

DESIGN!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE I

156 • OCTOBER 2019

Wedding of the season

Craigoh gets hitched in Chappist style

My favourite blender

Frances Mitchell spills the beans

GET RICH AS GATSBY

A feckless Millennial can't make a fortune by fiddling with software? Of course he can, old sport



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.



(Left) Torquil shows off his new badge; (above) banker Luca tackles the nature of Bitcoin



Stewart kicks off

The Next Meeting

The next Club Meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd October in the upstairs room at The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB, from 7pm until 11pm, when James Rigby will get Chappist hearts aflutter with a talk on *The Dandy History of (Royal) Tunbridge Wells*.

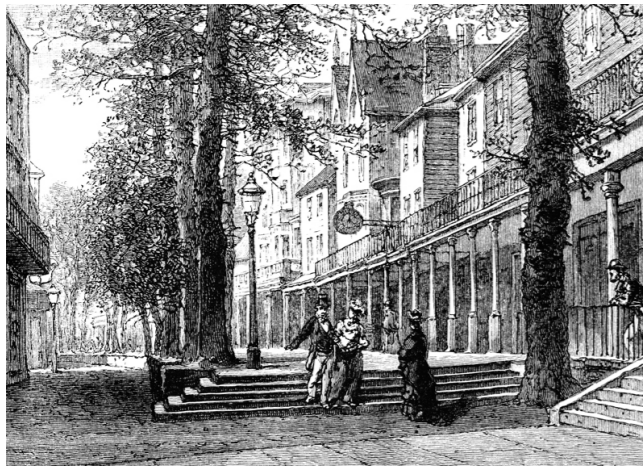
The Last Meeting

Our speaker at the September meeting was Stewart Lister Vickers, on the subject of fintech (financial technology), something about which he has recently become quite the evangelist. I won't pretend to have understood it all, but it seems to be a mechanism whereby ordinary people can play the stock market easily. We also dwelt on Bitcoin for some time, with a long debate on the floor in which those who

understood tried to explain what Bitcoin "mining" actually is to those who did not. Sadly it sounds as if, while in the early days someone in the room had a friend who mined three Bitcoins with an ordinary laptop, now, as it gets harder to come up with new numbers, only nation states or big criminal organisations have the resources to build the warehouse-sized computer facilities capable of the computations. The volatility of crypto-currencies was illustrated with the story of the pizzas that were ordered using Bitcoin in the early days, for a sum that would now be worth millions of pounds. Many thanks to Stewart—by next month he may either be a billionaire or kidnapped by a criminal cartel to work as a slave in their Bitcoin mines. Exciting times.

An essay version of this talk begins on page 4.

Tunbridge Wells then and now



The Mitchells with Robert Beckwith



The B-word inevitably raises its head



(Above and below) This T-shirted stranger was drawn to our dapper crowd, promising to come back next month in full fig

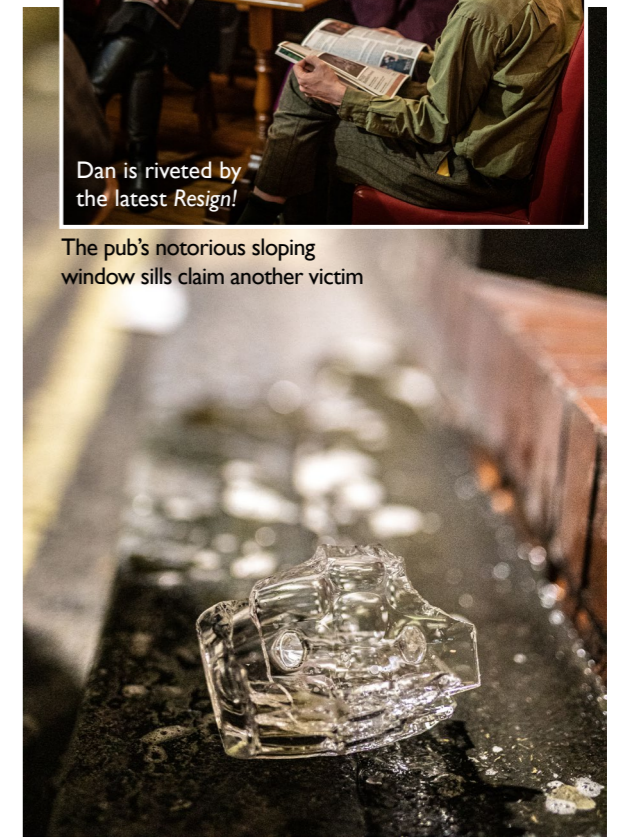


Dan is riveted by the latest *Resign!*

The pub's notorious sloping window sills claim another victim



More photos on Flickr at <https://bit.ly/2o3Nsxe>



A Brief Introduction to Fintech

Stewart Lister Vickers on how one could build a fortune more easily than Gatsby

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM with this talk is how did one of our fold—a history of art student devoted to little more than 19th-century aesthetics and hair metal—come to become fixated on the stock market and hooded geeks developing apps?

