

- Remembering Grace Kelly
- Bespoke NSC cocktails!
- The year in pictures

BACK TO THE FUTURISTS

OUR
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

AN
EXPRESSIONIST BALL
TO CELEBRATE THE
MODERN AGE

The New Sheridan Club

Newsletter

L • December 2010

GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE!



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 Editor Writes

So this is Christmas/And what have you done?/Another year over/And a new one just begun. Thus spake the bard Mr Lennon. And for the NSC there's a double reason for looking back moist-eyed and asking *What have we done?*—not only is it the end of 2010 (how was it for you?) but I realised that this is the 50th issue of the New Sheridan Club Newsletter. To celebrate I've included a bijou montage, both of Newsletter covers and of snaps from Club activities during the year, so we can all congratulate ourselves on just how much poise and creativity we have lavished on this nobly fruitless cause—new friends made, new lifestyles forged, new suits sported, hats lost, fights started, questions in parliament... *sigh*.

The Next Meeting

The next Club Meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st December in the upstairs room at The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB, from 8pm until 11pm. Mr Sean Rillo Raczka will bring us to heel on the subject of *The Life and Gesamtkunstwerks of Richard Wagner*. A Gesamtkunstwerk is a "total work of art" and we will be exposed to video and audio clips as well as a discussion of Wagner's anti-semitism, his appropriation by the Nazis and the question of how we should think of his work today.

The Last Meeting

Mr Ronald Porter of the National Liberal Club

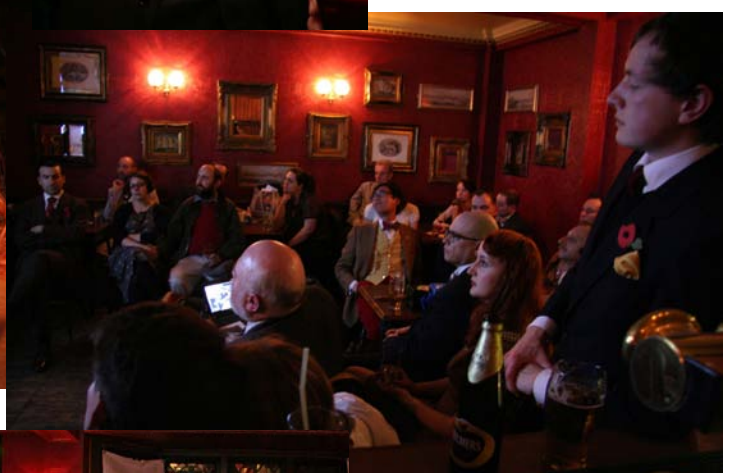
gave us a talk about *The Life and Times of Her Serene Highness The Princess Grace of Monaco*. From a privileged background, Grace Kelly moved easily into an acting career, becoming a favourite of Alfred Hitchcock (who later admitted he had been more than a little in love with her), and, perhaps surprisingly, just as easily into the life of the wife of a head of state, when she married Prince Rainier of Monaco. There were rumours of affairs with all kinds of people, from David Niven to John F. Kennedy, but Mr Porter remains unconvinced, having unearthed no evidence for any—and his picture research was very thorough indeed, clearly the product of a long-held fascination. We were even treated to a slide show of photos from the fairytale wedding, accompanied by the apt song 'True Love' from Grace's film *High Society*.

Our own Princess Diana confessed to being a fan of Grace, and it is intriguing that both died in mysterious car crashes: on 13th September 1982 Grace got into a car with daughter Stephanie—dispensing with the chauffeur, owing to a shortage of space because the back seat was full of clothes, she unusually took the wheel herself. Ten minutes into her journey the car jerked from side to side before shooting off a precipice. Mr Porter told us that the crash was caused by Grace suffering a stroke at the wheel.

Many thanks to Mr Porter for a thorough and fascinating talk. A reflection on the origins of his fascination with Grace begins on page 4.



