



THE  
CHELSEA  
SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2023

## EDITOR'S FOREWORD

King Charles II was often distracted by his spaniels. After a Privy Council meeting in September 1667, diarist Samuel Pepys noted: "All I observed there is the silliness of the King, playing with his dog all the while, and not minding the business." Despite this, the Merrie Monarch's legacy lives on in Chelsea: he founded the Royal Hospital and the King's Road was his private highway.

Last May a parade of (slightly soggy) spaniels in the King's Road marked the Coronation of King Charles III. This gathering was the inspiration for the theme of this year's Annual Report – Chelsea creatures.

**Sarah Ingham**

*The cover image is of Charlie who took part in the Coronation procession. With thanks to Charlie's owners Tiziana Lia and Angeline Teo, and to Jenny of Love My Human.*



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# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

*Founded by Reginald Blunt in 1927  
To Protect the Interests of all who Live and Work here and  
to Preserve and Enhance the Unique Character of Chelsea*

*[www.chelseasociety.org.uk](http://www.chelseasociety.org.uk)*

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Chelsea Town Hall – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6pm

**The President, John Simpson CBE** opened the meeting at 6pm and spoke about the situation in the Middle East.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022 (Published on pages 10-21 of the Society's Annual Report for the year 2022) were adopted

The following members of Council retired by rotation and were re-elected: **Michael Bach** and **Jules Turner**

**Marina Murray**, a co-opted member of Council was elected.

**The Chairman, Dr. James Thompson**, delivered his report for the year ending 13th November 2023

The following Motion was proposed by **Mr. Andrew Prynne KC** and seconded by **Col. David Waddell**, and unanimously adopted as a Resolution of the Society:

“The Chelsea Society, being concerned that planning powers were not being exercised to protect the amenity of Chelsea’s Riverside:-

- congratulated the Leader of the Council of RBKC for calling a meeting at which King’s Counsel were able to clarify that RBKC has legal power to control the size and appearance of boats at Chelsea Reach and Cadogan Pier.
- called upon RBKC to take enforcement action without further delay to prevent intensification at Chelsea Reach by replacing the traditional boats with large box-like structures, and to prevent the occupation of Cadogan Pier by boats without planning permission.
- called upon RBKC to adopt the Thames Conservation Area Management plan without further delay.”

The Treasurer, Mr. Chris Lenon, presented the Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2023.



The following speakers addressed the meeting and answered questions:

**Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell**, leader of the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

**Rt. Hon. Greg Hands**, Member of Parliament for Chelsea and Fulham.

**Mr. Tony Devenish**, Member of the Greater London Assembly.

**Superintendent Owen Renowden**, Commander of Police for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Members were concerned about the following matters:-

- Houseboats
- M&S and its future
- Cyclists on pavements, bicycles left on pavements
- Cabman's shelter, and revellers making a nuisance after drinking
- The length of the road and pavement works in Sloane Street
- The noise of cars racing during the night at Markham Square
- The encroachment of Lime bikes and scooters, with the need to protect public space
- The impression of widespread discontent among residents that their views of residents were not being listened to, with the M&S decision – approved by a minority of councillors on the planning committee – puzzling to many.

# THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. President, Member of Parliament for Chelsea, Chelsea Councillors, GLA Councillor, Representatives of other Amenity Societies and Churches, Honoured guests, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

King Charles's Coronation in May was a great occasion: Chelsea celebrated with parties, both large and small.



*Members of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment during Chelsea in Bloom  
(Image: Cadogan)*

On a sadder note, on 11 June the 8th Earl Cadogan, one of our Vice-Presidents, died. Warmly admired for his church and charitable work, he was a real Chelsea character, best displayed in his funny and self-mocking speeches. It is with great pleasure that I announce that the 9th Earl Cadogan, has agreed to be a Vice-President of the Chelsea Society in place of his late father, and I welcome him to our meeting today.

Yet again we meet in times of war and great suffering. In comparison we have only minor problems, but it is those local problems we seek to resolve, as this is our purpose as a society.

I therefore thank my Council members for their dedicated work during the year in preserving and improving the amenities of Chelsea for the public benefit.

I am delighted that Michael Bach and Julian Turner are willing to continue serving

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

the Society and have been re-elected. It is very good to be able to welcome Marina Murray as a recently co-opted member of Council who has been elected today. She ran a successful campaign against major basement developments and has also taken an active interest in the proposal to redevelop the Marks & Spencer building on the Kings Road. We also welcome the recently co-opted Paul Davis, a major contributor to the architecture of Chelsea, who will give important advice and support to the Planning Committee.

We remember with great sadness Council member Fleur de Villiers who died in February. She contributed greatly to our deliberations over many years, and her obituary will be in our next Annual Report.

Sir Paul Lever leads the Planning Committee as Chairman: he is also the member for Brompton-Hans Ward. Martyn Baker and David Waddell deal with Chelsea Riverside Ward; Jules Turner for Royal Hospital Ward, and Michael Parkes, for Stanley Ward. The Committee itself concentrates on the most significant planning applications.

Despite our reasoned opposition, we were unable to prevent the grant of preliminary permission for the demolition and reconstruction of the Marks & Spencer building, though it is some relief that there may be a M&S in the new building when at some time in the future it is completed. We were disappointed that despite the massive level of public opposition to the scheme, including a petition with thousands of signatures objecting to it, the Council's planning committee, one of whose members represents a Chelsea ward, approved it. Meanwhile, the King's Road and residents will once again face major disruption from building works and heavy lorries. In view of that, our Planning Committee Chairman has written to the Mayor of RBKC saying that we believe that the arguments against the demolition and damage to Chelsea's heritage and townscape are particularly compelling. It is hoped therefore that the Mayor will use her authority to reject the application.



*Durham Terrace*

We still have not received a straight answer as to why 3 and 4 Durham Terrace came tumbling down. We have requested more information.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We lost Thamesbrook care home years ago, and then St Wilfrid's on Tite Street. On the latter site the estate agents handling the sale are marketing the property in a way which encourages developers to build a large block of flats over the whole site, including the garden. We are working hard to save this green space. The open vistas which are the essence of the Tite Street artist's studios - part of the artistic heritage of Chelsea. We also want any new building to respect the architectural heritage of Tite Street and to include some provision for the accommodation and care of the elderly.

Object 2.3 of our Constitution is: "seeking the abatement of nuisances". We are experiencing unabated thefts from shops in Chelsea. Staff at supermarkets tell me that blatant stealing is an everyday occurrence, with many repeat offenders responding aggressively when challenged. Recently I witnessed one such offender screaming abuse at a staff member, and the current management advice is that staff should avoid confrontation. Staff have been threatened with hypodermic needles. There is a perception that stealing is now tolerated by the courts, and that the Police are useless. Theft is more than a nuisance: it is an affront to shop staff and to other shoppers, and a direct challenge to a peaceful society.

Traffic continues to be a great nuisance. Transport for London, responsible for major roads and all traffic lights, do whatever satisfies their loudest lobbies. RBKC seems to have few deployable options. We maintain our principle of equity between streets, so that all share traffic loads as fairly as possible, while recognising that main streets have always been busier than the side-streets

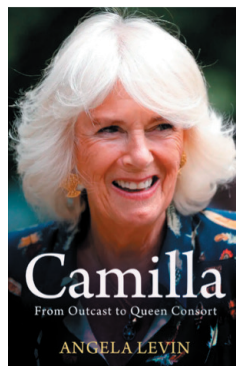
We have an active events programme for our members, and I would like to thank Gaye Murdoch and Michael Stephen for a particularly successful year.

In January 90 members heard Mark Galeotti talk on Putin's wars.

In February almost 100 members heard Gen. Sir Nick Carter, former Chief of the Defence Staff (2018 – 2021) gave a talk to almost 100 members on the theme of the global strategic context in an era of constant competition and conflict in the light of the war in Ukraine.

In March we visited the Carthusian monastery of Charterhouse. A tour of the building was followed by a buffet lunch.

Later in March we started our own book launch series, with Angela Levin's biography of Camilla, now our Queen, which reveals how she transformed her role and established herself as one of the key members of the royal family.





## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In April, 20 members visited the Chelsea Arts Club, and were given a masterclass in the history and art works of the building by Geoffrey Matthews, the Club Secretary.

A week later, members made a visit to Mercer's Hall, with beautiful portraits and a very fine Chapel.

Later that same day we had a meeting for residents about traffic in Chelsea.

In May we visited the College of Arms, had dinner in their fine rooms and looked in detail at their magnificent collection of coats of arms.

On a sunny June day, we visited Spencer House, whose rooms reflect the eighteenth-century fashion for classical Greece and Rome, with gilded furniture and fine collections of paintings.



*The Chelsea Arts Club decorated for a Dazzle-themed summer party.*

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In September 101 members spent an evening with Bill Wyman, who was launching his book on Chelsea, and who happily answered the many questions put to him about his intimate knowledge of Chelsea, and of his decades with the Rolling Stones.

In early October Viscount Trenchard took us round the House of Lords, and we were able to progress through the settings for the Opening of Parliament.

The following week we staged our first play: a recreation of the wartime correspondence between Celia Johnson (of *Brief Encounters* fame) and her husband Peter Fleming (Ian Fleming's brother), serving in the Far East. Their daughter Lucy read her mother's letters (found in Tedworth Square) and her husband Simon Williams read out her father's letters back home.

Yet to come, on 27 November there will be a talk by Lt. Gen. Sir Simon Mayall, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations 2009-15), on the current strategic military situation, with particular reference to the Middle-East.

Our best-attended talks support the more specialist meetings. They make a positive contribution to our reserves, as well as being our most effective way of recruiting new members.

Anyone who joins us will find much to inform and entertain them, and at every event our members have contributed personal knowledge not known even to the professional tour guides.



Once again "Chelsea in Bloom" was a marvel, and we hope to give a Society Prize next year for the best exhibit.

We are very pleased that the Cabman's shelter by Albert Bridge, which we saved from dereliction, is now a listed building and back in use as a café.

We are very concerned about the removal of the traditional houseboats on Chelsea Reach and their replacement by very large box-like floating structures. We contributed to the cost of a legal opinion that RBKC is perfectly entitled to control the size and appearance of boats, and this issue will be the subject of a Motion for Resolution after my report.

Yesterday, Remembrance Sunday, the Society laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Sloane Square, and many of us attended the service at Holy Trinity church afterwards.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are in a good financial position, and over the past 7 years our total funds have risen to £91,746. Nevertheless, as registered charity, we would like you to remember the Society in your wills, and to sign a gift-aid form so that the society can benefit even more from your subscription at no cost to yourself.

We now have more than a thousand members (1,115 to be precise). Please invite friends to our events and encourage them to join us. If your neighbours need help about a planning matter, get them to join the Society. We have some recruitment leaflets here today, so please take some with you to give to friends or family members. They don't have to live in Chelsea. Also, to impress potential new members, please wear the Chelsea Society lapel badge you can purchase at the back of the hall.

Last year we noticed the sharp rises in our operating costs but did not raise our subscriptions. Now we believe that to meet these costs it would be prudent to raise subscriptions by £5, so £30 for individuals, £40 for couples.



*The National Army Museum's entry for Chelsea in Bloom 2023.  
Fury was inspired by a Second World War Sherman tank.*

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

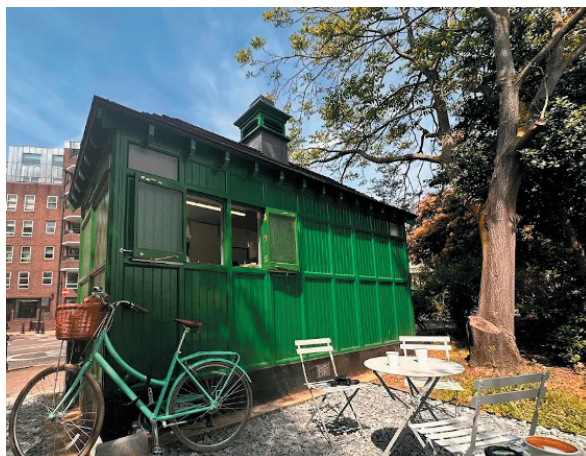
The Annual Report under the editorship of Dr Sarah Ingham, continues to flourish, and it serves as a valued historical record of our activities.

I am also grateful to the Vice-Chairman for producing regular emails and half-yearly bulletins, as well as for helping to organise our events, for managing the website and our presence on Instagram. (We currently have more than 1,000 followers).

Volunteers are always welcome to help the Society in any of our activities, including helping with the refreshments at events like this AGM. You can give as much or as little time as you like.

The statue of Oscar Wilde by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi on Dovehouse Green, continues to take shape and we will be helping with the task of raising the remaining funds.

There is always a risk that we will take Chelsea's rich heritage and its thriving cultural activities for granted, but we must continue to strive by our own efforts to respect the past and to ensure that anything we build, in stone or in community spirit, is of good quality, and able to stand the test of time. Above all, we must maintain a fast pace and enjoy where we live.



*Café Pier, the restored cabman's shelter next to Albert Bridge*



## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As Queen Katherine Parr wrote in 1547 "By what means the time is so well-abbreviated I know not, except weeks be shorter in Chelsey, than in other places!"

Chelsea is unique, and we aim to keep it so. The Society will continue to preserve and improve Chelsea, to be enjoyed by all who live, work and play here. May it delight them all.

Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to present to you this account of our activities in this the 96th year of our Society.



*How the Paolozzi statue commemorating Oscar Wilde might look.*

# THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 2023

The Planning Committee monitors developments in planning policy at both the national and local level and makes representations about these when warranted. It also seeks to influence the nature of major developments in Chelsea and comments on individual planning applications when they involve issues of wider importance for the area.

In 2023, the Committee comprised:

Martyn Baker (Riverside ward)

Paul Lever (Chairman and Brompton and Hans Town ward)

Marina Murray

Michael Parkes (Stanley ward)

Jules Turner (Royal Hospital ward)

David Waddell

## **NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICY**

There were, by comparison with previous years, few major new policy initiatives. The revision of the Local Plan is winding its way through the bureaucracy. Following the comments of the Planning Inspectorate, RBKC is likely to begin a further consultation in early 2024 about the changes it proposes to make. By contrast, a number of decisions were taken about particular developments: some, from the Society's perspective, positive; others, the majority, negative.

## **BATTERSEA BRIDGE GLASSMILL**

The Chelsea Society, along with the Battersea Society, has recorded its profound objection to the developer Rockwell's plans for the Glassmill at Battersea Bridge.

A 38-storey tower at this location is completely out of place and would destroy the character of both the Cheyne Conservation Area and the River Thames Conservation Area. This would be the highest building for some two miles around and would completely dominate and despoil the views in all directions. It would provide an unacceptable precedent for further unwelcome tower blocks in a highly sensitive area.

## **COLEBROOK COURT**

An application for the demolition of the existing undistinguished building and its replacement with a 13-storey mixed use cylindrical one was withdrawn in 2022. Planning officers had advised that it would be too tall, was of incongruous design and would not deliver enough affordable housing.

## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 2023

No further planning application has yet been submitted, but the owners have undertaken consultations about a revised design which would be only eight storeys high and whose design would be more in keeping with the surrounding area.

### HOUSEBOATS

The Chelsea Society has been working for more than two years to persuade RBKC to prevent the eviction of traditional houseboats from Chelsea Reach and their replacement by very large floating structures, each containing two dwelling units.

Council planning officers were reluctant to intervene: they claimed, erroneously, that they did

not have the legal power to do so. Along with the Cheyne Walk Trust, the Boatowners Association and others, the Chelsea Society contributed to the legal fees of a planning barrister who was able to show that they were mistaken. Nonetheless, officers continued to argue at a meeting of the RBKC Planning Committee that the moorings as a whole was the appropriate planning unit and that therefore no permission was required for changes to individual boats. We are puzzled as to why they should have taken this view, which is both against common sense and incompatible with the position their predecessors have taken for more than forty years.



*On the right, the existing Glassmill building next to Battersea Bridge, the site of the proposed tower.*

## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 2023



*Traditional Chelsea Houseboats (Image: The Chelsea Reach Boatowners' Association)*

Fortunately, the Planning Committee rejected the officers' advice and decided unanimously that each berth should be treated separately for planning purpose. In addition, they ruled that the introduction of boats of a significantly bigger size constitutes a change of use by reason of intensification. We now expect the Council to proceed with enforcement action to remove these boats and to prevent the arrival others which are similar.

We also welcome the Chelsea Riverside Councillors' proposal – made at a full Council meeting and approved by all members present – that the Council resolve to complete the River Thames Conservation Area Management Plan as soon as possible.

### **THE MARKS & SPENCER BUILDING ON THE KING'S ROAD**

The Chelsea Society was among the thousands of individuals and organisations which objected to a proposal to demolish and replace this building, which is only 40 years old. We did so principally on the grounds that demolition was not warranted and that the proposed new building would be too large for the site, damaging Chelsea's heritage and townscape. It would also have an adverse impact on the privacy of neighbouring properties.



## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 2023



*The new M&S (Image: Pilbrow & Partners)*

We were extremely disappointed that Council officers recommended acceptance of the scheme and that the Planning Committee endorsed their recommendation. Officers did not, in our view, objectively address the detailed objections to the proposal and the conduct of the Planning Committee meeting was highly unsatisfactory. The Chairman indicated his support for the application before any of his Councillor colleagues had a chance to express their views. Of the five members of the Committee, two voted in favour, one voted against and two abstained.

### **LOTS ROAD**

RBKC is continuing its preparatory work for the redevelopment of Lots Road South. It has engaged a consultancy firm, Mount Anvil, to draw up a plan, but it is becoming clear that some, but not all, of RBKC's objectives can be accommodated within the site. Trade-offs will be required between the height of the buildings, their massing, the care and social housing requirements, as well as the employment space.

The Chelsea Society is supporting the efforts of the newly established Lots Road Neighbourhood Forum to ensure that RBKC respect the concerns of local residents

## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 2023

and safeguards the character of this unique part of London. Most of Lots Village, which is low rise, is in the Conservation Area adjacent to the Lots Road South site. Our fear is that the Council will not only be reluctant to put in enough of its own money, but will be seduced into downgrading the importance of the employment space (Lots Road is Chelsea's only employment zone). It could also be willing to accept a higher density of housing, with much taller buildings, than the area can sustain.

### **SOUTH KENSINGTON STATION**

In 2022 RBKC's Planning Committee rejected Transport for London's planning application for re-developing the station. It had attracted over 800 objections, including from the Chelsea Society. Our concern was that the proposed building would dominate the surrounding area and that its mass, style and size would be an eyesore. Although planning officers had recommended acceptance of the scheme, Councillors in the Planning Committee decided unanimously that it was not appropriate.

TfL appealed and the Planning Inspectorate has now upheld their appeal, although without adducing any new arguments or facts which were not available to the Planning Committee. This makes a nonsense of the claim by Michael Gove, the Secretary of State, in 2022 that the Inspectorate would be instructed "no longer to override sensible local decision making which is sensitive to and reflects local constraints and concerns"; and that this was intended to "rebalance the relationship between local Councils and the Planning Inspectorate" so as to "give local communities greater say in what is built in their neighbourhood".

### **ST WILFRID'S CARE HOME, TITE STREET**

An initial prospective sale of this site fell through and it has been re-marketed by Knight Frank. At the end of 2023 it seemed that a sale to a Middle East-owned property company was imminent. The Chelsea Society, together with the Tite Street Residents Association, has been in touch with RBKC Planning





## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 2023

officers to try to influence the advice they give to potential developers. We have provided evidence to support the view that the whole of the site should be considered to have been a care home; and we have argued that on heritage and amenity grounds the gardens and the green spaces there must be retained in their current locations.

### **MAKING BATTERSEA BRIDGE SAFE**

The Battersea Bridge-Cheyne Walk junction has been an accident black spot for far too many years (*writes David Waddell of the Cheyne Walk Trust*). The CWT together with the Chelsea Society, local resident associations and RBKC have long sought to make this junction, controlled by Transport for London, safer for all. In 2003, TfL undertook to introduce safety measures in 2005 but failed to do so.

In the five years up to 31 December 2020, there were 63 recorded collisions with 72 casualties, including a fatality. A second fatality in January 2021 galvanised public concern. A jogger, Jack Ryan, tragically was killed while trying to cross the northern end of the bridge at Cheyne Walk, where there was no controlled pedestrian facility.

After the years of delay and a popular campaign in 2021 by journalist Rob McGibbon, TfL belatedly completed installation of a light-controlled crossing at the north end of Battersea Bridge in December 2021. Disastrously, a third fatality occurred on 10 August 2023 when a 27-year-old cyclist was crushed against the bridge pavement balustrade by a large truck.

TfL eventually held a public consultation on the other three unprotected arms of the junction, publishing a report in June 2023.

A joint RBKC, Chelsea Society and CWT proposal for a 3-phase Chelsea Option safety scheme, based on considered traffic data collection and assessment, was disregarded by the TfL consultation report.

The delays are unforgivable. It is vital that improvements are implemented urgently on remaining three arms of the junction, not least because the government committed £1.5m to the project for FY 2022. Equally, it is critical that safety improvement plans are agreed with RBKC that are acceptable to Chelsea residents. Currently, they dominated and distorted by TfL's ambitions to project a cycle superhighway (CS8) along the whole of Chelsea riverside.

TfL's CS8 plans have already resulted in the disruptive banning of north and south turns at Chelsea bridge, creating huge congestion west along Chelsea

## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR 2023

Thames-side. This is likely to be compounded by TfL's proposals further to restrict access to and from roads into Chelsea. CS8 plans for Chelsea Embankment-Cheyne Walk include the introduction of needless bus lanes for the comparatively infrequent 170 bus. The Kings Road is almost gridlocked already following the installation of TfL inspired Local Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) in Fulham and this will become significantly worse.

TfL also proposes to ban the present left turn north into Beaufort Street for eastbound traffic. This ban will displace further traffic onto the already overloaded Oakley Street and Tite Street routes. There is no evidence of accidents to pedestrians or cyclists from left turning vehicles at this junction. The recorded accidents and fatalities have taken place at the northern access to Battersea Bridge or on the Bridge itself. Should TfL ban the few remaining turns north into Chelsea from the Embankment, people who live or work in south-west Chelsea will effectively lose normal vehicle access to their borough. We strongly endorse the related campaign by local MP Greg Hands to "Keep Chelsea Moving".



*Tributes to Jack Ryan*

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# OTTERS AND GAVIN MAXWELL

*Ring of Bright Water* and two subsequent memoirs about life with otters Mijhal, Teko, Edal, Monday and Mossy in the idyllic West Highlands of Scotland bought fame, but not necessarily good fortune, to Gavin Maxwell (1914-1969).



*"Perpetual play is the principal otter characteristic." Gavin Maxwell*

Chelsea is world away from the Sound of Sleat, dividing the Isle of Skye from remote Inverness-shire, an awe-inspiring natural landscape of mountains, waterfalls and coves. But from 1957, Paulton's Square was also Maxwell's home – and home to Mijhal, his first otter who played in a glass tank in the garden of No.9.

Even by Chelsea's standards, putting a harness and lead on an otter and taking it for a walk along King's Road, or around Harrods, or down to the Embankment at low tide to watch the water rats, was extraordinary, but Maxwell was extraordinary.

One biographer described him as an "aristocrat, social renegade, wartime secret agent, shark-hunter, adventurer, racing driver, traveller, naturalist, poet and painter...and one of the most popular authors of wildlife books in the twentieth century."\*

Writer and conservationist John Lister-Kaye, who worked with Gavin Maxwell, takes up the story.



## OTTERS AND GAVIN MAXWELL

*"I wonder what you are doing now? I ask this not purely conventionally, but because I have future plans for this island that might be of interest to you. It is a little early to be definite yet, but I am keen to keep in touch, as we might possibly cooperate on a small project."*

Gavin Maxwell scribbled these lines on a postcard to me in June 1968. I was twenty-two. He was fifty-three, a bestselling author and a household name. I was a trainee unhappily locked into heavy industry in South Wales, longing to escape, yearning for green spaces, desperate to find a way to work in natural history, the all-consuming passion that we both shared. I have often wondered whether Gavin fully understood the tsunami effect of those few lines. I wonder, too, whether he ever recognised himself as the very famous writer he had become after the publication of his poignant autobiographical memoir *Ring of Bright Water*.



It is often said that great creative art is the out-pouring of a troubled soul. Gavin Maxwell was the perfect exemplar of that old aphorism. He exuded imagination and creativity from every pore: in common with many artistic temperaments his life was a self-perpetuating chaos. He was a published poet,

a skilled draughtsman in pen and ink, a landscape and still-life artist and portrait painter, an award-winning photographer and, of course, a great writer.



It seemed that whatever art form he turned his hand to delivered up an inspired excellence. Many of his other ten books are gripping reading. *A Reed Shaken by the Wind*, his lyrical expedition narrative of the Marsh Arabs of the Tigris Basin with Wilfred Thesiger, and the brilliantly

crafted *Lords of the Atlas*, his work on the Berber warlords of Morocco, received literary awards. But it is *'The Ring'*, as he and his friends always referred to it – the book that was to sell well over two million copies and that would be translated into nineteen languages – for which he will always be best remembered.

## OTTERS AND GAVIN MAXWELL

Yet to depict Gavin as a troubled artist is to deny the essence of the man. In his thorough and deeply perceptive biography *Gavin Maxwell: A Life*, Gavin's friend of twelve years, Douglas Botting, correctly assesses the juxtaposition of the artist and the inner man: "He had a wonderful gift for descriptive writing. But this was secondary to his real gift – his gift of actually living his imaginative life in action. Yes, he was literate, he could write very well, but I would never rate Gavin primarily as a writer but as primarily the man who did these things, a man of action." To Gavin life was for living, now not later. His advice to one of his young close associates was "If you really want a vintage Bentley, get one now. If you put it off, you'll never do it." He was, in the words of *The Times*, "a man of action who writes like a poet."

It is important to see the whole Maxwell, the bigger view of his often-quixotic personality and unharnessed life, much of the latter half of which was inevitably influenced and shaped by *The Ring*, penned in longhand when Gavin was 44. Its immediate popularity took him by surprise. Its unquestioned literary and commercial success was a paradox that both defied and defined the man and the imbroglia he perpetually wove around himself, a success that failed to change the man and only served to make the life even more chaotic.

By the time *The Ring* was published Gavin's complex personality was well established. Distilled from his esoteric background and fatherless upbringing he had become a latter-day eccentric genius in the grand manner.