I am too young to remember when *NME* was actually worth reading, but you could say I would have swapped my subscription for the *Financial Times* and replaced the poster of Ozzy Osbourne on my wall with one of Elon Musk or Richard Branson.

The answer is quite simple, in that I got a job. Or rather my CEO Heidi saw what I had learned in developing a website devoted to the world of dressing up and kindly took me on as a digital marketer in the insurance sector. And



with no immediate debts I knew I could put whatever remained of my wages to good use through investing. Meanwhile I was and remain desperate to escape this very first foot on the ladder of a studio flat with no natural light and reach at least a basic standard of living as soon as possible.

It was then that I became engrossed in that most cringey of buzzwords—“fintech”. Put simply, financial technology aims to make handling our personal finances easier, faster and better.

Fig. 1 is the bank at Beamish living history museum where you can see the kind of processes that used to be banking. Downstairs they have a vault with tins for your valuables



Fig. 1

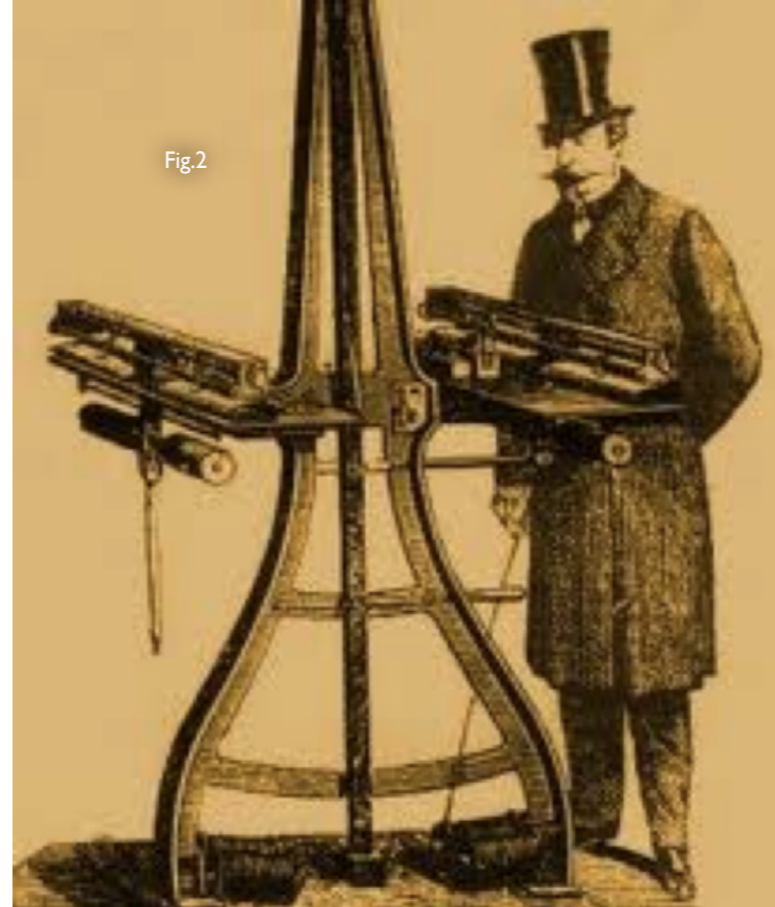


Fig. 2

and share certificates. All very slow and expensive.

An early example of fintech was in fact a Victorian invention called the pantelegraph (fig.2) that was an early fax machine used for validating signatures. Today, however, we are witnessing an explosion of digital challenger banks, investment platforms and more, that are literally on our door step as London leads the way in this field.

Now whenever I mention fintech, I immediate get asked “Oh, you mean Bitcoin?”



Fig. 3

every single transaction made using your key—just as any encryption works, at least as I am reliably informed.

There will only ever be so many created or “mined”. Bitcoins are mined through hardware used to process transactions and miners are rewarded with Bitcoins. It therefore becomes profitable to set up a rig in your mum’s garage and mine Bitcoins.

