

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY



FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

1931-32



THE GLOBE TAVERN, KING'S ROAD

*from a drawing by Walter Greaves.*

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

## FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31st March, 1932

To be presented at the Annual Meeting to be held  
at Shelley House, Chelsea Embankment, on  
Wednesday, May 11th, 1932, at Five-thirty o'clock

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

(For protecting and fostering the amenities of Chelsea. Founded: April, 1927)

*President:* THE RT. HON. LORD ERNLE, P.C., M.V.O.

## *Council:*

*Chairman:* MR. C. H. ST. J. HORNBY

MARY COUNTESS OF LOVELACE

BRIG.-GEN. LIONEL BANON, C.B.

MR. REGINALD BLUNT

MR. E. J. CHAPMAN (Chelsea Chamber of Commerce)

MR. EMSLIE J. HORNIMAN, J.P.

MR. PERCY LOVELL (London Society)

LT.-COL. MERVYN O'GORMAN, C.B.

MR. GRAHAM PETRIE (Chelsea Arts Club)

SIR EDMUND B. PHIPPS, C.B.

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:*

MR. REGINALD BLUNT, 12, Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk, S.W.3.

*Assistant Honorary Secretary:*

MISS DAPHNE SANGER.

*Bankers:*

Barclay's Bank, 348, King's Road, S.W.3.

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THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY ARE TO AID:—

- (1) in the maintenance of all features of Chelsea having beauty or historical interest, unless a proved necessity requires their removal;
- (2) in the preservation of the open spaces for the health of the community;
- (3) where clearances are necessary, in the construction of substituted buildings that will be a credit to Chelsea;
- (4) in preventing the disfigurement of streets and open spaces by ugly advertisements or otherwise;
- (5) in preserving the residents from smoke, noises and other nuisances arising from industrial premises; and generally,
- (6) in protecting and amplifying the amenities of Chelsea for all classes of its people.

Early information is of the greatest importance for any effective action, and Members are asked to inform the Council at once, through the Secretary, of any plans or proposals which seem to come within the scope of the Society, of which they may hear.

The Council would consider such matters, obtain further information, and, if thought advisable, make such suggestions or protests on behalf of the Society as might seem to them desirable.

#### MEMBERS.

Membership of the Society is open to all residents in Chelsea, and to non-residents who may, in the opinion of the Council, be qualified by official or other association with Chelsea. Members ceasing to be residents shall cease to be members, except with the approval of the Council and on such terms as they may think fit.

There is no annual subscription to the Society, but members must, on election, pay a minimum subscription of £1. Should further funds be needed to carry on the work of the Society, it is proposed to raise them from time to time by voluntary subscriptions amongst the members and others.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

Chelsea residents engaged in trade, and Chelsea art and other students are invited to join the Society as Associate Members, if they so desire.

The Entrance Fee for Associate Members is 5/- entitling them to such membership for 3 years.

Associate Members may attend and speak at all Meetings of the Society, but are not empowered to vote.

*A Membership Application Form will be found inset facing page thirty.*

# CHELSEA OLD CHURCH

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By arrangement with the Council of the Chelsea Society, the Oxford University Press has just published—

An Illustrated Historical Guide Book to  
“The Old Church Chelsea”

Edited by REGINALD BLUNT.  
(Crown 8vo.)

The Volume consists primarily of a re-issue of the admirable Guide compiled in 1926 by the Rev. W. H. Stewart, then Assistant Minister of the Old Church, and now Archdeacon at Jerusalem, which has been carefully revised, and sanctioned by him.

It also includes:—

- (1). The very interesting paper on the Monuments in the Church prepared by Mrs. Arundell Esdaile and read before the Chelsea Society last Summer in the Church.
- (2). An Introduction by Reginald Blunt.
- (3). A Brief Bibliography.
- (4). Appendices, including transcripts of the principal Inscriptions and Epitaphs, etc.
- (5). An Index.

Also Sixteen full page Illustrations, from Photographs.

The book thus forms a concise but comprehensive Guide to one of the most interesting Churches in London, at a very moderate price, *Half-a-Crown* (in paper covers).

There is also a Special Limited Edition of  
“Chelsea Old Church”

printed on hand-made paper, bound in marbled paper boards, with vellum back, gilt lettered, and limited to One Hundred and Five numbered Copies, price, *Ten Shillings and Sixpence*.

This Edition contains an Additional Plate in Colour—  
*Cheyne Walk and the Old Church*

By R. P. Bonington,

reproduced from the Water Colour Drawing in the National Gallery of British Art, Millbank.

This charming little drawing was done by Bonington during his short holiday in England in 1824.

A few copies only of this edition remain, and can be obtained on application to the Honorary Secretary.

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## FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

*(Notes kindly taken by Miss Barlow.)*

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The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Wentworth House, Swan Walk, on Monday, May 18th. 1931, by kind permission of Mary Countess of Lovelace. Mr. C. H. St. J. Hornby presided.

There were about 80 members present. The Secretary reported letters of regret received from Mr. E. H. Davies, Mrs. Walter, Lord Ernle, Sir K. Vaughan Morgan, Mr. A. Birrell, Lord Crawford, Mr. Graham Petrie, Lady Pedder, Hon. W. Sidney, and others.