Against this multi-coloured backdrop the years at Camusfeàrna, his remote West Highland home, the years during which he was living the idyll of *The Ring* – before its publication in 1960 and the self-destructive whirlwind of success that was suddenly to engulf him – seem to project a pool of calmness, beauty and serenity. I like to think that they were.

By 1956 his life was focused and centred upon the captivating otter, Mijbil, an animal that seemed to enable Gavin to revisit the lost world of childhood and of Elrig, his mother's remote Galloway home. There, he had passed long enraptured summers with orphaned and rescued wildlife pets of many varied species. He writes openly that after the death of Jonnie, his beloved springer spaniel, Camusfeàrna would not be the same without an animal companion. "... It was, I think, autumn and winter's





## OTTERS AND GAVIN MAXWELL

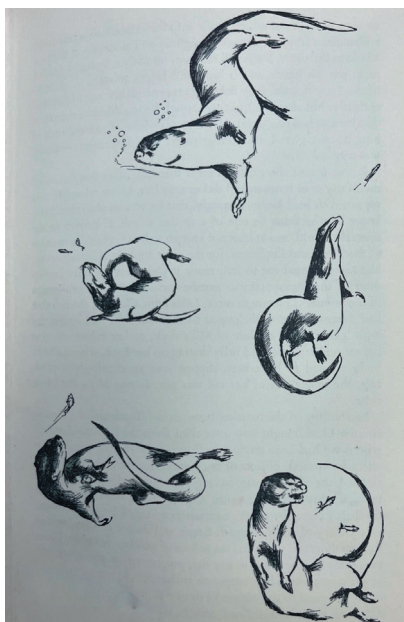
days...with their long hours of darkness made me crave for some animal about the house."

It was his quest for that animal that finally led him to import Mij, the otter cub Wilfred Thesiger had found for him in the Tigris marshes of Iraq. It is doubtful whether any pet animal other than an otter could have found such Arcadian bliss at the sea-shore ring of bright water that was Gavin's Highland



home. After an exquisitely lyrical description of Camusfeàrna (its real name is Sandaig), ringed in by snow-capped mountains with its chain of uninhabited islands and its lighthouse – “The landscape and seascape that lay spread below me was of such beauty that I had no room for it all at once”, with its little disused house that “wore that secretive expression that is in some way akin to a young girl’s face during her first pregnancy”, with its crashing waterfall and its curving beach of white shell sand – the second half of the book is devoted to a life totally immersed with otters. As the story unfolds, otter after otter, wild and tame, appear at Camusfeàrna. The last of those famous otters, Teko, the only one to survive Gavin himself, and that by just a few weeks, was to die in my care.

Although I twice stayed at Sandaig before it was razed to the ground by the catastrophic fire in January 1968 that also killed his otter Edal, I was not a player in the pre-*Ring* idyll the book so evocatively describes. By the time I



## OTTERS AND GAVIN MAXWELL

first met Gavin in 1965 the bubble had burst; fame had added nothing but worry and complication to an already turbulent life. He had inadvertently created around that remote and once romantically alluring West Highland cottage a complex of buildings, extensions, animal pens and relationships with people he had neither the skills nor the inclination



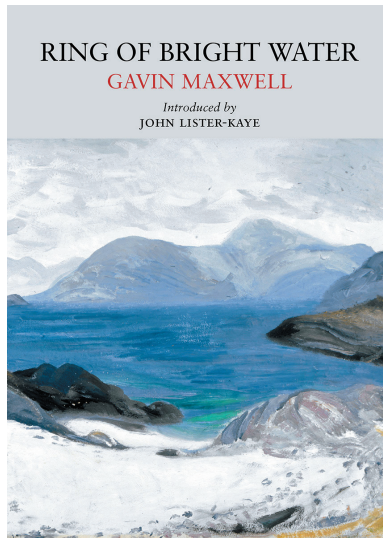
to supervise. Tragic and personally devastating though the fire was, it provided an escape from Sandaig and the costly and increasingly unsustainable heartland of *The Ring's* success.

With characteristic impulsiveness Gavin moved a few miles north to an island, Eilean Ban, the white island, in the tide-scoured straits between the Isle of Skye and the little harbour town of Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland, which was to be his final home. It was another demonstration of his wildly impractical eccentricity. Few people in good health would have chosen for their full-time residence a tiny, rock-bound island with no utilities or services on it and no boat service to it. But Gavin was not in good health. His life-long addiction to cigarettes – up to eighty a day (Sandaig and the island house were the only houses I have ever known where there was a box of cigarettes beside every lavatory) – at last caught up with him. He survived only sixteen months after the move to the island.

I was privileged to have known him as a friend and to have come so very close to working with him. His influence on my own career as a naturalist and a nature writer is incalculable, as was his infectious commitment to nature conservation. I owe entirely to him that I have spent the last forty years working with wildlife in the Highlands of Scotland. To this day, decades after his death I am still haunted by the deeply perceptive and prescient words, a coda for nature conservation and human sanity even more relevant today that when they were written, of the foreword to *The Ring*. “I am convinced that man has suffered in his separation from the soil and the other living creatures of the world; the evolution of his intellect has outrun his needs as an animal and as yet he must still, for security, look long at some portion of the earth as it was before he tampered with it.”

## OTTERS AND GAVIN MAXWELL

Gavin's legacy is his written word. *Ring of Bright Water* has won a permanent place in the hearts of millions of people across the world, in the long-term iconography of Scotland and of nature writing, a genre until recently much neglected in the UK. It is his ability to project himself and his reader into the wild with clean, unpretentious descriptions and his, at times almost disturbing openness about his own feelings and emotions, that lifted his readers out of the uninspired, humdrum day-to-day life of post-war Britain and America. He took us by the hand to a world most of us had never seen, a world that sets the imagination aloft: a fresh, wild landscape and a carefree proximity to nature that awoke in us the latent nostalgia of childhood and a yearning for a simpler life.



John Lister-Kaye OBE is a writer, conservationist and director of the Aigas Field Centre in Inverness-shire. This article is from his introduction to *Ring of Bright Water*, published by Little Toller Books

[johnlisterkaye.com](http://johnlisterkaye.com) and [aigas.co.uk](http://aigas.co.uk)

\*From *Gavin Maxwell: A Life* by Douglas Botting (Harper Collins 1993)

Photographs by kind permission of Gavin Maxwell Enterprises. Drawings by Michael Ayrton ©The Michael Ayrton Estate

# CHELSEA'S FORMER DAIRIES

*Angela Lownie*

Parts of Chelsea remained rustic and rural well into the nineteenth century. Development on either side of the King's Road is comparatively recent, owing to its reservation as a private royal thoroughfare until 1830. Before this, the whole length of the road between Sloane Square and the Fulham boundary became renowned for its market gardens, farms and orchards, serving the rapidly expanding city with fruit and vegetables.

There were also several cow-keepers. As late as 1888 Benjamin Ellis Martin, author of *Old Chelsea*, could take refreshment during a summer's stroll from 'dairies hid behind stone streets [where] the cow is milked for you while you wait to drink the warm milk'.



*Old Chelsea Bridge by James M Burnet, 1797 (Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums)*

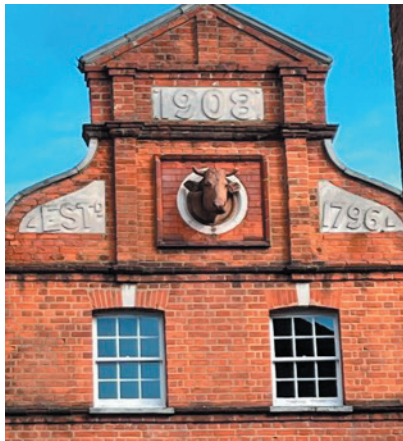
Wright's Dairy was first established in 1796 at Cook's Ground (now Glebe Place), where around 50 cows grazed nearby. There were subsequently two goats on the premises, expressly kept – as one of the Mr. Wrights recalled in later years – to supply Thomas Carlyle's household in Cheyne Row. Goat's milk was thought to relieve the great man's dyspepsia.

## CHELSEA'S FORMER DAIRIES



*Chelsea in c.1840, indicating where its fields and orchards would be found.*

As development rapidly encroached, in 1878 Wright's moved slightly west to No. 46 Old Church Street, where they set up their headquarters and a shop. The fields behind were used to graze the cows. By this time the business was being run by Mrs. Mary Wright and her son William. The family lived on the upper floors of the house.



*The former Wright's Dairy in Old Church Street*

The dairy was greatly expanded by Mary Wright's grandsons William and Thomas. A new dairy was built at the rear in 1908, comprising a large cow house with glazed brick walls, sheds and a stocktaking room. On the first floor was a large washing room and various storerooms.



## CHELSEA'S FORMER DAIRIES

By 1916 it had been enlarged further by a complex of buildings, encompassing the whole of Nos. 38, 40, 44, 46 and 48. Another branch was opened at No. 69 King's Road in 1914, with others at No. 1 Smith Street and No. 3 Westbourne Street off Sloane Square.

Some cows were kept on the premises for instant production, but the majority grazed on farms in Berkshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

Wright's advertisements of the time make much of the cleanliness and hygiene of the dairy, 'quite apart from any Residential Accommodation', and that the cows were under constant medical, veterinary and sanitary inspection. 'Humanized milk' – using a technique for changing the amount of fat in the product – and special nursery milk for infants and invalids was on offer, and customers were reminded that the dairy had been supplying the Cheyne Hospital for Children for over thirty years. Butter, eggs and cream were also sold.

Wright's were probably the best known in Chelsea but there were several other dairies in the neighbourhood. Fish & Sons were at No. 47 King's Road. E. J. Walker, "cow keeper and dairyman", could be found at No. 48 Sloane Street, with branches elsewhere.

Established in 1797, Walker's claimed to be the oldest and most reliable dairy in Chelsea, possessing the only large herd in the neighbourhood. Their cows were still kept in Old Church Street in 1911. The firm was in the unique position of being able to supply infants and invalids with milk within two hours of milking. The discerning customer could choose milk either from one cow or from the herd. 'Purity and freshness' was Walker's slogan, with their advertisements further carrying an endorsement from the British Medical Journal.

Wright's Dairy remained in Old Church Street until the late 1950s. The business was eventually bought by United Dairies, which merged with Cow & Gate in 1959 to form Unigate.

The main dairy building, now known as No. 45a, had an interesting second life in the 1960s. It was bought by two young sound engineers Geoff Frost and John Wood to establish a recording studio. The slate-lined walls proved perfect for soundproofing, and the sloping cobbled floor where the cows had been hosed down created a special sound. A live studio, control room and office were built over the first and second floors. Sound Techniques Ltd opened in December 1964. Some of the biggest artists of the 1960s and 1970s booked recording time there, including Elton John, The Who, Jethro Tull, Judy Collins, Pink Floyd and the rock

## CHELSEA'S FORMER DAIRIES

band T-Rex. Olympic Sound Studios took over in 1974 and used the studios until the early 1980s.

After the dairy shop moved out, No. 46 became a tobacconist's shop and subsequently a cake shop, before being converted to a private house.

Some nice historic reminders of the Chelsea cow keepers remain in the earthenware cows' heads mounted high on the walls of Nos. 45a and 46 Old Church Street, as well as others at Nos. 69 and 352 King's Road. And wonderful original tiling can still be seen on the outside of No. 46 Old Church Street.



*Exterior Tiles at the former Wright's dairy*

We may think we are spoilt for choice with the many varieties of milk available at the supermarket, but in Chelsea we would now be pushed to specify a particular cow and drink the milk two hours later.

*Angela Lownie provides an individual house history research service for London properties. See [www.londonhousehistories.co.uk](http://www.londonhousehistories.co.uk)*

# SILKWORMS AND MULBERRIES

*Peter Coles*

Chelsea has an unusually large number of mature mulberry trees for a London borough. While they're not all as old as they look, their locations reveal a rich history, ranging from Thomas More and Henry VIII in the 16th century to a short-lived silk farm and mulberry plantation 200 years later.

All these trees – *Morus nigra* – may be related, if not genetically, then at least historically. And, unlike most of the surviving old mulberries in London, they may actually have something to do with silk.



*The life cycle of silkworms on a wreath of mulberry leaves (1679) by German naturalist and artist Maria Sybilla Merian (1647-1717). The Natural History Museum*

In 1524, when Thomas More bought land to build his mansion by the Thames, Chelsea was just a small village with a manor house, parish church and a few cottages. Others followed More, including Henry VIII himself, building fine palaces set back from the Thames.

The 32-acre area of More's estate to the north of today's King's Road, known as 'The Sand Hills', remained arable and pastureland into the early 18th century.

In 1718, when John Appletree of Worcester decided to launch his Raw Silk Undertaking, Chelsea seemed a perfect site for a mulberry plantation to feed the

## SILKWORMS AND MULBERRIES

silkworms. It had long been used for horticulture; from 1673 exotic plants were being grown in the newly established Chelsea Physic Garden by the Thames.

Henry Barnham, a local resident and writer on natural history, encouraged Appletree's project. He actively promoted Sand Hills, by then known as Chelsea Park (and today's Chelsea Park Gardens). The Earl of Middlesex (Lord Treasurer Cranfield) had purchased the site in 1620 and enclosed it with a wall in 1625. In 1717 it was owned by the Marquis of Wharton. On Hamilton's map, redrawn that year, it is labelled as Wharton's Park and estimated at 40 acres, suggesting it may have been extended slightly.



