

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY



## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1944

Price : HALF-A-CROWN



THE ROSE SELLER

*An exquisite little figure from the Chelsea China Factory  
Raised Anchor Mark*

"AMENITY." Tell us, whose is it, and what?

Do we own, or inherit, or choose it?

It's something you often don't know that you've got

Till you lose it!

NOTA BENE.

*Ten copies only remain of the LIMITED EDITION of "THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO CHELSEA OLD CHURCH," by the Rev. W. H. Stewart now Bishop in Jerusalem. This revised edition, re-issued by The Chelsea Society in 1932, contains Mrs. Arundell Esdaile's valuable paper on the Monuments in the Church, and various new Appendices.*

*This limited edition contains a Plate in colour of R. P. Bonington's painting, "Cheyne Walk and the Old Church." Bound quarter vellum, gilt top.*

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<p>This year 1944 marks the Bicentenary of the foundation of the famous Chelsea China Factory in Lawrence Street, of which this little figure, marked with the raised anchor, is an early and exquisite example.</p>	
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<p>This was a group of four houses built at the top of Lawrence Street about 1704 and occupied amongst others, by the Duchess of Monmouth, Tobias Smollett the novelist, and Nicholas Sprimont, manager of the Chelsea China Factory. It was pulled down in 1833.</p>	

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

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

## *President:*

MAJOR THE EARL CADOGAN, M.C.

## *Vice-Presidents:*

GENERAL SIR WALTER BRAITHWAITE, G.C.B.

GENERAL SIR HARRY KNOX, K.C.B., D.S.O.

## *Council:*

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

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

MR. REGINALD BLUNT, C.B.E.

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

MR. WALTER GODFREY, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

HON. BRYAN W. GUINNESS

MR. PERCY LOVELL, F.S.A. (London Society)

MR. BASIL MARSDEN-SMEDLEY (L.C.C.)

HON. ALBERT NAPIER, C.B.

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

SIR EDMUND B. PHIPPS, C.B.

HON. DOROTHY PICKFORD, J.P.

MR. RICHARD STEWART-JONES (Georgian Group)

MR. GRAHAME B. TUBBS, A.R.I.B.A. (Chelsea Arts Club)

## *Joint Hon. Secretaries:*

REGINALD BLUNT, 60, Glebe Place, Chelsea, S.W.3.

MISS ESTHER DARLINGTON, 97, Cheyne Walk, S.W.10.

## *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.

## *The Annual General Meeting*

THE Annual Meeting of the Society took place at 96, Cheyne Walk, on Monday, 31st May, 1943.

Mr. C. H. St. J. Hornby, Chairman presided.

The notice convening the meeting, and the Sixteenth Annual Report, which had been circulated to members, were taken as read.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on May 16th, 1940, were also taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

The following appointments made by the Council were duly confirmed:

GENERAL SIR HARRY KNOX, K.C.B., *Vice-President.*

MR. WALTER GODFREY, F.R.I.B.A.

HON. ALBERT NAPIER, C.B.

} *Members of Council.*

In moving the adoption of the Sixteenth Annual Report and Accounts, the Chairman briefly reviewed its contents, stressed the increasing value and need of Civic Societies such as this, at a time when many vested interests would have to be overruled, regretted the postponement of plans for rebuilding the Old Church, and expressed the hope that when the time for its re-erection came, this might, in the main, follow the old lines.

Their accounts shewed a satisfactory position, but it must always be emphasized that the lasting prosperity of the Society must largely depend on their continued recruiting of new members, whose Entrance Fees provided practically their sole source of income.

Mr. Hornby referred to the losses sustained by the Society during the past year in the deaths of Dr. Colles and of Lady Lyttelton, and its regret at the conclusion of General Sir Harry Knox's term as Governor of the Royal Hospital.

The Mayor of Chelsea (Councillor G. Wharam), in seconding the adoption of the Report, referred to the rebuilding of

the Lots Road area, and to the valuable experience gained through the Borough Council's Chelsea Manor Buildings. Higher blocks of flats, provided with lifts, would enable the provision of even more open air and playground space.

The Chairman, inviting discussion, Major Benton Fletcher asked leave to give some particulars of the music centre at No. 3, Cheyne Walk, which had been acquired by the National Trust to house his collection of early musical instruments. Major Fletcher outlined the scheme and invited members to communicate with him for further information.

The motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts having been put and carried, the Chairman invited Mr. Henry Strauss, M.P. to give an address on "Chelsea and London".

Mr. Strauss began an interesting and stimulating speech with some explanation of the position of the Town and Country Planning Bill then before Parliament, emphasizing that the future of town and country were bound up together, and that both must be saved or both would be destroyed. Every Civic Society should aim at co-operation with its own civic authorities. The age of a building must not be regarded as any criterion of present merit; sixty year old houses might rightly be condemned, whereas Cheyne Walk after two centuries remained admirable.