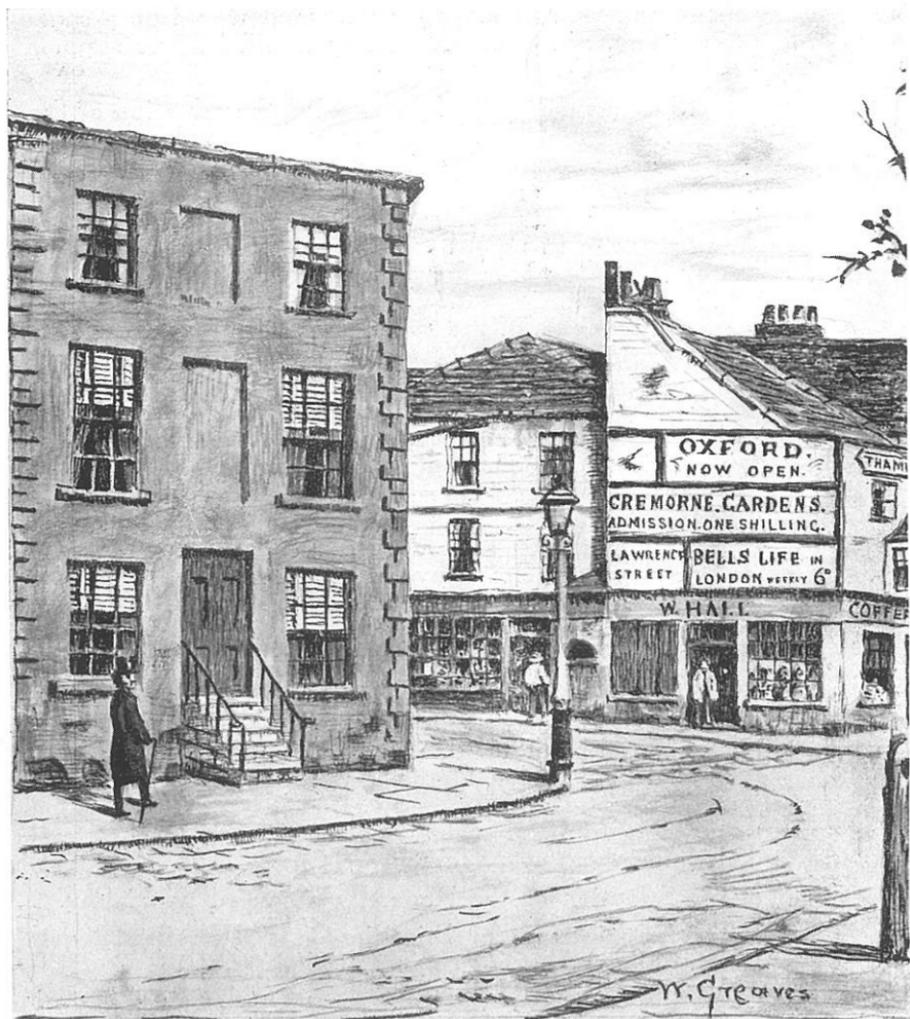
The Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting were taken as read. The Report was also taken as read.

Mr. Hornby, in moving its adoption, said the Report was an admirable one. He could say this as it was really the work of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Blunt). The Society tried to make their reports interesting, as they were the chief link between the Council and their members. The Society had been going steadily on looking after the amenities of Chelsea to the best of their abilities. They had joined in the opposition to the Power Station, and even if the scheme could not be prevented their efforts had helped to enforce very severe restrictions. Excellent work had been done on the old Church. Referring to the alterations made in Sloane Square, he thought on the whole they were good; he had first opposed the moving of the War Memorial to the present site, but now thought it was an improvement. The lopping of trees had had their attention; it was a very vexed question because there were so many opinions as to what is the best thing for trees. The Society had tried to get something done about the noise of traffic, which was one of the most serious things in London. The Report showed that something like 600 heavy vehicles passed here in the course of an hour. The Council believed that noise was preventable to a great extent and could be reduced if energetic action were taken by the police as was being done at Barnes and elsewhere.

The fate of the Duke of York's Headquarters still hung in the balance. Sir Samuel Hoare had asked the Secretary of State for War whether in view of the historical importance of the building and the value of the open space he would give an undertaking that no action would be taken until Parliament had had an opportunity of expressing its views. Mr. Shaw had given this undertaking, and here the matter rested. The War Office was opposed to its demolition on account of the difficulty of finding other central quarters for the Territorial units. The Report also stated that Chelsea Bridge was going to be rebuilt, but as the L.C.C. did not wish to shut the present bridge until the new one was ready they proposed to build it 40 yards higher up the river which would be out of alignment with the existing roads and would cut off a portion of Ranelagh Gardens.

The Hon. Secretary mentioned with regret that since the Report was issued they had lost another old member. Mrs. Holman Hunt did not live in Chelsea, but for old acquaintance sake she had begged to be allowed to become a member. Many people did not know that Holman Hunt's great picture "The Light of the World" had been painted in Cheyne Walk, where the Cheyne Hospital now stood.

Referring to finance—when this Society was inaugurated of course that question arose. It was decided that it would be rather interesting to see if they could run a little Society like this without an annual subscription, so they had tried it with an entrance fee of £1 and no subscription, but said when occasion arose the Society would hand a hat round. This arrangement necessitated being extremely modest in their expenditure. The Society hardly cost anything except for postage and the printing of the Report, but he wished to point out that much could not be done out of their own funds. The first year an Exhibition of Chelsea china, pictures, etc., was got up in the Town Hall. Last year 50 Chelsea water-colours were exhibited in the Town Hall, and enough money collected to purchase them for the Chelsea Public Library. This year their "good deed" was to try and help the Old Church. The roof was in a bad state. A little grant was given two years ago. At the suggestion of the Council Mrs. Arundell Esdaile had kindly consented to give a lecture on the Monuments in the Old Church on June 11th,



HOLMAN HUNT'S HOUSE AT THE CORNER OF LAWRENCE STREET

*from a drawing by Walter Greaves.*

in aid of the repair fund. Afterwards the plate would be sent round. He hoped the experiment would be a satisfactory one, and that the Society would help to support the Old Church.

Mr. Desmond MacCarthy seconded the adoption of the Report. It was the first report of the Chelsea Society that he had read. In praising it he said he had only just woken up to what the Society had done, was doing, and intended to do, and it filled him with enthusiasm. To get anything done in regard to big structural alterations, the use of large spaces, and such things, depended largely on putting pressure on the Borough Council. He wondered whether members of the Society who were also members of the Borough Council could inform the Society beforehand of what was likely to be done? Many things were a complete surprise; for instance the cutting down of old poplar trees in Wellington Square. The greenness of London was a great thing to be preserved, and the Borough Council seemed apt to disregard it. The only way to intimidate public bodies was to be able to marshal a large number of authoritative names at a moment's notice. There were many on the Society's list, but he thought with a little trouble many more might be got. If there were any other societies in London with the same aims we ought to try and get in touch with them.

Mr. Horniman asked whether it would not be worth while for the Hon. Secretary to try to get the Agenda of the Borough Council beforehand, as they could then see what was proposed to be done before it was done? [Application was duly made and promptly refused.] He advocated trees being trimmed regularly at shorter intervals instead of lopping them every four years.

The adoption of the Report was carried unanimously.

The appointment of Brigadier-General L. Banon and Lieut.-Colonel M. O'Gorman as Members of the Council, moved by Mr. W. H. Godfrey, F.S.A. was approved and the Resolution carried.

Mr. Godfrey gave a most interesting address on "Beams and Beetles." He said there were very few churches in the country that could vie with the Chelsea Old Church in interest. A Church of that age had its enemies, one of which was the death-watch beetle, of the destructive activities of which he gave a detailed account. He did

not believe however, that it was now a serious menace here, for the Church was roofed with Baltic timber, and though the beams had been attacked in the past, the pest had died out. Still the attack had prepared the timber for its own decay, and the roof needed a great deal of repair, which was wisely being done by its custodians bit by bit.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Lovelace for her kindness in lending her rooms for the Meeting, especially as it was by no means the first occasion. He said, as they were aware, she was a Member of their Council and brought a note of feminine refinement to a committee of mere men. The vote was seconded by General Banon and carried unanimously. The meeting then ended.

