

PLUS:

- Duelling For Dummies
  - Free whisky tasting: what's not to like?
    - The Day of the Bowler Hat is nigh
- Ukuleles and top hats abused at the Cirque de Crème Anglaise

## How to spot a 'gentleman'

The conundrum of this most British concept

The New Sheridan Club

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# Newsletter

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XII • March 2010

*Swamp*





The New Sheridan Club traditionally meets in the upstairs room of the Wheatsheaf pub 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 here 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 here, as did Aleister Crowley, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Katherine Mansfield.

### The Next Meeting

The next Club Meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd March in the upstairs room at The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB, from 8pm until 11pm. Our guest speaker will be Mr Christian Jensen, who will tell us the tale of how he befriended a barman in Tokyo who gave him samples of vintage gins, showing how the styles popular in the 1940s were actually quite different from the typical style now. So intrigued was he by these lost flavours that he has set up his own distillery, Bermondsey Gin Ltd, to recreate classic gins of this era. If we're good, I'll warrant there may be some samples to taste...

### The Last Meeting

The Club's February meeting was an upliftingly well-attended affair; included in the throng were a number of guests, including a French photographer who had covered the Chap Olympics for *Le Figaro*, and also a couple of groups who just happened to be in the pub and were curious as to what was going on upstairs.

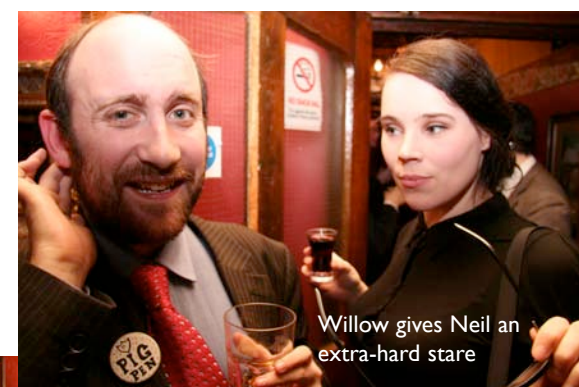
Our guest speaker was Mr Robert Brook, delivering a talk *On Being A Gentleman*, one which he had previously given last September at Interesting '09, a symposium of, well, interesting discourses that sounds like a whole year of NSC Turns rolled into one. (Mr Brook has no prior

connection with the Club; a friend of mine knew him and had heard about his speech.) His talk was really an exploration of the manifold meanings that the term can have: is a gentleman defined by birth, by behaviour, by dress? Then there is the obituary term—"yet he remained, above all, a gentleman". The term can mean that despite having none of the appearance, manner, lifestyle, background or circumstances of a gentleman there can be an aspect of one's personality that makes one one. Meanwhile someone else can mire themselves in all manner of shady dealings and frankly blackguardly behaviour, yet remain a gentleman precisely because of his appearance, manner, lifestyle, background or circumstances.

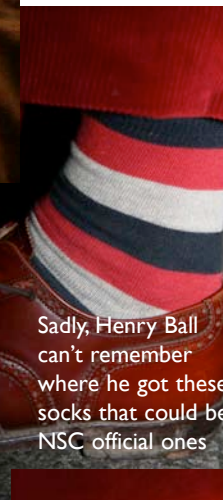
There was no real conclusion to all of this: it was really a celebration of this peculiarly English concept (Mr Brook gave examples of foreign observers who, in attempting to define the gentleman, seemed to accept that England was the spiritual home of the idea). Our speaker clearly felt that gentlemanliness was an ideal that very much still had a place—indeed that the 21st century had a strong need for it. He suggested that the people in the room were doing good work in keeping it alive, though he also commented that he was glad he could see the exit, so who knows what he really made of us? All in all a splendid and thoughtful talk and our gratitude goes to Mr Brook for taking the time to deliver it to us. His notes are on page 10.



(Right) our guest speaker Mr Robert Brook; (left) Seonaid shares a joke with Matthew and Compton-Bassett



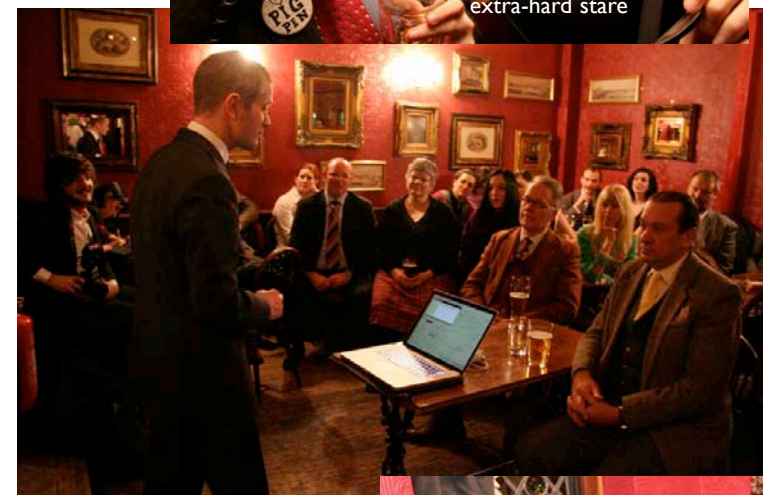
Willow gives Neil an extra-hard stare



Sadly, Henry Ball can't remember where he got these socks that could be NSC official ones



(Above) Grace joins the smoking crew, though presumably not indulging herself, in her condition; (left) Paul demonstrates his ability to generate a halo; (below) Torquil dispenses worldly advice



(Above) Mr Brook holds the audience rapt; (right) guest Mickael Korausch and chums; (below) one of the interlopers from downstairs is clearly used to being photographed



(Right) an intrigued, and frankly inebriated, Slovenian jeweller is distracted from her pursuit of Mr Krause