Chelsea to-day bore the scars of war, and the Royal Hospital veterans shewed the same spirit as had animated the Eighth Army and the Royal Air Force, whose exploits linked them with the men who defeated the Armada.

Chelsea might be regarded as a metropolitan village forming a distinctive neighbourhood of its own.

One should not compare London with exquisite small towns like Florence or Dubrovnik; of the great cities of the world it was incomparably the most beautiful. To that beauty the River, the Parks, the lovely Georgian Squares and quiet Streets all contributed. Bedford Square and Queen Anne's Gate should be preserved beyond shadow of doubt



in any rebuilding plans, and it was deplorable that St. James's Square had been spoiled not by enemy action but by our own. Of the beautiful buildings destroyed in the war, we must surely replace the Temple and Gray's Inn with new work, as worthy of our day as they were of theirs.

We must beware of the fetish of the vista, and the foolish notion that every great building must be placed in the middle of a void. Admittedly the setting of St. Paul's must be improved, but the scale, lay-out, and design of surrounding buildings were as important as new vistas. A cathedral did not need the destruction of its close to reveal its beauty; rather should the ideal be peace and seclusion, yet proximity to the traffic and life of the city. The idea of the precinct was right.

In regard to communications, arterial, sub-arterial and local roads had each their separate and distinctive function; the great arterial roads should segregate districts and not bisect them, while local roads should be solely for local use and enjoyment.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Strauss on behalf of the Society for his encouraging and suggestive survey of a very large problem, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Richard Stewart-Jones for the loan of the fine old room in which they met.

New members were enrolled by Miss Esther Darlington and Mr. Wilfred Elliston, and tea was served in the North Room.

Colour Sergeant Jones, Royal Hospital Pensioner, took round "The Hat," in which £9. 7s. 0d. was collected. Over 90 members and invited guests were present.

# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Founded in April 1927 to protect and foster  
the amenities of Chelsea.

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## *Seventeenth Annual Report of the Council* *for the year ending March 31st, 1944.*

IN this fifth year of hostilities, the thoughts of all thoughtful people, countrymen and citizens alike, have been turning with increasing interest towards post-war plans and problems. Civic Societies—of which our Chelsea Society was the pioneer seventeen years ago—have been embodying themselves in various parts of the country under the aegis of their Central Council in London: Rural, Urban and District authorities have been studying schemes for development and reconstruction; the London County Council has prepared and published the “County of London Plan,” and the various Metropolitan Boroughs have been considering this, in so far as it affects their individual constituencies, whilst also developing their own local projects.

### THE COUNTY OF LONDON PLAN.

Lovers of Chelsea who searched the six hundred paragraphs of the L.C.C. Plan for its references to our Borough may have welcomed the following passage in its Preamble:

“The inevitable tendency of a report of this character is to dwell upon the element of change and/or the admitted need for replanning.

There, are, however, still large quarters, both old and new, that preserve their mellow beauty, and which indeed might even be damaged by the injudicious zeal of the planner; Chelsea, Ladbroke Grove, Campden Hill, Hampstead, Blackheath, Roehampton, Dulwich, . . .

these are places which still fulfil their function, and shew us that every residential part of London might be equally attractive. Yet even Chelsea has its blemishes like the power station and the depressed houses under its shadow."

In a later chapter, describing London's River Front, the report points out that at Chelsea Bridge (going up stream):

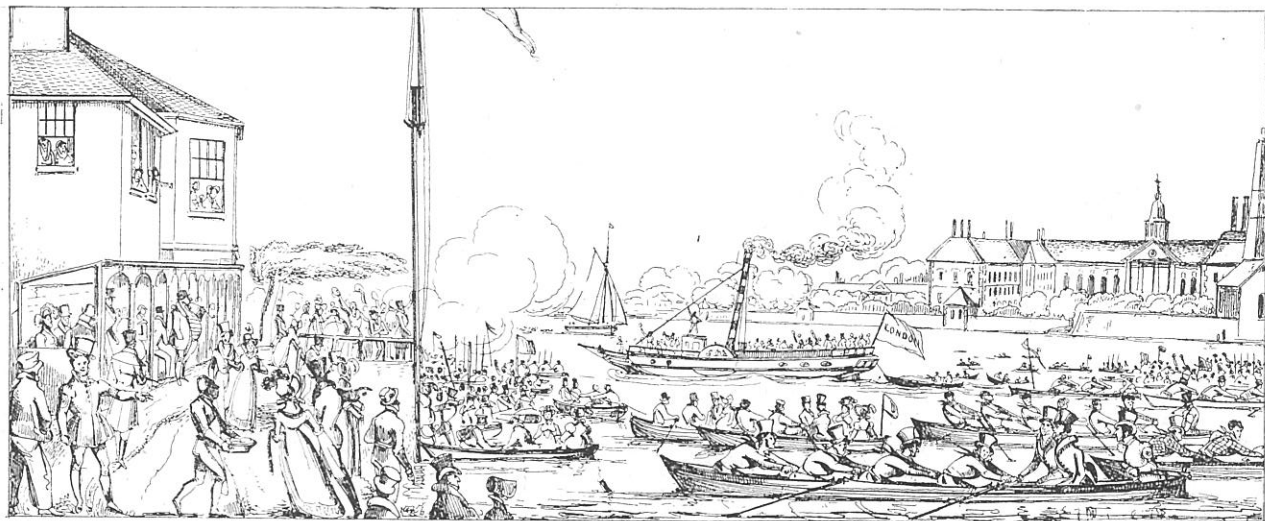
" . . . . a dramatic change occurs; on the south, the first large riverside open space, Battersea Park, on the north, the gardens of the Royal Chelsea Hospital and the tree-lined Embankment—examples of how the river should be respected when planning adjoining recreational and residential areas."