(Left) Torquil makes his opening address; (right) a royal family image from *Life* magazine spellbinds the room; (below, l-r) the stylish audience; Sean Rillo Raczka reprises choice moments from his recent political speech; Krista warily eyes the camera, as well she might



(Above) Mr Porter caught me out by sitting with his back to the audience—that's his pate centre left; (Left) Charles Wolfenblood looks happily confused; (below) Fiona Salter (l) and Eugenie Rhodes

(Above) An image from the royal wedding; (above that) Mr Edward Marlowe and Ms Bethan Garland; (right) the moment when Thomas Ball signs away his freedom to the Club





A State of Grace



MY FASCINATION WITH HER SERENE
HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS GRACE
OF MONACO

By Ronald Porter

SHE WAS BORN in 1929. She died from a car crash in 1982. She had two careers. She was a stunning blonde Hollywood actress, from when she left High School until she married Prince Rainier of Monaco in April 1956 and began her second career as one of the leading “royals” of the world. Her wedding was called “the Wedding of the Century”—it was far more glamorous than our own Princess Elizabeth’s wedding to Prince Philip, in November 1947. Grace was much more photogenic. And there was a Cinderella aura about “a good looking, untitled, American country girl”, marrying a supposedly sophisticated Prince Charming, who ruled over an independent sovereign state in the South of France, said to be geographically slightly bigger than Green Park and slightly smaller than the City of London.

I first became interested in her, aged six, when my father brought home, one evening after work in the City, a charming cine film of her wedding. We all eagerly watched it after dinner. It reminded me



(Top) With Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra in *High Society* (1956); (above) with Thelma Ritter and Jimmy Stewart in *Rear Window* (1954); (below) Grace's father John with, clockwise from left, John Jnr, Grace, Margaret, Elizabeth Anne and wife Margaret



a bit of Cinderella. But I found it fascinating for what it taught me—or rather, what I was able to find out, after the enchanting reel had been put back in a cylindrical container, later on that night. I found out, over the next few days, by doing research in our library at home, and at a nearby public library, what a “principality” was, who Prince Rainier Grimaldi III was, what a “tax haven” was, plus a few elementary facts and figures about the State of Monaco and its capital, Monte Carlo. It was then that I decided that I would like

to be a Prince of my own small state and marry someone beautiful like Grace, with blond hair and blue eyes. Previous to Grace, my pin-up had been Elvis Presley. I liked Elvis and his songs, particularly “Love me Tender”, from the film which is still my favourite. But although I liked him as a singer and liked him for his gorgeous good looks, I never wanted to “be” him, or be like him. I suppose he was too common and a bit “low” for me to totally embrace him. But to be a Prince, like Rainier, and to be the head of

an independent state, that was far more to my liking, particularly as he lived in a palace, and had a glamorous wife! I suppose that is why I liked Grace’s last film, *High Society*. I saw it a few months after her marriage to Rainier. I liked it. Not because of the star billing it had, with Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong. Nor for some of its amusing songs. No, certainly not! What I found fascinating was the stylish house itself, in Newport, Rhode Island, which was the setting for the film. I loved everything about it—the swimming pool, the nearby beach, the



(Above) Grace in 1956, recently engaged, having met Rainier at Cannes the previous year, shows off her ring to her parents; (below) the wedding ceremony



The famous wedding dress deployed 25 yards of silk taffeta in the skirt and 90 yards of tulle in the veil





grand interior with its library, ballroom, dining room and bar! I wanted to live there. And I decided, as I was a Prince—I had “made” myself one a few days after seeing the cine film of Grace’s wedding—that that would be my summer home in the same way that Balmoral was the Queen’s summer home or Castelgandolfo was the Pope’s. I



(Clockwise from above) In her new role Grace quickly adapted to posing for shots of elegant responsibility; she graced the cover of *Life* four times between 1954 and 1961, with this edition from 11 April, 1955 (the month before she met Rainier); arriving in Boston in 1966 with children Stephanie and Albert; in 1956, not yet wanting to announce her pregnancy, Grace used an Hermès handbag to hide her belly with the result that the accessory became known as a Kelly Bag; (opposite page, from top) meeting the Kennedys in 1961, Grace seems riveted by the President; when she meets Charles and Diana in 1981 it is Di who is riveted by Grace; the site of the fatal crash (taken on its 27th anniversary)



only found out a few years ago that the house in the film was, at one time, the matrimonial home of Claus and Sonny von Bulow and was the setting for the alleged murder attempt on her in the early 1980s.

