



THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity 27626

Autumn Bulletin 2022



HM The Queen

Princess Elizabeth was just one year old when The Chelsea Society was formed in 1927.

For every year since then she has lived in our minds and our hearts, and for 70 of those years as our Sovereign Lady the Queen.

She left us on the 8th day of September 2022 to be re-united with Prince Philip.

We feel her loss deeply, and she will be long remembered in Chelsea with respect, with admiration, and with love. She has left us, but the monarchy is enduring, and life must go on.

Long Live the King!

FUTURE EVENTS



Remembrance Service Sunday 13th November 2023 at 10:30

There will be a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Sloane Square on Sunday 13th November, followed by a service in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street.

The Chairman of the Chelsea Society will lay a wreath, and hopes that as many Members as possible will attend. We will assemble on Sloane Square at 10.30-10.40 am.



AGM

Monday 14th November at 6pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Chelsea Old Town Hall. Members only. Admission free, to include a glass of wine. For the formal Notice of the AGM see the Society's website.

Gen. Sir Nick Carter Monday 20th February 2023 at 6pm – 8pm

The Society is delighted that General Sir Nick Carter has agreed to address Members and guests about; "The global strategic context in an era of constant competition and conflict in the light of the war in Ukraine."

Gen. Carter was Chief of the General Staff, (the head of the British Army) 2014-2018, and was Chief of the Defence Staff (the head of all UK armed forces) 2018 – 2021. He had tours of duty in Iraq as a Brigade commander in 2003/4 and repeated tours in Afghanistan between 2002 and 2013. He commanded 55,000 NATO troops during the Afghan 'surge' and became Deputy Commander of the NATO mission. He led the team that reorganised the Army following the 2010 Security and Defence Review, and is now Senior Visiting Fellow at Stanford University, USA.



Tickets £20 from the Box Office of the Cadogan Hall, 3 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ in person, or by post with cheque payable to Cadogan Hall, or by phone 0207-730-4500 (booking not available online). A charge is made by Cadogan Hall for card payments.

The venue in Chelsea will be advised to Members who purchase tickets.

Mercers Hall Monday 24th April 2023 at 2pm – 3.30pm

Chelsea Society members are invited to a private visit to the Hall of this historic livery company.

Tours of the Hall are very limited so this is a rare opportunity to see one of the great Livery Halls. The Hall has a fine collection of sixteenth century portraits and has the only chapel of any livery hall.



Tickets £20 from the Box Office of the Cadogan Hall, 3 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ in person, or by post with cheque payable to Cadogan Hall, or by phone 0207-730-4500 (booking not available online). A charge is made by Cadogan Hall for card payments.

PAST EVENTS



Chelsea Walk

On Thursday 27th October 2022 Guy Fairbank, a London Blue Badge Guide, took us on another of his very successful Chelsea Walks. This one was called From Spies to Spirits

We met a Soviet spy and a target for the Nazis, a crazy diamond and the quiet member of a loud band, a groovy boutique and a long-lost distillery.



Brompton Cemetery

Chelsea Society members were invited to the annual Open Day at Brompton Cemetery on Sunday 17th July.

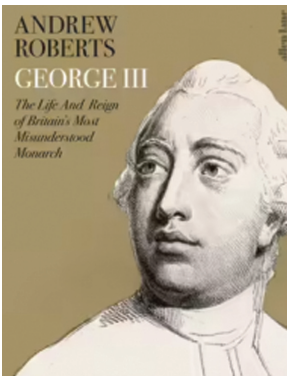
The cemetery is now looking beautiful, as the Royal Parks, with a little help from Friends of Brompton Cemetery, have been able to continue working outdoors.

The Reform Club

On 22nd June 2022 Members and guests of The Chelsea Society enjoyed a private visit to The Reform Club.

