

DESIGN!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW SHERIDAN CLUB • ISSUE 141 • JULY 2018

Everything Stops for Tea

Adrian Prooth on the history of teatime

Simply Cyril

Cyril Browne on Carlisle,
carpentry and belly rubs



LOUCHE LUAU

The Club's summer party looks to the South Seas



The New Sheridan Club traditionally meets in the upstairs room of The Wheatsheaf, just off Oxford Street. The Wheatsheaf is one of Fitzrovia's historic pubs, a one-time haunt of Dylan Thomas, George Orwell, Augustus John and Julian Maclaren-Ross. In fact Thomas met his wife Caitlin in The Wheatsheaf and, legend has it, he was known to flash at women there as well. Fitzrovia's associations with literature go back to the eighteenth century. In the twentieth century both Woolf and Shaw lived in Fitzroy Square; Pound and Lewis launched *Blast!* at the Restaurant de la Tour Eiffel in Percy Street. John Buchan lived in Portland Place and in *The Thirty-Nine Steps* Richard Hannay has a flat there. Both Lawrences (D.H. and T.E.) took rooms there, as did Aleister Crowley, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Katherine Mansfield.

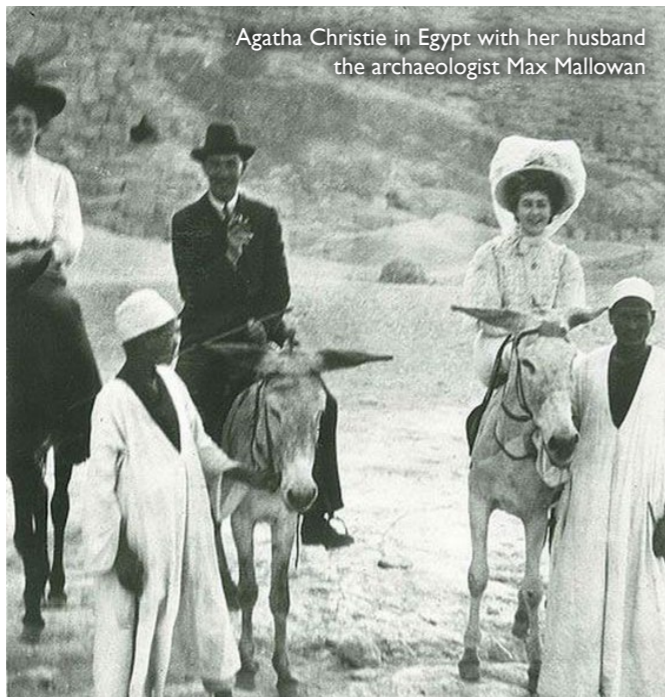
The Next Meeting

The next Club Meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th July in the upstairs room at The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB, from 7pm until 11pm. Our guest speaker will be Kathryn Best, who will give us some in-the-field insight into ancient Thebes, now Luxor, the 3,000 Egyptologists and archaeologists digging here, former residents Agatha Christie and Florence Nightingale and the importance of Thebes as part of any respectable gentleman or gentlewoman's classical education and Grand Tour.

some friends round to join her. Adrian looked at the cream tea—with associated controversy about whether the jam or the cream goes on to the scone first—and the ornate majesty of high tea, involving courses of both savoury and sweet foods, including high tea classics such as Welsh rarebit. He considered some of the key figures, such as the 4th Earl of Sandwich, who invented the sandwich, and the 2nd Earl Grey, who probably had nothing to do with Earl Grey tea. He looked at how the grand hotels vied to create the most refined and elaborate afternoon tea offerings and how Sir Joseph Lyons created both Lyons tea and a mighty chain of tea houses.

The Last Meeting

Our speaker last month was Adrian Prooth, addressing us on a subject close to his heart—tea. Specifically, tea as an organised meal. It was the Duchess of Bedford who, in 1840, decided she wanted to puncture the longeur between lunch and dinner by taking tea at four o'clock with a little something to nibble on, and then decided to invite



Agatha Christie in Egypt with her husband the archaeologist Max Mallowan

We heard about the battery of equipment required to do tea properly, including the multi-tiered cake stand, and a stern list of dos and don'ts to avoid ruinous social shame. Many thanks to Adrian, who even made himself a Mad Hatter top hat sign for the occasion. An essay from the talk begins on page 4.



(Above) Our Chairman Torquil tees off the proceedings

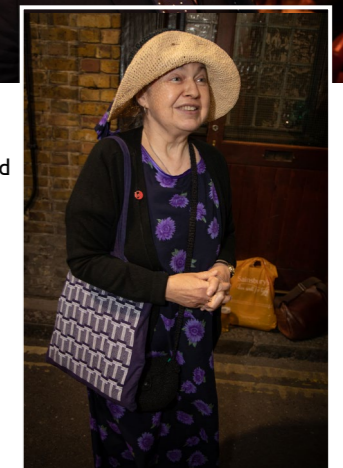
(Right) A summery still life; (below) Adrian digs into the background of his subject



Star of the show was undoubtedly Ardracchan's lapdog Rocco



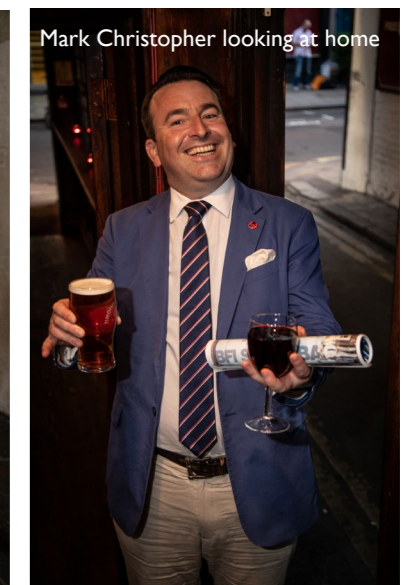
(Above) Adrian's special Mad Hatter's Tea Party hat; (right) Lorna Mower-Johnson, (left) Philip Hancock and Helen Cashin



Andrew Fish and his highly appropriate tie



James Rigby



Mark Christopher looking at home

A Brief History of TEA Time

Adrian Prooth on the the origins of the most elegant of meals

THE ORIGINS OF AFTERNOON TEA
The powerful East India Trading Company began providing King Charles II with small gifts of tea from China for Catherine in order to curry his favour and perhaps win special rights and privileges for the company, which may have included a near monopoly on tea imported from China.

