



# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

Registered Charity 27626

## Winter Bulletin 2024



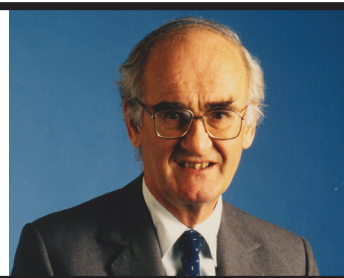
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This Bulletin is printed and distributed to members twice a year, and electronic mailings are sent to members at approx. monthly intervals. If you are not receiving electronic mailings, please contact [Secretary@chelseasociety.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@chelseasociety.org.uk) or 07803 147654. For more detail, and to keep up to date with the activities of the Society, visit our website at [www.chelseasociety.org.uk](http://www.chelseasociety.org.uk)

The Society now has 1,132 members. This is fantastic, but please encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Society, by visiting our website and clicking on **“Join Us.”** They do not have to be resident in Chelsea. You can also follow The Chelsea Society on Instagram, where we now have 1,119 Followers.

## Sir John Nott

One of the Society's most distinguished members, Sir John Nott, died on 6th November 2024, at the age of 92. An obituary will appear in the Annual Report for 2024



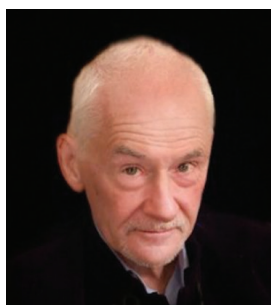
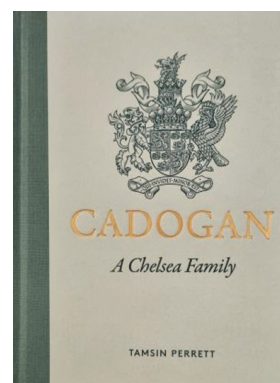
## FUTURE EVENTS

### The Cadogan Family

Thursday 13th February 2025 - 6pm - 8pm

An important new book has just been published, which traces the history of the Cadogan family from the time when they were Welsh warlords after the Romans withdrew from Britain, until (almost) the present day when they own 93 acres of Chelsea and play such an important part in the life of our community.

It is a fascinating story of more than 1,000 years of history and the author, Tamsin Perrett, will meet with us to discuss this remarkable family in the Library at Auriens, 2 Dovehouse Street, SW3.



### Lord Moynehan

Monday 31st March 2025

Jon Moynehan will speak to The Chelsea Society on 31st March 2025. In his book "Return to Growth" Volumes One and Two he provides a detailed analysis of our no-growth world, and detailed proposals to get the UK back on course to growth.

Lord Moynehan is a businessman, philanthropist and venture capitalist, with a Master's Degree in Finance and Economics from MIT. He was the founder Chairman of the Helen Bamber Foundation, and for a number of years the President of the Royal Albert Hall.

## PAST EVENTS

### Field Marshal Viscount Slim



The 3rd Viscount Slim talked to The Chelsea Society on Monday 13th January about his grandfather; and Robert Lyman, the author of "The Reconquest of Burma" gave an evaluation of Slim as the Commander of Allied forces in Burma, and one of Britain's most successful Generals.

### The Wallace Collection

We arranged a private tour for a small number of our members to The Wallace Collection on Wednesday 15th January.

The splendour of this Collection in the magnificent setting of Hertford House, and our very well-informed guide, were greatly appreciated.

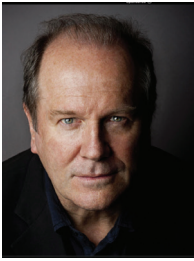




## PAST EVENTS

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### William Boyd



**William Boyd spoke to The Chelsea Society on 9th December at Chelsea Old Town Hall.**

He has received world-wide acclaim for his novels which have been translated into over thirty languages.

### Christmas Party

**The Society's Christmas Party was at Auriens, 2 Dovehouse Street. 6-8pm on Tuesday 17th December 2024.**

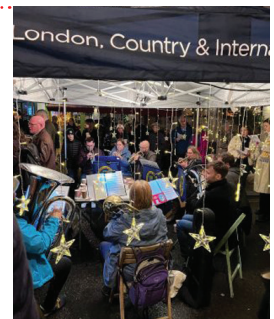
There was an excellent attendance, including our guests General Sir Simon Mayall, Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, Cadogan's Chief Executive Hugh Seaborn, and Opera Soprano Tamara Radjenovic.



### Carols at Chelsea Green

**The 37th Carol Service was held on Chelsea Green.**

The Revd. Brian Leathard, Rector of St Luke's, officiated, and brought along a choir to accompany a Brass Band. There was a raffle in aid of GlassDoor for prizes donated by shopkeepers and other supporters around Chelsea Green. This event was sponsored and organized by John D. Wood and Clarion Housing Group, who matched all donations made during the evening.