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#### NOTE.

A few copies of the following Illustrated issues by the Society remain on hand, and can be posted on application to the Secretary at 12, Carlyle Mansions, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, S.W.3, enclosing postal order or stamps for the amounts stated :

First Annual Report (April 1928). 6d.

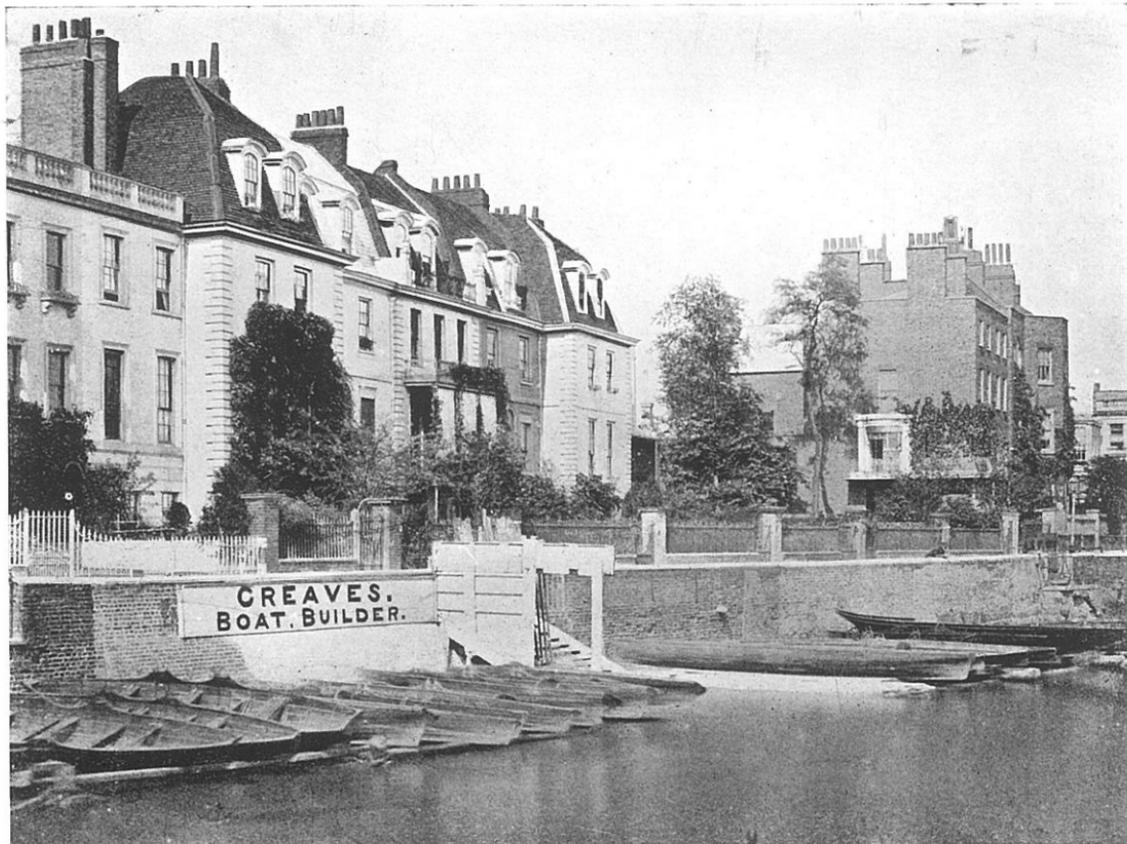
Second Annual Report (April 1929). 6d.

Third Annual Report (April 1930). 6d.

Fourth Annual Report (April 1931). 6d.

Catalogue of the Chelsea Exhibition (June 1927). 1s.3d.

"Chelsea a Hundred Years Ago" (November 1929) can be obtained at Chelsea Public Library.



LINDSEY HOUSE, CHEYNE WALK  
*from a photograph by J. Hedderley.*

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Founded—April, 1927

“To protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea”

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*The Council of the Chelsea Society presents  
the fifth Annual Report, for the year  
ending March 31st, 1932*

WITH this Report the Chelsea Society completes its first lustrum. Looking back over the record of the past five years; admitting that it was started a generation at least too late, and that much which it would have liked to have done, or have prevented, could not be accomplished, it may yet be claimed that the Society, within the modest boundaries of its original prospectus, has justified its existence.

It has, for example, organised two very successful Exhibitions of Chelsea pictures, prints, books, china and pottery. It has secured and presented to the Chelsea Library an invaluable collection of fifty water-colour drawings of the Chelsea of a hundred years ago. It has contributed a substantial sum towards the repair of the fabric of the Old Church. It has also been largely instrumental in getting the much debated Sloane Square lay-out referred to the judgment of the Royal Fine Arts Commission; in helping to secure drastic restrictions against smoke and sulphur pollution from the Battersea and Fulham Electric Power Stations; in preventing the demolition of two of the finest Queen Anne Houses in Cheyne Row; in saving a number of Chelsea trees from ill treatment or destruction; and in securing the permanent “sterilization” of much of the open space of Trafalgar Square. Protests have also been made, not altogether

ineffectually, as regards threatened happenings at the Duke of York's School, at Paulton's Square, in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea Embankment, and elsewhere. And in addition, a good deal of information and some counsel has been furnished in response to various enquiries.

But apart from and beyond such aims and activities as these, the Society can claim that it supplies a needed local focus and stimulus for the expression of a feeling that has shewn remarkable development throughout the country during recent years; the awakening sense, that is, of the immense value in our lives of the amenities about us: the preservation of the historic past, the betterment of the present, and the wise provision of the future.

As an instance of the advance of public opinion in these matters it may be recorded that the London County Council has had under serious consideration the promotion of an Act by which certain places—amongst which Chelsea Embankment was named—could be scheduled as beauty spots for recreational use, and protected by law from certain disfigurements.

Some such sumptuary edict may yet take shape: though it will come, unfortunately, too late to save us from the towering monstrosity which rose last year to dominate and deface the wooded riverside of Battersea Park.

Our noble Chelsea Reach, indeed, far from being protected as one of London's chief amenities, has become the coveted dumping ground for huge factories athirst for its water supply. The great Lots Road Station took possession of its western end many years ago; the yet larger super-power station at Battersea got hold of its eastern area in 1927; Fulham decided three years ago on a vast extension of their existing station on the riverside a little higher up; and to-day the Battersea Borough Council is negotiating for the purchase of a large freehold site on the southern bank, for further development of their generating station. Protest is unavailing; and Chelsea, as one of our members caustically observes, may now look

forward to a perimeter of chimney stacks, and an atmosphere uniformly tempered by their output, blow the wind where it listeth.