# Duelling For Dummies

By Anton Krause

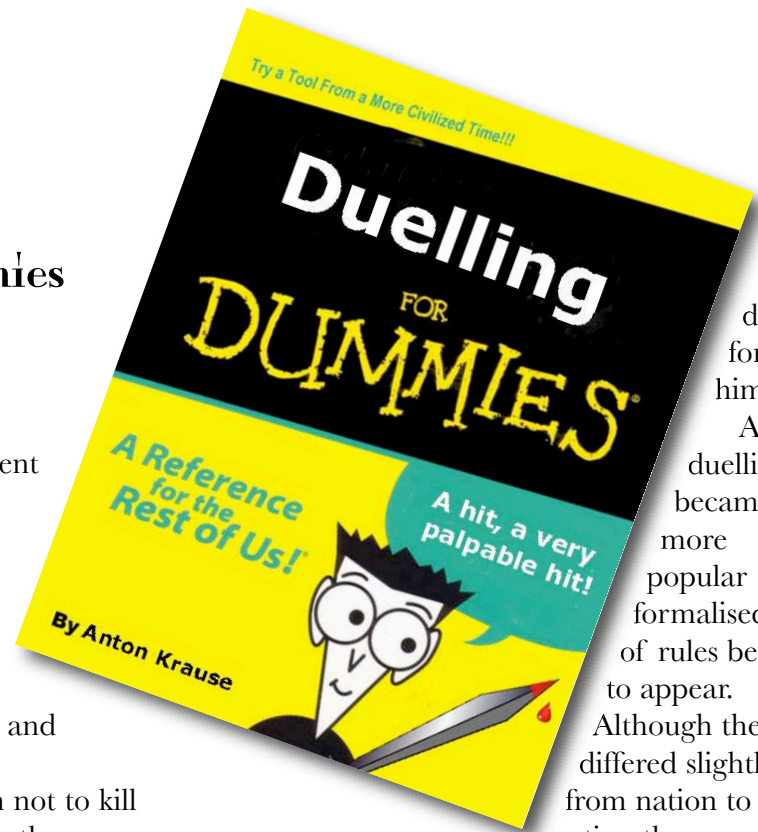
FOR THE PURPOSES of this article a duel can be defined as an engagement in combat between two individuals, with matched weapons, over a matter of honour, conducted according to an agreed set of rules or conventions. Duelling was commonly practised in European society between the 11th and early 20th centuries.

The purpose of a duel was often not to kill the opponent (although that may be the outcome) but instead to gain satisfaction, that is to restore one's honour by demonstrating a willingness to risk one's life for it. Whilst the duel is often likened to, and may have evolved from, the previous trials by combat, duels differ in that they have no official sanction and their intention was not to determine guilt or innocence. In fact duels were illegal in most of Europe for much of the time that they were practised, although they were socially accepted; participants in a fair duel were rarely prosecuted and if they were were rarely convicted.

Duelling was an upper-class past-time. Only gentlemen were considered to possess honour and so only they could lose it, and duelling was reserved for social equals. If a gentleman's honour were offended by a member of the lower classes he would not duel with him but more likely beat him with a riding crop or whip for his insolence or have his servants



An indoor duel



very similar. The conventions set out below were common to many of these codes and not taken from any one single document.

1. After an offence, either real or imagined, the offended party would demand satisfaction of the offender, either verbally or with an insulting gesture. This could consist of throwing down the gauntlet. Contrary to popular conception the challenger would not issue the challenge by slapping the offender in the face with a glove but by throwing the glove on the floor at the offender's feet. The offender would

do it for him. As duelling became more popular formalised sets of rules began to appear. Although they differed slightly from nation to nation they were



An early 20th-century outdoor duel

signal their intention to accept the challenge by picking up the glove and slapping the challenger.

2. All duels must take place during the forty-eight hours succeeding the offence, unless otherwise agreed, but at least twelve hours after the challenge, to provide a cooling-off period during which matters could be settled verbally.

3. Each party would appoint a second to represent them who would agree on a suitable field of honour where the encounter would take place. Advantageous criteria for a field of honour would include isolation, to avoid discovery and interruption, and jurisdictional ambiguity, to make it less likely that the victorious party would be prosecuted. Common land or islands in rivers dividing two jurisdictions would be ideal locations.

4. Duels typically took place at dawn when few passers-by would be stirring and poor light would mask the identities of the participants. Swordsmen duelling at dawn often carried lanterns and some fencing manuals incorporated them into their lessons, using them to blind opponents or parry blows.

5. The seconds would mark out the combat area (roughly 20 by 6 yards marked by dropped handkerchiefs) and the starting spot of each duellist (two feet between the tips of their extended weapons). To leave the field of play was considered an act of cowardice and would signify defeat without honour.

6. The seconds would also check that the weapons were of equal length and see that they were rinsed in antiseptic to avoid infection. This was not a hugely successful precaution, however, as the two most common causes of death from duelling were drowning in one's own blood due to a punctured lung or dying days later from an infection in a minor wound.

7. The sword-bearing hand could be gloved or wrapped in a handkerchief but no end was allowed to hang down that might catch the opponent's point.

8. Combatants were required to throw off their coats and unbutton their shirts to show that they wore no armour or protective clothing. This is considered to be the reason men's shirts button the opposite way to women's as it makes it easier to unbutton with the left hand.

9. At the drop of a handkerchief or the cry "Allez" the fight would commence, with the seconds close at hand with sword or cane, point down, ready to stop the fight if the rules were transgressed. Doctors would also be in attendance.

10. Unless previously agreed combatants were not allowed to ward off opponents' blows with their unarmed hand and if they transgressed the offending hand would be tied behind their backs. (This is from the 1836 Code and would not have applied during the rapier-and-dagger era).

11. Opponents were allowed to stoop, rise, vault to the right or left and turn around each





Illustration of the perfect lunge by the Italian fencing master Ridolfo Capo Ferro, from 1610

other “as practiced in the fencing lessons and depicted in the various treatises on the art”.

12. When one man was wounded the fight was stopped by his second (by raising his cane or sword and crying “strike up the blades” and the wound inspected by a surgeon.

13. Fights could be fought  
a. To first blood (rare, considered dishonourable and unmanly), in which case the duel would end here with honour satisfied.

b. Until one party was unable to continue, in which case the wound would be inspected and the combatant possibly sent back into the ring, or

c. Until death (also rare, although death often resulted from the second case).

14. If two serving officers were involved and one were to receive a disabling injury, had the duel been arranged with the permission of the injured party’s commanding officer it would have been considered a battle wound and entitle the bearer to a pension.

15. There were even special regulations for bishops, despite their being forbidden to fight by the church.

The formality of the duel favoured weapons that enforced physical distancing. Brawling was not considered gentlemanly. This first meant swords and then later pistols which did away with physical contact altogether. For many years both weapons were used and a choice could be offered by the challenger. Surprisingly, pistols were generally safer. As Lord Peter Wimsey put it, “A bullet, you see, may go anywhere, but



Rapier-and-dagger technique, depicted by Italian master Giacomo Di'Grassi

steel’s bound to go somewhere.”

Over the centuries the European sword gradually got smaller and lighter, evolving from the two-handed broadsword of the era of chivalry, through the hand-and-a-half or “bastard” sword to the rapier. The rapier was the first true civilian sword, its name coming from the Spanish *espada ropera*, or “sword of the robe”, and it was designed to be worn with civilian clothing. Although light enough to be used in one hand it was still too heavy to be easily manoeuvred between attack and defence and was often paired with a companion weapon. This could be a parrying dagger or *main gauche*, a buckler (a small shield which straps to the fist) or even one’s cloak if attacked unawares (hence the term “cloak and dagger”).

Following the rapier came the French small-sword, a weapon that was very light and manoeuvrable and required no companion, leading to the side-on stance seen in modern fencing, with the unarmed hand out of the way.