### St. Luke's church visit

**In celebration of the 200th anniversary of the consecration of St. Luke's church, Chelsea Society members were privileged to have a private tour of 'Chelsea's Cathedral' on Sydney Street.**

The tour lasted one hour, and covered the construction of this magnificent building, contents of the church including artwork and memorials, as well as lesser known tales of the parish and its people. Our guide was Louisa Price, a churchwarden of the sister church of Christ Church, and also the Archivist at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

### AGM - The Annual General Meeting

**The Annual General Meeting was held at 6pm on Monday 18th November 2024 at Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London SW3.**

The Chairman, Dr. James Thompson, welcomed Members and official guests and the meeting was opened by the Mayor of Kensington & Chelsea, Cllr. Will Lane. The President, Mr. John Simpson CBE, the world-affairs editor of BBC News, addressed the meeting on the conflicts in Ukraine and in Gaza/Lebanon.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 13th November 2023 were approved, as published on p.8 of the Society's Annual Report for the year 2023.

Elections to the Council were held and the following members were elected, Amalia Cebreiro, Paul Davis, Richard Jacques.

The Chairman gave his report for the year to 18th November 2024.

The Vice-chairman gave a report on the Society's campaign to save the houseboat community on Chelsea Reach.

The Treasurer delivered his report for the year ended 30th June 2024.

The meeting was addressed by Ben Coleman MP and Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith.



## PAST EVENTS

### Remembrance Sunday

There was a short service of remembrance at the War Memorial on Sloane Square on Sunday 10th November 2024 and then at Holy Trinity church, Sloane Street.

The Chairman of the Society laid a wreath, and many members attended.



### Robert Hardman



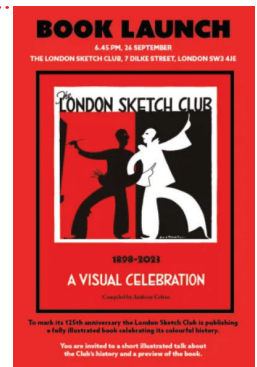
Robert Hardman met with The Chelsea Society on Monday 4th November. 6-8pm at Chelsea Old Town Hall.

He is a renowned writer and broadcaster, specializing in royalty and history for more than twenty-five years. He is the author of several international bestsellers. His latest book being about King Charles III. His book about Queen Elizabeth II, 'Queen of Our Times: The Life of Elizabeth II', was the 2022 Sunday Times Biography of the Year and was presented by Prime Minister Boris Johnson to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the same year.

Hardman has also written 'Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work', 'Our Queen, and Queen of the World', along with globally acclaimed television documentaries of the same names.

### London Sketch Club

Chelsea Society members were invited to a book-launch at 6.45pm on Thursday 26th September at the London Sketch Club, 7 Dilke St., SW3 to mark the 125th Anniversary of the Club.



### Germany's role in the defence of Europe

Prof. Matthias Strohn M.St. (Oxon), DPhil (Oxon), FRHistS is a Lt. Col. in the German Army reserve, and is attached to the German Military Delegation in the UK. He spoke to The Chelsea Society at 6-8pm on Monday 2nd September 2024 at Chelsea Old Town Hall.

He explained how thinking in Germany about defence has changed from 1945 when nobody wanted a German army, to the present day when Germans and their allies realise that Germany has a vital role to play in the defence of Europe.

### Garden Party

By kind permission of Auriens, our Summer Party this year was held in their delightful garden at 2 Dovehouse Street, Chelsea.

Nearly 100 members and guests attended.



# NEWS

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## Houseboats

The Chelsea Society has been fighting, with other local people, to protect the essential character of Chelsea Reach, because the current owner of the moorings has been evicting traditional houseboats and replacing them with much larger box-like floating structures of uniform design and appearance.

The Planning Applications Committee of RBKC has decided on no less than three separate occasions that this activity constitutes a breach of planning control by reason of intensification, and has issued an Enforcement Notice to compel the removal of two mega-boats.

The owner of the moorings appealed against these decisions and the Society was very disappointed to find on 1st November 2024 that his appeal had been allowed.

The Planning Inspector accepted that the question whether the introduction of the mega-boats constitutes a change in the fundamental character of Chelsea Reach is a matter of opinion for the decision-maker, but she has seen fit to substitute her opinion for that of fifteen elected Councillors of both political parties, and for that of the Chelsea Society and The Cheyne Walk Trust, The Lots Road Neighbourhood Forum, the residents of the houseboats, and very many other local people who submitted written objections.



## Oscar Wilde

On 16th October 2024 The Chelsea Society was represented by its Chairman and members of Council at the unveiling on Dovehouse Green of a sculpture by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi of the head of Oscar Wilde.

## Greg Hands

The Chairman of the Society has written to thank Greg Hands for his service to Chelsea whilst its MP, and for all the help he has given to the Society.