### THE OLD CHURCH.

In the last Report, referring to the various repairs then in progress at Chelsea Old Church, the Council said: "The Old Church is one of Chelsea's most precious and beloved possessions: its need of very careful and conservative repair is real and serious and urgent"; and it was felt that the Chelsea Society which was formed "to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea," might well devote its energies this year to the assistance of this good work.

In accordance with this aim Mrs. Arundell Esdaile, whose valuable labours in the field of sculptural research are well known, was invited and kindly consented to deliver, in the Church, a lecture upon its Monuments of which she has made a careful study.

The Lecture took place on June 11th, and was attended by over 100 members and their friends. A collection was afterwards taken, and this, together with a number of donations sent by other members of the Society, enabled the Council to forward a cheque for £50 to the Church Fabric Fund.

Following upon this it was found that the admirable little Guide Book to the Church, compiled seven years ago by Mr. Stewart, who was at that time the Incumbent, and sold at the Church for the benefit of the Fabric Fund, would shortly be out of print, and there were no funds for its re-issue. It was accordingly decided that the Society's Secretary should undertake, with Archdeacon Stewart's sanction, a new and enlarged edition of the Guide, containing, in addition to the original matter, Mrs. Esdaile's very interesting paper on the Monuments, transcriptions of the epitaphs and inscriptions, a bibliography, and a number of fresh illustrations. The volume (of which full particulars are given elsewhere) will be published by the Oxford University Press, and a wider distribution is thus

assured. The whole profits of copies sold at the Church will be given to the Fabric Fund; and as the Old Church has several thousand visitors every year the book should contribute substantially to its upkeep.

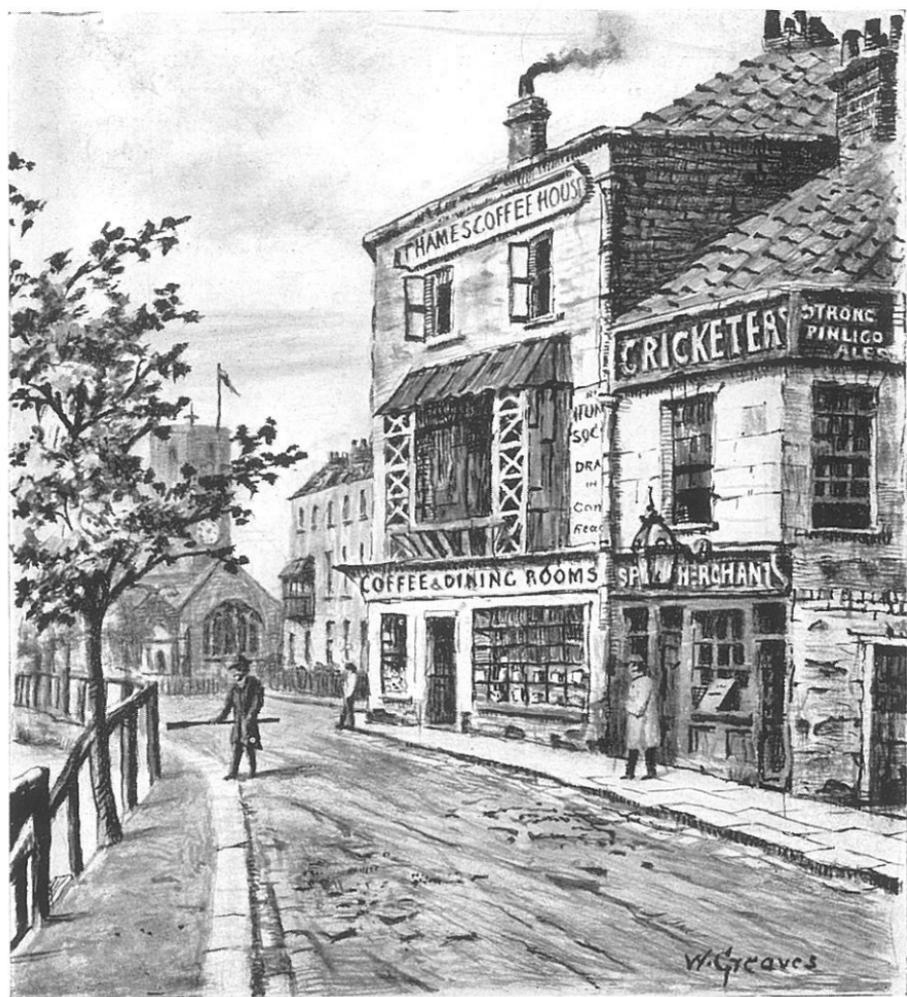
Further, it will be remembered from last year's Report that the Society had drawn the attention of the Cadogan and Sloane Stanley Trustees to the condition of the dedicatory inscription on the Sloane Monument in the Churchyard, which was gradually becoming undecipherable. After lengthy consideration and correspondence, the Surveyor of the Old Church has now received instructions to fix a new slab with the original lettering; and it is satisfactory to know that this interesting inscription, which explains the origin of the Cadogan and Sloane Stanley Estates, will thus be perpetuated.

#### TRAFFIC NOISE.

To a letter addressed by our Secretary to the Commissioner of Police in regard to the regulation of heavy motor traffic in Cheyne Walk and Chelsea Embankment, the following reply was received from Scotland Yard :

"In reply to your letter of the 11th September regarding the passage of heavy traffic along Cheyne Walk, I am directed by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to inform you that he has no power to restrict the use of any highway to vehicles of any particular class. Moreover, he is advised that there would appear to be no statutory power under which heavy vehicles, complying with the law as regards weight and size, can be prohibited from using particular roads solely on the grounds that they cause annoyance to the residents.

As regards motor coaches, however, I am to add that in London the routes for such vehicles when they are used as stage carriages or express carriages are fixed by the Traffic Commissioner for the Metropolitan Area, Gaywood House, Wood Street, S.W.1, with whom you may desire to communicate."



THE CRICKETERS AND THAMES COFFEE HOUSE IN CHEYNE WALK

*from a drawing by Walter Greaves.*

To a further letter to the Traffic Commissioner on the same subject, the following was the answer :

"I am directed by the Traffic Commissioner for the Metropolitan Area to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant in regard to the alleged nuisance caused by heavy vehicles passing along the Inner Cheyne Walk instead of along Chelsea Embankment between Church Street and Flood Street, and in reply to state that he will take into consideration the representations which you have made when dealing with applications from motor coach operators who desire to use this thoroughfare."

Members will note that any restrictive action is severely limited; but a great deal could be done if the police would exercise in Chelsea, as they do to some extent elsewhere, the powers they possess under the "Excessive Noise" clause of the Motor Regulations; and to this your Council has already invited their special attention.