These are wise, encouraging and comfortable words; but when we reach the concrete proposals of the Plan, their use seems hardly justified.

The main features of the scheme which directly affect the amenities of Chelsea are (1) the great East-West arterial cross road ("Y") which connects Tilbury and the Docks with the Portsmouth Road; and (2) the "A" Central Ring Road, part of which strikes North West from Sloane Square to join the Brompton Road near the Oratory.

Utilising and extending the existing Embankment route, the "Y" road is planned to tunnel from Westminster westward under St. James's Park, emerging at Ebury Street and passing thence by Royal Hospital Road to traverse. "as a park way," a large part of the length of Chelsea Embankment, crossing the river somewhat higher up the Thames, and thence proceeding to join the Portsmouth Road.

(1) Chelsea is historically and inherently a riverside community. The Thames is its "Front" and "the tree-lined Embankment"—so rightly extolled in the passage above quoted—is its characteristic feature and its treasured promenade. From this, however, it is to be separated, according to the Plan, by a wide arterial "park way" of heavy and fast-moving traffic, which can hardly fail to destroy much of its amenity and make perilous its access and enjoyment, not to speak of the noise and disturbance confronting the historic houses of Cheyne Walk.



CHELSEA REACH FROM THE RED HOUSE, BATTERSEA  
*a famous 18th Century Sporting Inn*

These things may or may not be inevitable, but it is well, at any rate, that they should be pointed out in good time. It would be outside the scope of a local Society such as ours to proffer alternative suggestions beyond its borders.

(2) Whilst the construction of the "A" Ring Road might not seriously affect the amenities of Chelsea, it would offer little local advantage, whilst depriving the Borough of a considerable acreage. Unlike the great outer "B" Road, this Ring's chief value would be in co-ordinating the main railway termini, and by-passing the congested central area.

"The County of London Plan"—it is, for the present no more than an assemblage of unratified schemes—is a great and worthy effort, embodying many noble conceptions and desirable aims, and providing vast material for reconstructive thought. But so far as Chelsea is concerned, it speaks with two voices which are hard indeed to reconcile. The one extols the mellow charm of our Borough, emphasises its historic value, and singles out its treatment of the river front and tree-lined embankment as a shining example of how the Thames should be respected. The other proposes to mutilate its historic Physic Garden, to make a huge traffic way along part of that river front, and to violate the site on which, it is hoped, Chelsea Old Church will be rebuilt. The Chelsea Society exists to protect and to foster the amenities of Chelsea; and there can be no doubt of its attitude towards proposals such as these.

This is not however to be read as implying that our Society wishes to register its opposition to a great and in many ways admirable Plan. The whole is greater than its parts, and the proved interest and advantage of London as a whole must have paramount priority.

But Local Councils have been asked to express their views on the sections of the scheme which directly concern them, and such views, based upon local knowledge and experience, may be of value and assistance in the consideration of possible alternatives.

Our Borough Council, which, it will be remembered, adopted and printed *in extenso* our Society's "Suggestions in regard to Town Planning for Chelsea" in 1934, has now expressed its opposition to the "A" road scheme, and also to the present siting of the "Y" road; has criticised the placing of a public park west of Ashburnham Road, and of strips of land adjoining main highways; has advocated the western extension of the Embankment, the planting of suitable trees, the stricter control of advertisements, the preservation of historic buildings, and the provision of lifts in all flats of more than four storeys. In giving a general welcome to the plan, they have been careful to point out that vast schemes of this kind cannot possibly be divorced from questions of finance and the relative liabilities of local and of wider authorities.

At the meeting of our Borough Council which adopted its Report on the County of London Plan, the merits of the "A" circular Road were ably set forth by the Deputy Mayor, Major Thesiger, and the resolution to oppose it was only carried by a bare majority. More will doubtless be heard of it in the later developments of the scheme.