*Princess Caroline of Ansbach* ©National Portrait Gallery

Although previous attempts to establish an English silk industry using home-produced silk had failed, including an effort by James I, the turn of the 18th century had seen a rapid expansion of English silk weaving, not least thanks to the skills of French Huguenots. Many thousands of these French Protestants fled across the Channel to escape the religious persecution that followed the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685.

## SILKWORMS AND MULBERRIES

The weavers settled in Spitalfields and Bethnal Green, spinning and working expensive imported raw silk.

Undeterred by the failure of James I's silk project a century before, Appletree thought that there was still a handsome profit to be made by producing the raw silk, rather than importing it. He took out patents on an 'evaporating stove' to keep the silkworm eggs at a constant temperature and devised a way to supply the larvae with dry mulberry leaves even if it was raining. In 1718 he was granted a 60-year lease on Chelsea Park by William Sloane, nephew of Sir Hans Sloane, and planted 2,000 mulberry trees, both *Morus nigra* and *Morus alba*. He also built houses to incubate the silkworm eggs, raise the larvae and harvest the cocoons. The Raw Silk Undertaking was listed on the rudimentary stock exchange of 1720 with an authorised capital of £1 million.

The project seemed to flourish at first and satin garments were woven from it for Caroline of Ansbach, Princess of Wales. But by 1724 the project had already floundered and in May that year John Appletree had become bankrupt.

It is not certain what led to the dramatic failure. Ventures like this were volatile, as witnessed by the collapse of the South Sea Bubble in 1720. And, in 1721 the Walpole government had removed import tax on raw silk: homegrown silk could not compete with imported silk thread from overseas, especially from Bengal and other colonies in 'East India'.



After Appletree's bankruptcy, William Sloane granted a new lease to Sir Richard Manningham, who sold and grubbed out most of the mulberry trees, divided Chelsea Park into lots and sold them off. However, although the park was gradually developed over the next century, a substantial area of open space was preserved until around 1876.

In November 1875 *The Times* published a letter by a young medical student at St George's Hospital, Frederic Dawtrey Drewett. He opposed plans to build on Chelsea Park. "Through its old iron gates," he was to reminisce, nearly fifty years later, by then a distinguished retired surgeon and author, "which opened onto the



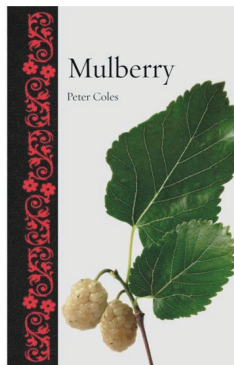
## SILKWORMS AND MULBERRIES

Fulham Road opposite [...] could be seen a park of cedars, old mulberry trees, elms and whitethorn, full of blossom in the spring, all set in long grass – more like the country than any London suburb.”

A year later, he writes, “Chelsea Park – trees and all – had disappeared, and the bricks and mortar of the ‘Elm Park estate’ were settling down upon the ‘paradise’ that had been Sir Thomas More’s.”

All that remains today are a few street names, including Chelsea Park Gardens and Mulberry Walk. It seems very likely, though, that the old, recumbent mulberry in Elm Park Gardens (east side) – and perhaps some of its neighbours in nearby gardens – has survived as a reminder of John Appletree’s original venture 300 years ago, when it was just one of 2,000 trees.

Interestingly, the white mulberries in Chelsea Park were apparently not spared – just the black ones. If not used as part of a silk industry, whether on a cottage or industrial scale, white mulberries have little interest for the horticulturalist. Their fruit is rather insipid and they do not grow into gnarled, spreading trees, like the black mulberry, which makes an exotic landscape feature. This could also explain why no white mulberries have survived from James I’s experiment in the early 1600’s. It may not have been that he only chose the “wrong” mulberries. Perhaps he planted both, but the white mulberries were all grubbed out. After all, it was well known at the time that silkworms preferred white mulberries and they had already been reported in gardens since late Elizabethan times.



Peter Coles is the author of *Mulberry* published by Reaktion Books. He is the co-founder and director of *Morus Londinium*, an award-winning project focusing on London’s mulberry trees and their heritage, hosted by the Conservation Foundation.

# ROSSETTI AND HIS WOMBAT

*Nick Louras*

At his house in Cheyne Walk, the poet and pre-Raphaelite artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti kept a menagerie of exotic animals. This included peacocks, owls, parakeets, armadillos, kangaroos, a Brahmin bull, donkeys – and a raccoon who lived in a chest of drawers.



*Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti, illustrated by her brother.*

Most of the animals were purchased through Charles Jamrach, a dealer of wild animals with premises in the notorious Ratcliffe Highway in the East End's Stepney. Jamrach was well known, mentioned by name in *Dracula* by Bram Stoker: a wolf that escapes from the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park is "one of three grey ones that came from Norway to Jamrach's, which we bought off him four years ago."

In September of 1869, Rossetti acquired the jewel of his collection: a wombat. His interest in the marsupials had evidently been cultivated at the same Regent's Park Zoo, where several were exhibited. In a letter to Ford Madox Brown in July of 1860, he wrote, "Dear Brown: Lizzie [Siddal] and I propose to meet Georgie and Ned [Burne-Jones] at 2 pm tomorrow at the Zoological Gardens—place of meeting, the Wombat's Lair."

An early appearance of a wombat in Rossetti's art can be seen in the frontispiece illustration he made for his sister Christina's book, *Goblin Market*, in 1865.

## ROSSETTI AND HIS WOMBAT

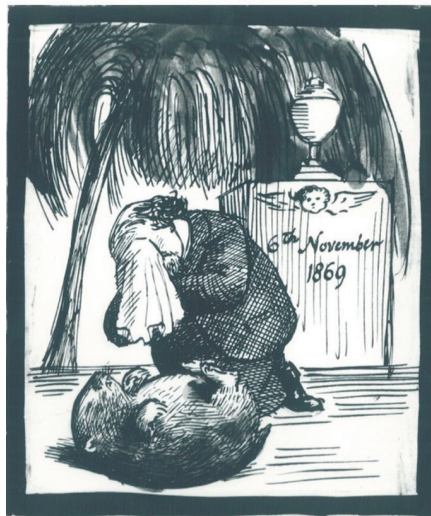


Rossetti named the creature “Top,” in what seems to have been a reference to the plump, hirsute William Morris, whom Rossetti was cuckolding. Morris had long been known to friends by the nickname “Topsy.” A sketch by Rossetti of Jane Morris leading the wombat Top by a leash can be seen to underscore the point.

The wombat Rossetti purchased from Jamrach was short-lived, as were many of his rather irresponsibly housed pets. He commemorated their brief encounter in a stanza of verse:

I never reared a young wombat  
To glad me with his pin-hole eye,  
But when he most was sweet and fat  
And tailless, he was sure to die!

*Jane Morris, perhaps not as  
enchanted by wombats as Dante  
Gabriel Rossetti*



The biographer of James Fenimore Cooper, Hudson Valley writer and essayist Nick Louras has a blog, [nicklouras.com](http://nicklouras.com)

# FROM THE KING'S ROAD TO KING OF THE JUNGLE

*Christian the lion cub was bought in Harrods' Pet Kingdom by two young Australians, John Rendall and Anthony 'Ace' Bourke. It was 1969: Chelsea was still at the heart of the Swinging Sixties. Even for those times, keeping a lion cub in a flat off the King's Road, taking him for a drive or on a bus was unusual. Although he soon became a celebrity, Christian was also growing fast. Feeding him his meat cost his keepers much of their salaries. He was outgrowing their small flat: they began taking him to the furniture shop where they worked and kept him downstairs ...*

One day, a couple walked into the shop: Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, the stars of the *Born Free*. The 1966 film told the story of British conservationists Joy and George Adamson, living in Kenya, who had raised a lion cub and re-introduced it to the wild.



*John and Ace with Christian driving along the King's Road in their work van*

Travers and McKenna were taken to down meet the fast-growing cub. They contacted George Adamson. Plans were made to transport Christian to Kenya and introduce him into the wild. Success was far from guaranteed. The previous lions that George Adamson had rehabilitated and then set free had all been born in Africa; there was some sense of familiarity with the landscape. Christian knew none of this; he was a city lion born and bred. He was king of the King's Road rather the king of the jungle. Adamson, however, agreed to the challenge.

After several months of negotiation, agreement was reached with the Kenyan government to allow him to enter the country. Accompanied by John and Ace, he

## FROM THE KING'S ROAD TO KING OF THE JUNGLE

was flown out to Kenya. They met George Adamson and began to journey to a game reserve about 70 miles from Mount Kenya. Christian took in the first sights and sounds and smells of the land he would come to call home.

During the trip when in the middle of nowhere, John and Ace could sense that Christian needed a pit stop. The call of nature was calling. Adamson was reluctant to stop, reasoning that if Christian ran away, they would never see him again. After all, they were in the African bush, not the walled graveyard in Chelsea where Christian was used to roaming. Sure enough, shortly after disembarking, the lion hopped back in.



*An aerial view of the Kora National Park, Kenya*

The group arrived at the Adamson compound in what is today the Kora National Park. Introducing Christian into the wild safely and successfully was more complicated than dropping him in the middle of nowhere and saying “ok, there you go, good luck!” Christian didn’t know how to hunt, he didn’t know how to interact with other lions, he didn’t know how to be a wild lion. He was a city lion. He might have known how to catch the No. 11 bus, but he didn’t know how to track a zebra or find a safe place to sleep at night.

Adamson wanted to create a new pride of lions, which would include Boy and a younger female, Katania. During their first meeting Christian was attacked by Boy, part of the process of the older male lion asserting his dominance. That achieved, the two could peacefully co-exist. With the pride being formed, Ace



## FROM THE KING'S ROAD TO KING OF THE JUNGLE

and John knew their time with Christian was coming to an end. He would never be able to be a fully-functioning, wild lion by remaining so attached to the human world. They had to go. After four weeks they returned to London, where Adamson's letters updated them on Christian's progress.

All was going well, until Boy was attacked by some other wild lions. After this, his character changed. Tragedy struck when Boy attacked one of the rangers: Adamson was forced to shoot him to stop the attack. Christian was distraught. He would spend his days sitting next to Boy's grave. There seemed no way to shake him out of his sadness.

Adamson wrote to the Australians and asked if they would come out to visit Christian. It had been a year since they had seen him. They jumped at the opportunity but were nervous about how he would react. He was now a semi-wild lion. Would he remember them? Or would he perceive them as a threat; strangers disturbing his territory?

What happened is nothing short of marvellous. There is a video of their reunion on YouTube. Christian approaches cautiously, and then when he recognises Ace and John, his pace quickens and he runs towards them, jumping up and giving them both enormous hugs, licking them and nuzzling their head in theirs. Their visit revived Christian.

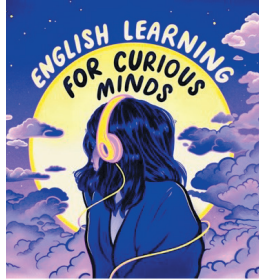


*Christian, at home in Kenya*

## FROM THE KING'S ROAD TO KING OF THE JUNGLE

When they saw him a year later, Christian had grown into an adult lion. He had changed and matured. By then, he had been leaving the compound for days, then weeks, at a time, trying to find his own territory, far from his human friends. The pair met Christian the African lion, not Christian the cub from Harrods.

One day he left the compound, never to return.



Taken from a podcast by *English Learning for Curious Minds*. Its mission is to help people discover weird and wonderful things about the world while improving their English. <https://www.leonardoenglish.com/podcasts>

Sources include "*A Lion Called Christian*" by Anthony Bourke and John Rendall (2009: Bantam Press)

With thanks to Ace Bourke for permission to use the image of Christian. <https://www.alioncalledchristian.com.au>

# BLOOM WITH A VIEW AN UPDATE ON CHELSEA EMBANKMENT GARDENS

*Hallie Swanson*

Some new homes have been created for six-legged residents of Embankment Gardens – bug hotels.

This pair of charming hand-crafted shelters – sponsored by the Chelsea branch of John D. Wood – are an environmentally-friendly way to increase pollination and help shelter vulnerable insects.



*Bug hotels help to sustain insect life. Photo: Hallie Swanson*

The hotels are part of the two-year project to renovate the Gardens, a joint effort by RBKC, the Chelsea Society, the Cheyne Walk Trust, and the Gardens steering committee made up of residents. Expert botanical guidance came from Sue Medway, the Director and Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden. Landscape architects BoonBrown were appointed to create a sustainable, unified, attractive new planting scheme, which was completed in January 2024.

## BLOOM WITH A VIEW

To date, Ginkgo Landscape Contractors have planted seventeen new trees within the gardens. Species include Hawthorn, Flowering Tulip, Irish Yew, Ornamental Pear and even a Mulberry tree in memory of the Mulberry trees planted by Queen Elizabeth I in the grounds of Chelsea Manor, once the estate of King Henry VIII. Around 6,500 bulbs have also been planted, including wild daffodils, wild tulips and Star of Bethlehem. The team also spent many hours sculpting and planting earth mounds to create a more visually engaging landscape rather than just a flat expanse of grass. In the beds, a variety of flowering shrubs, plants and grasses have been added. The new drinking fountain added to the western garden is also a welcome amenity.