The Club was founded in 1836 by a group of Radicals, Whigs and Irish Reformers to carry forward the process of parliamentary reform begun by the great Reform Act of 1832 which, by abolishing the rotten boroughs and extending the franchise, took the first crucial steps in the country's advance towards full democracy.

The Clubhouse was designed by Charles Barry, later the architect of the Houses of Parliament, and was opened in 1841. From the outset it was recognised as an architectural masterpiece. Inspired by the Palazzo Farnese and other Roman palaces, it led to the renaissance architectural revival of High Victorian times. It is a Grade I Listed Building.



Andrew Roberts

On Tuesday 31st May 2022, Andrew Roberts was interviewed by Michael Stephen, Vice-chairman of the Chelsea Society, on his new book about King George III.

George III is notorious for losing America and going mad. Acclaimed historian Andrew Roberts provides a fresh account of both occurrences. His book portrays a different analysis to the generally held view that George III was one of England's most disastrous kings. Roberts argues that, far from being a tyrant or incompetent, George III was one of the most admirable monarchs.

NEWS



The Queen's Head, Tryon Street

The building work is now complete and the interior will be fitted-out as soon as an operator for the pub/restaurant has been appointed.

When we first met with the owner, and gave our support for the reconstruction, we expressed our concern that the Victorian character of the pub should not be lost, and we look forward to seeing the designs for the interior.

We also look forward to the name of the pub being written on the fascia on both frontages in the same font as the original and the replacement of the pub sign, or a replica of it, bearing Queen Victoria's portrait. We are meeting with the owner shortly to discuss these and other matters.

The Houseboats

The Society has been concerned for some time that the amenity of Chelsea Reach, upstream of Battersea Bridge would be damaged by the removal of the traditional houseboats, and their replacement by large unsuitable structures which look more like pre-fabs than boats.

We have therefore campaigned to persuade RBKC to enforce the Design Brief in the Thames Conservation Area Statement of 1983, but they say they have no legal power to do so. This is disputed, and The Chelsea Society, the Cheyne Walk Trust, and other stakeholders have obtained the Opinion of a KC specialising in planning law. He advises that RBKC does have this power, and we have asked RBKC to amend the draft River Thames Conservation Area Management Plan accordingly, and to adopt and enforce it without further delay.



Save our Buses

Transport for London have held a public consultation on changes to bus services in London, and Chelsea would be one of the main areas affected.

The Chelsea Society made an objection, and encouraged all of its members to send an e-mail to TfL themselves before 12th July.

The changes would involve, inter alia, the disappearance of routes 11, 14, and C3; the re-routing of the 19 to go via South Kensington instead of via the King's Road and Sloane Street; and the limitation of the 49 to a service between East Acton and South Kensington. There would be similar changes to the night buses.

Marks & Spencer Building

A planning application to demolish and rebuild was withdrawn after objections from the Chelsea Society and others (See website 16.4.21).

The Vice-chairman of the Society attended the public meeting on 19th October 2022 to discuss the new proposals for the redevelopment of this site. The Society's Planning Committee is considering this in detail but important issues will include the height of the building and size of windows, the number of parking spaces, and protection of neighbouring residents from overlooking and light-pollution.



NEWS



Sloane Square

The Council has permitted outdoor dining in Sloane Square.

This is fine, but there are no wc facilities for the diners. Peter Jones (when their shop is open) cannot be expected to provide wc facilities for people who are not their customers.

The automatic wc outside Sloane Square station has been out of service for far too long, and we have asked the Council to get it repaired as a matter of urgency. Also to install one or more of these units in the square itself.

Shelters Listed!

On 24th January 2021 The Chelsea Society proposed to Historic England that the cabmens' shelters in Pont Street, and near the Albert Bridge, be listed.

Our application was supported by the MP, the GLA member, the Cheyne Walk Trust, MISARA, the Brompton Association, and RBKC. The two shelters have now been listed, and the third one in Chelsea (opposite the V&A) was already listed.