The clause referred to is given in *Appendix A* to this Report. It is largely nugatory, however, because no standard of noise which is excessive or objectionable was allowed to be promulgated. Noise may be due to (a) defective road surface; (b) faulty vehicle or engine construction; or (c) faulty loading or adjustment, for each of which a different person is responsible; and this makes enforcement of the Regulation more difficult. But Chelsea Embankment, being a first-class road, the first cited cause can be eliminated here, and the noise attributed to defective design or bad packing, augmented by the high speeds which the roadway permits.

Some standard of actionable noise seems inevitable, and Berlin has already installed recording instruments for this purpose.

Our Embankment is Chelsea's "Front." Its promenade is resorted to and enjoyed by thousands, and an effort to preserve its amenities is worth while, and should be made by our authorities.

## STREET TREES.

The thorny question of our trees was again raised in February by a threat of further attack upon those in Cheyne Row, this time upon the score of road obstruction. Some of these trees undoubtedly overhang the curb, and the obvious remedy here would be to extend the pavement by a couple of feet, which would effectually protect both traffic and trees, and would here be unobjectionable, as the Row narrows considerably more than this, both above and below the part where the line of trees stands. The Borough Council, however, would not sanction the expense of this work, and in face of a large number of protests from residents, contented itself for the time being with "lopping" some *upper* branches.

The treatment of our Street Trees is admittedly a difficult problem. Many have been wrongly planted too near either to the pavement edge, or to houses, or to each other. Some have suffered from early neglect, and all must inevitably intercept some amount of light and air. Their trunks obstruct footways, their boughs assist burglars, their leaves fill gutters and entail much autumn sweeping. Are they worth while? "Scrap the lot" was a local headline. The case of the harassed official, between the threats of the indignant house-holder and the protests of the outraged enthusiasts, is obviously not a happy one.

But all this granted does not excuse the barbarous ill-treatment to which many of our Chelsea trees have been subjected lately, even in places like St. Luke's Gardens and Carlyle Square, where they are away from houses or traffic, and where the few shrubs in beds below are comparatively unimportant.

Trees can be thinned by judicious pruning of selected branches cut right back to the trunk, instead of by the hideous lopping which largely defeats its own purpose by increasing the bushiness and thickness of the leaf-screen; their shade can be reduced by the removal of alternate members of too close a row; if radically misplaced, it

would often be better to remove them altogether than to leave the swollen-jointed bristly monstrosities which have been condemned to deface some of our streets.

Consideration has been urged of one other point. Where trees have been removed in Cheyne Row and elsewhere planes are almost invariably planted in their place. Now the Plane, beautiful and suitable to a city atmosphere as it is (witness the magnificent free-growing specimens in Paultons Square) is of too spreading a habit to be ideal for confined positions. Other beautiful trees, such as the White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) which is of much more upright growth and feathery leafage, are stated by the experts to be quite suitable for roadside and street planting. It is suggested that these should be given a trial in Chelsea.

The large number of letters received by the Society's Secretary, and the intensity of feeling expressed in them with regard to the preservation of our Chelsea trees should be a sufficient answer to the question of their worth-while-ness. More than one writer stressed particularly their natural winter beauty, as contrasted with the painful distortion of the leafless mutilated tree. As a leader writer in *The Times* phrased it after last autumn's great gale: "Upon them the gale and its effect ought to act as a forced revelation. More suddenly than ever before, the leafy bough has been succeeded by the leafless; and even the Londoner, walking through his parks, is commanded to see with new eyes the structure and interplay of trunk and branch and twig, the colours of this wood and of that, the texture of the many different surfaces newly exposed. Few things are more beautiful than the shadows of leafless trees cast on a wall, or (more rarely seen) on the grass; and it may be that eyes suddenly caught by the sharp revelation of this autumn will go on from it to look for other beauties of colour and form: the colour of a ploughed field, for instance, the soft light on an old wall, the blue of a road winding between the soft green and browns of the hedges, the delicate tints of some upland wood or gentle grove."

## BATTERSEA AND FULHAM POWER STATIONS.

The threat to our amenities caused by the erection of gigantic electric power stations at Battersea and Fulham, to which the Chelsea Society was amongst the very first to draw attention four years ago, led to the public enquiry in the winter of 1930-31, which resulted in some drastic conditions, as regards the output of smoke, grit and sulphur fumes, being attached by the Commissioners to these Schemes; and it is evident from the reports of the last year, that considerable difficulty is being found in carrying out their requirements for the elimination of noxious effluents, and that the cost of placing these huge factories in densely populated neighbourhoods will be a heavy one indeed.

The following extract from a recent address by Dr. H. A. des Voeux, president of the National Smoke Abatement Society, is quoted from *The Times* :—

“They knew that in the square mile of the City of London 150 tons of dirt fell in the year 1911, while in 1930 the figure was 380 tons. Similar records were available from other large centres and from some country districts. The scientific knowledge now obtainable had made the destructive element in the combustion of coal sulphur dioxide, which was turned into sulphuric acid in the air, and this was the fact upon which most emphasis had been laid in appeals which had been made on the danger of the electric super-stations now being erected. The report on the disastrous fogs in the Meuse Valley last winter stated definitely that the deaths were due to suffocation, which might easily be reproduced in closely inhabited neighbourhoods had not the Government been forewarned in time to insist that measures must be taken to prevent the escape of this gas into the air, or to neutralize it before its escape. One-third of the new station at Battersea was now on its way to completion, and if the projected plan for the whole ever became a reality the enormous amount of 2,000 tons of coal would be burnt daily in its furnaces,

emitting, at the smallest calculation, 30 tons of sulphur which was equivalent to 90 tons of sulphuric acid. Imagine, he said, the effect of this acid accumulating, as it well might, for four or five days, on the unfortunate population of closely packed Battersea, without taking into account the destructive effect which would undoubtedly take place on Battersea Park and the noble buildings in Westminster. He did not, in speaking of factory smoke, minimize the amount of smoke from the domestic chimney, and more especially from the kitchen range. He was convinced that the domestic chimney would not be abolished until sufficient smokeless solid fuel could be purchased at a price that the poor could afford."

Dr. G. C. Simpson, Chairman of the Atmospheric Pollution Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, stated the other day that in the case of a city of twenty-four miles diameter, smoke pollution would extend for sixty or seventy miles; and that the damage caused through tar and sulphur contamination amounts, for Government buildings alone, to an annual national bill of £120,000.

Extracts from the conditions imposed by the Commissioners last year in regard to the Fulham Generating Station extension are given in *Appendix B* to this Report. The London County Council and associated Councils recommended "that the sulphur contents of the effluent gases shall not be more than 0.02 of a grain per cubic foot expressed as sulphur at any time"; but the Electricity Commissioners could not agree to insist on any precise degree of efficiency.