So while the English gentry became accustomed to drinking this luxury item in the 1660s, it wasn't until much later (1840s) that the more elaborate custom or ritual of taking "Afternoon Tea" came into existence.

In the 19th century, it was customary for the upper classes in England to have their evening meal rather late, say 8–9pm. It was understandable then that one might become hungry in the late afternoon.

Some time around 1840, Anna Russell, the 7th Duchess of Bedford, complained of a "sinking feeling" and requested that some light food and a pot of tea (usually Darjeeling) be brought to her private living quarters to help ward off her mid-afternoon hunger. This light food probably included bread, butter, and perhaps biscuits.

The idea proved so

successful that it soon became routine, and the Duchess decided to invite a few of her friends to her private rooms for tea in the afternoon. A new social event was born in which the invited guests would have an opportunity to meet with friends, catch up on the latest news, discuss recent events, etc.

The service would normally take place in the lady's parlour, withdrawing room or boudoir and be served on low decorative tables. Hence this event also became known as "low" tea.

The light food served with afternoon tea gradually evolved to include more elaborate fare such as crustless finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, and a final course of sweets and pastries. The idea was to provide easy-to-manage portions suitable for entertaining in a sitting room.



Anna Russell, Duchess of Bedford



Earl Grey and the tea named after him

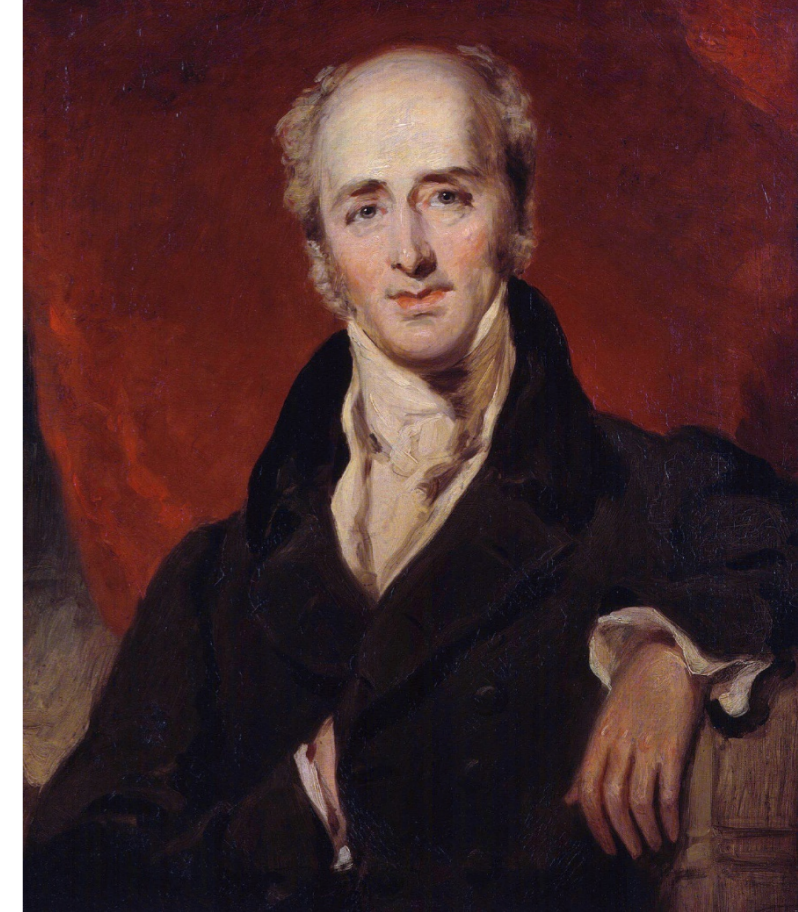
The Duchess was lady-in-waiting and lifelong friend to Queen Victoria, whom she introduced to the idea and, in so doing, gained an influential supporter. The trend gained popularity and it soon became a fashionable pastime of the upper classes. To meet the new demand, English china manufacturers, linen makers and silversmiths began turning out fine accoutrements to be used in the service of afternoon tea.

This so called "At Home" tea spread throughout England where announcements would be sent to friends and relatives declaring the hour at which tea would be served. On a given day of the week, the hostess would remain home to receive visitors and serve tea, sandwiches and cakes. Since there was usually at least one person holding an "At Home" on any given day, women would have an opportunity to establish close social ties by seeing each other frequently at different houses throughout the week.

Anna Russell passed away in 1857 and is buried in the Bedford Chapel in Buckinghamshire.

Earl Grey

Charles Grey was the second but eldest surviving son of General Charles Grey and Elizabeth. He had four brothers and two sisters. He was educated at Richmond School, Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, acquiring a facility in Latin and in English composition and declamation that enabled him to become one of the foremost



parliamentary speakers of his generation.

A firmly Whig politician, Charles Grey 2nd Earl Grey oversaw four years of political reform that had enormous impact on the development of democracy in Britain.