#### LOCAL PLANNING.

Our Borough Council has not yet issued or announced its proposals for post-war reconstruction in Chelsea, which are still under consideration by the Planning Committees. But at a meeting convened last September by the London Society and our own at Chelsea Town Hall, at which our Mayor presided, he was able to say something about the lines upon which they were working. Briefly summarised, these were:—

- (a) Reconstruction of the western area between Beaufort Street and Lots Road;
- (b) The provision of tall flats with adequate garden and playground spaces around them;
- (c) Concentration of large factories in the Lots Road area;
- (d) Conversion into flats of large houses such as those in Cadogan Square and Lennox Gardens, at present a loss both to their owners and to the Borough;

- (e) Greater use of Chelsea's fine river front and open spaces for music and recreational purposes;
- (f) Co-ordination of new building around Chelsea's "treasured spots" to prevent their being disfigured; and
- (g) The rebuilding of the Old Church, if possible as it was.

The Mayor emphasised that the new plan for Chelsea was a plan of roads, squares and communities, indicating the lay-out and types of houses or flats contemplated, but in no way a plan of actual buildings, which would be largely the concern of private enterprise.

From Councillor Wharam's statement it will be gathered that he has considered the claim of Chelsea people to continue in and to return to Chelsea as an obligation that can only be met by their accommodation in large blocks of flats, which can alone provide the living space required on its existing acreage.

The alternative, strongly advocated by the Town and Country Planning Association, is the removal of factories and industrial concerns from residential areas to the outer zones of Greater London or to satellite and garden cities.

If industry is to remain in western Chelsea, either its employees will have to seek homes and gardens in less congested areas, entailing the drawbacks of to and fro travel, strap-hanging, and rush hour discomfort, or they will have to accept flat life near their works, with such amelioration as lifts and playgrounds may provide. These are large and fundamental problems of social policy—too large for adequate consideration in the report of a Society which is primarily concerned with the protection of local amenities, and the members of which may well hold widely divergent views on the larger issues involved. But they have to be faced and weighed by all good citizens who are interested and anxious for the welfare of our community, as they doubtless have been by our councillors,

The destruction of the war has placed within our reach a great opportunity. Boldly grasped, it could lead the way to an orderly advance in the whole concept of community planning.

## MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE.

The Council records with pleasure that Major the Rt. Hon. Earl Cadogan, M.C. has accepted their invitation to become President of the Society in succession to the late Duke of Atholl.

In spite of enforced war inactivities, interest in and support of the Society are healthily maintained.

The issue of the Report always produces a budget of comment and appreciation; the Annual Meeting was attended by nearly a hundred members and friends; "The Hat" was well filled, and new members were enrolled during the year as follows:—

A. V. LAWES, ESQ.  
MISS MAUD PELHAM  
DR. G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M.  
WILLIAM T. WOOD, ESQ.  
F. A. BOOL, ESQ.  
MRS. B. WILLIAMSON  
W. P. HOPKINSON, ESQ.  
MAJOR G. BENTON FLETCHER  
LAWRENCE PEGG, ESQ.  
MRS. D. RIDDEL

HON. MRS. VIOLET CLAY

MRS. C. USBORNE

A. P. H. STRIDE, ESQ.

MARTIN DAVIES, ESQ.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS

COUNCILLOR G. A. BEATON

A. C. RICHMOND, ESQ.

PATRICK K. HODGSON, ESQ.

MISS HELEN MCKIE

MISS N. LUMLEY (*Associate*)

MRS. OAKES

GEOFFREY DAWSON, ESQ.

HON. MRS. DAWSON

MISS E. BEAUMONT

M. R. GREEN, ESQ.

MISS OLIVE HEYWOOD

REV. T. HYSLOP (*Associate*)

MRS. ARTHUR LOWIS

MISS DIANA HORNBY

MISS O. WALKER

E. H. COLES, ESQ.

MAJOR GERALD THESIGER, M.A.

MRS. M. E. THESIGER

F. INIGO THOMAS, ESQ.

MISS KATHERINE SCOTT

SIR MICHAEL McDONNELL

R. F. REES, ESQ.

HUMPHREY HOWORTH, ESQ., M A

MRS. M. BLACK

D. DUNCAN CRAIG, ESQ.

J. B. ATKINS, ESQ.

DOUGLAS PRESTON, ESQ.

OLIVER V. G. HOARE, ESQ.

MRS. A. COMPTON



The financial position of the Society is satisfactory. Entrance fees have brought in £57 and Donations £36.

The Society holds £200 of 3½% War Stock and the Council has been able to make the following grants to Chelsea Institutions in need of special support:—

Chelsea Old Church Committee, towards the cost of transfer from the "Upper Room" to the Garden			
Ward of the Cheyne Hospital	-	-	£5
Chelsea Central Club	-	-	£5
Chelsea Boys' Club	-	-	£5

The amount received in Donations (several of them annual) is particularly gratifying as indicating appreciation of the Society's work, and of the fact that no subscription is asked from its members, whose help in enlisting new recruits is again gratefully acknowledged.