This secures the network as no one is able to gain majority control. Over time, the number of Bitcoins awarded to these miners halves, meaning they become

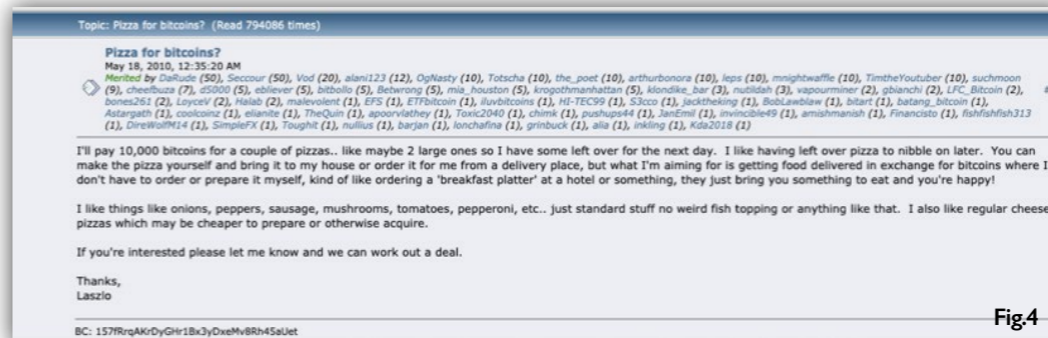


Fig. 4

Cryptocurrency is certainly relevant, but the very idea that that the progressive innovations I’m talking about are grouped in with an unregulated, volatile currency used as a get rich quick scheme while

funding drug lords, terrorists and organised criminals offends me.

As a consideration for this talk I thought what is remotely chap about some fake gold created by an anonymous anarchic alchemist who disappeared soon after its launch, which has no central method of control, can be mined in a basement and which could literally make and break billionaires overnight? Ah, I thought, perhaps it is worth a foray afterall.

Bitcoin (fig.3) was created in 2009 through a whitepaper by Satoshi Nakamoto—an anonymous coder who formed part of the “cypherpunk” community of hackers. The proposition is quite simple—our normal currency is constrained by borders and controlled by banks and governments. It loses value over time—and ruins lives in the case of hyperinflation. It can be stolen.

Bitcoin on the other hand works through a blockchain—which is basically a massive spreadsheet that serves as a public record of

Fig.5



the story of the Canadian Bitcoin firm QuadrigaCX whose chief Gerald Cotten died suddenly with US\$190 million in assets under his keys that can never be recovered. It all seemed over.

scarcer compared to the energy and hardware used to mine them. This means Bitcoin stays deflationary and gains value over time.

This could be genius or madness. But either way, there are now ten years of history to this story. The first commercial transactions with Bitcoin were made in May 2010 via the Bitcoin forum—as so many great ventures are founded upon online forums it seems.

Two pizzas from Papa John’s were bought for 10,000 BTC (fig.4).

At the time this was a small premium of about \$40. Today, 10,000 BTC is worth about 80 to 90 million pounds, depending on when exactly one tries to get an accurate conversion.

Now that Bitcoin is so massive and expensive, the miners are locked in an arms race. They compete for more powerful equipment and use more energy in the process. If the price drops, they refuse to sell.

The Bitcoin uptrend came to a peak in late 2017 when it reached \$20,000 per coin (fig.5). We all remember those conversations with so many around us both aware of the bubble but also tempted to test how far it could go. This is another reason I have held a grudge against Bitcoin, since it seemed to attract evangelical and frankly idiotic fans who bet high and somehow managed to win.

When the bubble collapsed we heard stories of market manipulation and other failings once the illusion had passed. Recently we heard

But this year Bitcoin started to climb again, proving there is still hope in crypto yet. So what is causing this new speculation?

The future of Bitcoin is still uncertain. But there are clear signs of wider acceptance, from institutional investors, payment gateways and its own towering market cap that values Bitcoin the same as investor favourite Coca-Cola. One of this year’s big crypto headlines was Facebook’s Libra currency that is thought to be a major step

in the adoption of cryptocurrency, and has understandably been plagued by concerns over its control.

Now it is those technology startups like Square that accept Crypto that bring me on to where I really

wanted to focus with fintech.

When I was at my former magazine I learned about equity crowdfunding—effectively venture capital for all. Crowdcube and Seedrs are platforms that let you invest in startups from just £10.

And so when it came to where I was best to put my first wages, I knew investing into startups was something I was keen to do. While crowdfunding is also new and untested, the potential gains are huge and the short-term perks generous.

Surely this is a much better investment proposition than Bitcoin? Even so, the standard methodology of venture capital applies—a majority of failures compensated by one or two



successes. There is also an anarchic twist here, with companies choosing to ignore the standard VC route and get investment from their fans.

The government offers tax relief for eligible companies so you get some of your investment back right away, and more should the venture fail. Plus these companies frequently offer shareholder perks.

I met someone once who invested in a brewery that offered a monthly crate of beer to investors. After tax relief, he was in profit rather quickly regardless of the company’s performance.

Similarly the Crate craft beer and pizza shop in Hackney Wick offered a free pizza to every shareholder during its recent funding round. Again the minimum was just ten quid.