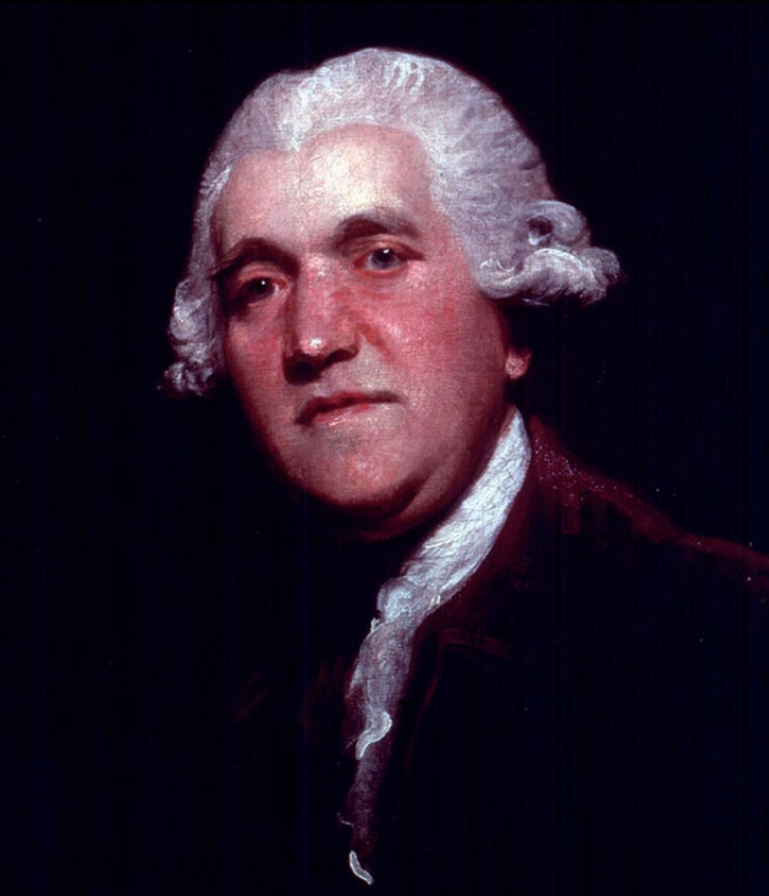
Lord Grey's political experience before becoming Prime Minister was limited. He first took office briefly under Grenville in 1806, but it was nearly a quarter of a century before he returned to office as Prime Minister.

Lord Grey's most remarkable achievement was the Reform Act of 1832, which set in train a gradual process of electoral change, sowing the seeds of the system we recognise today. Around 130 years of parliamentary reform began with this act and culminated in universal suffrage for men and women over 18, secret ballots and legitimate constituencies.

The battle to pass the historic act was a difficult one. He resigned after the Lords rejected it, although he returned to office when the Duke of Wellington found himself unable to form an administration. The Duke of Wellington then consented and Lord Grey was able to push the bill through.

Other reforming measures included restrictions on the employment of children, and the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833.

Tea flavoured with bergamot, which was used to imitate the more expensive types of Chinese



Josiah Wedgwood and some of his jasperware

tea, has been known in England since at least the 1820s. In 1837 there is a record of court proceedings against Brocksop & Co. who were found to have supplied tea “artificially scented, and drugged with bergamot in this country”. A “Grey’s Tea” is known from the 1850s, but the first known published references to an “Earl Grey” tea are advertisements by Charlton & Co. of Jermyn Street in London in the 1880s.

Both Twinings and Jacksons of Piccadilly claim they originated Earl Grey’s Tea. Jacksons say Lord Grey gave the recipe to Robert Jackson & Co. partner George Charlton in 1830 and that the original recipe has been in constant production and has never left their hands. Theirs has been based on Chinese black tea since the beginning.

According to the Grey family, the tea was specially blended by a Chinese Mandarin-speaking individual for Lord Grey, to suit the water at Howick Hall, the family seat in Northumberland, using bergamot in particular to offset the preponderance of lime in the local water. Lady Grey used it to entertain in London as a political hostess, and it proved so popular that she was asked if it could be sold to others, which is how Twinings came to market it as a brand.

In the 1990s Twinings bought Jacksons of Piccadilly.



Josiah Wedgwood

Wedgwood was an innovative designer, a manufacturer of high-quality pottery and a campaigner for social reform.

He was born into a family of potters on 12th July 1730, at Burslem, Staffordshire. His father’s death in 1739 led him to an early start working as a “thrower” in the pottery of his eldest brother Thomas, to whom he was later apprenticed. An attack of smallpox seriously weakened Josiah, and in 1768 he had to have his right leg amputated. This meant he was forced to abandon throwing, but he subsequently gained a wider insight into the potter’s craft—for example the work of the “modeller”—and this encouraged his love of experimentation.

Thomas refused Josiah a partnership in the business, so the younger man moved first to a small pottery run by John Harrison, then more happily to the firm of Thomas Wheildon of Fenton. From there, he opened works of his own, first at his cousin’s Ivy House and later at the Brick House factory. At these works, Wedgwood made many models himself, and also prepared clay mixes. In June 1769, he opened a new factory at Etruria, near Stoke-on-Trent, in partnership with Thomas Bentley. Attached to the factory was a village where Wedgwood’s workmen and their families could live in decent surroundings.

Wedgwood greatly improved the clumsy ordinary crockery of the day, introducing durable, simple and regular wares. His cream coloured earthenware was christened “Queen’s Ware” after Queen Charlotte, who appointed him Queen’s Potter in 1762. Other eminent patrons included Empress Catherine II of Russia, who ordered 952 such pieces in 1774.

Wedgwood experimented with barium

sulphate (caulk), and from it produced jasper in 1773. Jasperware, which is used for a whole host of ornaments, blends metallic oxides, often blue, with separately moulded reliefs, generally white. Some such reliefs were designed for Wedgwood by John Flaxman. Other wares included “black basaltes”, frequently enhanced by “encaustic” colours like red, to imitate Greek vases.

Wedgwood was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1783, primarily for inventing the pyrometer to measure oven temperatures. He took a keen interest, too, in efficient factory organisation, and in improving the transport of raw materials and finished wares by canals, such as the Grand Trunk Canal, and by road.

In 1780, when Wedgwood’s long-term business partner died, he asked his friend Erasmus Darwin for help. Darwin’s son would later marry Wedgwood’s daughter, and they were the parents of Charles Darwin, the naturalist who formulated the theory of evolution. Charles would himself, in turn, marry a Wedgwood.

When Wedgwood died on 3rd January 1795 he left a thriving business and a fortune to his children.

Joseph Lyons and the Lyons Tea Shops

Lyons was born in Kennington, London, on 29th December 1847. He was educated at the Borough Jewish Schools in London’s East End. Lyons began his career as an optician’s apprentice. He had an ingenious mechanical bent and invented small gadgets that he was able to sell quickly at the many exhibitions held throughout England in the late 19th century, using his skills in showmanship and sales. One was a combined “microscope-binocular-compass” that he sold for one shilling from a stall at the Royal Jubilee Exhibition Liverpool in 1887.