The Council records with regret the deaths of the following members:—Alderman Sir Howard Button, Mrs. Coningsby Clarke, Lady Bertha Dawkins, Mrs. Eumorfopoulos, and Mr. Leonard F. Harrison.

Miss Esther Darlington, of 97, Cheyne Walk, S.W.10, who had already given the Society valuable work, has kindly consented to help Mr. Blunt as Joint Honorary Secretary. Miss Daphne Sanger, though tied to her war work at Cambridge, will continue to give such assistance as she can, and the Council desires to express its gratitude to both these ladies.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

C. H. ST. J. HORNBY,

*Chairman.*

April, 1944.

## *Items of Interest*

### CHELSEA OLD CHURCH RESTORATION.

As regards the five year postponement of plans for the rebuilding of the Old Church, the Bishop of London, in a letter to the Rector of Chelsea dated March 1943, has explained that "an order does not necessarily defer the restoration of a church for five years. It merely secures that during the period of five years, questions of restoration are controlled by the Diocesan Reorganization Committee, and the parish cannot act on its own. This is entirely necessary for many reasons. For instance, after the war the Government will keep control of all materials and labour for rebuilding. It would be a hopeless business if every parish fought with its own hand in getting a priority order from the Government. The Diocese must arrange its own order of priority, and conduct the negotiations for the release of labour and material. The D.R.C. has not yet got very far with the survey of the problem, but in due course it will produce its priority list, and I am quite sure that it will recognise the special character of Chelsea Old Church. The order settles nothing in itself as to the date of restoration, and when the D.R.C. get the detailed plans the parish will be consulted."

Owing to the acquisition of the Cheyne Hospital for Children by our Borough Council for use as a Day Nursery, it became necessary for the Old Church congregation to vacate their "Upper Room" in the Rowland Baring Ward, but the Hospital Committee were fortunately able to offer alternative accommodation in the Garden Ward on the ground floor, in which, after redecoration, they are now satisfactorily lodged. Our Council was glad to be able to make a grant towards the cost of this transfer.

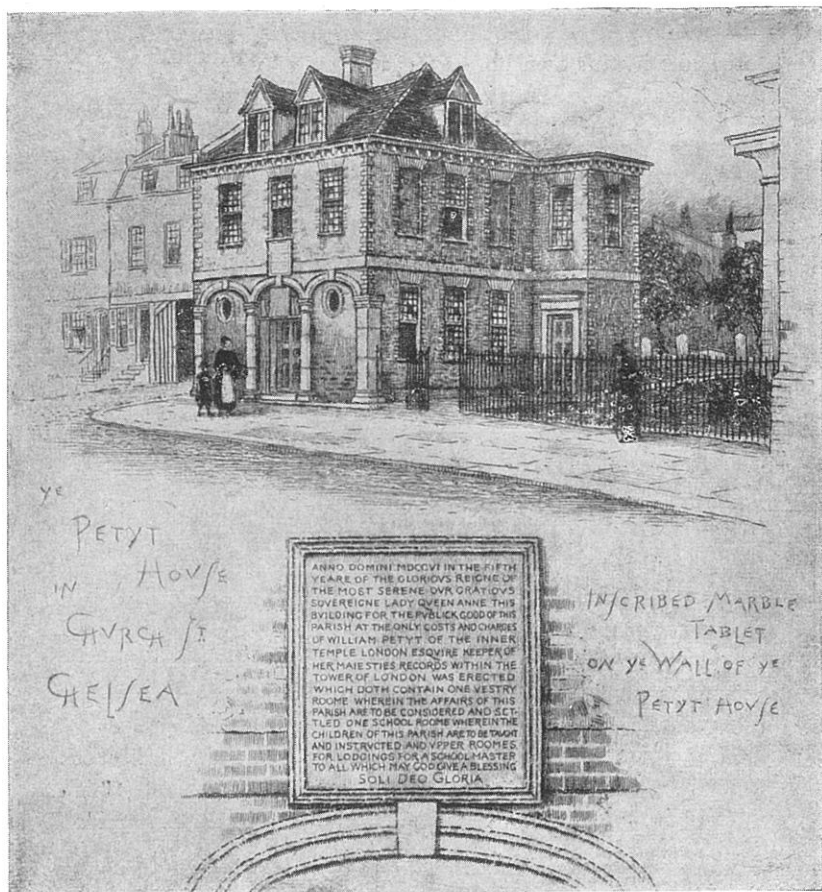
Perusing the weekly records of salvage at the Old Church one marvels at the vagaries of destruction. The beautiful recumbent figure of Lady Jane Cheyne in Italian marble, was found lying on debris outside the Church, but practically undamaged. The great Gervoise tomb, much criticised for its