However, the downsides of crowdfunding are significant. Not only are these ventures high-risk but you only make money back when a company is sold or goes public. This can take years and hence despite processing many millions in investments these platforms have only had a handful of successful exits so far. But they have proven very profitable and become household names. Sometimes this happens very quickly with high returns.

But to me, with only a little bit of cash left at the end of the month to invest, the real benefits of crowdfunding are not so directly financial.

London is home to a vast majority of the exciting startups on these platforms, many around Shoreditch just a stone’s throw from my office in London Bridge. It is therefore very easy to go along to all manner of investor events, pitch evenings and parties that bring together London’s talent with free beer and pizzas. For anyone of a shy disposition, a room full of founders keen to talk is an excellent way to form circles, plus you end up rather smashed at the time.

Many of these startups are about sharing their core values with customers and investors. Monzo for instance set out to make banking easier and more accessible through a mobile app that helps with budgeting, spending abroad and more. Somehow they have managed to

achieve something unthinkable in banking—a huge trend among women under 30 in London. Visit a bar tonight and I am sure you will see one of these fluorescent cards (fig.6) in the hands of someone you would not have thought the subject of most financial advertising.

Now this brings me on to my favourite startup, Freetrade. I say I got into investing when I graduated but in reality I’ve always wanted to invest in the stock market. But like the young people who use Monzo I felt unable through expensive legacy systems and my own lack of capital.

Freetrade has taken the same inclusive, user-friendly principles of Monzo and applied them to sharedealing. A traditional broker like Hargreaves Lansdown charges £12 per share and a 0.5% portfolio management fee. Freetrade



Fig.6

is totally free if you can wait until 4pm to make your trades. Instead they offer paid subscription plans in the “spotify sense” and plan on sheer volumes of millennial investors to make money. With their user base having grown by 20% per week it looks like they are on track.

What I have noticed in my year of fixation on this scene is that new ideas are springing up every month. Sooner or later there will probably be a big consolidation—whether the first movers turn a profit and take over the market or are simply bought up by high street banks. There seems to be an app for everything now and the fintech Venn diagram seems huge and convoluted. You can buy fractional shares, lend out your Bitcoin, buy shares of a real estate project and much more.

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.



Frances Mitchell

Name or preferred name?

Frances. This is actually my second Christian name but I'm not telling you my first.

Why that nickname or nom de plume?

Sometime back in the last century my name became the subject of a series of unpleasant jokes on TV, newspapers, etc. It became associated with a very

uncomplimentary female stereotype and I felt it to be a disadvantage. This was confirmed when an interviewer told me that they never expected to interview someone with a name like mine and that I didn't look like a ___. From that day I have been known as Frances.

Where do you hail from?

By nationality I am Irish but was born in Essex. However I consider Reading, Berkshire, to be my home having lived there since 1986.

Favourite cocktail?

I love something called a B52 but in its original shaken form not the lurid-coloured striped shot which is served nowadays. Nearest substitute is a Chocolate Martini or even better the Mint version served in one of our local restaurants. Otherwise I'm always up for a well made Porn Star Martini or Cosmopolitan.

Most Chappist skill?

Not sure I have one. My handwriting is often commented upon favourably (for any formal correspondence I use a fountain pen with an Italic nib), so perhaps that's it?

Most Chappist possession?

This is going to make me sound like some sort of 1950s Stepford Wife but one of my prized items is my Kenwood Chef mixer, bought for my mother in 1967. I also have a 1950s set of scales and a wooden lemon squeezer inherited from Stuart's Mum. Another contender would be my piano dating from the 1830s (restrung in 1898 and in 2014), or my fully functioning 1920s hand-cranked sewing machine.

Personal Motto?

Never go to bed on an argument. It's served us through 34 years of marriage so I think it works for me.

Favourite Quotes?

"What's the point of buying a dog and learning to bark yourself?" It's a saying I learned from my English grandmother and I find it applicable to so many things.

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

My first name is... Sorry, you'll have to find that out for yourself. (If you listen carefully you will hear Stuart use a pet form of the name when addressing me.) Also, I don't like gin and have never seen an episode of *Downton Abbey* or *Peaky Blinders*, although I do keep threatening to watch the latter. My passion for dogs is well known but I also like sheep and have a large collection of sheep-related items including a life-sized model of one that lives in the garden and goes by the name of Miranda. I also do Irish dancing. I once had a lift in a fire engine and have been swimming in the Nile (as one does).

How long have you been involved with the NSC?

I joined along with Stuart on the night of the "I Am not a Number, I'm a Free Chap" party, whenever that was [December 2014 -Ed].

How did you hear about the Club to begin with?