#### CHELSEA BRIDGE.

Members will not be sorry to hear that the scheme for removing the Chelsea Suspension Bridge and erecting a new bridge a little higher up the river, has been indefinitely postponed by the London County Council. The necessity for this heavy expenditure was not at all obvious; the new



BELLE VUE HOUSE AND 91, CHEYNE WALK

*from a photograph by J. Hedderley.*

site was out of alignment with the existing approach roads; and the plans entailed the destruction of more than an acre of the eastern corner of Ranelagh Gardens, against which the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital entered a firm and formal protest.

The estimated cost of the new bridge was considerably over half a million. The preliminary survey and drawings have already cost over £13,000.

### CHELSEANS ABROAD.

That the affection for Chelsea of those who knew it in the old days lasts long, is pleasantly shewn by a letter addressed to our Secretary last spring from Detroit, Michigan, by an old Chelsean of 82, who left England sixty years ago. After recalling many memories of Chelsea in the sixties, he adds :

“How I do wish I could visit the old place again. Nobody but an exile can have that feeling. My last place was in Beaufort Street, the latch-key of which I carry with me now. I never swore away my allegiance to my country, and I never miss saying a prayer for my King. I suppose I could not be enrolled a member of the Chelsea Society? Will send cheque to you, and you can do as you like with it.”

Another old Chelsea resident, writing from Eastwood, New South Wales, sends his recollections of Lindsey Row in 1870, and adds: “No doubt this seems to you a brief occupation to create a sentimental interest, but you must be yourself an exile from England for thirty-three years to realise how every yard of ground to which a root of ourselves is attached becomes dear to those who ‘in dreams behold the Hebrides’.”

Members of the Chelsea Society may be interested to know that a Memorandum Book is kept at the Chelsea Public Library in which are recorded the names and addresses of famous people who have at some period been residents of the borough.

In this and in other matters, the Society's Council keeps touch with the Librarian to their mutual advantage; and their Secretary was able, during recent months, to furnish Mr. Philip Guedalla with some information about the Duke of Wellington's Chelsea School; and the Dickens Fellowship with particulars of Charles Dickens' marriage, and his bride's residence, at Chelsea.

Members who may chance to have special knowledge of this kind are asked to contribute to the record, either directly or through the Society.

### ELEANOR GWYNNE AND THE ROYAL HOSPITAL.

With affectionate perversity characteristic of the race, English people the world over, and Chelsea folk in particular have long endowed Nell Gwynne with a charity that covered a multitude of sins. When, therefore, Lord Ilchester's interesting account of the foundation of "Charles' Hospital at Chelsea" appeared in *The Times* last February without the smallest mention of her name, disappointment was widely and publicly expressed.

Mr. Arthur Bryant, whose delightful and authoritative volume "King Charles the Second" gave a fresh conception of that much debated monarch last autumn, has permitted the following quotation from a letter written to our secretary some months ago:—

"I am afraid I have been able to find no reference in any first hand authority to Nell Gwynne's association with Chelsea Hospital, and I have combed out very carefully every written contemporary authority that might bear on the matter. The project of a Hospital for retired veterans had been in the air ever since the Restoration, and the Hospital which Louis XIV had built his soldiers made a big impression on England.

How far Nell Gwynne may have influenced the King's final decision we are never, I'm afraid, likely to know. But because there is no first hand evidence there is, of course, no reason why the tradition may not rest on truth. Direct

historical evidence is necessarily very incomplete, and for one scrap that survives, a hundred perish—a fact that you probably know better than I.

I think I should say that the balance is in favour of Nell's having had a hand in the Hospital's foundation—the tradition is so strong."

It is good to be fortified by so competent an authority in retaining "pretty witty Nell" amongst the amenities of Chelsea.

A correspondent in *The Times*, commenting upon Lord Ilchester's non-allusion to the Nell Gwynne tradition, wrote:—"The fact that her native city of Hereford boasts a "hospital" for old soldiers of an earlier date, having been founded by Sir Thomas Coningsby in 1614, would appear to lend colour to this theory. The "servitors" of the Coningsby Hospital still parade in their red coats for the Sunday morning service at Hereford Cathedral."

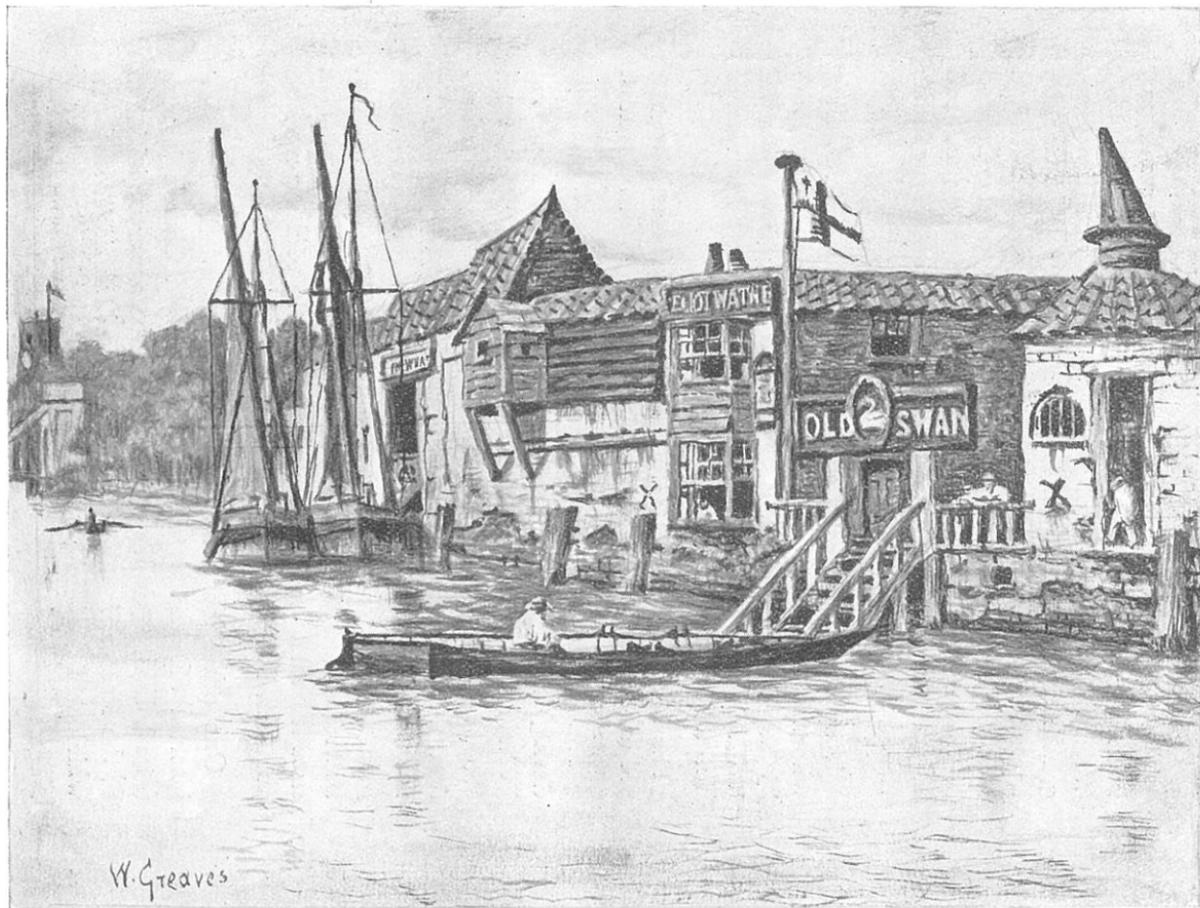
This is a pretty suggestion, though the claim of Hereford, rather than the Coal Yard in Drury Lane, as the birthplace of Etherege's "Scoundrel Lass" is unfortunately, like so much else in her story, only traditional.

#### PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

The Council has to record with regret the loss by death of the following Members of the Society:

Mrs. Edwin A. Abbey, The Hon. Mrs. Bevan, Sir Howard Frank, Bart., G.B.E., K.C.B.; G. P. Jacomb-Hood, Esq., M.V.O.; Mrs. Holman Hunt, General the Rt. Hon. Sir Neville Lyttelton, G.C.B., Miss Edith Place, and Mr. Edward Coppen.

Congratulations are offered to two members of the Society, Alderman F. J. Welch, M.B.E., on his admission as the first Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Chelsea, and Sir Ernest Meinertzhagen, L.C.C., who was recently presented by the Conservative Association with an



OLD SWAN WHARF

*from a drawing by Walter Greaves.*

admirable portrait of himself, the work of Captain Egerton Cooper of Glebe Place, in recognition of his long services to Chelsea in various capacities.

The Society, through its Secretary, took its small part in the successful effort to preserve OLD BATTERSEA HOUSE, Wren's beautiful Manor built for Sir Walter St. John, grandfather of the great Lord Bolingbroke; and Chelsea has now a special interest in this house, where Mr. and Mrs. Stirling have recently installed their fine collection of the pottery of William De Morgan, originally produced in Cheyne Row. The house and its contents can be visited by appointment.

It was announced last August that Mrs. Edwin Abbey, who was a Member of this Society since its inception, had by her will bequeathed CHELSEA LODGE, her beautiful house in Tite Street to the Royal Academy to be converted into a Museum under their supervision.

The Academy however (our Council is informed) are not yet in a position to consider the question of this Bequest.

THE CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY has acquired on loan during the past year a large and interesting oil-painting "Cheyne Walk from Battersea," by James Webb, dated 1887, which is on view in the Gallery containing the collection of water-colour drawings presented to the Library by the Chelsea Society in 1929. The picture may have been painted to commemorate the picturesque old wooden Battersea Bridge, which was demolished in the year whose date it bears. It is to be hoped that the painting may be acquired for Chelsea.

One other local amenity may be recorded. After an interval of over a century, Chelsea Old Church is now (April, 1932) again licensed, through the generous initiative of the Rector, for the solemnization of marriages: a boon which will doubtless be much appreciated.

Miss Daphne Sanger's work as Assistant Honorary Secretary to the Society is gratefully acknowledged.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ending March 31st, 1932 is appended. Six new members have been enrolled during the year, making a present total of 205.

Members are asked to mention the Society to any past or present Chelsea friends likely to be interested. The Secretary will gladly forward further copies of this Report, and of the Prospectus of the Society, to any addresses with which he may be furnished. The minimum Entrance Fee for Members is £1, and for Associates, 5/-. There is, at present no annual subscription.

C. H. ST. J. HORNBY,  
*Chairman.*

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LIST OF DONATIONS  
to the Old Church Fabric Committee Fund.

	£	s.	d.
L. F. Harrison, Esq. ... ..	5	5	0
Lady Chalmers ... ..	5	0	0
Lord Ernle ... ..	5	0	0
Mary Countess of Lovelace ... ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Frederick Braund ... ..	5	0	0
Miss Dorothy Palmer ... ..	3	0	0
Mrs. Charles Kelly ... ..	2	0	0
W. H. Wright, Esq. ... ..	2	0	0
E. J. Chapman, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
A. Curtis Brown, Esq. ... ..	1	1	0
H. S. H. Guinness, Esq. ... ..	1	0	0
Major Paul Phipps ... ..	1	0	0
Hon. Lady Lyttelton ... ..	1	0	0
Miss Marshall ... ..	1	0	0
Ernest Davies, Esq. ... ..	0	10	0
R. Blunt, Esq. ... ..	0	10	0
Mrs. de Beer ... ..	0	5	0
Mrs. Smith Rewse ... ..	0	5	0
Miss Mortlock-Brown ... ..	0	2	6
	£39	19	6

A collection in the Church after Mrs. Esdaile's Lecture produced a further sum of £13/15/4.



TURNER'S HOUSE, CHEYNE WALK

*from a photograph by J. Hedderley.*

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY.

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended March 31st, 1932.*

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward, April 1st, 1931—							By Printing Annual Report, Illustrations, Cards, Circulars, &c.						
At the Bank ...	57	19	7				„ Stationery and Typing ...				24	9	6
On Deposit Account	100	12	1				„ Donation to Old Church Fabric Fund ...				1	19	3
In Secretary's Hands	6	0	3				„ Postage and Gratuities ...				50	0	0
				164	11	11	„ Photographs, Chelsea Old Church ...				2	0	9
„ Members' Entrance Fees				6	1	0	„ Purchase of £100 5% War Loan 1929/47 ...				105	14	9
„ Donations from Members				1	0	0	„ Balance at the Bank, March 31st, 1932	39	8	9			
„ Sale of Reports ...				6	9		„ „ In Secretary's hands	1	1	9			
„ Donations for Old Church Fabric Fund Collection (see List p. 31) ...	39	19	6								40	10	6
„ Collection at Mrs. Esdaile's Lecture ...	13	15	4										
				53	14	10							
„ Interest on Deposit A/c			6			3							
„ „ 5% War Loan			3			15							
				4	1	3							
				£229	15	9					£229	15	9

NOTE: The Society holds:  
£100 5% War Loan 1929/47

C. H. ST. J. HORNBY, *Chairman.*  
REGINALD BLUNT, *Treasurer.*

Examined with the Books and  
Vouchers and found correct.

LEONARD F. HARRISON.  
6th April, 1932.