J. Lyons and Co. was established in 1885 by four entrepreneurs: Isidore and Montague Glickstein, Barnett Salmon and Joseph Lyons himself. From modest beginnings as supplier of catering to the Newcastle Exhibition in 1887 it went on to become at its height the largest food company in Europe. The first of the Lyons teashops opened at 213 Piccadilly in 1894 (it’s still a cafe, now called Ponti’s, and you



Sir Joseph Lyons

Lyons Corner House on the corner of Coventry Street and Rupert Street in Piccadilly



A Lyons Tea House "Nippy"



can still see the stucco ceiling of the original Lyons teashop). Soon there were more than 250 white-and-gold-fronted teashops occupying prestigious locations on many of London's high streets. Food and drink prices were the same in each teashop irrespective of locality and the tea was always the best available—although the Lyons blend was never sold or made available to the public.

The J. Lyons flagship shops were the London Corner Houses situated on or near the corners of Coventry Street, the Strand and Tottenham Court Road. They were started in 1909 and remained until 1977. They were gigantic places with food being served on four or five floors. In its heyday the Coventry Street Corner House served about 5000 covers and employed about 400 staff. There were hairdressing salons, telephone booths and even at one point a food delivery service. For a time the Coventry Street Corner House was open 24 hours a day.

Soon the company was operating hotels, laundries, tea estates in Nyasaland (now Malawi), meat pie companies, ice-cream

companies, tea and coffee companies, engineering works, jam and soft drink factories, and confectionery manufacturing. Lyons was also the first company to introduce frozen food to the British public. During the war they managed one of the largest bomb-making facilities in the UK and their engineering works made a range of war materiel. They packed millions of rations for troops fighting in Asia and other parts of the world and bequeathed one of their teashops to the American personnel stationed at Grosvenor Square. Another formed part of the famous Rainbow Corner in Shaftsbury Avenue, near Piccadilly Circus.

In 1924 the directors at J. Lyons and Co. decided to update their image and specifically their waitresses. The dresses were to be modernised and they also removed the ban on bobbed hair. The (mostly) young women would wear starched caps with a big, red 'L' embroidered in the centre, a black Alpaca dress with a double row of pearl buttons sewn with red cotton and white detachable cuffs and collar finished off with a white square apron worn at dropped-waist level. The directors also held a staff competition to choose a nickname for the newly styled Lyons teashops' waitresses. The former name of "Gladys" was now seen as very old-fashioned. The name "Nippy" was eventually chosen, probably for the connotation that the waitresses nipped speedily around. If Nippy sounds odd as a nickname for a waitress, it's worth noting that other rejected suggestions included "Sybil-at-your-service", "Miss Nimble", "Miss Natty", "Busy Bertha", "Speedwell" and even "Dextrous Dora".

The Nippy made her first appearance on New Year's Day in 1925 and the word soon became a household name. By 1939 there were around 7,600 of them working around the country, all selected for deportment, condition of hands, an ability to add and the competence to handle crockery deftly. A pleasant personality was judged more important at Lyons than good looks and it seems there were a lot of men looking out for a pleasant personality. *Picture Post* in 1939 reported that there were a total of between 800 and 900 Nippy marriages every year. Lyons claimed that the marriage rate among Nippies was higher than any other class of working girl and that the job was of course excellent training for a housewife.

The Elements of Tea

YES:

- Savouries
- Finger sandwiches
- Scones—cream and jam
- Pastries
- Cakes
- Tea
- Champagne

NO:

- Coffee
- Sugar bowls, sugar, tea spoons
- Tea bags
- Instant tea
- Dunking
- Eating the pastries before the savouries
- Trying to read the tea leaves

After the war the company embarked on a rebuilding programme expanding their operations into Europe and America as well as large projects at home. They acquired the Baskin-Robbins ice cream company and the Dunkin Donuts organisation. They developed the Wimpy hamburger chain which essentially was an American idea. They also built and operated the world's first business computer which they called LEO (Lyons Electronic Office). Large new bakeries and meat pie factories were built with the aid of regional grants. Several smaller ice cream companies were acquired to increase market share against the fierce competition from Walls. After the war many city centres were redeveloped and Lyons took advantage by building new hotels including the prestigious Tower Hotel next to the Tower of London.