The small-sword, the predecessor of the modern *épée*, was a thrusting weapon only, with no cutting edge and no weight to facilitate effective cutting penetration. What it did have, however, was the deadly combination of a razor-sharp point and blinding speed. As the sword became lighter fencing masters and practitioners realised that the thrust was much more effective than the cut, being both faster and less telegraphed, and the fact that a punctured torso was likely to lead to the loss of a major organ. For these reasons the small-sword is considered by many to be the ultimate duelling blade.

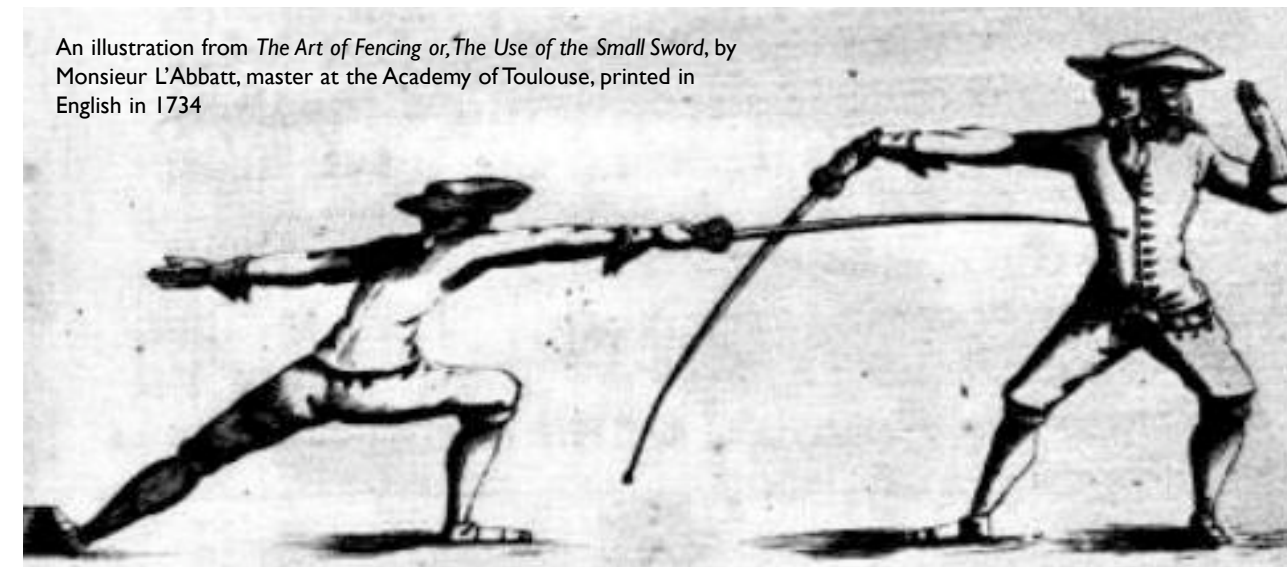
To give an idea of the numbers involved here are some statistics from various European countries:

• A bill outlawing duelling (one of many) was passed in the House of Commons in 1844. In the debate one member reckoned that during

The origin of the term “cloak and dagger”



An illustration from *The Art of Fencing or, The Use of the Small Sword*, by Monsieur L'Abbatt, master at the Academy of Toulouse, printed in English in 1734



the reign of King George III there had been 172 duels, 91 of which had led to fatalities.

• King Louis XIII of France outlawed duelling in 1626 and duels remained illegal in France ever after. At least one nobleman was beheaded for fighting a duel during Louis’ reign and his successor Louis XIV intensified efforts to wipe out the epidemic of duelling. To no avail. Between 1685 and 1716 French officers fought over 10,000 duels leading to over 400 deaths. Note that the number of duels is high but the percentage leading to death quite low and it was often said that duelling in France was treated as a fashion accessory. Mark Twain once quipped that, “The French duel is the most health-giving of recreations owing to the open-air exercise it affords.”

• In Italy from 1879 to 1889, 2,759 duels were reported, 93 per cent with swords; 3,901 wounds were inflicted, 1,066 serious, 50 fatal.

Duelling was never eradicated but gradually it became less fashionable as the new scientific age came in. Fencing became a sport and duelling with sharp blades was considered barbaric. Boxing also took some of its mantle as the Queensberry Rules encouraged gentlemen to settle their grievances in the ring with gloves rather than swords or pistols.

As Oscar Wilde said, “To abolish war, show it not as wicked but as vulgar.” It didn’t work for war but it did for duelling. In the end it disappeared when it came to be considered not gallant but vulgar.





## The City Gets Ahead With a Hat (For One Day At Least)

“AS I WORK in the Gherkin I’m used to seeing lots of gentlemen dressing ‘properly’,” says Alex Meredith, an associate of law firm Hunton & Williams. “But you never seem to see them wearing hats any more. If you think about it, it’s a bit sad and odd, particularly as you lose so much heat through your head and many of them are a bit thin on top.”

Mr Meredith’s reasoning may seem a bit strange—surely you don’t need heat-retention as an excuse to don a tither?—but his sentiments are laudable and his response was to organise Bowler Hat Day, wherein denizens of the Square Mile are encouraged to sport what Lock & Co. still call a “Coke” but most of us call a bowler. Money is raised for SOS Children’s Villages (this year specifically targeted at Haiti) by selling flimsy



Albion sans whiskerage

“hats” on the day, Thursday 11th February, as well as bowler hat pin badges.

In the evening there was a gathering at the lovely Leadenhall Market with mulled wine for sale, a live jazz band, a male voice choir and later a performance in a nearby shebeen by an certain Basement Jaxx. There was also a strange competition where you were presented with a Mini motor car (one of the modern ones, I’m afraid) that had been rather incongruously adorned with bowler hats. This had the effect of making it look ill and covered with buboes, or perhaps just like something out of the imagination of H. P. Lovecraft or William Burroughs, a cyborg beast with a thousand

nipples. Anyway, you had to guess how many hats there were. I decided it was unsporting simply to count them. I had been under the impression that the prize was the car itself, but in fact you would simply win the use of it for a weekend, which seemed a bit niggardly but I suppose there is a recession on.

The turn-out was thinner than I had expected, but it was a cold day. And there is a recession on. Still, I had an interesting 20 minutes

there before bustling on to the Film Night: I bumped into Mr Mickael Korasch, the French photographer who came to our last Club Night (there’s a photo of him on page 3). His pictures were frankly better than mine; you can see one on the back cover. Then I was hailed by a fellow who turned out to be our own Albion—hard to recognise without his muttonchop whiskers. I was also accosted by the manager of the market who was attracted by my attire, I think, and assumed that I was “in costume” as one of the organisers. I lost no opportunity to spread the word about the NSC.

All in all, Bowler Hat Day is, it goes without saying, a noble enterprise and we wish it well for next year.



Dear Lord, please heal this car



## Saharan Saunter— Down But Not Out!

By Major G. A. W.

CHUMRADES,

Following the report from Dr Leavingsoon [Newsletter No. XL, last month], I felt it necessary to reinforce it with my own input.