We have been friends with fellow member Lord Hare for over 30 years. About ten years ago he sent me an email about the Chap Olympiad which he and Lady Hare had recently attended saying "you would love this". As it happened I had recently read an article on the Olympiad in an in-flight magazine and so we took up the offer to join his Lordship. This led us to attend the Anarcho-Dandyist Ball. When that ceased it was suggested that we attend the NSC Christmas Party instead. The rest, as they say, is history.

What one thing would you recommend to fellow Members and why (cocktail, night out, tailor,



watchmaker, public house, etc.)?

My first choice would be the same as Stuart's (See the "Brogues Gallery" in newsletter 135, January 2017). For breakfast in London I recommend Eggs Benedict with smoked salmon washed down with a Pot of Osprey tea at the Tea House Theatre (is one allowed to promote a fellow NSC member's business?) and for the best fry-up in London I recommend the Regency Cafe on the corner of Regency Street and Page Street in Westminster. It is worth visiting for the gleaming 1950s decor alone but be prepared to queue.

For anyone visiting Dublin I recommend the Lobster Pot, Ballsbridge Terrace, Dublin 4 (close to the US Embassy). Owned and run by two elderly chaps who are the epitome of the word "gentlemen". It is primarily a fish restaurant but with a few meat dishes. The dishes are all timeless classics, superbly cooked and served by

professional, unobtrusive waiters. The desserts are to die for. Classics such as Lemon Meringue Pie and trifle are usually among the choices, which are presented on a old-fashioned trolley. The whole place is appealingly reminiscent of a more elegant time, but it may not last—thanks to complaints about the formality on Trip Advisor, etc, there has been a dumbing down of standards over the last few years. Ties are no longer insisted upon and—horror of horrors—jeans and tea shirts are making appearancea. The proprietors are not getting any younger so go while you can.

(I've just realised the question asked what one thing I'd recommend, and I've listed three. Never was any good at maths.)

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

I'm not into celebrity culture and that extends over the ages so my choice would be unknowns. I have a list of owners of my house going back to the 1830s. I would love to meet some of them, find out what it was like to live here in the past and, more importantly, find out where did they pee? (The house pre-dates the sewers.) Likewise I have done a lot of family history research and would love to be able to go back and meet some of my ancestors. In the course of my research I find myself drawn to some more than others. Why is this? After all they are just names on paper.

Favourite Member of the Glorious Committee?

~~Answer: Artemis Scarheart.~~ Torquil Arbuthnot, closely tailed by the Chairman. Sorry, Scarheart.

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

Yes I did a turn in April 2018 entitled *Thomas Garrad, Cat's Meat Man, and Other Obsolete Victorian Jobs*. I am planning a follow-on one on Victorian death rituals some time and have ideas for others including one on Ladybird books, which I collect.

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.



CLUB NOTES

New Members

JUST ONE NEW BUG this month, Lord John M. Mackenzie of Bridekirk. He resides in Eastham, Wirral, where he “strives to follow the life of a gentleman”. Quite right too. He also belongs to the Society of St George and his favourite cocktail is the Mary Pickford (rum, pineapple juice, grenadine and maraschino—created for the film star by staff at the Hotel Nacional de Cuba in the 1920s when she was filming in Cuba with Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks).

Club Tie Corner

JAMES RIGBY WAS searching for something on eBay when he came across what seems to be the stewardess uniform from the aborted New Sheridan Airlines (below), while Mark Christopher is the latest to note Sir Desmond Swayne MP's affiliation (below right) and Oliver Lane points out he is the only MP to wear a detachable stiff collar.



Lord Mackenzie of Bridekirk

Kuppenheimer GOOD CLOTHES



—an investment in good appearance

(This page, clockwise from below) François de Hadoque alerted us to this blazer from Madcap England (I actually have one and they are good value); Benjamin Negroto has spotted the NSC ties in these two adverts for Kuppenheimer clothing from the 1930s; Negroto also wondered if this is the scarf of the NSC boy scout division, while Stuart Mitchell suddenly realised his own wife Frances (see pp. 8–10) was in Club colours.



Your money entitles you to an investment, your clothes should give you a good appearance. In both ways and otherwise. Good Clothes are an Investment in Good Appearance.



Clubman Gets Hitched in Chappist Style

AUGUST SAW THE WEDDING of longtime NSC stalwart Craig “Craigoh” Young to Josie Thomas. And the proceedings were characterised by an eccentric vim and attention to detail that must surely count as quintessentially Chappist.

Craigoh asked me to take some pictures, and there was plenty to work with (you can see the full set in the Club’s Flickr account at <https://bit.ly/2n32GIW>). It’s not often you attend a wedding where the groom, dressed as Prince Albert, high-fives a banana on his way to the altar and the bride delivers her vows in a Queen Victoria voice. And that was after a costume change—earlier the couple presided over a vast cream tea, with Josie in tea dress and victory rolls and Craig in a kilt.