The gardens are known for their sculptures, and now specialist up-lighting has been added to enhance the Ralph Vaughan Williams memorial. The Cheyne Walk Trust has commissioned a new statue to replace the one stolen years ago from the plinth in the east gardens. This new sculpture is by Chelsea artist Amelia Saint George, and features a dog out for a stroll. It was made possible by funds granted by the RBKC's "City Living, Local Life" programme, supported by councillors Gerard Hargreaves and Emma Will. It will be unveiled in May.



*BoonBrown's visualisation of the western side of Chelsea Embankment Gardens.  
Image courtesy BoonBrown Landscape Architects.*

**Hallie Swanson chairs the Chelsea Embankment Gardens Steering Committee**

# SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS IN CHELSEA

*Jenny Hand*

Born and raised in rural East Anglia, many miles from the glamour of London, Alfred Munnings (1878-1959) developed a long and enduring relationship with the city, especially with Chelsea. After the First World War, it became second home to the artist who would go on to be President of the Royal Academy and was regarded as one of the finest British painters of the twentieth century, especially of horses.

It was from Chelsea that Munnings launched the most successful and most high-profile part of his artistic career, which included painting portraits of the Royal family and their horses. It was Chelsea, too, that offered him a happy and hectic social life and was where he brought his new wife, Violet, in 1920.



*HRH The Prince of Wales on Forest Witch (1920) ©The Estate of Sir Alfred Munnings*

Munnings' first trips to London from Suffolk would likely have been to visit exhibitions at the Royal Academy. By the age of 21, Munnings himself had acceptances both at the Academy and at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours. He then went on to exhibit in London every year for over six decades. In 1913, his first one-man exhibition in London was held at the Leicester Galleries and he became a member of the Chelsea Arts Club.



## SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS IN CHELSEA

During the Great War, Munnings spent six months painting the Canadian Cavalry and Forestry Corps in France. With the peace, he took a studio in Glebe Place. He wrote: "I was becoming all but a roisterer - in fact I may have been one. But Chelsea was a place for work as well as play . . . and what a studio was mine! Spells of hard work went on there in between." An early Royal portrait, done from his Glebe Place studio, was of Edward, Prince of Wales, on his horse Forest Witch.

In 1920 *The Field* magazine started a subscription to raise funds to commission the portrait of future King Edward VIII. The large, finished painting shows the 27-year-old prince in a hunting pink astride his chestnut hunter. Munnings described the sittings: "Each morning the Prince, bareheaded, wearing white breeches and boots and check coat, drove himself to the door of my studio. In the studio he donned his top-hat and pink coat and got on the saddle-horse, where he sat, now and then looking at himself in the mirror."

Ultimately the painting would be sold to Mohamed al-Fayed by Edward's wife, Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor. He then sold it at auction in New York in 1998 to raise funds for the charity he founded in memory of his son Dodi and Diana, Princess of Wales. It was described by *The New Yorker* as "the one painting of consequence" in the sale.

In 1923 the lease on Glebe Place was at an end. Munnings was now a married man and had bought Castle House on the Essex/Suffolk border. For him, it was the "house of my dreams", the country home that he and Violet would share for forty-years. The demands of Munnings' growing career, however, meant that he still needed a London base. He and Violet set about finding a house and studio in Chelsea. In the end they bought a fresh site and built Beldon House, with an integrated studio on the first floor, in Chelsea Park Gardens.

Shortly after moving in, Munnings received his first commission from a British Monarch, Queen Mary. She had an idea for a painting of the royal procession from Windsor Castle to Ascot racecourse. What ensued was almost a year's worth of hard work which ended with three paintings. One, entitled *The Ascot Procession Crossing Windsor Park* is in the Royal Collection.

The viewpoint of the picture is at the top of a rise with Windsor Castle in the distance. Two outriders on grey horses precede the State Landau, pulled by four greys with two postillions, in which are seated King George V and Queen Mary. Edward, Prince of Wales, and Albert, Duke of York, are seated opposite. There is a captivating chapter in Munnings' autobiography, *The Second Burst*, which describes in some detail the amount of activity he undertook to create the pictures.

## SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS IN CHELSEA

He spent four days observing and sketching the procession going to and from Ascot to Windsor and then spent many months in the Harness Room of the Castle, which he used as a studio, and its yards painting detailed portraits of the riders and horses. A male friend posed in the Chelsea studio for the figure of the King and photographs provided his finer details. The final price paid for the picture in 1926 was £500.



*The Ascot Procession Crossing Windsor Park (1925)*

In both their homes Munnings and Violet lived with a happy menagerie of horses, dogs, cats, goats and other animals. The most famous pet is Violet's Pekinese dog Black Knight (1944-1955). Black Knight attended the late Queen's wedding hidden inside a specially made bag. He met Anthony Eden at 10 Downing Street and he was awarded the Freedom of the City of London.

Black Knight "wrote" his own book *Diary of a Freeman* which details his homelife with the Munnings, as well as documenting his other adventures. It is still available to buy pre-loved. Should you visit Castle House then Black Knight can still be seen in residence – stuffed!

## SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS IN CHELSEA



*Alfred and Violet Munnings (1920) ©The Estate of Sir Alfred Munnings*

Jenny Hand is the Director of the Munnings Art Museum.

The Museum at Castle House is on the outskirts of Dedham, Essex (CO7 6AZ) in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

[www.munningsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.munningsmuseum.org.uk)

# THE TREASURER'S REPORT

## *Growing Our Community*

I am pleased to report that Society continues to be in good financial health. I would like to thank my fellow Trustees, Members and the Chairman, James Thompson, for their strategic thinking over financial issues and effective financial decisions. The Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 will be submitted to the Charity Commission. The financial statements for 2023 have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 and the Charities SORP 2015. The Society derives its main income from Members' subscriptions. Lectures and visits also make a contribution, together with some donations, legacies and Gift Aid receipts. These principal income sources really fund the general operating expenses of the Society, as well as the programmes and services that are made available to protect and foster the amenities of Chelsea. These services and other activities are all designed to break even. The financial position remains strong. An investment in a unit trust tracker fund was made during the year.

Total income decreased by £9,039 to £30,345 in 2022/23 (2021/2022: £39,384). This income derives principally from membership fees, event income, advertising and Gift Aid from HMRC. Membership fees increased by 2% last year to £21,411 (2021/2022: £20,989), advertising revenue remained £0, Gift Aid income decreased to £1,241 (2021/2022: £2,655) and event ticket sales decreased to £7,193 (2021/2022: £7,956). The focus will continue to be both on information and enjoyment as previously, whilst seeking to grow and develop the Society. The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) shows the analysis of charitable activities split between development, fundraising, event, support and governance costs. Total spending on charitable activities, at £27,7830 (2021/2022: £24,468), representing a 14% increase. The Statement of Financial Position is a summary of the assets, liabilities and equity position of the Society. Net increase in funds in the year was £2,562 (2021/2022: £14,916). Cash and cash equivalents at the year-end were £110,899 (2021/2022: £103,934). Over the year, the net assets of the Society increased in line with the surplus to £91,746 (2021/2022: £89,184). This net asset position reflects that the Society is financially healthy, secure and well-positioned to endure any future economic conditions. The balance of Reserve funds within the Society increased by £2,562 to £91,746 in 2022/23 (2021/2022: £89,184).

What happens if there are losses in these self-funded activities or our operations? Well, we have reserves that act as a type of guarantee. These reserves help secure the Society's long-term financial security. The Trustees have established a policy that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets should be

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

approximately £40,000, which is the cost of a major exhibition or a major planning dispute. This is considered prudent since the reserve also protects the Society from any legal challenges made against it on planning matters and enables it to pay for legal advice on planning and other matters. At present the free reserves are slightly above target, but charitable activities in schools and for an architecture prize will reduce the reserves. Amounts in excess of the reserve's minimum level provide flexibility for the Trustees when developing operating plans for future years.

Recently, the Trustees have made use of part of this surplus to fund the Society's strategic initiatives as an investment in the Society's future. The future financial prospects of the Society are based on the number of members we will have in the coming year. For budgeting purposes, the Trustees must consider the number of members and level of membership fees which have remained constant for several years and the impact of increasing expenses. We have had some difficulty achieving our anticipated membership numbers, so membership fees are projected to remain constant. Other trading and event activities remain on target to break even.

As we continue to strengthen the Society's public image and awareness, we must work hard to achieve sustainable membership growth and our financial position. We must continuously explore new ways to stay relevant, to spread the word about the Society and to strengthen and retain our membership base – to grow our community – so that we may all continue to perform the good work that the Society does, while remaining financially secure.

The Chelsea Society's Independent Examiner has issued a statement which means that no matter in the financial statements, in their opinion, to which attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts. The Trustees intend to ask the existing examiner, GMAK Chartered Accountants to undertake the independent examination of the charity in the following year. In conclusion, the Society will continue to seek to provide financial support for initiatives that further the interests of the membership and the amenities of Chelsea.

**Christopher Lenon**



# THE TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report, together with financial statements, for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The beneficiaries of the Charity are those who live, study, or work in Chelsea, as well as those who visit Chelsea, own property in Chelsea, or benefit from Chelsea in any other way. The Society regards Chelsea as an asset of national importance.

## TRUSTEES

The members of the Council of the Society are the Trustees for the purpose of charity law, and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and up to the date of approval of the financial statements were as follows:

Dr James Thompson

Michael Stephen

Michael Bach

Martyn Baker

Amalia Cebreiro

Fleur de Villiers (resigned 07/02/2023)

Dr. Sarah Ingham

Ian Henderson (appointed 02/11/2022)

Christopher Lenon

Sir Paul Lever

Marina Murray (appointed 02/05/2023)

Julian Turner

David Waddell

## TRUSTEE INDUCTION AND TRAINING

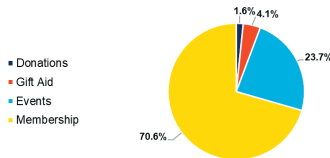
All Trustees are advised to read the guidance on the Charity Commission's website at <https://www.gov.uk/topic/running-charity/Trustee-role-board>.

New Trustees take part in an informal induction process. New guidance and good-practice information from the Charity Commission is communicated to Trustees.

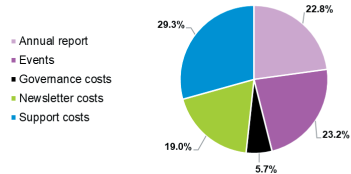
## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

### HOW WE RAISED AND SPENT THE SOCIETY'S MONEY IN 2023/24

Income 2022/2023



Expenditure 2022/2023



### INCOME

Total income decreased by £9,039 to £30,345 in 2022/2023 (2021/2022: £39,384). This income derives principally from membership fees, event income, advertising, interest and Gift Aid from HMRC.

Membership fees were up last year at £21,411 (2021/2022: £20,989), Gift Aid income decreased to £1,241 (2021/2022: £2,655) and donations decreased to £500 (2021/2022: £7,692). A detailed analysis of income is shown in the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Notes 2, 3 and 5 to the accounts.

### EXPENDITURE

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) shows the analysis of charitable activities split between development, fundraising, event, support and governance costs. Total spending on charitable activities, at £27,783 (2021/2022: £24,468), representing a 13.6% increase, primarily due to higher newsletter and inflationary costs.

### EVENTS

The Society organises public meetings, lectures, internal meetings, and visits to places of interest. Further details of event profitability are set out in Note 5.

### GDPR

From 25 May 2018, data-processing in the EU has been governed by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 ("GDPR"), which replaced the UK Data Protection Act 1998, and has implications for all organisations which control and process personal data.

The Chelsea Society holds on computer the name and address, and in some cases also the e-mail address and telephone number, of its members (all of whom are adults), and records whether the member has made a valid Gift Aid declaration. The Data Controller is the Chairman of the Society but any request for information about data, or for any amendment or deletion, is dealt with by the Membership Secretary, acting on behalf of the Data Controller.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Society does not share any information with third parties except in compliance with Article 28 of GDPR, regarding the legal conduct of processing of information. The Society has always published the names (but not addresses) of its members in its Annual Report. A Data Protection notice has been placed on the website: <http://chelseasociety.org.uk/join-us-2/>.

Members are advised that they have a statutory right of complaint to the Information Commissioner.

### **GOVERNANCE**

The management of the registered charity (No. 276264) and its assets is vested in the Trustees. The Charity is governed by its current constitution, adopted on 21 November 2016.

Article 4 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of the Society which shall comprise Elected Councillors, Co-opted Councillors, and Officers. Elected Councillors shall be elected to be Members of Council by Members of the Society at a General Meeting, and at any time there shall be no more than twelve Elected Councillors. The Council may by resolution co-opt further persons to be Members of Council. The term of each appointment shall be such as may be determined by resolution of Council but not exceeding one year. At any time, there shall normally be no more than four Co-opted Councillors.

The Council is required to appoint appropriate persons to the offices specified in Article 5 and on such appointment such persons shall be Members of Council for the duration of their terms of office. The specified offices are Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Much has changed in the world since The Chelsea Society was established in 1927 but it remains grounded in a commitment to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea for the public benefit.