’Tis true that we have had a few let-downs by prospective sponsors, interested parties and film companies, etc., but as a unit we, the WDRG, are continuing in our endeavour to get our vehicles and troops to Africa. I see it as immensely important to ensure everything we do is centred round our main objective—to highlight the bravery and lifestyle of these desert heroes and raise money for our selected charities.

K Troop in New Zealand have slimmed down their operation and membership, with a few stalwarts still hanging on, with the hope of keeping the troop together and to join us in Africa. We in B Troop are slowly consolidating our operations to absorb the Kiwis into our vehicle plot. We continue refurbishment, carrying out publicity and marketing events, growing our workforce and supporters. Over the next few months we will be attempting finally to capture a main sponsor and an alternative film company as a contingency in case our plans change.

In summary, we’ve travelled a long journey but there is a slow slog uphill to reach our final summit. Thanks are in order to the K Troop members and to all of the WDRG people who have contributed so far with the hope of a further sterling effort in our next push. We will be taking a good hard look at our non-contributors and inviting them to leave or show commitment in the near future, but that will be another story.

Yours aye,  
Major G. A. W.  
Expedition Leader and CO WDRG



The Major himself





# On Being a 'Gentleman'

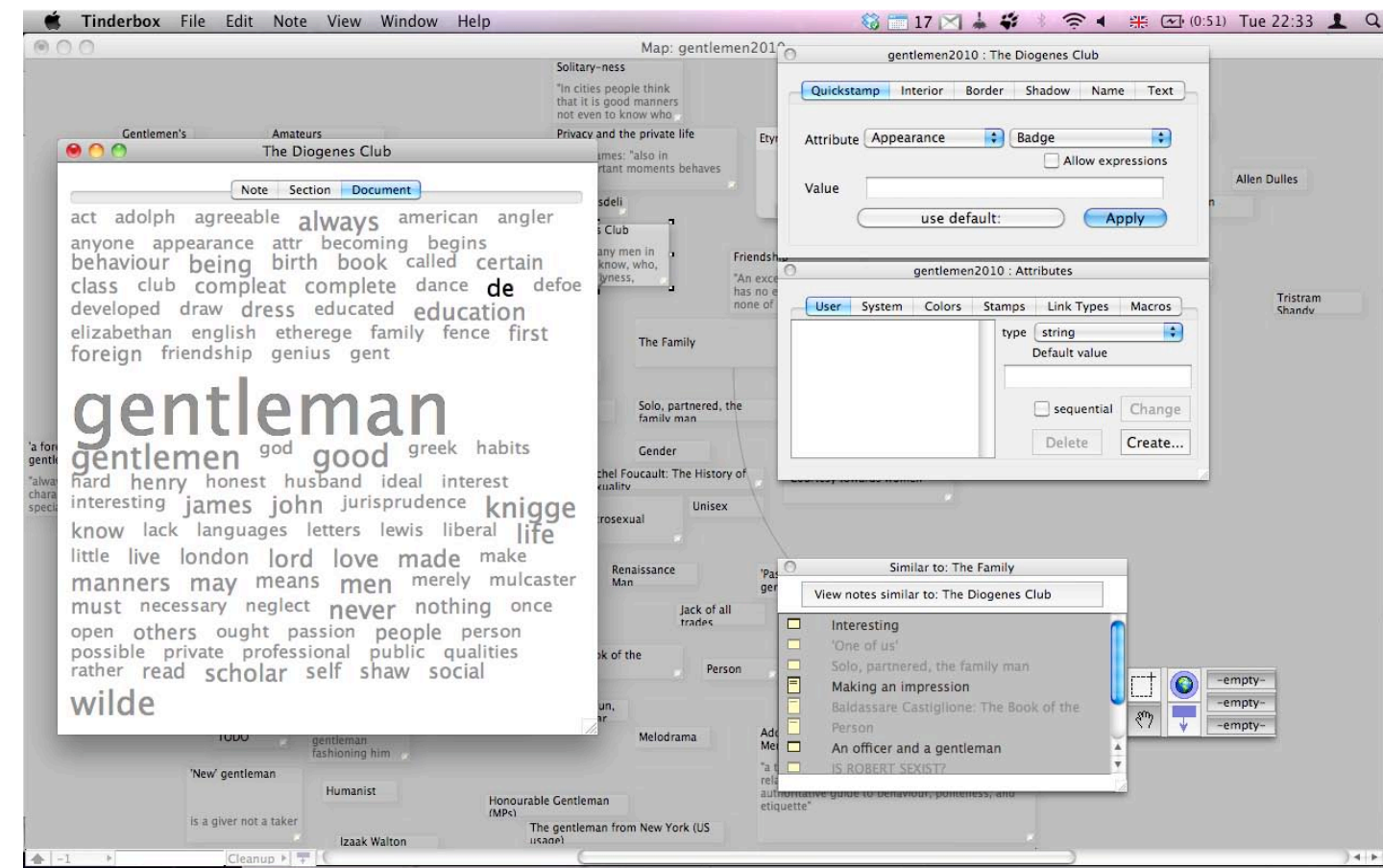
By Robert Brook

At our February meeting Mr Brook delivered a talk that he had previously essayed at Interesting '09 (elusive, but try <http://russelldavies.typepad.com/planning/interesting2009>). His notational system seems eccentric at best (see graphic) but he has offered up his unedited notes and I thought it stimulating to present them simply as they are.

THESE ARE VERY ROUGH NOTES, slightly expanded from my original talk at Interesting 2009.

- 1 "New" gentleman is a giver not a taker, threads through life gently, enabling, not imposing, is educated and respectful of others
- 2 Gentlemen's club
- 3 Euphemism for strip clubs
- 4 Etymology
  - 4.1 or from French; later "a gentle man"
  - 4.2 from Latin, "belonging to the same stock"
  - 4.3 "The Gents"—toilets
  - 4.4 Used politely, sarcastically, passive-aggressively
  - 4.5 Valet: the gentleman's gentleman
  - 4.6 Smithers
  - 4.7 Jeeves
  - 5 Not a gentleman?
    - 5.1 Professionals: Popper, quoting Aristotle: "Every form of professionalism means a loss of class. A feudal gentleman must never take too much interest in 'any occupation, art or science ... there are also some liberal arts, that is to say, arts which a gentleman may acquire, but always only to a certain degree. For if he takes too much interest in them, these evil effects will follow.'"
      - Aristotle fearing to be seen as a professional: "The first principle of all action is leisure." *Three Men in a Boat*.
      - "Really, if the lower orders don't set us a