The venue was a marquee bedecked with symbols of Mid-Century Britishness (and Kiwiness). The happy couple had actually got married for real that morning in a Register Office, but the Registrar gamely repeated the ceremony for our benefit, under a floral arch outside with the guests seated on hay bales. It looked like rain might drive us inside but we



Costume no.1 for the first part of the day (it’s worth pointing out that Josie is a costumer by trade)

snatched victory from the jaws of inclemency and the hitching service took place outdoors as planned. After a pause to quaff Pimm’s there followed some silly games (inspired by the Chap Olympics) before feasting, speeches, cake-cutting and a live band. Congratulations to Craig and Josie on a fun, quirky and well thought-out occasion!



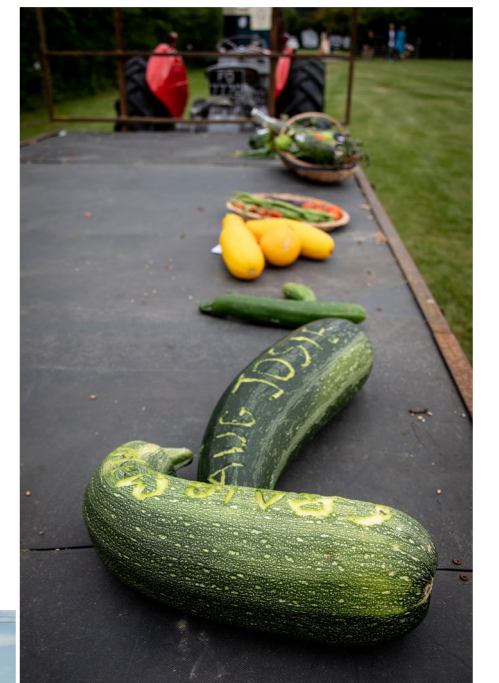
In costume no.2 the couple make their way up the aisle (the banana is Craig’s son Zack)



Corgi Tossing, part of the rich programme of outdoor games. Don't try this with real corgis



Highlights included a cream tea and trips in a vintage bus



(Above) Club regulars keeping a low profile; (right) of course there was a prize vegetable competition; (below) group shot of the eccentric crowd





Forthcoming Events



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

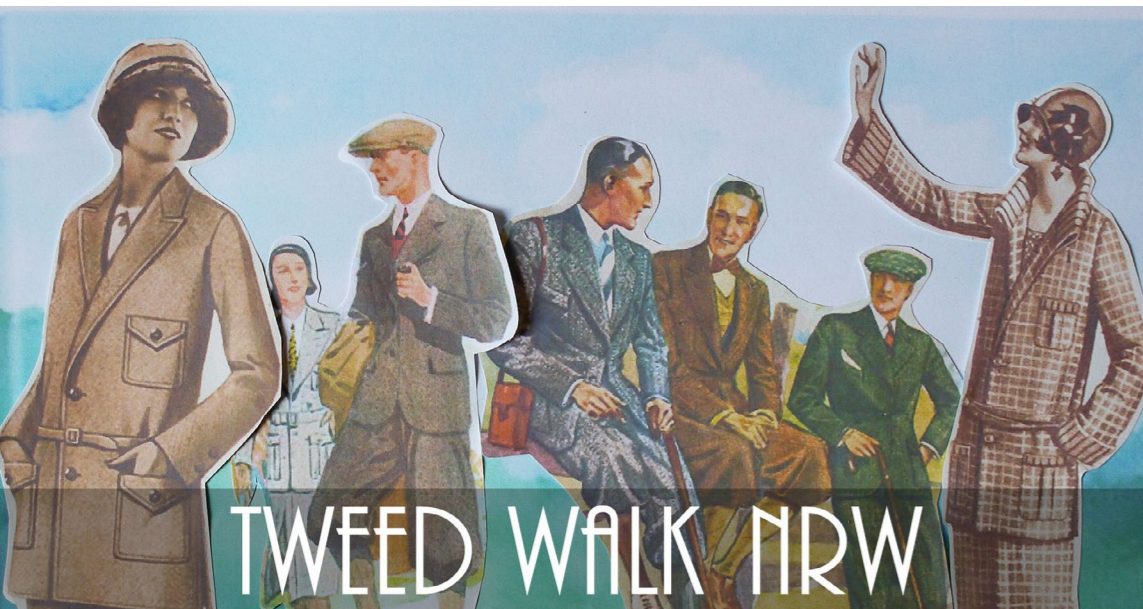
FOR THE LATEST developments, see the Events page at www.newsheridanclub.co.uk plus our Facebook page and the web forum.

🎩 NSC Club Night

Wednesday 2nd October
7pm–11pm (lecture around 8pm)
Upstairs, The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place,
London W1T 1JB
Members: Free
Non-Members: £2 (first visit free)
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.