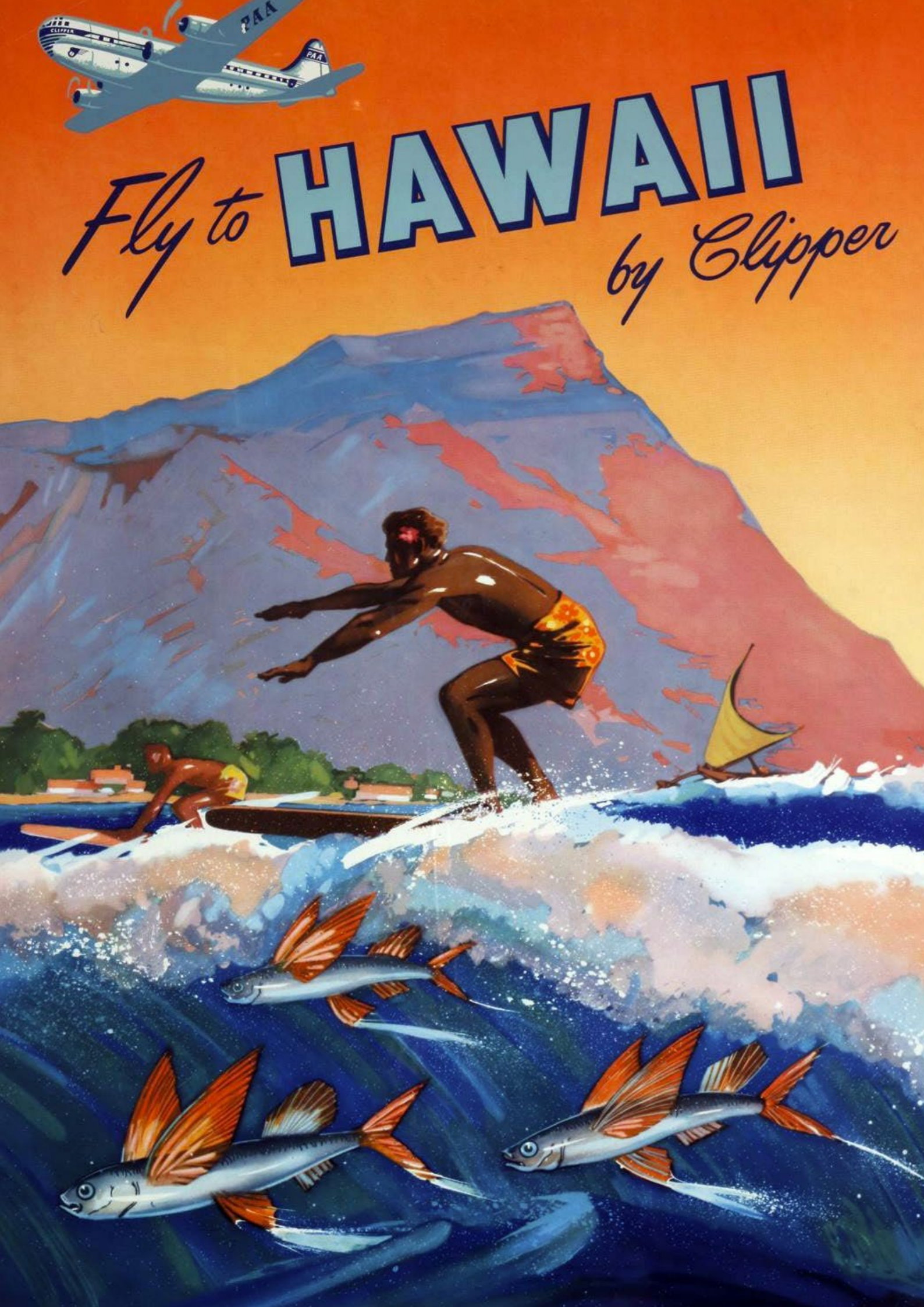
One of the most famous employees was Margaret Thatcher, who worked as a research chemist for J. Lyons and Co. in Hammersmith, part of a team developing emulsifiers for ice cream in the 1950s. She may well have been responsible for the creation of Mr Whippy ice cream.

The company's fall came as fast its original rise. In the time-honoured way it overstretched on its borrowings during the early 1970s and the oil crisis. In 1978 Allied Breweries made an offer for

the company which was accepted and Lyons lost its independence. It survived for a few years under new management but eventually its component parts were gradually sold to pay for acquisitions associated with the drinks trade.

Lyons had survived for over 100 years. During this whole period it had not one name change and from 1887 until 1998 it proudly traded as J. Lyons and Company.





The New Sheridan Club Summer Party LOUCHE LUAU

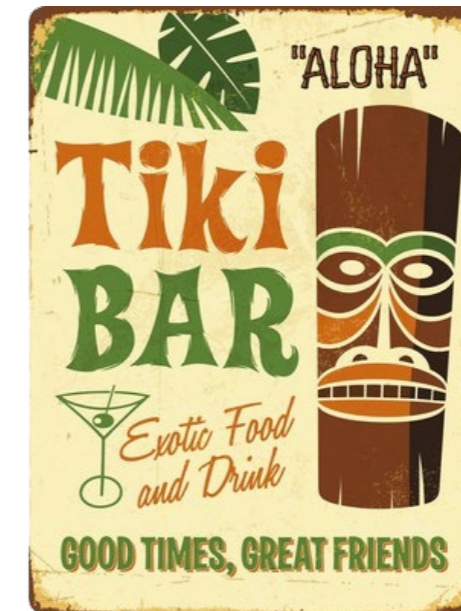
SATURDAY 28TH JULY

6-11pm

The Water Poet, 9-11 Folgate Sreet, Spitalfields, London E1 6BX

Admission: Free to NSC Members, £5 for guests (refundable if they join up on the night)

Dress: Grass skirts, coconut bras and penis gourds, missionaries, ragged traders, self-exiled artists, sex-starved US sailors, bedraggled, shipwrecked schoolboys on the brink of social collapse, irradiated monkey gods, evening dress



social status will be bestowed on whoever brings the Committee the finest gift.

As usual the event will culminate in our Grand Raffle (entry is free but only for Members of the NSC, including anyone who signs up on the night). In addition to a host of books and movies connected with the theme, you'll be able to win a ukulele, a hammock, tiki mugs, Tabu perfume, a yam garden starter set, some broken treaties on land rights, an inflatable palm tree.

There will be spices.

A warm welcome awaits you in Port Horatio, capital of the island of Nani-Komite, nestling beneath the mighty but generally dormant volcano Mauga o le Oti. An island paradise where the days are long, the drinks longer and nothing disturbs the sound of waves on the miles-long sandy beaches. Other than the occasional rumblings from Mauga o le Oti, but the Geological Society tells us that's nothing to worry about.

Hawaiian shirts are as welcome in the bar as white tie or tropical khaki rig—whatever you feel easier travelling around the island in (but we do advise carrying a knife, service revolver and dynamite if travelling into the interior as some of the local flora and fauna are rather aggressive) and there are prizes for the most garish shirt.

More details coming as soon as we think of them, but there will be a game to shoot a missionary with a blowpipe and chance to create your own idol (with a prize for the one that acquires the most worshippers in the evening). And of course the highest



THE BROGUES GALLERY

WITH ARTEMIS SCARHEART



In which a Member of the New Sheridan Club is asked to introduce themselves to other Members so that those at Home and Across the Seas may all get to know fellow Club Members. No part of this interview may be used in court or bankruptcy proceedings.



NSC punting trip, with son Jacob in training

Cyril Browne

"Give it a go."

Name or preferred name?

Cyril Browne.

Why that nom de plume?

Cyril because it sounds rather nice. Browne as it is my mothers family name.

Where do you hail from?