He has been given Life Membership of the Society.



## Benches neglected - update



The benches on the Embankment are an important part of Chelsea's riverside heritage but they are in an appalling state. If woodwork exposed to the weather is not properly maintained, it becomes de-natured and eventually has to be replaced.

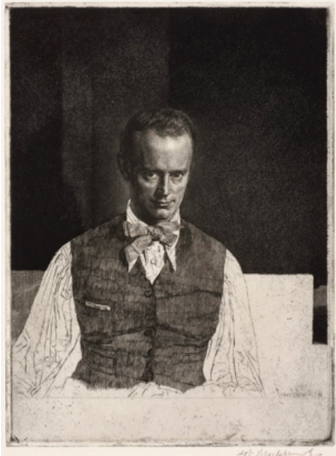
These benches are the responsibility of TfL, and The Chelsea Society has persuaded them to carry out a refurbishment programme. The benches between Chelsea Bridge and Albert Bridge are now looking much better, but the benches between Albert Bridge and Battersea Bridge are still in a neglected state.



# NEWS

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## Blue Plaque – Sir Henry Rushbury



The Chelsea Society has proposed to English Heritage a Blue Plaque for Sir Henry Rushbury KCVO CBE RA, at 8 Netherton Grove, Chelsea, London SW10 9TQ where he lived and worked from 1927-1951.

He met and married the Chelsea born artist Florence Layzell in 1914, and became a war artist. Thirty of his works are in the Imperial War Museum. Rushbury developed an individual style in watercolours, moved in the hallowed artistic circle of the time of Frances Dodd, Muirhead Bone, Ethelbert and Betty White, Charles Cundell and Alan Gwynne-Jones.

In 1927 he bought 8 Netherton Grove in Chelsea, and built his studio in the garden. He had been elected as an Associate Academician, and in 1936, was promoted to full membership of the Royal Academy. In 1938, he became Chairman of the Chelsea Arts Club.

In WW2 Rushbury was again a war artist and documented industrial centres in the North of England and Scotland. He stayed at 8 Netherton Grove during the war. In 1949 he was elected Keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, and was knighted in 1964. There is a catalogue of his prints at the Royal Academy.

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## Holy Trinity

The Chelsea Society was represented by its Vice-chairman at the Induction and Installation of The Revd. Canon Michael Robinson as the new Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Sloane St., by The Rt. Revd. the Bishop of Kensington, in the presence of four other Bishops.



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## Marks & Spencer site



The Chelsea Society and very many local people objected to this planning application, but two Chelsea members of the RBKC Planning Applications Committee abstained, thereby allowing permission for demolition and rebuilding to be granted. The Mayor of London has decided to let the development go ahead.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Chelsea Society, Sir Paul Lever, had written to the RBKC and the Mayor of London to object.

## NEWS

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### Skyscraper proposal



*This is what it would look like (with thanks to Denis Strauss)*

**There is a proposal to build a skyscraper at the south end of Battersea Bridge.**

The Chelsea Society exists to safeguard the unique heritage of our part of London and we have objected to this proposal due to the severe potential damage to the historic and celebrated views of and from the conservation areas along Chelsea's north bank of the River Thames, a designated Area of Metropolitan Importance.

The proposed skyscraper is vastly too tall for the space and location envisaged. It breaches Wandsworth Council's Planning Policy set out in July 2023 where the height restriction is 12 storeys and where regeneration is favoured over demolition in order to meet Zero Carbon policy goals. It is also completely out of keeping with the heights of the immediately surrounding buildings

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### Sloane Square

**The Society has been consulted by Cadogan and RBKC about the possible widening of pavements around the Square.**

Easing pedestrian congestion would be a good idea, provided it can be done without impeding traffic flows around the Square.

Members may be interested to know that in its very first Annual Report (1928) the Council of the Society said that "It is naturally interested in the prospective layout of Sloane Square, where the roundabout traffic system has been permanently adopted. Various attractive suggestions have been made, but it is understood that apart from financial considerations, there are difficulties due to the Underground Railway and the existing public conveniences.

The Borough Council have courteously promised, through our late Chairman, Sir Albert Gray KCB, KC, that the Society shall have an opportunity of seeing the plans when these have taken shape."



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### The Royal Hospital

**The Chelsea Society was represented by its Chairman and Vice-chairman at the Founder's Day parade at the Royal Hospital on 6th June 2024.**

The salute was taken by The Princess Royal, who made a short speech and met pensioners who had served in the Second World War. Two of them had landed on the Normandy beaches 80 years ago.





# THE CHELSEA SOCIETY

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Please encourage your friends to join the Society by visiting “Join Us” on the website, and to become a “Follower” on Instagram.

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

Our mailing address is: 5 Brook Street, Bampton EX16 9LU

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