usurpation of half the Lawrence Chapel arch, was probably responsible for the saving of many monuments, as it bore the brunt of the roof crash. The large slate slab, carrying Sir Thomas More's latin epitaph, was broken into four pieces, but the Holbein capitals of his Chapel arch survived unscathed. The Dacre Memorial, for all its height, suffered scarcely any damage, but the graceful tablet to Dorothy Osborne's friend Elizabeth de Caumont, was badly broken. The Stanley tomb suffered only slight damage, and the Purbeck altar tomb of the Duchess of Northumberland was removed "in a condition no worse than its previous one". The graceful little seventeenth century marble font needs but slight repair, and of recent memorials those of Henry James, William de Morgan, and our Society's tablet to "The Four Ladies" have also survived. It is remarkable too that a good deal of carved woodwork has been salvaged, including the little statuette of St. Luke, pulpit panels, lectern, altar rails, an organ gallery cherub head, and pew and choir stall ends.

Fortunately there was no fire following the land-mine destruction, and large quantities of stonework, oak beams, lead, and other valuable material were collected and stacked from the wreckage. Much, of course has been irreparably lost, and many of the smaller memorials which have survived are not of any general public interest to-day. But the main treasures of our Old Church, The More Chapel, and the Dacre, Cheyne, Stanley, Northumberland, Bray, Colville, Gorges, Hamsey and Lawrence monuments have been—almost miraculously—salved, and are, in the opinion of the Director who superintended their removal, all in sound, or at least in reparable condition.

### THE OLD CHURCH CLOCK.

The excellent clock in the Tower of our Old Church was the work of Edmund Howard, Sir Hans Sloane's quaker gardener and steward. After quitting the service of the Lord of the Manor, who was a mean master, Howard had married and settled at the quaint little cottage and shop at the corner



THE PETYT HOUSE  
*from an etching by Walter Burgess*

of King's Road and Milman Street. Poverty and a rapidly increasing family drove him to seek small smith's and repair work, and in 1760, after a long fight, he was given the contract for making a new clock for the Church. This he accomplished with his own hands, assisted only by "a ragged fellow who had but one shirt; a good workman, an honest fellow, and good natural parts, but had contracted bad habits by working with sots". The clock was completed by those two men in the following year, inspected, accepted and erected; and kept faithful time till the destruction of the Church in 1941. Its works have happily survived and have been examined by experts, who declare them practically undamaged and quite fit for restoration to the rebuilt Church. The tower and the Ashburnham bells have also been salvaged intact.

#### THE PETYT HOUSE.

The Petyt House adjoining the Old Church, which shared the destruction of the latter in April 1941, was a modern building erected in 1890, more or less on the lines of the School House built on the site in 1703 by William Petyt of the Inner Temple, Keeper of the Records, and a Chelsea Resident. This in turn took the place of the Clerk's House, built in 1603 by Richard Ward, the Rector," on a piece of waste land adjoining the Church and thought to be part thereof, by consent of the Lord of the Manor, the Earl of Nottingham."

The size of our Village at the beginning of the eighteenth century may be gathered from that of the school house which was 28 feet by 26 feet, and included a Vestry Room and an upper room for the schoolmaster's lodging.

The Vestry were careful to define the qualifications of the latter, who must be "of a meek temper and humble behaviour with a good genius for teaching and can write a good hand, understands the grounds of arithmetic and keeps good orders in his family and hath a good government of himself and his passions".

Mr. Randall Davies has recorded how, during his father's incumbency of the Old Church, the new School Board took

over this school as the first "Board School" under the Act of 1870, where it was carried on under the title of "School Board for London," until the erection of the present Cook's Ground Schools. It is much to be hoped that this historic little foundation, dating back over more than three centuries, may be perpetuated in some appropriate form.

#### THE CHELSEA CHINA FACTORY.

The Art magazine *Apollo* is arranging for the publication this summer of a Special Number in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the famous Factory in Lawrence Street. The issue will be finely illustrated in colour from specimens in Lord Fisher's collection and elsewhere, and will include articles by Lord Fisher, Mr. William King, Mrs. Arundell Esdaile, and Mr. Reginald Blunt.

#### CHELSEA BOOKS.

Messrs. Batsford have commissioned Mr. John Russell (of 97, Cheyne Walk) to write a book on Chelsea, to which many who enjoyed his "Shakespeare's Country" will look forward with keen anticipation of enjoyment.