- good example, what on earth is the use of them?" Wilde
  - 5.2 Man, manly, macho. Cardinal Newman: should cause no-one pain.
    - "Riches and rank have no necessary connection with genuine gentlemanly qualities."
    - "The true gentleman ... avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those among whom he is cast" Dinah Craik, *John Halifax*
  - 5.3 Heroes. "Anyone can be heroic from time to time, but a gentleman is something you have to be all the time." Luigi Pirandello
  - 5.4 Leaders
  - 5.5 Valets de chambre
  - 5.6 Tradesmen. "I heard that you were a tradesman; I found out myself you were a gentleman. I do not think the two facts incompatible, nor does my husband." *John Halifax*
  - 5.7 Shakespeare
  - 5.8 Moliere
  - 5.9 The Lord Chamberlain's Men
  - 5.10 Chaucer. The end of the knight and the beginning of the gentleman: defending his name, virtuous, private.
  - 5.11 The King's Men
  - 5.12 The famous
  - 5.13 Celebrities
  - 5.14 Warriors, soldiers
  - 5.15 Sherlock Holmes
  - 5.16 Criminals
  - 5.17 The gentleman-thief, or gentleman-robber
  - 5.18 Gentleman of the road
  - 5.19 Tramp
  - 5.20 Highwayman
  - 5.21 Dick Turpin
  - 5.22 Charlie Chaplin. A tramp, a gentleman, a poet, a dreamer, a lonely fellow, always hopeful of romance and adventure. Charlie Chaplin
    - 5.23 Raffles
    - 5.24 James Moriarty
    - 5.25 Sportsmen
    - 5.26 Walter Raleigh
    - 5.27 4-minute mile
    - 5.28 "The sport of gentlemen". Cricket. American Baseball
    - 5.29 An officer and a gentleman
    - 5.30 Wellington. Waterloo: the triumph of the gentleman over the professional?



- Wellington as gentleman: pragmatic, amateur.
  - 5.31 Napoleon
  - 5.32 Nelson
  - 5.33 The Citizen
  - 5.34 Gentleman-farmer. Book by Lord Henry Kames. Previously: a hunter. No knowledge of "chemistry" required.
  - 5.35 The Prince Regent: "the first gentleman of his day"
  - 5.36 Electors
  - 5.37 Lords
  - 5.38 John Steed
  - 5.39 James Bond
  - 6 Phileas Fogg
  - 7 Solitary-ness. "In cities people think that it is good manners not even to know who lives in the same building." attr. Knigge
    - "People far too easily neglect or abuse us, as soon as we become intimate with them. To live pleasantly, one must almost always remain a stranger in the crowd." Knigge
    - "An apology? Bah! Disgusting! Cowardly! Beneath the dignity of any gentleman, however wrong he might be." Steve Martin
  - 8 Privacy and the private life. Henry James: "also in unimportant moments behaves well"

- "When you are alone, never let your clothing fall into disarray. Do not allow yourself to be dirty, have poor posture, or have rude manners when no one is observing you." Knigge
- 9 The Diogenes Club. "There are many men in London, you know, who, some from shyness, some from misanthropy, have no wish for the company of their fellows. Yet they are not averse to comfortable chairs and the latest periodicals." Conan Doyle: *The Greek Interpreter*
- 10 Maps
- 11 "The Spectrum"
- 12 Timetables
- 13 Spotters
- 14 The Family. "For a person of understanding, interacting with children is endlessly interesting. Here one sees the book of nature thrown open, stripped of artificiality." Knigge
  - "A loyal son, a true husband, an honest father" Thackeray
- 15 Batchelors
- 16 Gender
- 17 Unisex
- 18 Amateurs. "A gentleman is one who puts more into the world than he takes out." Shaw
  - "Repose and cheerfulness are the badge of

the gentleman—repose in energy.” Emerson  
 19 Southern gent  
 20 A real gent  
 21 The bosses’ party  
 22 Jonathan Agnew  
 23 Gentlemen and Players. Respectability:  
 Players wishing to be seen as Gentlemen  
 24 Gentleman by costume  
 24.1 Style. “It is better to have a permanent  
 income than to be fascinating.” Wilde  
 24.2 Making an impression. “One should  
 never forget that society would rather be  
 amused than instructed.” attr. Knigge

24.3 Fashion.  
 Giorgio Armani: “You  
 should not dress for the  
 job that you have, but  
 for the one you want.”  
 “Appearance blinds,  
 whereas words reveal.”  
 Wilde

“If I am occasionally  
 a little over-dressed, I  
 make up for it by  
 always being immensely  
 over-educated.” Wilde  
 “Good clothes are  
 not good habits.” Bp.  
 Doane

24.4 Taste  
 25 Gentleman by  
 behaviour. Etherege: “A  
 complete gentleman ...  
 ought to dress well,  
 dance well, fence well,  
 have a genius for  
 love-letters, and an agreeable voice for a  
 chamber.”

25.1 Manners as an indication of class.  
 Symbolic acts of deference: greetings, “residual  
 gallantries”.

“Nowadays we are all of us so hard up that  
 the only pleasant things to pay are  
 compliments” Wilde

25.2 Morality over birth  
 25.3 Gentleman “by deed”  
 25.4 “Good manners cost nothing”

“Propriety of manners, and consideration for  
 others, are the two main characteristics of a  
 gentleman.” Disraeli

25.5 Moral standards. “To be good,  
 according to the vulgar standard of goodness, is

obviously quite easy. It merely requires a certain  
 amount of sordid terror, a certain lack of  
 imaginative thought, and a certain low passion  
 for middle-class respectability.” Wilde

26 Courtesy towards women. “A gentleman  
 is a patient wolf” Lana Turner. “Between men  
 and women there is no friendship possible.  
 There is passion, enmity, worship, love, but no  
 friendship.” Wilde

“The more you act like a lady, the more he’ll  
 act like a gentleman.” Sydney Biddle Barrows

“Courtesy is as much a mark of a gentleman  
 as courage.” Roosevelt



27 Gentleman by  
 rules. “Read, write,  
 draw, sing, can speak  
 foreign languages, a  
 scholar and ... also ...  
 theology and  
 jurisprudence.”  
 Elizabethan, Richard  
 Mulcaster

28 Gentlemen’s  
 Relish

29 “A certain type of  
 gentleman”

30 A “foreign  
 gentleman”. “Always  
 characterized as a  
 special expression of  
 British national  
 character”—  
 de.wikipedia

“I do not know the  
 American gentleman,  
 God forgive me for

putting two such words together.” Dickens  
 “Being a gentleman is the number one  
 priority, the chief question integral to our  
 national life.” Edward Fox

31 Gentlemen through education  
 31.1 Don Quixote. “Reading made Don  
 Quixote a gentleman. Believing what he read  
 made him mad.” George Bernard Shaw

31.2 Being made a gentleman  
 “Education begins the gentleman, but  
 reading, good company, and reflection must  
 finish him” John Locke

31.3 Finishing schools  
 31.4 Public schools

31.5 “He’s no gentleman!” Lewis Mumford:  
 the ideal of the gentleman was more of a

generalist who knows a bit of everything, but  
 nothing too much.