I suppose this explains why I felt motivated to talk about Grace Kelly. There were, of course, other strong factors which I thought an audience might be interested in. She had a successful international film career, thanks to Hitchcock. She made a seamless transition from actress to a princess. And she was the supportive and loving wife of a Head of State, albeit that their realm was often said to be the size of a postage stamp! And she was a good and caring mother to her son and two daughters. Her early death, from a car crash, was a final and dramatically sad ending to a life which could have come straight out of the world of make believe. And isn't make believe what I, and the New Sheridan Club, are all about? [Controversial! —Ed]





Avant-Garde!



COME TO OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

HAVE YOU JUST ABOUT had enough of the present, with its Recession, strikes, terrorism threats, and fuel bill hikes? Let's turn our thoughts to the Future instead. The New Sheridan Club invites you to an Expressionist Ball to celebrate the Modern Age!

We're not nailing our colours to any particular dogmatic mast: Futurism, Vorticism, Orphism, Surrealism—take your pick, as long as it's thoroughly *avant-garde* and up to date.

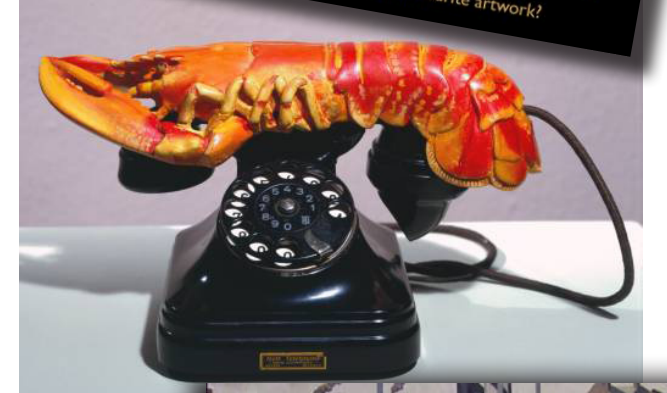
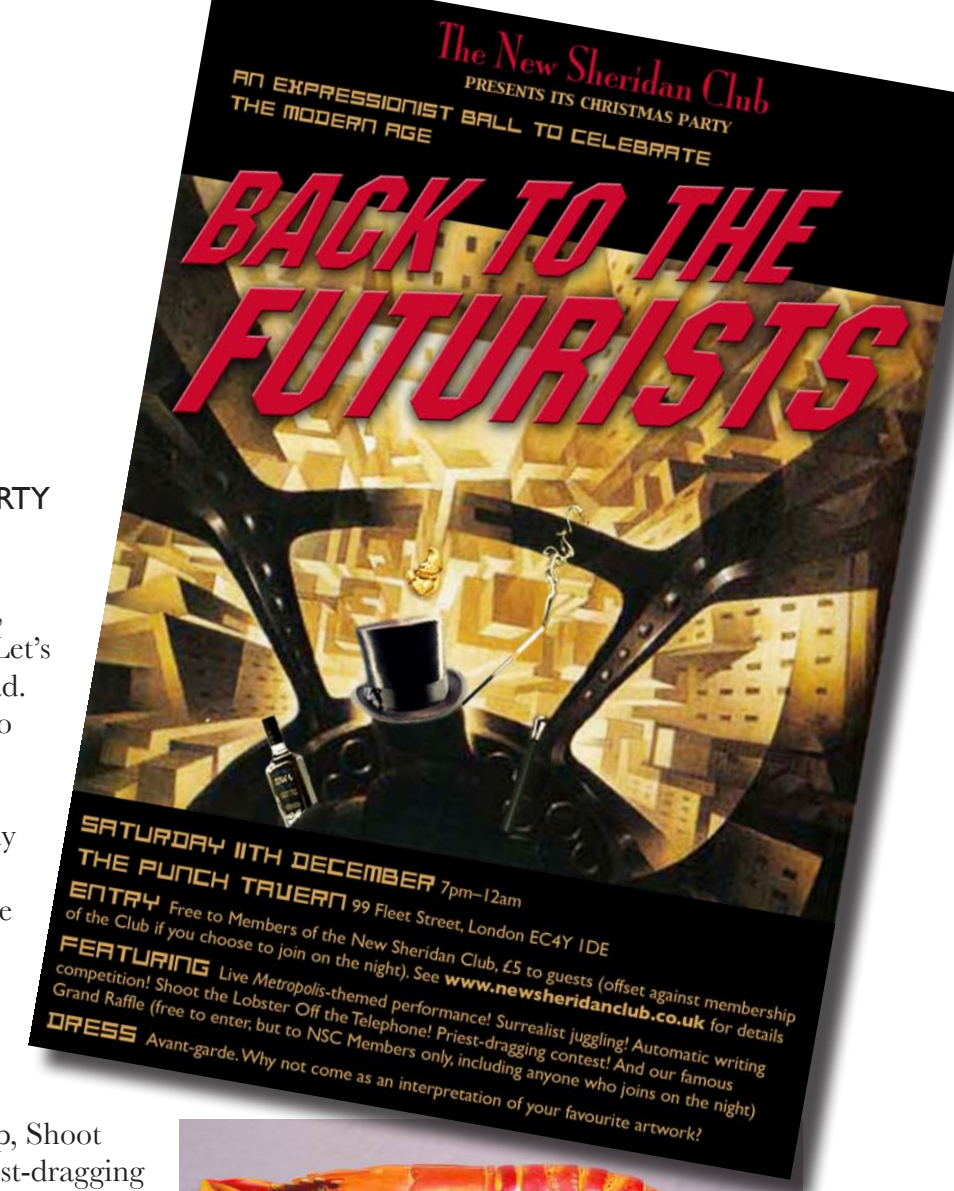
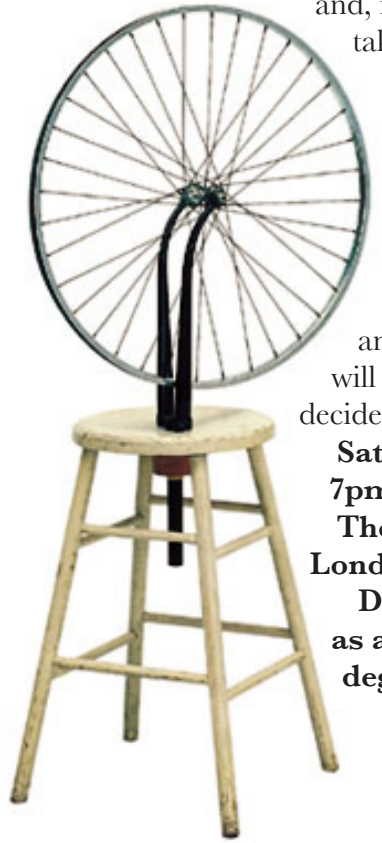
Expect the usual blend of live performance, drunken revelry and silly games—an Automatic Writing Competition, the Surrealist Lucky Dip, Shoot the Lobster Off the Telephone, a priest-dragging contest and of course our famous Grand Raffle (free to enter but open only to Members of the New Sheridan Club—including anyone who joins on the night). There will be lashings of SW4 gin ("The Gin of Champions") to drink and, for some lucky souls, to take home too.