Born in Carlisle, but spent my formative years in Stroke City, Northern Ireland. (a.k.a. Derry/Londonderry). Not the most Chappist of places, but it wasn't as bad as made out to be in the

media. If you're ever in the area get a fish supper from the Celtic Chippy—it's full of artery-clogging goodness. Also, one day when I was 13 a police officer told me off for reading *Viz*. That wasn't nice.

Favourite Cocktail?

I have to confess that I'm not much of a cocktail drinker, I prefer ales and smokey whiskies. Lagavulin 16 is my happy drink. It makes me happy in the same way that my dog gets happy when I rub his belly. Except my belly isn't being rubbed, I am merely drinking whisky. Imagine if we were the size of dogs and dogs were the size of humans, it would be really odd—especially when it came to belly rubs. However, if pushed I'd have an Old Fashioned.

Most Chappist skill?

I'm rather adept at woodworking and like to make furniture. While I admit it's not an everyday skill, I do find a certain amount of pride in being able to make quality furniture that won't fall apart like most modern flat pack furniture. Ikea is the worst because that is where Victoria met Patrick for the first time. Patrick was examining a broom in the Market Hall section. His careful examination of the long slender shaft left Victoria smitten. She could see he was a man who cared and was also ruggedly good looking to boot. "Oh, how I wish I could feel his shaft too," thought Victoria, hoping and praying that it was an extending model. She dreamed of spending many long hours with Patrick and his broom with him thrusting it up and down her back passage. I just finished making a set of Adirondac chairs out

of reclaimed pallet wood.

Most Chappist possession?

My father's pocket watch, which was manufactured in 1880.

Personal Motto?

"Give it a go, you never know."

Favourite Quotes?

"If we don't study the mistakes of the future we are doomed to repeat them for the first time."
[Someone called Ken M., says Google —Ed]

Not a lot of people know this about me...

I hold three nationalities. Irish, British and Latvian.

How long have you been involved with the NSC?

Since the beginning, having been a member of its predecessor.

How did you hear about the Club to begin with?

Through the Chap Room [www.sheridanclub.co.uk]. Sadly, a much quieter place than it used to be.

What one thing would you recommend to fellow Members and why (cocktail, night out, tailor, watchmaker, public house, etc.)?

Visit the English Market in Cork at least once in your lifetime. There is nothing else quite like it.

Your three chosen dinner party guests from history or fiction and why?

Mary Whitehouse and Oliver Reed, purely for my own amusement as it would be rather fun to see them fighting each other. Leonardo da Vinci, mainly because he would be a truly fascinating and enlightening person to talk to. After dinner I'd like to take him to da Vinci's nightclub in Derry for a night on the lash and maybe get him the shift.

Being confirmed in the Eighties



Favourite Member of the Glorious Committee?

This is a hard one to answer: so many good options to choose from. However, seeing as I like being alive... *Artemis Scarheart*

Have you done a Turn yet? If so what was it on, if not what are you planning to do?

Not yet, but I'd like to get over and do a talk on the history of amateur radio.

Thank you for allowing yourself to be interviewed in the palatial surroundings of the NSC Club House. On behalf of the Members may I respectfully ask you to resign.



Outside the palace in Wojanów, Poland



CLUB NOTES

Club Tie Corner

THE TIE “SPOT” on the right from Scarheart is a bit of a cheat as he actually supplied the (genuine) NSC tie for this photoshoot. Elsewhere on this page are Jeffrey Archer and Nick Griffin mysteriously adorned with Club silk, and this stamp from Lindsay Sinclair, which “seems to show the club colours were chosen by the newly independent Republic of Upper Volta as its flag. The good times were not to last, however, and after the usual period of political unrest and



Edinburgh Songlines

1st Aug 2018 - 26th Aug 2018
Beneath - Pleasance Courtyard
3:15pm
Suitable for ages 12 and above

BOOK NOW

Overview



"She's scared of what I might get up to out here in the countryside. Keeps giving me lectures on barn-banking. I'm going to die of boredom just to make her feel bad."

revolution, it became Burkina Faso in about 1984, and with this adopted a less attractive flag. Its splendidly-named capital is still, of course, Ouagadougou.” On the facing page we have Forest Whittaker and some seasonal swimwear, either budgie smugglers (from Charles Tsua) or more demure shorts (Callum Coates).

Then there is perhaps one of the strangest spots to date, courtesy



of Ed Marlowe—not just a picture of Tommy Cooper in a Club Tie, but a photo of a tattoo of a picture of Tommy Cooper in a Club Tie. Finally we have the picture below from Richard

Sherwood of himself. “It’s not just myself I let down, 1st Loser at Eroica Britannia 2018 and wearing Club Colours.” He adds, “I will, of course, Resign.”



Watch Update

by Valentine "Chip" Butty

On the subject of pocket watches, so dear to Sheridanite hearts, my researches reveal:

Trendhim.com (Denmark): highly decorated and decorative self-winding watches, hunter, half-hunter and open face; and

The Gotham Watch Company (New York): mostly quartz movements, some hand wound, all categories as above, including the famous open face "railroad" watch. Mailing costs USA to UK unknown. These chaps are clearly more interested in performance rather than appearance, *per contra* Trendhim.

Both are good time-wasters for the online browser.



New Member

THIS TIME WE reach out across the Irish Sea to welcome new joiner Lir Mac Carthaigh, who hails from Dublin.



Forthcoming Events



BOTH OFFICIAL NSC JAUNTS (🚫) AND THIRD-PARTY WHEEZES WE THINK YOU MIGHT ENJOY

FOR THE LATEST developments, see the Events page at www.newsheridanclub.co.uk plus our Facebook page and the web forum.