31.6 Defoe. *The Compleat English Gentleman*  
 (1728) sets out Defoe’s view that anyone could  
 become an English gentleman, regardless of  
 birth. All that is needed is a good education,  
 and sufficient wealth.

Defoe’s era saw much popular interest in the  
 instructional handbook and behaviour  
 manual—its sales were beaten only by *Robinson*  
*Crusoe*—with new editions appearing well into  
 the nineteenth century.

31.7 vs. Scholar. Hugh Crompton:  
 “born a Gentleman and bred up a  
 Scholar”—contrasts?

Social attitudes towards  
 scholars

“He was the product of  
 an English public school  
 and university. He was,  
 moreover, a modern  
 product of those seats  
 of athletic exercise. He  
 had little education and  
 highly developed  
 muscles—that is to say,  
 he was no scholar, but  
 essentially a gentleman.”  
 H. Seton Merriman

31.8 *The Adventures of a*  
*Gentleman*, Edward Lytton  
 Bulwer.

31.9 Meritocratic criteria  
 31.10 Thomas Smith: *De*  
*Republica Anglorum*: “gentlemen ... be  
 made good cheape in England.”

“Whosoever studieth the laws of the realme,  
 who studieth in the universities, who professeth  
 liberal sciences, and to be shorte, can live idly  
 and without manuell labour, and will bear the  
 port, charge and countenance of a gentleman,  
 he shall be called master ... and be taken for a  
 gentleman.”

32 “my gentleman friend”  
 33 “a gentlemens’ agreement”

34 A gentleman in defeat  
 35 Renaissance Man

36 Jack of all trades  
 37 The chap

38 Solo, partnered, the family man  
 39 Outward appearance. “A gentleman with  
 a pug nose is a contradiction in terms.” Poe

“Gentlemen never wear brown in London.”  
 Lord Curzon

40 The gentry  
 41 Gentrification

42 Beschleunigungsdelirium. “There is more  
 to life than increasing its speed.” Mahatma  
 Gandhi

43 Gentleman as title  
 43.1 Coat of arms and property

43.2 C. S. Lewis. “A gentleman, once it has  
 been spiritualised and refined out of its old  
 coarse, objective sense, means hardly more than  
 a man whom the speaker likes. As a  
 result, gentleman is now a useless  
 word.”

44 Of independent  
 means. “No gentleman  
 ever has any money.”

“Hard work is simply  
 the refuge of people who  
 have nothing whatever  
 to do.” Wilde

45 Greek ideal man  
 46 TODO Isaak

Walton (*Compleat Angler*)  
 google scholar  
 orpheus books

google books: defoe  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentleman>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolph\\_Freiherr\\_Knigge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolph_Freiherr_Knigge)

<http://www.archive.org/stream/compleatenglishg00deforich>

47 The Grand Tour  
 47.1 Watercolours

47.2 Baedeker  
 48 “Passing as a gentleman.” Drag kings

49 As figure of fun, ridicule or fear  
 50 Melodrama

51 The gentleman’s daughter  
 52 Tristram Shandy

53 Person. “I am at heart a gentleman.”  
 Marlene Dietrich

54 Allen Dulles  
 55 Gentleman spy

56 “One of us”  
 57 Henry Peacham. The compleat  
 gentleman fashioning him absolute in the most  
 necessary and commendable qualities





concerning minde or bodie that may be required in a noble gentleman, imprinted at London, 1622

58 Izaak Walton. *The Complete Angler*—leisurely labours

“The additions made as the work grew were not merely to the technical part; happy quotations, new turns of phrase, songs, poems and anecdotes were introduced as if the leisurely author, who wrote it as a recreation, had kept it constantly in his mind and talked it over point by point with his numerous brethren.”

“No man can lose what he never had.”

59 The Gentleman’s Magazine

60 A gentleman despite afflictions. “A gentleman can live through anything.” William Faulkner

“But we have been to the Pole and we shall die like gentlemen. I regret only for the women we leave behind.” Scott

61 The last gentleman

62 Confucius. First Aim: Individual Perfection Through Self-cultivation; Careful Thinking; Open-mindedness; Unselfishness; Discipline; Careful Speaking; Careful Acting; Second Aim: Social Harmony Through Exemplary Conduct; A Virtuous Leader; Who promotes talented and honest people to positions of responsibility?

(Organisational Dynamics)

63 Honourable Gentleman (MPs)

64 The gentleman from New York (US usage)

65 Baldassare Castiglione: *The Book of the Courtier*, 1561 Verbal and physical grace, rather than ethical considerations.

66 Michel Foucault: : *The History of Sexuality*. “Sexuality” not a “natural” state, but developed over time through discourse.

“A gentleman may love like a lunatic, but not

like a beast.” François de la Rochefoucauld

“I find it sad that by not talking about who I sleep with, that makes me mysterious. There was a time when I would have been called a gentleman.” Kevin Spacey

“Most gentlemen don’t like love, they just like to kick it around.” Cole Porter

67 Lack of unpleasant habits

68 Humanist

69 Self-help

70 Adolph Knigge: “Über den Umgang mit Menschen” (On Human Relations) “A treatise on the fundamental principles of human relations that has the reputation of being the authoritative guide to behaviour, politeness, and etiquette”

“Act well and properly, less to please others, more to keep your own self-respect.”

“One of the most important virtues in social life, a virtue that is becoming less common by the day, is discretion.”

71 Friendship. “An excellent man: he has no enemies, and none of his friends like him.” Wilde on Shaw

“The final test of a gentleman is his respect for those who can be of no possible service to him.” William Phelps

72 The metrosexual. “The home seems to me to be the proper sphere for the man.

And certainly once a man begins to neglect his domestic duties he becomes painfully effeminate, does he not?” Wilde

Wilde

73 IS ROBERT SEXIST?

74 Gentleman by birth. “I can make a lord, but only God can make a gentleman.” King James I

75 Sexual threat

76 Interesting

This is robertbrook.github.com, where I post things I write.

Robert Brook mail@robertbrook.com



James I



## Ukuleles Out in Force

FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY saw the quarterly musical extravaganza that is the Cirque de Crème Anglaise in London’s King’s Cross. The connection with the NSC is simply that three of the host band, The Furbelows, are Members, as is the house DJ Fruity Hatfield-Peverel (“MC Fruity”). The music is a mixed bag, mostly contemporary but with a quirky, humorous, theatrical bent and a strong dose of cabaret and vaudeville.

I think I can honestly say that this event was the most successful yet. Not only did we have the biggest turn-out but the audience threw themselves into the spirit with especial gusto. After the last band downed tools at around midnight, instead of drifting off into the night much of the crowd lingered to dance



Fruity spins shellac in his deco den



Uke Attack! Uke Attack!



Mr Z of CalatrilloZ



The Furbelows give a typically low-energy performance

me later that they had gone down so well that he’d been cleaned out of calling cards afterwards.