Tweed Walk NRW

Thursday 3rd October
2–7pm
Meet in front of the Schlosscafé, Benrather
Schlossallee 108, 40597 Düsseldorf, Germany
Admission: Free
Dress: Stylish autumnal wardrobe (tweed, wool,
corduroy...)

After many requests following the “Großer
Spaziergang der Flaneure” in July it’s time
for new plans, writes Ferdinand Sturm. On
the Germany-wide holiday of Thursday 3rd
October 2019, we invite you to a small autumn
walk in beautiful Benrath and its surroundings
for another chance to celebrate good style
together! We will explore the Schlosspark
and the historic Urdenbach light-footed, hike
dynamically along the banks of the Rhine
and stop at one or another café or inn as we
please, to feast on small delicacies and relax our
strained calves. We will meet at 2 pm in front
of the Schlosscafé in Benrather Schlossallee
108. The S- and
RE-Bahnhof
“Düsseldorf-
Benrath” is in the
immediate vicinity.
Automobile drivers
are best to park at
the Stadtbücherei/
Orangerie.

Apple Pressing Afternoon

Saturday 5th Oct
1pm to 6pm-ish
One Tree Hill
Allotments, Honor
Oak Park, London



SE23 3LB

Admission: Free
Dress: Country yokel/rustic/rural labourer/
country squire (if you are not minded to
undertake labour)

Mr Ian White is ploughing his way through
bags of apples, producing juice and cider—
come and see the process, roll your sleeves up

and pitch in to this traditional rural activity.
There will be apple juice and cider, and children
are welcome (they love scratting the apples!).
More info at www.onetreehillcider.uk/apple_pressing_afternoon.html.

The Candlelight Club's Birthday Party

Saturday 5th October
7pm–12am
A secret central London location
Admission: £25 in advance
Dress: Prohibition dandies, gangsters and molls,
peaky blinders, decadent aesthetes, corrupt
politicians and the Smart Set In the Know
London's award-winning immersive
1920s-themed speakeasy party, with live jazz,
cabaret and cocktails in a secret London venue
filled with candles—this time celebrating its
birthday.

Yes, for nine years the Candlelight Club
has been keeping you in illicit hooch and foot-
stomping jazz. Our birthday party will feature
live music from Gallic crooner Benoit Viellefon
and his band, who have been delighting guests
for almost as long as the Club has been in
business. Vintage vinyl will be spun by Richard
Pucci and leading the Jazz Age birthday
singalong will be the King of Cabaret himself,
Champagne Charlie.

Ticket-holders receive an email two days
before, revealing the secret location. More at
www.thecandlelightclub.com.





The Black Tie Ballroom Club finds a new home in Colliers Wood

Black Tie Ballroom Club

Saturday 12th October
7–11.30pm
Colliers Wood Community Centre, 66–72 High Street, Colliers Wood, London SW192BY
Admission: £15–35 from Design My Night Dress: Strictly black tie, smart vintage and evening wear

Dance the waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, tango, jive, rumba and Charleston to live music and a selection of pre-war records. You are welcome just to watch, or if you can't yet dance but would like to, there's a "Learn to dance in a day class" for absolute beginners with musicality, and rusty dancers, from 10am to 4.30pm—so far all beginners with musicality have been able to dance around the floor with a partner in time to the music, looking reasonably elegant, by the end of the lesson. There is no need to bring a partner.

There are candlelit tables and chairs for all guests. Entry price includes two glasses of wine or beer, and a small portion of scampi. Doors open at 7pm with a half hour class for improvers of a new short ballroom routine, taught by former world champion Raymond Root. This is followed by one hour of pre-war dance records, then live music from 8.30pm. Doors close at 11.30pm

Activities include a quickstep bus stop, a snowball waltz, a Paul Jones and one popular sequence dance. There are photos and videos on our Facebook page and ticket link. Tickets

are £15 (early bird) or £20 (standard) on line or £25 on the door. Tickets for the class are £25, or a combined ticket for the class and the evening is £35. The venue has a free car park, and is less than five minutes walk from Colliers Wood underground station from which trains run all night. If you have any questions, feel free to phone George Tudor-Hart on 020 8542 1490.

Le Lion Rouge

Saturday 12th October

8–11pm
Leytonstone Ballroom, above the Red Lion, 640 High Road E11 3AA

Admission: £16.50 from dice.fm

Evening of burlesque, circus, comedy and vaudeville variety from Not My Circus, aiming at a blend of East End music hall and Parisian

cabaret. This time the line-up features MC Joe Morose, burlesque artist Ruby Deshabille, singer and comedian Sooz Kempner, juggler Ian Marchant and "Granarchist" Ida Barr, purveyor of Artificial Hip-Hop and edgy bingo calls.