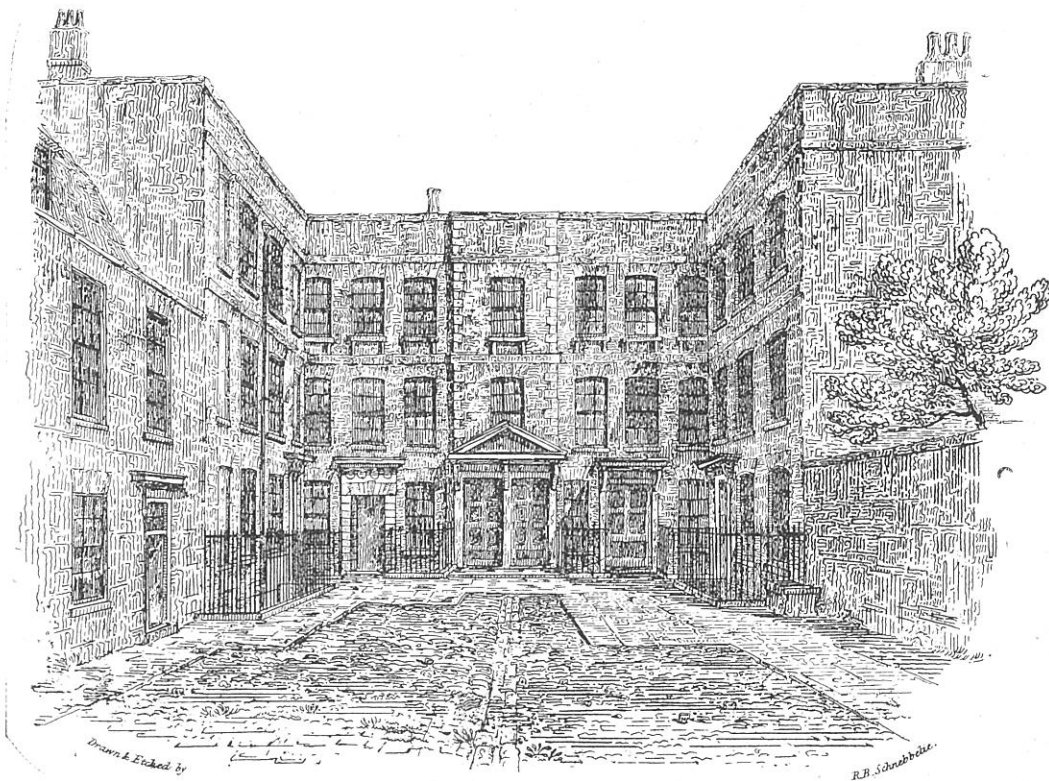
Two other books on Chelsea subjects by members of this Society await publication in less restricted days. Captain Charles Dean's on the Royal Hospital contains much new matter of interest which ought to be available; and Mr. Randall Davies, the historian of the Old Church and of the Greatest House in Chelsey, has compiled the chequered chronicles of the pleasure Gardens of Cremorne, of which the full story has so far not been told. There is rumour, too, of an historical novel of the Chelsea of Queen Anne's times, when Steele and Addison, Gay and Atterbury were residents, and Bolingbroke a brilliant scheming neighbour. An illustrated biography of Walter Greaves, the Chelsea artist and pupil of Whistler, is also in preparation.

## CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Librarian writes:— "Our public library has made steady progress in the replacement and augmentation of its book-stock during the past year and has once again benefited by gifts from residents. The most noteworthy acquisition is a copy of Ford's "Book of Flags and Trophies deposited in the Royal Hospital". The original work was painted and written by J. Ford, Captain of Invalids, and presented to Queen Victoria. The Queen had a copy made which she presented to the Royal Hospital. It is from this copy that the one now presented to the Public Library by Mr. Reginald Blunt was made in 1861 by John Dowling, formerly Assistant Secretary to the Commissioners. This work, of which only four copies exist, is a handsome volume containing coloured delineations of the flags, with descriptive notes and copies of relative documents. Another notable addition, received from the Percy Copeland Morris Memorial Fund, is Richard Offner's "Works of Bernardo Daddi". This is one of 250 copies published by the College of Fine Arts of the New York University in 1930. Besides numerous fine plates the work contains critical notes and very full bibliographical references to Daddi's works.

Amongst the other books received by the Library as a result of the Chelsea Book Salvage Drive were two of special interest. One was a copy of A. P. Pusey-Cust's "Heraldry of York Minster: a key to the history of its builders and benefactors". This work with fine coloured plates, was issued in an edition limited to 300 copies in 1890. The other was a "Collection of Early English Poetry, Ballads, and Popular Literature of the Middle Ages," issued by the Percy Society in 30 volumes.

Judging by the fact that the issue of books for home reading during the past year is the highest ever recorded it would seem that the Library has been a good friend to the numerous residents who, either stirred to a new interest in events by the many pressing problems of the moment or deprived of their customary sources of relaxation, have found instruction or solace from the books on its shelves."



MONMOUTH HOUSE, LAWRENCE STR: CHELSEA, TAKEN DOWN 1833.