The second band were The Baron and the General, a mysterious troupe who describe their music as “a nylon forest whistling funerals for the dead of night”. In practice it is jangly folk-rock with dark, ancient themes. After them were the Furbelows themselves, snarling and gurning their way through a set of fop-rock.

The final live act were CalatrilloZ (no idea about the name, I’m afraid). Front man “Mr Z” is a sometime opera singer, and it shows—the music could best be described as operatic Brazilian metal, with Mr Z himself barefoot and stripped to the waist, covered in face and body paint and sporting a white top hat.

The next event is on Friday 14th May and, as usual, there will be a free badge for every guest and free custard creams all night!







## CLUB NOTES

### Court and Social

MATRIMONY IS in the air. On Saturday 27th March Viscount Rushen and Lady Windermere tie the knot at their fastness on the Isle of Man. I always expected that I would be able to describe their event as the first true Club wedding (in the sense that both parties met through being members of the Club), but in fact they may have been pipped at the post by Harry and Grace Iggulden, who got hitched on 20th February at St Peter's at South Weald,



Harry Iggulden and Grace, née Claydon

Chelmsford. (I'm not actually sure whether Harry was a Member at the time that he met Grace.) Historians of the future will argue the toss over this matter no doubt.

Another happy event was the birth of Lily Charlotte Elizabeth Howard, on 25th February at 4.53am at Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield, weighing in at 8lb 9oz. She is, of



Lily Charlotte Elizabeth Howard, with parents Liz and Matthew. Her precocious talent for art is in evidence behind them

course, daughter of the Committee's own Matthew "The Chairman" Howard. Hearty congrats to all concerned.

### New Members

I WOULD LIKE to plunge the épée of bonhomie into the bosoms of the following types who have signed up for Club Membership in the last month: Robert Hereward Best, Mickael Korasch, John Watson, Montague Gaylord Greene and Thaddeus "Tadpole" Brunswick.

### Forthcoming Events

FOR THE LATEST developments, see the Events page at [www.newsheridanclub.co.uk](http://www.newsheridanclub.co.uk).

#### NSC Club Night

Wednesday 3rd February  
8pm–11pm  
Upstairs, The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB  
Members: Free  
Non-Members: £2 (first visit free)  
See page 3.

#### The Fitzrovia Radio Hour

Until Saturday 6th March  
8pm  
The Swan, The Globe Theatre (exhibition entrance), Bankside, London  
Admission: £10

The mighty Fitzrovia Radio Hour perform vintage 1930s radio plays (well, they claim these are original plays, but I have my doubts) live, in proper evening wear and cut-glass accents, with much comic business derived from the live production of sound effects. For the final leg of this run the show they are doing is called *Ambition!*

## Whisky Galore

Neil Ridley, Drinks Correspondent for *The Chap* will be popping by later this month to present four differently-styled single malt whiskies from Scotland.

The range, representing the Highlands, Lowlands, Islands and Speyside, demonstrates the rich heritage of Scotch whisky and the array of different flavours and aromas one can discover within a single malt.

Mr Ridley will guide us through each whisky (Glenkinchie, Dalwhinnie, The Singleton Of Dufftown and



Talisker), describing how the spirit begins its life and slowly matures in casks until it is ready to be bottled.

The tasting will last for around an hour and Neil hopes you will leave knowing more about the heart of Scottish whisky and more importantly, the particular style which suits your palate.

The event will be free but places are limited to 30 people so please email [telegrams@newsheridanclub.co.uk](mailto:telegrams@newsheridanclub.co.uk) if you would like to attend.

**Wednesday 17th March, 7pm–11pm, Upstairs room, The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB**

*Exploration! Invasion!* More details at [www.fitzroviaradio.co.uk](http://www.fitzroviaradio.co.uk).

#### Old Town Come to Town

Saturday 6th March (and probably Sunday too, I should think)  
Spitalfields, London

Old Town, Norfolk-based purveyors of fine new clothing based on old designs, are having one of their (twice annual, I believe) visits to London, where their wares will be on display. Miss Willey hasn't actually said where, but if it's the same as last time then it is in a spectacular house in Spitalfields. Don't just roll up, though: Miss Willey prefers you to book a time slot in advance, telephone 01263 710001.

Mouthful O' Jam presents

#### Vintage Dancing: A night of 1920s–50s Hot Jazz, Swing and Rhythm and Blues

Saturday 6th March  
7.30pm–2am  
The Salisbury Pub Hotel, 1 Grande Parade, Green Lanes, Haringey, London, N4 1JX  
Admission: £5

A night of 20s–50s hot jazz, swing and early jump blues DJed by London's top 78 spinners, Swing Maniac, Tim Hellzapoppin' and Kid Krupa, laying down original shellac recordings. Come early for dinner at this gastro-pub.

Beginners Swing dance lesson with Gaia Facchini starts at 7:30pm. On this occasion there is also a New Orleans jazz band, The Strange Pretty Things, recently of the 100 Club.

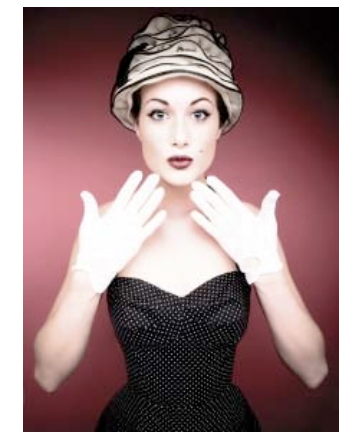
#### Blind Lemon Vintage Fashion Fair

Sunday 7th March  
10.30am–5pm  
George Hall, Brangywn Hall, The Guildhall, Swansea  
Admission: £4.50 (£3.50 concs)

Vintage everything from Victoriana to the 1970s (shudder). Buy a ticket by noon and you go into the midday draw for £100 in vouchers.

#### Blind Lemon Vintage Fashion Fair

Sunday 14th March  
10.30am–5pm  
Pittville Pump Rooms, Pittville Park, Cheltenham  
Admission: £4.50 (£3.50 concs)  
See above.



#### Hep Cats' Holiday Weekender

Friday 12th–Monday 15th March



Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Park, London Road, Kessingland, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7PF

Admission: from £154 per person (chalets for 2-8 people sharing)

A celebration of 40s and 50s music and style, with many live bands, disc jockeys and swing dance teachers, plus classic movie screenings, a vintage clothing market, retro art exhibition, barber and beauty salon and other leisure facilities. See [www.hepcatsholiday.com](http://www.hepcatsholiday.com).

### NSC Whisky Tasting

Wednesday 17th March

7pm-11pm

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

Admission: Free

See box on page 18.