Clerkenwell Vintage Fashion Fair

Sunday 20th October
11am–5pm
Freemasons Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

Admission: £5

Some 45 stalls offering vintage clothes, shoes, handbags, hats, gloves, textiles and jewellery from the 1800s to the 1980s. There is also a tea room, alterations booth plus sometimes live entertainment too. More details at www.clerkenwellvintagefashionfair.co.uk.

An English Lady's Wardrobe

Friday 25th October–Sunday 1st March 2020

10am–5pm
Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EL (0151 478 4199)
Admission: £9 from liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Displaying more than 70 outfits, this new exhibition explores shopping and style in Liverpool during the interwar years. It offers new insight into Liverpool's wealthy Tinne family, showcasing clothing and accessories purchased by Mrs Emily Margaret Tinne (1886–1966). The Tinne Collection is the largest collection of a single person's clothing in any UK gallery. The exhibition features daywear, evening dresses, outdoor wear, underwear and accessories, including jewellery, shoes, handbags and an impressive selection of hats. Much of the clothing dates from 1910 to 1939, reflecting the changing styles of the period.



Explore fashion between the wars at the Walker Art Gallery

In addition to Emily Tinne's clothing, the exhibition features costumes belonging to her children as well as outfits worn by the family's servants. The gallery has also been given access to a large number of letters written by members of the Tinne family, revealing new information about their lives. Central to the show is a focus on the Liverpool ladies' outfitters and department stores where many of the outfits were purchased, including Cripps on Bold Street, the Bon Marché and George Henry Lee's on Church Street and Basnett Street, Owen Owen Ltd in Clayton Square and Lewis's on Ranelagh Street.

The Candlelight Club's Halloween Ball

Saturday 26th October
7pm–12am

A secret east London location



Some of the fun at previous Candlelight Club Halloween Balls: the Gatsby Girls, the Creep Quartet, Suri Sumatra, Michelle Krausz's vintage Jewellery pop-up shop—and "TV's" Zack Pinsent



Admission: £30 in advance

Dress: Jazz Age Halloween party goes, witches and wizards, black cat minxes, dapper devils, ghostly flappers and seductive spiderwomen

London's award-winning immersive 1920s-themed speakeasy party, with live jazz, cabaret and cocktails in a secret London venue filled with candles.

The Jazz Age crowd loved nothing better than a fancy dress party—and what better excuse than Halloween? Join us for a seasonal spooktacular special in a vintage east London venue with two rooms of entertainment: in the Ballroom there will be live music from Champagne Charlie and the Bubbly Boys, eerie dance performances from the Gatsby Girls and sepulchral DJing from the Bee's Knees.

Meanwhile in the Cabaret Lounge there will be a live performance from the Creep Quartet—a string quartet playing horror movie themes—followed by a two cabaret variety shows hosted by Weimar Androgyne Victor Victoria, and featuring gothic burlesque from Suri Sumatra, uncanny magic from Neil Kelso and superhuman circus skills from Jess Love. Elsewhere we'll have tarot readings from Lucius and Foxglove, ready to reveal the full horror of your future, and sketch artist Daniela waiting to capture you in your ghoulish finery (better keep that portrait in the attic as you may find yourself staying mysteriously youthful...).

Ticket-holders receive an email two days before, revealing the secret location. More at www.thecandlelightclub.com.

"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*

Uncanny Masked Ball

Friday 1st November

7–10pm

The Freud Museum, 20 Maresfield Gardens, London, NW3 5SX United (020 7435 2002)

Admission: £20–25 in advance

Dress: Smart, with a mask

Celebrating the centenary of the publication of Freud's paper on The Uncanny, the museum currently has an exhibition on this subject

and is throwing a fundraising ball. Freud's work addressed what we find frightening, repulsive or distressing, and why, covering ghosts, doppelgangers, disembodied limbs and inanimate objects come to life. His ideas went on to inspire art, film and literature. At the ball you can view the exhibition after hours, and there will be a schedule of talks and workshops during the evening on subjects from horror films to mannequins. There will be complimentary

Take Halloween easy with lounge legend Count Indigo



canapés and your ticket includes two G&Ts courtesy of Sing Gin. More details at www.freud.org.uk.

Melloween

Friday 1st November

7pm–1am

The Union Club, 50 Greek Street, London W1D 4EQ

Admission: Free, but register at Eventbrite

Lounge legend Count Indigo stars at this free event, billed as a "70s West Coast midtempo supper-disco", launching his new yacht-pop single Bruton Street. Guest DJs are Katie Puckrik, Mellow Tone and Tres Bien, and Thomas Patterson. Time to dust down that safari suit.

“Me?” thinks Mark Christopher.
“With my reputation?”