🚫 NSC Club Night

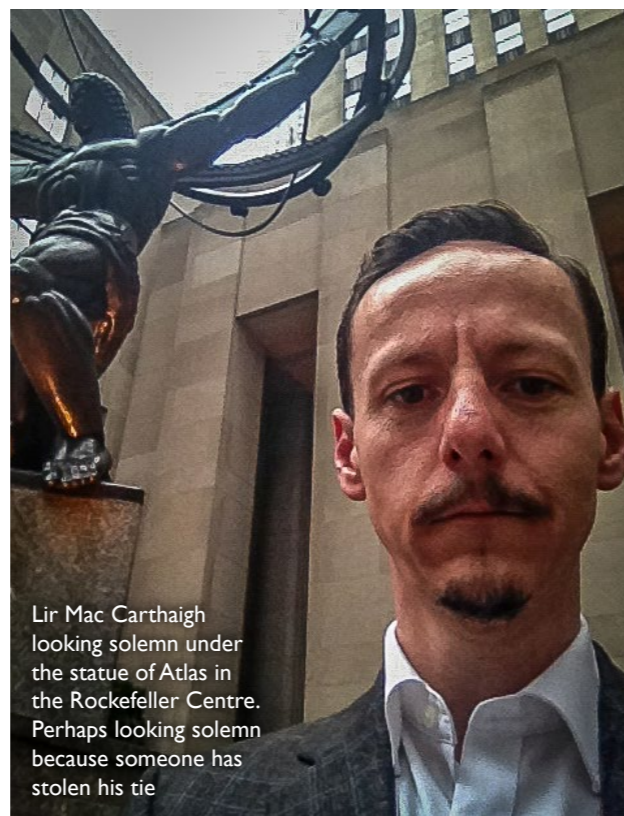
Wednesday 4th July

7pm–11pm

Upstairs, The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB

Members: Free

Non-Members: £2 (first visit free)



Lir Mac Carthaigh looking solemn under the statue of Atlas in the Rockefeller Centre. Perhaps looking solemn because someone has stolen his tie

See page 2.

The Golden Era of Jazz

Every Thursday

7pm

Jamboree, 566 Cable Street, London E1W 3HB

Admission: Free before 8pm, £4 between 8 and 9.30, £5 after that

A weekly night of 1920s jazz and 1930s

swing presented by clarinettist Ewan Bleach with various guests.

Tiger Rag

Every Friday

Arcola Bar, Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, Dalston, London E8 3DL

10pm–2.30am

Admission: £7 entry after 10pm; dance lessons £10

Live jazz, blues, swing, calypso, Dixieland, ragtime, musette, tango, etc. Try your hand at the beginner lesson in swing, Lindy hop, shag, balboa and Charleston dancing, with no partner or prebooking required. Intermediate lessons 8–9pm and beginner lessons 9–10pm.

Black Tie Ballroom Dance Classes

Every Friday (except, presumably, when the BTBC itself is taking place at the same venue)

6.30–8pm, followed by social dancing till 10.15pm

The Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6AQ (02073870411)

Admission: £15 for lesson and social dancing or £10 just for the social from Design My Night

From the makers of the Black Tie Ballroom Club (see below), the method of these beginners classes assumes new students have musicality or experience in other dance forms such as Lindy, places the emphasis on moving in time to the music, and aims for 80% of beginner students to confidently and gracefully get around the dancefloor with a partner after the first lesson, and be ready for the improvers class after two lessons.

Black Tie Ballroom Club

Friday 6th July

Beginners' class from 7pm, main dance from



How about a little post-work shopping in the beautiful Wilton's music hall?



(This page and opposite below) A highlight of the Chappist calendar is the Chap Olympics: these photos of NSC Members at last year's event give a good idea of the foppish chaos

7.30–11pm
 The Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6AQ (02073870411)
 Admission: £10 earlybird from Design My Night, £15 on the door
 Dress code: Strictly black tie, evening dress or vintage

Dance progressive partnered dancing to a strict-tempo ten-piece orchestra and a selection of pre-war records of slow foxtrot, waltz, quickstep, tango, rumba, Jive and Charleston. Free ballroom dance lesson for absolute beginners from 7pm to 7.30 pm. Candlelit tables and chairs for all guests, a balcony area with tables for those who don't choose to dance, and four or five male and female taxi dancers available free of charge for those who do. The venue is dry, but free tea and coca cola are provided, and guests may smuggle in their own drinks if they are discreet. Tickets are £10 online or £15 on the door. We have a large wooden dance floor and are located in beautiful Fitzroy Square, London W1. In the same building (the Indian YMCA) the excellent in-house canteen does a set vegetarian three course meal for just £8 from 7pm to 9 pm. Dress code is strictly black tie and evening dress only, and we have sold out for the past four dances. Activities include a quickstep bus stop and ten most glamorously dressed women able to get around the floor doing a slow waltz competition. Any questions, please phone George Tudor-Hart on 020 8542 1490. For more details see the Facebook group.



The Hep Chaps make their debut at the Candlelight Club on 21st July

Late Night Vintage Shopping

Thursday 12th July
 4.30–9.30pm
 Wilton's Music Hall, 1 Grace's Alley, London E1 8JB
 Admission: £3 on the door

Pop-Up Vintage Fairs London offer an after-work shopping experience in the legendary Wilton's (the oldest music hall in the country). Vintage stalls include both ladieswear and menswear from the 1920s to the 1980s, vintage jewellery and accessories, alongside mid-century homeware, antiques, collectables, curiosities and

more. Food and drink will be available in the venue's bars and there will be live music from the Volstead Orchestra in the main hall and the Night and Day Collective in the cocktail bar.

The Chap Olympics

Saturday 14th July
 From midday
 Bedford Square Gardens, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3JA
 Admission: £25 in advance
 Dress: Chappist finery, vintage sportswear, etc

The Chap magazine's annual celebration of the Chappist ethos, with games that reward languid elegance and foppish, workshy guile. Effort or competitive spirit are frowned upon while creative cheating is positively encouraged. The programme will include familiar acts of buffoonery such as Tea Pursuit, Umbrella Jousting, Butler Baiting and Aunt Avoidance, as well as new challenges, to ensure there is no chance of contestants preparing for the event. Any form of training is frowned upon by the judges—the only preparations contestants should consider are within the confines of their tailor's fitting room. Picnics can be brought although food will be for sale. Bourne & Hollingsworth will be running bars within the arena, and their stormtroopers will be confiscating alcohol



at the gates, although New Sheridan Club Members will as usual regard it as a matter of honour to find imaginative ways to smuggle booze in. Apparently this year, instead of a central performance area, there will be half a dozen simultaneous arenas, which has sparked outrage among traditionalists.