### Double R Club

Thursday 18th March

8pm-11.45pm

Bethnal Green Working Men's Club, Pollard Row, London, E2 6NB (020 7739 2727)

Admission: £10

A night of "Lynchian" (as in David) cabaret



and burlesque packaged with music described as "twisted rock and roll, sinister jazz and wailing junk blues". Sounds scary but our Chairman Torquil Arbuthnot vouches that it's a very good night. The fun this time includes Burly Q, Fancy Chance, Craig the Incredible Hula Boy, Tom Baker, Cat Aclysmic, Tricity Vogue, Lucy Longlegs, Blanche DeBois, Miss Delphi Whitelight. We are advised that "the availability of tables is released to our mailing list one week before the event". To join the mailing list email [therrclub@gmail.com](mailto:therrclub@gmail.com) with "mail list" in the subject box. Advance tickets from WeGotTickets.

The Home Front presents

### Forward March

Saturday 20th March

7-11pm

St Gabriel's Hall, Glasgow Terrace, London, SW1V 3AA

Admission: £7 in advance (0208 690 6416) or £8 on the door

Dress: Strictly Allied uniform or 1940s/1950s

A night of swing, jump jive, rhythm and blues and much dancing in a 1940s hall. There will be a free shag class from

7pm till 8pm and a vintage clothing stall courtesy of Dressing 4 Impressing.

### Bartitsu Training Course

Sundays from 21st March to 25th April 3pm

Farnborough Leisure Centre, Westmead, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7LD

Admission: £55 for the course of six classes.

However, members of the New Sheridan Club may claim a £10 discount: email [james@safeism.com](mailto:james@safeism.com) or telephone 07590 422806.

If you attended our summer party last year you will recall a demonstration of Bartitsu, the "walking stick martial art" devised by E. W. Barton-Wright at the end of the Victorian era. The demonstrator, James Marwood, is now giving a course of lessons in a version of this discipline. "We teach modern, effective self defence, based on the Bartitsu system," he says. "Using a mixture of Eastern and Western martial arts, dealing with both armed and unarmed encounters we apply traditional skills and modern training methods to give fun and practical martial art instruction." For more details see [www.modernbartitsu.com](http://www.modernbartitsu.com).

White Mischief presents

### The Great Exhibition

Saturday 27th March

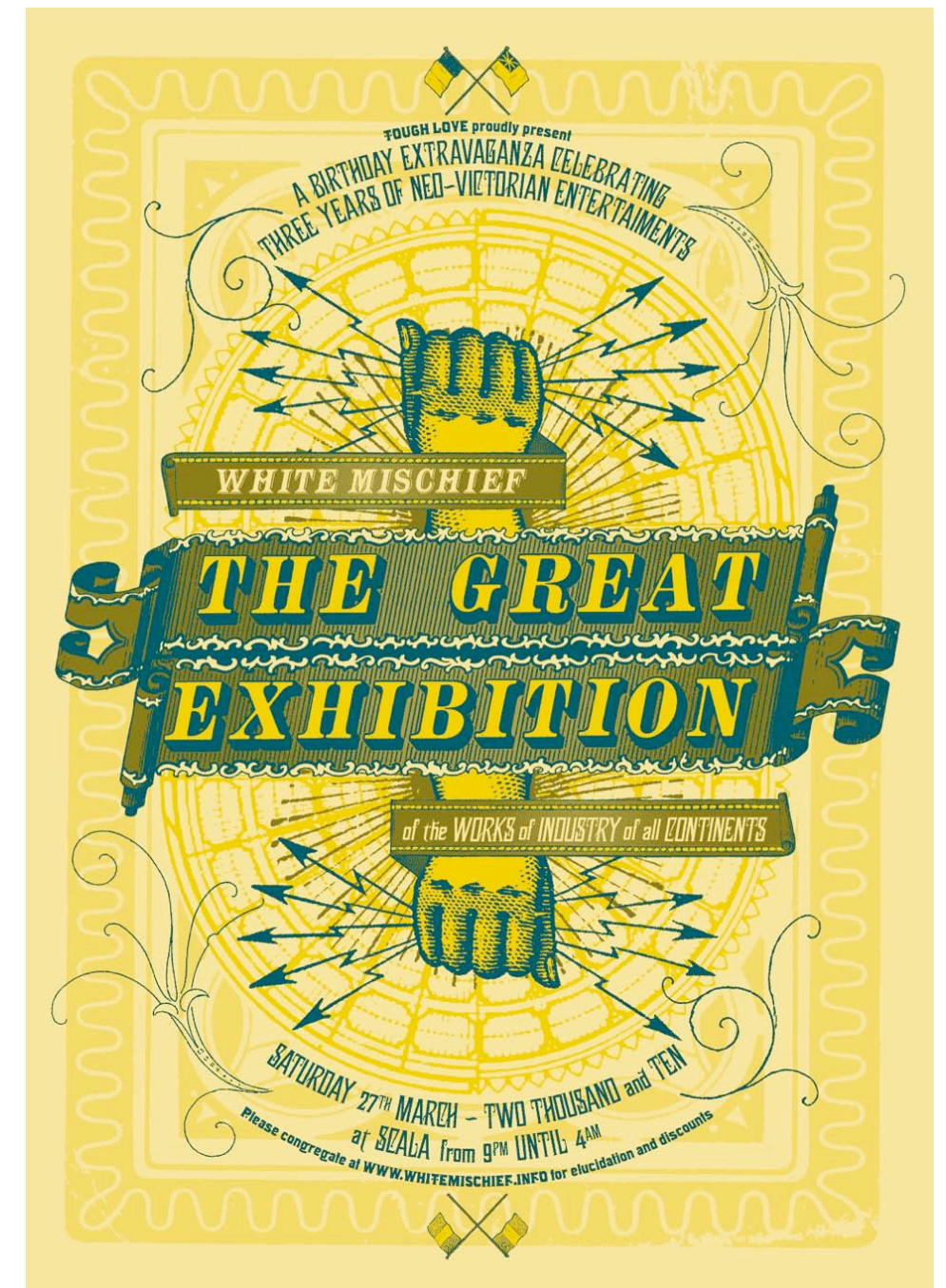
9pm-4am

The New Sheridan Club Newsletter

Scala, 275 Pentonville Road, King's Cross, London N1 9NL

Admission: From £20 in advance. See [www.whitemischief.info](http://www.whitemischief.info)

A "neo-Victorian" club night presenting "curiosities from across the Empire", including noted scientist Voltini conducting 27,000 volts



of lightning with his Tesla coil, Mr Bruce Airhead inside his six-foot balloon, Making Sparks Fly, Miss Keda Breeze with her angle-grinding contraption, steampunk burlesque from Beau Burlington and Meg La Mania plus Master of Ceremonies the pith-helmeted "Cup of Brown Joy" rapper MC Elemental.





FOR THE LATEST information on what the Club is up to, who has been arrested, etc., have a squizz at [www.newsheridanclub.co.uk](http://www.newsheridanclub.co.uk). For more photos of Club events go to [www.flickr.com/sheridanclub](http://www.flickr.com/sheridanclub). Those of a technological bent can befriend us electrically at [www.myspace.com/newsheridanclub](http://www.myspace.com/newsheridanclub) or indeed [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

#### CONTACTING US

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