We implement this commitment through, lectures, exhibitions, publications, events, campaigns fundraising activities and appeals, and by making representations to the proper authorities. We will further preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea by encouraging interest in the history and traditions of Chelsea, focusing on architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees and the conservation and proper maintenance of buildings and open spaces, and the abatement of nuisances.

The Trustees hold the charitable funds, and apply the income, and at their discretion, the capital, for any charitable purposes for which the Society is established. The receipt given for donations and legacies states that the funds will be used for the general purposes of the Charity, unless the Society accepts a donation for a special purpose which is stated by the donor and confirmed in the receipt given.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Society has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. Systems of financial control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Trustees carry out an annual review of the following categories of risk; governance and management, operational, external factors and compliance with laws and regulations. The Trustees will identify the primary risks applicable to the Society in each category and develop action plans to mitigate the risks identified.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

During the year, the Society's funds supported a wide range of charitable activities in and relating to Chelsea for the public benefit, and are reported in the Chairman's report to members at the AGM, which is also published in the Society's Annual Report.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Society derives its main income from Members' subscriptions. Lectures and visits also contribute, together with some donations, legacies and Gift Aid receipts.

Net increase in funds in the year was £2,562 (2021/2022: £14,916). Funds carried forward at the year-end totalled £91,746.

Cash and cash equivalents at the year-end was £75,899 (2021/2022: £103,934).

### **RESERVES POLICY**

The Trustees have established a policy that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in fixed assets should be approximately £40,000, which is the cost of a major exhibition. This is considered prudent since the reserve also protects the Society from any legal challenges against it on planning matters and enables it to pay for legal advice on planning and other matters. At present the free reserves are slightly above target, but plans for charitable activities in schools and for an architecture and photography prize will reduce the reserves.

The Society has in the past organised public exhibitions, and for future exhibitions advice will be taken as to whether the Society could benefit from Museums and Galleries Tax Relief granted by Schedule 6 of the Finance (No.2) Act 2017, also as to whether the Society is entitled to VAT relief on purchases of goods or services.

### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The Society intends to contribute to school prizes and projects, as well as architectural competitions, and to monitor and if thought fit oppose, planning applications. A major exhibition will also be held within the next three years.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011; the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008/629 (Regulation 8); and the provisions of the Society's Constitution. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, and in preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) <http://www.charitySORP.org/>;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue in operation.

### PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

Charity Trustees have a duty to report in their Annual Report on their Charity's public benefit, and they should be clear about what benefits are generated by the activities of the Charity. The benefits must be related to the objectives of the Charity. The Trustees consider that The Chelsea Society meets the public benefit requirements, and they confirm that they have considered the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/charitable-purposes-and-public-benefit>.

Approved by the Trustees on 1 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr James Thompson  
Chairman

1 November 2023



# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Chelsea Society.**

I report on the accounts of The Chelsea Society for the year ended 30 June 2023

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act, but that an independent examination is needed under section 145 (1)(a).

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145(1)(a) of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and published at the following location:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/672779/CC32-Independent\\_examination\\_of\\_charity\\_accounts.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672779/CC32-Independent_examination_of_charity_accounts.pdf).

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view,' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

## Independent Examiner's Statement

No matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the following requirements of the Act have not been met:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.

Angela Ktistakis ACA, FCCA

For and on behalf of GMAK Chartered Accountants

5-7 Vernon Yard, London W11 2DX

2 November 2023

## London House Histories

Have you ever wondered:

- when your house was built
- who lived there and what they did
- if anyone famous lived nearby
- what used to be there before

A House History will provide a full chronological history of your property and the people who lived there. It will include copies of old maps, census returns, photographs, newspaper cuttings and other archive material, beautifully presented in a hardback book.

A House History makes a perfect gift or a talking point for your office reception. If you are selling, a history of your house or flat would help in the marketing of the property.

Angela Lowrie has a qualification in House History from the Centre for Archive & Information Studies, University of Dundee and has produced histories of properties all over London.

*The book of my house is a pure delight. Your extent of research and contextual knowledge is outstanding and surpassed my expectations – a fascinating insight into the places we live. - PRH*

Angela Lowrie

[www.londonhousehistories.co.uk](http://www.londonhousehistories.co.uk)

E: [info@londonhousehistories.co.uk](mailto:info@londonhousehistories.co.uk)

T: 020 7222 7565

Twitter: @AngelaLowrie



# ACCOUNTS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£
<b>Income and endowments</b>			
Donations and legacies	2	23,152	31,336
Other trading activities	3	7,193	7,956
Investment income			92
<b>Total income</b>		30,345	39,384
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Charitable activities	4	27,783	24,468
<b>Total expenditure</b>		27,783	24,468
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		2,562	14,916
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
<b>Funds brought forward at 1 July 2022</b>		89,184	74,268
<b>Funds carried forward at 30 June 2023</b>		91,746	89,184

There is no material difference between the net income/(expenditure) above and the historical cost equivalent. All activities are continuing.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		75,899	103,934
Investments	8	35,000	
Debtors	9	2,500	6,560
		113,399	110,494
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors due within one year	10	(21,653)	(21,310)
		91,746	89,184
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
General funds		91,746	89,184
		91,746	89,184
<b>Total charity funds</b>			
		91,746	89,184

The financial statements on pages 9 to 10 were approved by the Trustees on 1 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr James Thompson  
Chairman  
Charity No. 276264

1 November 2023

# DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Income and expenditure account	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Annual membership subscriptions	21,411	20,989
Donations received	500	7,692
Event income	7,193	7,956
Gift Aid	1,241	2,655
Interest received		92
	30,345	39,384
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Accounting fees	2,285	2,318
Cost of annual report	6,343	5,898
Cost of newsletters	5,267	2,720
Event costs	6,452	6,345
Membership administration costs	3,452	3,309
Printing, postage and miscellaneous costs	1,407	1,400
Subscriptions and donations	68	68
Sundry expenses	645	603
Website and internet	287	441
	26,206	23,102
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Independent examiners' fee	990	990
Insurance	587	376
Total governance costs	1,577	1,366
Total resources expended	27,783	24,468
Net incoming / (outgoing) movement in funds	2,562	14,916
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Funds brought forward at 1 July 2022	89,184	74,268
<b>Funds carried forward at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>91,746</b>	<b>89,184</b>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities. The charity has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.



# FLEUR DE VILLIERS CMG

## 1937-2023

Since 1927, the Chelsea Society has been guided by its Council, which has included many remarkable members. Few have been as distinguished as the South African journalist Fleur de Villiers, who played a crucial role in ending apartheid. She became an adviser to both the British and South African governments, as well as Chair of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, the international security think tank. Later, she chaired its Board of Trustees. In her eighties she studied theology and became involved in her local church in Chelsea, Christ Church.

At Fleur's funeral service in Christ Church, IISS Director, Dr John Chipman gave the eulogy that follows.



The honour to speak here is great because it was conferred by Fleur herself, and the subject dearer to me than any I have addressed because for 40 years Fleur was my best friend and most powerful inspiration.

We celebrate a person who gave her talent to causes that were huge – the end of apartheid, the eradication of polio, severing the link between the illegal diamond trade and civil wars -- yet she offered her daily energy to simple acts of friendship that helped us all along our way.

She was immensely kind to the many she cared for, while engaging in close combat with whoever was undeservedly at the top. The fraudulent pedestals on which the arrogant and foolish stood were there to be kicked down, demolished by careful reasoning, and then crushed by ethical conviction.

## FLEUR DE VILLIERS CMG 1937-2023

For her, the search for Truth was constant, as was the desire to give it elegant expression once found.

No comment one made to her would go unchallenged; nothing one wrote to her would escape editorial scrutiny; no rumour, too casually recounted, would be accepted without evidence.

In conversation, she would mix vivid argument with easy humour, both warmed by the glow of her generous humanity. Her opinions were handed out as lashings of extemporaneous oratory, usually followed by a satisfied chuckle.

Her moral fibre was made of titanium; but her manner was delightfully flirtatious.

She sparkled as a companion. Her people-watching skills drew on a tradecraft normally associated with the secret intelligence officer. She combined the character analysis of the astute literary critic, with the quick wit of the seasoned foreign correspondent.

Her mischievousness, as a result, was original in form and devastating in effect.

In the early 1980s we were at a conference organised in Zimbabwe with an eclectic mix of participants. One of the speakers was a tendentious European Africanist who was an advocate of a new trans-national socialist world-order. A short foreign trip halfway through the event was planned. He approached us after his speech to ask if anything was especially needed for the visit. Fleur looked him in the eye and sharply declared: 'nothing, all is taken care of.'

Forty of us travelled to the border by bus; thirty-nine of us crossed into Zambia.

He was left behind, as committed internationalist that he was, he had not brought his passport.

Fleur and I spent a day drenched in the splashes of Victoria Falls, roaring with laughter, as she had cunningly prevented one more committed Marxist from entering a neighbouring state.

She adored the theatre and was pretty good at it herself.

Fundamentally, Fleur was a brave person, who taught us how to pay tribute to the life that we were given, by living it properly.

She wrote to me in the midst of the pandemic complaining of the constraints imposed on the elderly with these words: "At my age when death could be

## FLEUR DE VILLIERS CMG 1937-2023

around the next corner there is no such thing as a risk-free life and the sad delusion that one should cling to it, no matter how diminished that life may be, is not only illogical, but pointless and an affront to life itself.

“A risk-free existence is a fallacy and those who believe in it impoverish themselves and sap the vigour out of society.

“Life, in and of itself, is a poor excuse for not living.”

What a special epigram, that so defined its author, and should serve as her own stylish epitaph.

She filled her life to the brim and happily it spilled over to provide wisdom, comfort, and joy to all of us gathered here.

She will Rest in Peace in God’s eternal Heaven, so long as she wins most of her debates there.

She deserves to, and we will look up and cheer for Fleur, as she cheered for us.

### **Chelsea Society President John Simpson writes:**

I first met Fleur in 1977 when she was the political correspondent of the liberal and embattled *Rand Daily Mail* in Johannesburg. She had a very difficult time with the National Party government in South Africa, who treated her as an enemy.

Since I worked for the BBC, which if anything the government hated even more, we formed an immediate alliance which greatly favoured me since her knowledge of South African politics was extraordinarily broad. She was able to pass the occasional story to me if it was too difficult for her to publish. This of course infuriated the government even more.

When I said goodbye to Fleur in 1978, and came back to London, it never occurred to me that the next time we would meet would be at a meeting of the Chelsea Society.

Fleur was a clever, brave and remarkably insightful lady. Her loss is a very sad one.

# EARL CADOGAN KBE DL 1937-2023

Charles Gerald John, 8th Earl Cadogan, long-term Chelsea resident, supporter of charities and head of his aristocratic family, died on 11th June 2023. He had lived through times of significant change in the foundations of his family's fortune. During his long life, the Cadogan Estates evolved – as did other landowning counterparts in London, including Grosvenor, Portman and Howard de Walden.



From a largely passive beneficiary of rents from long residential leases, Cadogan became an energetic and innovative manager of commercial property. A sequence of leasehold reform acts was influential in bringing about this shift. At the same time, perhaps influenced by foreign travel, public perception shifted. City streets were no longer just spaces for cars or buses to hurry through; they became destinations. Cadogan seized this opportunity, reflected not least by creating Duke of York Square. Most recently, the Estate converted the southern end of Pavilion Road from an undistinguished through road into a car-free space for

## LORD CADOGAN

outdoor meeting, eating and drinking. Meanwhile ‘place making’ became a term often heard when property professionals got together: indeed, the estate created a post of ‘place manager’.

Walk down the widened pavements of Sloane Street today or dine in one of the restaurants in Duke of York Square, and there is further evidence of a shift in estate management. It all started in Lower Belgravia in 2000 when the Grosvenor Estate invited Poilâne, the renowned Parisian baker, to set up shop at 46 Elizabeth Street. This was the beginning of retail ‘curating’ in London, that is, the careful selection of chosen firms to add their names and wares to a street or square.

Curating was to come to the Cadogan Estates after Stuart Corbyn became Chief Executive in 1985. Equally significant was the estate’s purchase of the Christian Science Church in Sloane Terrace and its conversion into Cadogan Hall, with the help of architect Paul Davis. Today it is a world-class concert hall and home of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

During this period, Lord Cadogan left management of the family property largely to the professionals while he got on with his own business interests, horse racing and the support of charities in Chelsea and further afield. Periodically he would veto something proposed by the Chief Executive, or surprise the Board, then revert to his normal style of detached interest.

Charles Cadogan was born on 24th March 1937. He went to school at Ludgrove and then Eton, where he excelled at racquets. After two years of National Service in the Coldstream Guards, mostly in Germany, he began working at Schroders in the City of London. He joined his father Bill on the board of Cadogan Estates in 1974 and became chairman five years later.

The Seventh Earl had fought at El Alamein where he was awarded the Military Cross. In search of post-War peace and calm, he moved the family to an estate at Snaigow in Perthshire. This would be where Charles and his three sisters, Sarah, Daphne and Caroline, spent much of their childhood. Charles, who later in life would call himself a ‘countryman’, learnt to hunt, shoot and fish there.

As the second richest peer after the Duke of Westminster, Charles not only took a keen interest in the *Sunday Times Rich List* but was emphatic about the importance of transparency in connection with the family’s wealth. He knew that this was the only way to avoid, or at least minimise, criticism. (Stories about ‘octopus landlords’ in Chelsea, were typical.) The Cadogan Estate generated plenty to excite curiosity: in 1958 it was worth about £8m; by 2021 that value had risen to £4.8bn.