Lady Kenya Tatton-Brown

Lady Kenya Eleanor Tatton-Brown, née Kitchener, was a member of The Chelsea Society, who died on 21st May 2022.

Born in 1923, the grand-daughter of the 2nd Earl Kitchener, she was brought up in Kent but her maternal relatives lived in Chelsea for many years. She was a Governor of Whitelands teacher training college (originally established in Chelsea where Whitelands House now stands) and a local school. She was a churchwarden, a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Escalator back in order!

Following pressure from The Chelsea Society, with help from Greg Hands MP and GLA Member Tony Devenish, the escalator was brought back into use on 13th May 2022.

This escalator, up from the eastbound platform, had not been in working order since before Christmas. This is not fair to the elderly and disabled.

We have asked our two elected representatives to inquire into the spares and maintenance policies at TfL and give us a report.



NEWS



Jubilee Parties

Street parties were held in Chelsea on Sunday 5th June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Chelsea in Bloom

Photos taken in the week ended 28.5.22



Topping Out

The Chelsea Society was represented by Jules Turner, Member of its Planning Committee for Royal Hospital Ward, at the "Topping Out" ceremony on 29th June at the new building on the Kings Road on the site of the former Kings Walk shopping centre.

The owners, Crosstree, had engaged with the Society at the design stage, and we think the new building will be an improvement on the undistinguished 1970s building which was there before.



NEWS

St. Wilfrid's Convent

The Chelsea Society understands that St Wilfrid's Convent and Care Home in Tite Street is in the process of being sold.

This is a building of little architectural merit, which stands on a huge site. Its redevelopment will be a massive project with the potential to impact on much of the surrounding area, including the Royal Hospital and the National Army Museum. It is currently, we understand, in mixed care and residential use.



The Chelsea Society has asked RBKC to prepare a planning brief for the site, to give developers an idea of what the local community would like to see before they bring forward their own plans.

The Society is concerned about three main issues

1. The new buildings should be no higher than the other buildings in Tite Street
2. The open space should be protected and
3. The new buildings should provide in part for community uses such as care home, doctor's or dentist's surgery, meeting room etc.

Albert Bridge

We have noticed that the four historic kiosks on Albert Bridge are in need of repainting. The paint is flaking and the wood is deteriorating. It will have suffered during the period of fierce sunlight in August.

RBKC is responsible for their maintenance.

We have asked RBKC to repaint them before the winter, and have been informed that an inspection has been done. They are awaiting a costed programme of works.



Sloane Square House

The Chelsea Society has objected to a planning application for a two storey extension at the rear of Sloane Square House.

We believe the host building has little or no merit and the proposal would cause serious harm to neighbouring properties and the locality.

For details see the Society's website.

Death in Chelsea

Yet another tragic accident has occurred on Chelsea Embankment – this time at the junction with Oakley Street.

At 6.30 am on 14th May 2022, Olivia Riley was walking her three golden retrievers when she was knocked down by a car and killed. All the dogs were also killed. The driver was arrested. All the members of The Chelsea Society send their deepest sympathy to Olivia's family.

Not long ago, on 13th January 2021 another pedestrian, Jack Ryan, was knocked down and killed – at the north end of Battersea Bridge.



THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

FURTHER INFORMATION

This Bulletin is printed and distributed to members twice a year, and electronic mailings are sent to members at approx. monthly intervals. If you are not receiving them, please contact the Secretary.

For more detail, and to keep up to date with the activities of the Society, visit our website at www.chelseasociety.org.uk. You can also follow The Chelsea Society on Instagram, where we now have 1011 Followers Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Society, by visiting our website and clicking on "Join Us."

They do not have to live in Chelsea.

Our Secretary, Clare, can be contacted on secretary@chelseasociety.org.uk or 07803 147654. Please make sure she has your current e-mail address and telephone number.

Our mailing address is: 30 Paradise Walk, London SW3 4JL

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