The H.P. Lovecraft UK Film Festival

Saturday 14th July

10.30am–4pm

Maidstone Museum, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH

Admission: Film screening £10

In association with Great Kentspectations, this small Lovecraftian film fest is part of a loosely-defined Steampunk day that also includes a magic show, Lovecraft-inspired belly-dancing show (a new one on me) and lessons, music from Time Machine, "H.P. Lovecraft's Travelling Museum" and a chance to Make Your Own Mythical Creature ("body parts provided"). See museum.maidstone.gov.uk for more details. All proceeds to the museum charitable trust.

The Candlelight Club

Saturday 21st July

7pm–12am

Get the Joan Crawford look at Jungle Red



A secret east London location

Admission: £30 in advance

Dress: Prohibition dandies, swells, gangsters and molls, degenerate aristos and aesthetes, corrupt politicians and the Smart Set In the Know

A 1920s clandestine speakeasy party in a secret London venue lit by candles, with live jazz bands, cabaret and vintage vinylism, a cocktail bar, and kitchens serving bar food as well as a three-course dinner menu. Guests receive an email a few days before the event revealing the secret location. See www.thecandlelightclub.com.

This will be the last Candlelight Club party until September, so come and swing your pearls to the raucous tones of swing-dance faves the Hep Chaps and DJ Aila from the Bee's Knees and puff cigars in our leafy courtyard garden, all under the watchful, playful eye of host with the most Champagne Charlie.

"The closest you'll find to an authentic Jazz Age experience in central London. Its unique ambience, fuelled by hundreds of candles, is truly a scene to behold." —*Time Out*

RA Lates: Summer Pleasure Garden

Saturday 21st July

7pm–midnight

The Royal Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD

Admission: £25–75

A summer's evening in a re-imagined Pleasure Garden in and around the RA's courtyard, experiencing the magical nocturnal amusement parks of Georgian England. Extraordinary spaces for entertainment, art and music, these magical gardens of tree-lined avenues glowing with lanterns, music concerts in elegant rotundas, masquerade balls and al fresco dining, gave ordinary Londoners a chance to escape city life for the night. There will be illuminations and creative soundscapes, live music and DJs, creative activities and art installations, grottos and secret bars. Be warned, though, that despite the vintage inspiration the dress code looks very lax... More details at www.royalacademy.org.uk/event/summer-pleasure-garden.

The "Knock-Out" Swing Ball

Sunday 22nd July

2–6.30pm

The Assembly Rooms, Masonic Hall, East Ascent, St Leonards-on-Sea, Hastings, Kent TN38 0BU
Admission: £15 in advance, £18 on the door

The Cinque Ports Swing Ball ran from 2005 to 2010, offering a live swing orchestra, top swing and jazz dance cabaret and a great historic vintage venue, and now it returns. Gypsy John's Jump For Joy welcomes Benoit Viellefon & His Orchestra for an evening aimed at dancers in a venue with a sprung wooden floor. Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk.

Jungle Red

Thursday 26th July

7–9pm

Revival Retro, 30 Windmill Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 2JL

Admission: £5

Celebrating the BFI's season of Joan Crawford movies, and inspired by *The Women* (1939)—a previous NSC Film Night choice—the evening includes a Crawford-inspired cocktail, a talk about the actress from BFI's Nigel Arthur, a brow tutorial from the Powderpuff Girls and hat advice from Atelier Millinery. Moreover 25 lucky ladies (chosen by raffle) will get their nails done for free, painted Jungle Red like in the movie. More details at www.revival-retro.com/products/26th-july-jungle-red.

Sex and Drugs and Heads Will Roll

Saturday 28th July

2–3.30pm

Meet at the base of the Monument in London, finish at Tower Hill

Admission: £10 for NSC Members (discounted from regular price of £15)

Miss Minna offers another of her walking tours of the City, ancient centre of London, home to the Bank of England, the Lord Mayor, finance, Wren churches, pomp and ceremony... but not on this walk. Here you will be dragged through river piracy, dirt, disease, dubious dealing, terrible trades and the final gruesome end that might face the despicable or simply

★ ★ ★ Cinque Ports Swing Jive present ★ ★ ★

THE "KNOCK OUT" SWING BALL

WITH FLOOR STOMPING MUSIC THAT WILL PUNCH YOU OUT!

INTRODUCING THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED **BENOIT VIELLEFON ORCHESTRA**

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SUNDAY JULY 22ND

2PM-6.30PM

AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS **MASONIC HALL**
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near Hastings
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PERIOD VENUE / COMFORTABLE LOUNGE
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cinqueportsswingjive.co.uk gypsyjohnnewson@yahoo.co.uk 07999 806635

unlucky. Join the City Mole on a wander through old streets, hidden church yards and secret alleys. Book in advance by emailing laurathecitymole@gmail.com.

The New Sheridan Club summer party

Louche Luau

Saturday 28th July

6–11pm

The Water Poet, 9-11 Folgate St, Spitalfields, London E1 6BX

Admission: Free to NSC Members, £5 for guests (refundable if they join up on the night)

Dress: Grass skirts, coconut bras and penis gourds, missionaries, ragged traders, self-exiled artists, sex-starved US sailors, bedraggled, shipwrecked schoolboys on the brink of social collapse, irradiated monkey gods, evening dress

See page 11.

Seemingly inspired by a meeting with celebrity tailor Patrick Grant, Member Richard Sherwood has submitted this assemblage:

Just £ 2.00 pounds a week of your donations will buy Patrick a tie, some foundation garments, suspension for socks and trousers and a cotton shirt. £ 5.00 a week would help him with an off the peg three piece from a regional tailor and perhaps a hat. £ 10.00 a week could provide a silk square, a pair of cufflinks, a nice watch and chain, a boutonniere or a scarf to just finish his outfit off. Please give generously. Every penny you donate will stop this ever happening again. Thank you.



“This appeal has been brought to you by the New Sheridan Club and Chap Magazine,” Give Three Piece a Chance”