simon Barrow, Esq.
*Derek Barton, Esq.
*Mrs. Derek Barton
Mrs. Roger Bassett
*Mrs. L. Bayfield
Dr. J. H. B. Beal
Mrs. J. H. B. Beal
*Miss Vivien Beamish
*Miss A. M. G. Beaton
*E. V. Beaton, Esq.
*J. Becker, Esq.
Robert Beckett, Esq.
Mrs. Robert Beckett
Mrs. Patricia Behr, M.B.E.
*William Bell, Esq.
Simon Bendall, Esq.
Mrs. Simon Bendall
M. G. Bendon, Esq.
Mrs. M. Bendon
F. C. Benenson, Esq.
Mrs. F. C. Benenson
Mrs. Anne Trego Bennett
Mrs. R. A. C. Berkeley
*Miss Anne Berriman
Rear-Admiral C. Bevan, C.B.
Mrs. Patricia Bevan
*Ernest Biggin, Esq.
Miss Celia Bigham
John Bignell, Esq.
*Miss W. L. Bilbie
*E. W. Bissett, Esq.
Miss Thetis Blacker
Miss C. Blake
*Mrs. G. Blakiston
*Miss S. K. Boord
Mrs. J. B. Flockhart Booth
*Lady Bottomley
Philip Boucas, Esq.
Mrs. Philip Boucas
*Timothy Boulton, Esq.
Miss Muriel Bowen
A. E. Bowring, Esq.
Mrs. A. E. Bowring
*Miss M. D. Boyd
R. M. A. Braine, Esq.
Mrs. R. M. A. Braine
Rear-Admiral F. B. P. Brayne-Nicholls, C.B., D.S.C.
*The Hon. Virginia Brett
Miss E. M. E. Brighten
Mrs. E. Broadbent-Jones
Lady Bromet, D.B.E.
Denis Broodbank, Esq.
*Mrs. E. Broughton-Adderley
*Miss Anthony Brown
Francis Brown, Esq.
Mrs. Francis Brown
*J. Francis Brown, Esq., C.B.E.
*Richard E. Brown, Esq., F.R.I.C.S.
W. K. Brown, Esq.
Mrs. W. K. Brown

*W. M. G. Brown, Esq.
*Mrs. A. Browning
Michael Bryan, Esq.
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