## LORD CADOGAN

The Earl's first wife, to whom he was married in 1963, was Lady Philippa Wallop, daughter of the 9th Earl of Portsmouth. They had three children, Edward, now the 9th Earl, Anna-Karina and William. When Lady Wallop died in 1984, he married Jennifer Rae, a catering and etiquette manager. His third marriage was to Dorothy Shipsey, a former matron at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. She survives him.

Charles Cadogan may have enjoyed a life of privilege, but he was also a Christian with a strong sense of duty. This led him to support numerous charities and, in Chelsea, to provide subsidised flats for nurses, teachers and police officers. With his backing the estate also froze rents for elderly tenants and provided grace-and-favour homes for vicars retired from the Old Church and St Luke's. Charity workers and artists, likewise, enjoyed the estate's support. The Cadogan family's support for good causes, local and national, led Charles to be awarded a KBE in 2012.

**Terence Bendixson OBE**

# CONSTITUTION AND RULES

(as amended by a Resolution of the Members of the Society  
passed at its Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2016)

- 1 The Chelsea Society shall be regulated by the Rules contained in this Constitution as follows:

## OBJECTS

- 2 The Objects of the Society are to preserve and improve the amenities of Chelsea for the public benefit particularly by:
  - 2.1 stimulating interest in the history, character and traditions of Chelsea;
  - 2.2 encouraging and promoting good architecture, town planning and civic design, the planting and care of trees, and the conservation and proper maintenance of its buildings the public realm and open spaces and other features of historic or public interest;
  - 2.3 seeking the abatement of nuisances;
  - 2.4 making representations to the proper authorities on these subjects.

## MEMBERSHIP

- 3 Subject to the provisions of this Rule 3, membership of the Society shall be open to all who are interested in furthering the Objects of the Society.
  - 3.1 Where a person firm or company ("Applicant") wishes to become a member of the Society ("Member") he shall submit to the Membership Secretary a written application in such form as the Council may by resolution from time to time prescribe ("Application").
  - 3.2 In the case of a married couple or a couple in a civil partnership who pay the subscription for joint membership each individual shall be a Member and each shall have one vote. In the case of a firm or company the Applicant shall designate a person to exercise its rights as a Member who shall have one vote.
  - 3.3 Within ten days following receipt of a properly completed and signed Application the Membership Secretary shall (subject to Rule 3.4) enter the Applicant on the Register (as defined in Rule 7.1) and the Applicant shall thereupon be a Member of the Society. The Membership Secretary shall notify the Applicant of such entry
  - 3.4 If the Membership Secretary reasonably considers that an Applicant does not subscribe to the Objects of the Society or may bring the Society into disrepute the Chairman of the Council may refer the matter to the Council who shall in such circumstances have the power by resolution to refuse the Application.
  - 3.5 If at any time the Chairman of the Council considers that the continued membership of any Member would not be in the best interests of the Society he may refer the matter to the Council, who may by Special Resolution proposed by the Chairman of the Council terminate the membership of that Member forthwith. The Membership Secretary shall give written notice of such termination to the former Member

## THE COUNCIL

- 4 There shall be a Council of the Society which shall be constituted in accordance with these Rules.
  - 4.1 The Council shall comprise Elected Councillors, Co-opted Councillors, and Officers ("together Members of Council")
  - 4.2 Elected Councillors shall be elected to be Members of Council by Members of the Society at a General Meeting ("Elected Councillors")
  - 4.3 At any time there shall be no more than twelve Elected Councillors
  - 4.4 No person shall be eligible to be an Elected Councillor unless:
    - 4.4.1 he is a Member
    - 4.4.2 he has been proposed and seconded by at least two Members and has consented to serve
    - 4.4.3 there have been given to the Secretary at least twenty eight days before the General Meeting
      - 4.4.3.1 the names of the proposer, the seconder and the person seeking election (with his consent to serve) signed by the three persons concerned
      - 4.4.3.2 a written statement by the person seeking election setting out his qualifications to be a Member of Council
  - 4.5 Council may by resolution co-opt further persons to be Members of Council ("Co-opted Councillors"). The term of each such appointment shall be such as may be determined by resolution of Council but not exceeding one year
  - 4.6 At any time (but subject to Rule 4.18) there shall be no more than four Co-opted Councillors
  - 4.7 Council shall appoint by resolution appropriate persons to fulfil the roles specified in Rule 5.1 ("Officers") and on such appointment such persons shall be Members of Council for the duration of their terms of office. The terms of reference for each of those roles shall be determined by a resolution of Council
  - 4.8 In the event that an Elected Councillor becomes an Officer in consequence of an appointment under Rule 4.7 that person shall on such appointment cease to be an Elected Councillor.
  - 4.9 In the choice of persons for appointment as Co-opted Councillors and Officers, regard shall be had, amongst other things, to the importance of including persons known to have expert knowledge and experience of matters relevant to the Objects of the Society and to the person's connections with Chelsea.
  - 4.10 Council shall be responsible for the day-to-day work of the Society and shall have power by resolution to take any action on behalf of the Society which the Council thinks fit to take for the purpose of promoting and furthering the Objects of the Society
  - 4.11 Council may by resolution delegate any of its functions powers or authorities for such time on such terms and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit to any Committee consisting of one or more Members of Council and if thought fit one or more other persons who fulfil the criteria of Rule 4.9.

# THE CONSTITUTION

- 4.12
- 4.12.1 Unless requiring a Special Resolution, resolutions of Council shall be passed by simple majority of those present (whether voting or not) at a meeting of Council. A resolution (other than a Special Resolution) may also be proposed by the Chairman and voted upon by e-mail: it shall be passed if supported by a majority of all the Members of the Council.
  - 4.12.2 Notice of a Special Resolution (with the text thereof) must be given to Members of Council at least twenty-one days before a meeting of Council. A Special Resolution shall be passed only if supported by not less than two thirds of all the Members of Council
  - 4.12.3 If a Member of Council cannot attend a meeting of Council he may, by giving written notice signed by that Member of Council to the Chairman before the meeting, appoint another Member of Council as his proxy
- 4.13 Council shall make and publish every year a Report of the activities of the Society during the previous year. Following receipt of such Report at the Annual General Meeting publication may be done by posting the Report on the Society's website.
- 4.14 Council shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.
- 4.15 An Elected Councillor or Co-opted Councillor who is absent from two successive meetings of Council without explanation which the Council approves shall by Special Resolution cease to be a Member of Council.
- 4.16 Three of the Elected Councillors shall retire each year, but may offer themselves for re-election
- 4.17 Retirement under Rule 4.16 shall be in rotation according to seniority of election. Elected Councillors elected on the same day shall draw lots.
- 4.18 In the event that at any time the number of Elected Councillors is fewer than six then Council may (notwithstanding Rule 4.6) by resolution appoint further persons to be Co-opted Councillors provided that:
- 4.18.1 the term of appointment of a Co-Opted Councillor under this Rule shall terminate at the General Meeting next following his appointment, and
  - 4.18.2 at no time shall the aggregate number of Elected Councillors and Co-Opted Councillors exceed sixteen.
- 4.19 a Member of Council will be present at a meeting of Council if with the permission of the Chairman he attends the meeting electronically

## OFFICERS

- 5
- 5.1 The Council shall appoint the following Officers who shall thereby be Members of Council for their respective terms of office namely:-
- 5.1.1 Chairman of the Council;
  - 5.1.2 Vice-Chairman of the Council;
  - 5.1.3 Secretary or Joint Secretaries;
  - 5.1.4 Treasurer;
  - 5.1.5 Membership Secretary
  - 5.1.6 persons to fill such other posts as may be decided from time to time by Special Resolution of Council.
- 5.2 The terms of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be three years and those of the other Officers five years from the date of appointment respectively. Provided nevertheless that the appointment of the Chairman shall terminate at the end of the Annual General Meeting in the third year after his appointment.
- 5.3 The Officers shall be eligible for re-appointment to their respective offices but the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall not serve for more than six consecutive years, unless permitted to do so by resolution at a General Meeting.
- 5.4 Nothing herein contained shall detract from the Officers' right to resign during their current term
- 5.5 By Special Resolution Council may rescind the appointment of an Officer or a Co-opted Councillor during his term of office for substantial reasons
- 5.6 In the event of a casual vacancy in any of the offices specified in Rule 5.1 the Chairman (or in the event of the vacancy being the office of Chairman, the Vice-Chairman) shall have power to appoint a Member of Council to undertake the function of that office until a new Officer is appointed by Council

## PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

- 6
- 6.1 The Council may by resolution appoint a Member to be President of the Society for a term of three years, and may re-appoint him for one further term of three years.
- 6.2 The Council may by resolution appoint not more than six persons, who need not be Members, to be Vice-Presidents of the Society each for such term as the Council may by resolution decide

## REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 7
- 7.1 The Membership Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date confidential register of Members ("Register") containing such details for each Member as the Council may from time to time by resolution decide.
- 7.2 A Member shall give notice in writing signed by the Member to the Membership Secretary of any changes to the details held for that Member and on receipt of such notice the Membership Secretary shall update the Register accordingly.
- 7.3 The Council shall by resolution prescribe the amount of the subscriptions to be paid by Members and the date on which they are due and the period in respect of which they are payable
- 7.4 Membership of the Society shall lapse if the Member's subscription is unpaid for three months after it is due, but may be restored by resolution of the Council.

## THE CONSTITUTION

- 7.5 Members may pay more than the prescribed minimum, if they wish.
- 7.6 Members may pay annual subscriptions by Direct Debit.
- 7.7 The Society may participate in the direct debiting scheme as an originator for the purpose of collecting subscriptions for any class of membership and /or any other amounts due to the Society. In furtherance of this objective, the Society may enter into an indemnity required by the Banks upon whom direct debits are to be originated. Such an indemnity may be executed on behalf of the Society by two Officers nominated by the Council.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

- 8.1 In these Rules "General Meeting" means a meeting of the Society open to all its Members. No other person may be admitted except by permission of the chairman of the General Meeting.
- 8.2 The Council shall arrange at least one General Meeting every year, to be called the Annual General Meeting, which shall be held not less than ten months and not more than thirteen months after the previous Annual General Meeting. The Council may also arrange as many other General Meetings, (in these Rules referred to as Special General Meetings), as it may think fit including pursuant to Rule 8.15. Notice of the date of General Meetings shall be given so as to be received by Members not less than thirty five days before the date specified for the General Meeting.
- 8.3 General Meetings, the agenda for which shall be given to Members not less than twenty-one days before the meeting, shall take place at such times and places as the Council shall specify.
- 8.4 The President shall preside as chairman at any General Meeting at which he is present, and if he is not present the Chairman of the Council or another Member of Council nominated by the Chairman of the Council shall so preside.
- 8.5 As regards voting at a General Meeting
  - 8.5.1 Each Member is entitled to a single vote
  - 8.5.2 A Member shall not be entitled to vote if
    - 8.5.2.1 His name (or in the case of a firm or company, the name of the person designated under Rule 3.2) has not been entered on to the Register for a period of at least twenty-one days before the General Meeting
    - 8.5.2.2 He has not paid his subscription
    - 8.5.2.3 He has appointed a proxy under Rule 8.7
  - 8.5.3 a vote will be on a show of hands as to which the declaration of result by the chairman of the General Meeting shall be final unless at least twenty Members present at the General Meeting request a ballot immediately following the declaration of result
  - 8.5.4 The Secretary shall prepare ballot papers beforehand for distribution at a General Meeting for use in the event a ballot is requested under Rule 8.5.3
  - 8.5.5 Any ballot at a General Meeting shall be conducted on such terms as is decided by a resolution of Council
- 8.6 Subject to Rule 8.14 a resolution of Members at a General Meeting will be passed by a simple majority of those voting in person or by proxy save that a resolution of Members the effect of which is to amend these Rules will be passed only if:
  - 8.6.1 the text of the proposed amendment has been included with the agenda for the General Meeting and
  - 8.6.2 the resolution is supported by two-thirds of the Members voting in person or by proxy at the General Meeting
- 8.7 A Member may appoint another Member as his proxy to attend a General Meeting and to vote on his behalf and in his name if the Member has given notice in writing signed by him to the Secretary not less than seven days before the General Meeting of the name of the proxy and stating that the Member has appointed the proxy to attend the General Meeting
- 8.8
  - 8.8.1 Elections to Council shall be held at a General Meeting in accordance with Rules 4.2 to 4.4
  - 8.8.2 Each candidate for election to Council shall be elected individually
  - 8.8.3 A candidate will be duly elected if he receives more votes in favour of his election than against it provided that where the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies those candidates who receive the most votes in favour shall be duly elected.
- 8.9 The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall include:
  - 8.9.1 receiving the Annual Report referred to in Rule 4.13;
  - 8.9.2 receiving the Annual Accounts.
  - 8.9.3 the election (if any) of Elected Councillors
  - 8.9.4 resolutions (if any) of which notice has been received under Rule 8.12.1
  - 8.9.5 such other matters within the Objects of the Society as the Council may by resolution decide
- 8.10 At the Annual General Meeting any Member may comment on any matter mentioned in the Report or Accounts, and may raise any matter not mentioned in the Report or Accounts, if it is within the Objects of the Society.
- 8.11 The chairman of the General Meeting may limit the duration of speeches.
- 8.12 Resolutions by Members may be passed only at a General Meeting
  - 8.12.1 Any Member who wishes to propose a resolution shall give notice by sending a copy signed by him as proposer and by another Member as seconder so as to reach the Secretary at least twenty eight days before the date of the General Meeting.
  - 8.12.2 The chairman of the General Meeting shall allow a reasonable time to debate the resolution and shall call speakers for and against the resolution