## APPENDIX A.

*The Motor Cars (Excessive Noise) Regulations 1929, dated June 3rd, 1929, made by the Minister of Transport.*

1. These Regulations may be cited as "The Motor Cars (Excessive Noise) Regulations 1929," and shall come into force on the first day of August, 1929.

2. No person shall use or permit to be used on any highway any motor car which causes any excessive noise either directly or indirectly as a result of—

- (a) any defect (including a defect in design or construction), lack of repair or faulty adjustment in the motor car or in any vehicle drawn thereby or in any part or accessory of such motor car or vehicle drawn thereby, or
- (b) the faulty packing or adjustment of the load of such motor car or vehicle drawn thereby.

Provided that it shall be a good defence to proceedings taken under this Regulation—

- (i) to prove that the noise or continuance of the noise in respect of which the proceedings are taken was due to some temporary or accidental cause, and could not have been prevented by the exercise of due diligence and care on the part of the owner or driver of the motor car; or
- (ii) in the case of proceedings against the driver or person in charge of a motor car who is not the owner thereof, to prove that the noise arose through a defect in design or construction of the motor car, or through the negligence or fault of some other person whose duty it was to keep the motor car or vehicle drawn thereby in proper condition or in a proper state of repair or adjustment, or properly to pack or adjust the load of such motor car or vehicle drawn thereby, as the case may be, and could not have been prevented by the exercise of reasonable diligence and care on the part of such driver or other person in charge of the motor car.

3. When a motor car is stationary on any highway no person shall use or permit to be used in connection therewith any instrument provided for the purpose of giving audible warning, except when such use is necessary on grounds of safety.

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## APPENDIX B.

*Extractis from the Statement by the Electricity Commissioners with reference to their consent to the extension of the Fulham Generating Station.*

3. (a) The Borough Council shall not work the generating station when extended so as to occasion a nuisance and to that end the Borough Council shall use at the station continuously the most efficient methods which may for the time being be reasonably practicable for each and all of the following purposes respectively, namely:—

- (i) the elimination of smoke and grit;
  - (ii) the prevention of the discharge of sulphur and its compounds into the atmosphere, and
  - (iii) the avoidance of noise or vibration arising from the working of the generating station.
- (b) The decision of the Electricity Commissioners in agreement with the Commissioners of Works and the Minister of Health that the methods used by the Borough Council for any of the purposes mentioned in sub-clause (a) of this condition are not the most efficient methods reasonably practicable at the time for the purpose or purposes in question shall be binding upon the Borough Council and the Borough Council shall thereupon at their own expense forthwith carry out and put into continuous use all such changes in the said methods as may be specified by the Electricity Commissioners in agreement with the Commissioners of Works and the Minister of Health.
- (c) The methods, machinery and apparatus installed at the station for the purposes mentioned in sub-clause (a) of this condition shall be maintained and operated to the satisfaction of the Electricity Commissioners in agreement with the Commissioners of Works and the Minister of Health.
- (d) Apparatus for the continuous measurement of sulphur emission as may from time to time be prescribed by the Electricity Commissioners in agreement with the Commissioners of Works and the Minister of Health shall be installed, maintained and operated at the expense of the Borough Council, and records of the emission shall be kept as may from time to time be required by the Electricity Commissioners in agreement with the Commissioners of Works and the Minister of Health and such records shall be available at all times for inspection by the Electricity Commissioners and by the Minister of Health and by the Commissioners of Works, or any of them, or by any of their Officers.
- (e) Inspectors appointed by the Electricity Commissioners and the Commissioners of Works and Minister of Health shall have the right to inspect the generating station and every part thereof at all times of the day and night, and to make, or cause to be made, such tests in such manner as they may desire for the purpose of testing the efficiency of the methods adopted pursuant to sub-clause (a) of this condition; and the Borough Council shall at their own expense provide all such facilities as may be required by the said inspectors or any of them for this purpose.

In settling the above-mentioned conditions the Commissioners have had due regard to those suggested by the London County Council and Associated Councils at the concluding stage of the Inquiry and set out in Appendix 3 to this Report.

It will be observed that the conditions imposed upon the Borough Council by the Commissioners deal specifically with the elimination of smoke and grit, the removal of oxides of sulphur and the keeping of records of the sulphur emission, the inspection of such records, and the inspection and testing of the works. In addition, the Electricity Commissioners in approving the plans will require that the height of the chimneys shall not be less than 300 feet.

With regard to the control of the effluent discharged into the River Thames, the Commissioners feel that as this matter comes within the statutory duties of the Port of London Authority and will be dealt with under the agreement made between that Authority and the Borough Council, it is unnecessary to include a condition relating to this matter in their consent.

While the Commissioners consider that the best practicable elimination of oxides of sulphur should be striven after—and have in fact imposed an obligation to this effect on the Borough Council of Fulham—they have not seen their way to prescribe in their formal consent the precise degree of efficiency which must be attained at any time by the sulphur elimination plant. The Commissioners feel that the public interests have been adequately safeguarded by the conditions imposed.

R. T. G. FRENCH,

*Secretary to the Electricity Commissioners.*

Electricity Commission,  
Savoy Court, Strand, W.C.2.

24th January, 1931.



BOATS AND BARGES WEST OF BATTERSEA BRIDGE

*from a photograph by J. Hedderley.*

## *List of Members :*

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MISS KATHERINE ADAM

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H. O. AGRELL, ESQ.

R. G. ALFORD, ESQ.

REV. W. GORDON ARROWSMITH

BRIGADIER GENERAL LIONEL BANON, C.B.

HON. MAURICE BARING

JOHN HALL BARRON, ESQ., M.A.

R. E. BRUCE BEAL, ESQ.

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THE VEN. ARCHDEACON BEVAN

MISS F. BIDDULPH

MISS HELEN BIRKENRUTH

REGINALD BLUNT, ESQ.

MISS MURIEL BOND

MRS. BOTTERELL

MRS. FREDERICK BRAUND

COL. G. T. BRIERLEY \*

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MRS. J. H. DANBY

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RANDALL DAVIES, ESQ., F.S.A.

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REV. WALFORD DEAKIN

MRS. C. G. DE BEER

COL. ERIC DILLON, C.M.G., D.S.O.

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MISS JEAN DINGWALL

LADY ALBINIA DONALDSON

MISS DOUGLAS

A. H. DYMOND, ESQ.

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MRS. ELLIOTT

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SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM FURSE, K.C.

LADY GRAY

MISS KATHLEEN GREENE

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K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.

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MRS. LEONARD HARROLD

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EMSLIE J. HORNIMAN, ESQ.

MRS. HORNIMAN

HON. EVELYN HUBBARD

HON. MRS. EVELYN HUBBARD

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\* Associate Members.