*The residence of Dr. Smollett.*

from an etching by E. Schnebbelie

*See Faulkner's Chelsea.*



## THE ROYAL HOSPITAL.

Lt-General Sir Clive Liddell, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. has kindly contributed the following note on Royal Hospital activities during the past year:—

I only assumed the office of Governor of the Royal Hospital on the 27th October, 1943, when General Sir Harry Knox completed his tenure of the appointment. During his five years residence in Chelsea he had identified himself with many local functions and institutions—including particularly the Cheyne Hospital for Children.

1943 has been a relatively uneventful year at the Royal Hospital, the only incident directly connected with the war being the recovery of an unexploded bomb from Burton's Court. This bomb was known to have fallen in this area on the 14th September, 1940, but previous attempts to locate it had failed. To reassure members of the Chelsea Society, I may mention that so far as is known there are no other stray bombs in the Hospital Grounds.

War activities have been supported as in previous years. Thus the In-Pensioners have assisted at various Flag Days and War Savings Weeks, besides contributing over £65 to the Red Cross, and devoting their allotment gardens mainly to growing vegetables.

Dominion and foreign visitors are specially encouraged to visit the Royal Hospital, and among our honoured guests from the U.S.A. have been General Devers and Vice-Admiral Wilson. In September the Lieutenant-Governor, with a representative party of Officers and In-Pensioners, attended the ceremony of Retreat at the Headquarters of the American 8th Air Force, by invitation. They were royally entertained, and each In-Pensioner was given a large packet of cigarettes.

In view of recent correspondence in the Press, it may be of interest to note that there are still nine survivors of the Zulu War of 1877-79 at the Royal Hospital. Other notable veterans are the seven who fought in the Afghanistan War of 1878-80, one of whom participated in the famous march from Kabul to Kandahar, and is still good for a mile or more daily.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters seeking information on the following amongst other subjects have been received during the year, and dealt with where possible:—

Paradise Row. MR. HARRY BATSFORD.

4, Cheyne Walk. BARON DE DORLODOT.

Justice Walk. MR. H. HOWORTH and MISS M. HENRY.

"The Rose Seller." LORD FISHER.

"Channon Row." MR. A. TITHERLEY.

Old Church Pewter Alms Dishes. MR. R. SHELLEY.

Chamber at 9, Old Church Street. MR. WALTER GODFREY.

The Petyt School. MR. A. STRIDE.

"A View near the Physic Garden." MR. COLES.

Monmouth House. LORD FISHER.

George Dionysius Ehret (1750-70). The late

DR. BELLAMY GARDNER.

The Annual Report. MR. PERCY STILL, Prof. G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M., LORD ESHER, MR. ERNEST DAVIES, and others.

## NOTES.

*Members are particularly asked to advise the Secretary of any change of address, in order that Reports and Notices may not go astray.*

Small Bequests to the funds of THE CHELSEA SOCIETY would be welcomed, and would help to consolidate its position.

Chelsea Old Church—An illustrated Historical Guide Book by Archdeacon Stewart, edited with various additional matter by Reginald Blunt, can be obtained from The Secretary. Post free, 1s. 4d., or at Chelsea Public Library.

Copies of the Society's Annual Reports (1928-43)—except the 3rd and 4th, out of print. Post free, 1s. each.

Their illustrations have always been an integral and much appreciated feature of these Reports. Rather than forego them, a cheaper paper has been used and the List of Members and other items omitted.

It is suggested that Members who do not wish to file or keep their Reports should hand them on to friends who might desire to be enrolled as Members of the Society.

THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

*Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending March 31st, 1944.*

## RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward						
April 1st, 1943	120	11	7			
„ In Treasurer's Hands	1	18	5			
				122	10	0
„ Entrance Fees—						
New Members	56	15	0			
Associates		10	0			
				57	5	0
„ Donations	26	7	0			
„ "The Hat" (Annual Meeting)	9	7	0			
				35	14	0
„ Sales—						
Reports	1	10	0			
Old Church Guide	2	14	0			
				4	4	0
„ Interest on £200 3½% War Stock held by The Chelsea Society				5	5	0
				£224	18	0

The Certificates for £200 3½% War Stock held by The Chelsea Society are held by Barclays Bank Ltd., 348, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3.

### PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Printing Annual Reports				23	16	3
„ Stationery and Typing				4	11	8
„ Postages on Reports and Correspondence ...				4	17	9
„ Grants—						
Chelsea Old Church Committee ...	5	0	0			
Chelsea Central Club	5	0	0			
Chelsea Boys' Club ...	5	0	0			
Central Council of Civic Societies ...	1	1	0			
				16	1	0
„ Annual Meeting: Notices and Tea ...				6	14	6
„ Purchase of £100 3½% War Stock ...				104	12	3
„ Balance at Bank, 31.3.44	64	17	4			
Less Amount due to Treasurer ...		12	9			
				64	4	7
				£224	18	0

I have examined the above Statement of Account and the relative Vouchers and certify the same to be correct—R. WILFRED ELLISTON, F.H.A.

8th April, 1944.