# THE CONSTITUTION

- 8.12.3 Unless withdrawn by the proposer the resolution shall then be put to the vote
- 8.12.4 A resolution on the agenda shall not be amended unless it is a minor amendment which does not alter the substance of the resolution. Any such amendment shall be considered only if moved by the proposer and seconder of the resolution and approved by the chairman of the General Meeting.
- 8.13 The Secretary shall send to Members with the agenda referred to in Rule 8.3
  - 8.13.1 the name of each person being proposed for election under Rule 4.2 with the names of the proposer and seconder and a copy of the statement for each such person referred to in Rule 4.4.3.2 and
  - 8.13.2 a copy of any resolutions received under Rule 8.12.1
- 8.14 Notwithstanding Rule 8.6 any resolution the effect of which would be to cause the Society to cease to be a charity in law shall not be passed.
- 8.15 At any time not less than 50 Members may make an application to the Chairman of the Council requesting that the Council call a Special General Meeting.
  - 8.15.1 Such an application must be:
    - 8.15.1.1 signed personally by all the Members making the application
    - 8.15.1.2 accompanied by a statement of the reasons for calling the Special General Meeting and the text of any resolution(s) they wish to propose at the Special General Meeting,
  - 8.15.2 the Council shall consider any such application and if granted shall (subject to payment of any deposit required under Rule 8.15.3) call a Special General Meeting in accordance with Rule 8.2
  - 8.15.3 The Council may make it a condition of such a grant that a deposit not exceeding the expense of calling and holding the General Meeting (as reasonably determined by the Treasurer) shall be paid to the Society by the Members making the application. The Council shall in its absolute discretion decide following the Special General Meeting whether the deposit shall be retained by the Society or returned to the applicants in whole or in part
  - 8.15.4 An application made under Rule 8.15 shall be granted unless the Council decides by Special Resolution that it shall not be granted.

## CONSULTATIONS

- 9
  - 9.1 At any time not less than 30 Members may make an application to the Chairman of the Council requesting that the Council shall consult the Members on an issue which falls within the Objects of the Society
  - 9.2 Such an application must be:
    - 9.2.1 signed personally by all the Members making the application
    - 9.2.2 accompanied by a written explanation of the issue on which a consultation is requested
  - 9.3 The Council shall consider any such application and if granted shall (subject to payment of any deposit required under Rule 9.4) arrange for a consultation to take place on such terms and on such basis and by such means as the Council shall in its absolute discretion think fit
  - 9.4 The Council may make it a condition of such a grant that a deposit not exceeding the expense of undertaking such a consultation (as reasonably determined by the Treasurer) shall be paid to the Society by the members making the application. The Council shall in its absolute discretion decide following the consultation whether the deposit shall be retained by the Society or returned to the applicants in whole or in part
  - 9.5 An application made under Rule 9.2 shall be granted unless the Council decides by Special Resolution that it shall not be granted.

## NOTICES AND INTERPRETATION

- 10
  - 10.1 Any notice required to be given or any application made to the Council
    - 10.1.1 shall be addressed to the Secretary (or in the case of an application under Rule 3 or a notice under Rule 7.2, to the Membership Secretary) and
    - 10.1.2 sent to the address of the Society published on its website or such other address as may from time to time be notified to Members
  - 10.2 Any notice to be given to a Member shall be validly given if sent:
    - 10.2.1 by pre-paid post to the address specified in the Register, or
    - 10.2.2 by email to the e-mail address of that Member specified in the Register if he has given an e-mail address to the Society.
  - 10.3 In these Rules:
    - 10.3.1 Any words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine or neuter as the context admits
    - 10.3.2 "Writing" may include e-mails except where required to be signed in which case a signed .pdf document sent by e-mail shall suffice.
    - 10.3.3 Any reference to a resolution is to an Ordinary Resolution unless required by these Rules to be a Special Resolution.
  - 10.4 Nothing herein shall affect any resolution of the Members or of the Council passed under any earlier edition of this Constitution

## WINDING-UP

- 11
  - 11.1 The winding-up of the Society shall be effected by a Special Resolution of Council confirmed by a two-thirds majority of Members voting in person or by proxy at a General Meeting.
  - 11.2 In the event of the winding-up of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Council and approved by the General Meeting at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed.



# List of Members 2023

*An asterisk denotes a life member. Should any amendments be made, please advise  
secretary@chelseasociety.org.uk*

MISS A ABELES  
MISS MARILYN ACON  
MISS VANESSA ADAMSON  
MR TIM AHERN  
MR ANTONY ALBERTI  
MRS ANTONY ALBERTI  
MR RICHARD ALEXANDER  
MRS RICHARD ALEXANDER  
MRS JUDY ALEXANDER  
MRS ROSEMARY ALEXANDER  
HRH PRINCESS RAIYAH BINT AL-  
HUSSEIN  
MR KHALED ALJASEM  
MR CC ANDREAE  
THE MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY\*  
MR JOHN ARMITAGE  
MRS JOHN ARMITAGE  
MR MARK ARMOUR  
MRS KATRINA ASHE  
MISS CAROLINE ASHETON  
MS ROMA ASHWORTH BRIGGS  
MR GREGORY ASIKAINEN  
CLLR. ROBERT ATKINSON  
AURIENS GROUP  
CHRISTY AUSTIN  
MR DONALD AVERY  
MRS CYNTHIA AYER  
MR MICHAEL BACH  
MR MARTYN BAKER  
MRS ROSEMARY BAKER  
MR PHIL BAKER  
MISS URMILA BANERJEE  
MR CHRISTOPHER BANFIELD  
MR ROBERT BARHAM  
MRS ISLA BARING  
MRS JEAN BARKER  
MR PETER BARRETT  
MRS MC BARROW  
MR STEPHEN BARRY  
MRS STEPHEN BARRY  
DR CAROLYN BARSHALL  
MRS CHRISTINE BARTER  
DR NICOLAS BARTER  
MR JOHN BASSETT  
MRS JEAN BASSETT

MR DAVID BATCHELOR  
MR GEOFFREY BATTMAN  
MRS MARGARET BATTMAN  
MR PATRICK BATY  
SIR PETER BAXENDELL  
LADY BAXENDELL  
MRS SARAH BAXTER  
MR STEPHEN BAXTER  
MR ROBERT BEALE  
MRS ROBERT BEALE  
MS SHARON BEATTY  
MISS ANGELA BEDDALL  
MR TERENCE BENDIXSON\*  
MISS ANDREA BENNETT  
MRS VICTORIA BENNETT  
MR ROBIN BERKELEY  
MRS ROBIN BERKELEY OBE  
MRS PHILIPPA BERNARD  
MISS ANN BERNE  
MRS RITA BERRY  
MR JOSHUA BERRY  
MRS JOSHUA BERRY  
MISS GILLIAN BEST  
MR TIMOTHY BETLEY  
MRS TIMOTHY BETLEY  
MRS DELIA BETTISON  
MISS LISL BIGGS-DAVISON  
MISS SUSAN BILGER  
MRS NICOLETTE BILLOT  
DR HARALD BINDER  
MRS HARALD BINDER  
MISS PAMELA BIRLEY  
MRS JOANNA BIRTLE  
MR NATHAN BIRTLE  
MR HUGO BIRTLE  
MRS AMANDA BISHOP  
DR R BISHOP  
MRS NANETTE BLACK  
MRS ELIZABETH BLACKMAN  
MISS CAROLE BLACKSHAW  
MISS SUZANNE BLAKEY  
MR ROBERT BLASZCZAK  
DR CHRISTOPHER BLICK  
MRS CHRISTOPHER BLICK  
MR MARTIN BOASE

## LIST OF MEMBERS

MRS MARTIN BOASE  
MR ALEXANDER ST JOHN  
BOLINGBROKE  
MISS JUDITH BORROW  
THE HON DIANA BORWICK  
MISS ALEXANDRA BOURN  
MRS JUDITH BOWDEN  
MISS CLARE BOWRING  
MR MICHAEL BOXFORD  
MRS MICHAEL BOXFORD  
MR ROGER BRABAN  
MRS ROGER BRABAN  
MISS PRIMROSE BRABY  
MR DAVID BRADY  
MRS DAVID BRADY  
MR RMA BRAINE  
MRS RMA BRAINE  
MRS IRJA BRANT  
MRS SUSAN BREITMEYER  
MRS JANE BRIDGMAN  
MRS VIVIENNE BRITTAIN  
MRS ANGELA BROAD  
MR TERENCE BROAD  
MRS TERENCE BROAD  
MRS MARA BROCKBANK  
MISS ANNABELLE BROTHERTON  
COMMANDER WALDEMAR BROWN RN  
LADY BROWNE  
LORD (JOHN) BROWNE  
MR DAVID JEREMY BRUNNING  
MRS MICHAEL BRYAN  
MRS SANDRA BRYANS  
MRS IRENA BRYANS  
MR G BRYANT  
MR ANDY BUCHANAN  
MR JAMES BUCHANAN  
MRS BEVERLEY BUCKINGHAM  
MISS FRANCES BUCKLAND  
MISS MIRANDA BUCKLEY  
MR PETER J BULL  
MR NICK BURGE  
MRS NICK BURGE  
MR K BURGESS  
MR RICHARD BURGESS\*  
MISS ELIZABETH BURMAN  
MR ALJ BURNS\*  
MR MALCOLM BURR  
MRS MALCOLM BURR  
MR FRANK BUSBY  
MR BARNEY BUSSY  
MRS SUSAN BUTLER  
MRS JAMES BUXTON\*  
MR ANDREW CAIRNS  
MRS CLAIRE CAIRNS  
MR PABLO CALO  
MRS PABLO CALO  
MRS VERONICA CALVERT  
MRS PATRICIA CAMERON  
MR DONALD CAMPBELL  
MR HL CAMPBELL  
MRS SUE CAMPBELL  
MR RICHARD CAMPBELL-BREEDEN  
MRS RICHARD CAMPBELL-BREEDEN  
MRS VIRGINIA CAMPBELL-JOHNSON  
MR JOHN CARLETON PAGET  
MRS JOHN CARLETON PAGET  
MR RUSS CARR  
MRS RUSS CARR  
MS LAURA CARRARA-CAGNI  
LADY GILLIAN CARRICK  
MR NIGEL CARTER  
MRS ISOBEL CARTER  
MR ALEX CARTWRIGHT  
MRS SARAH CARTWRIGHT  
MR SIMON CASTELLO  
MRS SIMON CASTELLO  
MRS AMALIA CEBREIRO  
MR JAMES CECIL  
MR MARK CHAMBERLAYNE  
MR CHARLES CHAMPION  
MISS DEIDRE CHAPPELL  
MR EDWARD CHARLTON  
VISCOUNT CHELSEA\*  
VISCOUNTESS CHELSEA  
MR A CHIGNELL  
MRS A CHIGNELL  
MR ALEXANDER CHILD VILLIERS  
MRS ALEXANDER CHILD VILLIERS  
MRS ANITA CHRISTIE  
MR COLIN CHRISTIE  
MR ALEXANDER CLARK  
MISS MARGARET CLARKE  
MRS AMANDA CLARKSON  
MR ANTONY CLAVEL  
MR ADAM CLEAL  
MRS NOREEN CLEAL  
MRS CAROLINE CLEGG  
LORD CLINTON

## LIST OF MEMBERS

MR ANTHONY CLOSE SMITH  
MR JOHN COBBETT-MADDY  
SIR MERRICK COCKELL  
LADY COCKELL  
MR F COLCORD  
MRS F COLCORD  
MISS SARAH COLEGRAVE  
MS SYLVIA COLEMAN  
MR TIM COLERIDGE  
MRS TIM COLERIDGE  
MR REG P COLES  
MR W N COLES\*  
MR NICHOLAS COLQHOUN-DENVER  
LORD (ANTHONY) COLWYN  
LADY COLWYN  
MR MALCOLM COMFORT  
MRS JACKIE COMFORT  
MRS MAIGHREAD CONDON-  
SIMMONDS  
MR JOHN COOPER  
MRS JULIA COOPER  
MR PA SANDY COPLAND  
MISS PENELOPE COPPLESTONE  
MR DANIEL CORBETT  
MR STUART CORBYN  
MRS JAN CORFIELD  
MRS JULIET CORKERY  
MR NICHOLAS CORKERY  
MRS VIRGINIA CORONADO-MAROTO  
MISS CONCHITA COSTART  
MRS VANESSA COURTNEY  
MR GERALD COWAN  
MR DAVID COX  
MISS ROSEMARY CRAIG  
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MRS FIELD McINTYRE  
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MISS ELIZABETH McMAHON  
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MISS WENDY ORR  
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MR MICHAEL PARSONS  
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MR CHRISTOPHER PEARSON  
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MR RG SAXON CBE  
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MR ERIK VON SCHMIDT  
MRS ERIK VON SCHMIDT  
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MR PETER SHARLAND  
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