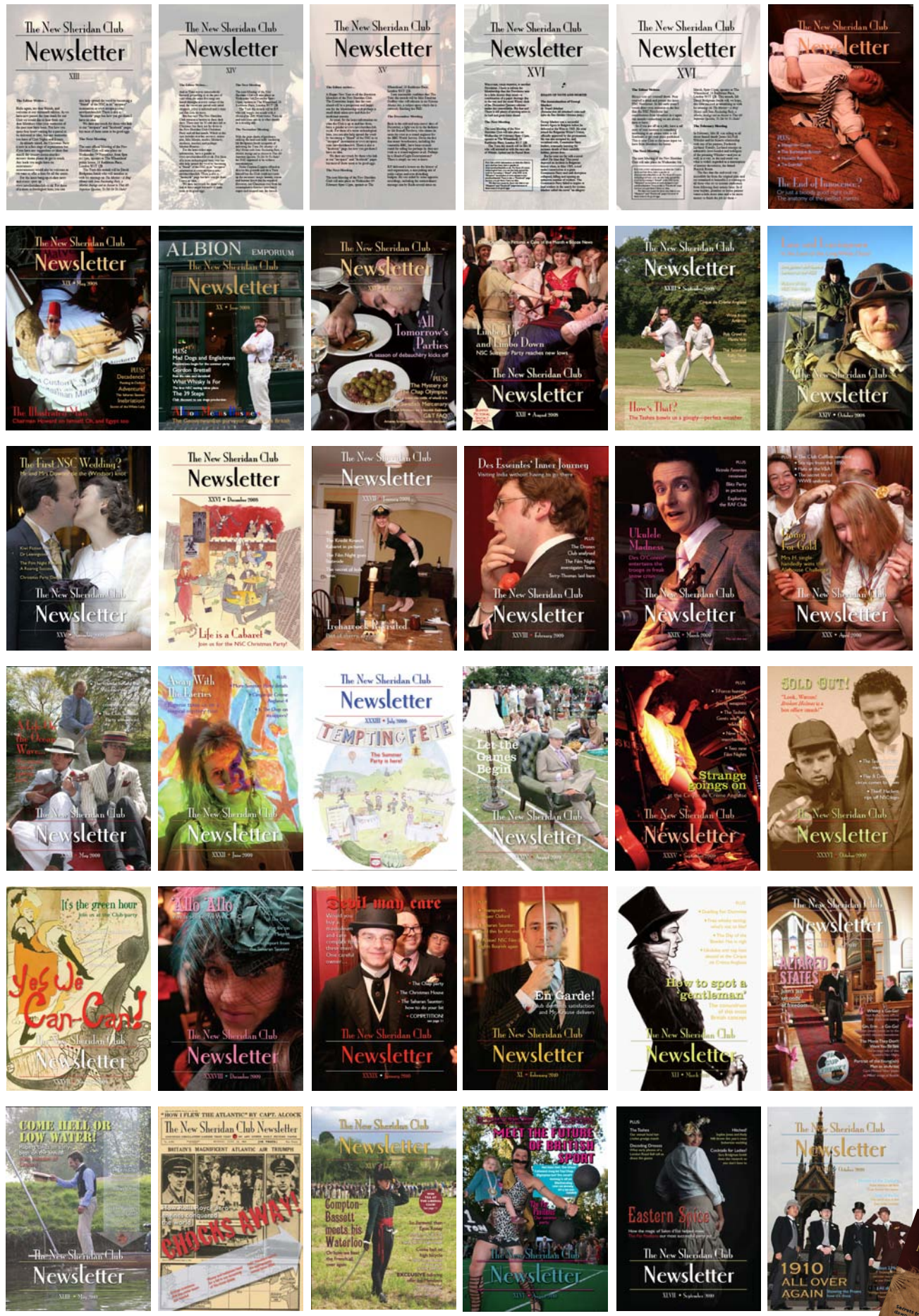
Live performance will come from surrealist juggler Mr Mat Ricardo, manipulating top hats and canes, and Miss Suri Sumatra doing her dance show inspired by the film *Metropolis*.

Entry is free to Members of the NSC and just £5 on the door for guests, which will be offset against membership fees if you decide to join up on the night.

**Saturday 11th December
7pm–12am
The Punch Tavern, 99 Fleet Street,
London EC4Y 1DE**

Dress: Avant-garde! Why not come as an interpretation of your favourite degenerate work of art?





This is the **50th issue of the NSC Newsletter**. Above are all the covers from No. 13; before that the editor was my fellow Committee Member Artemis Scarheart—I fear I don't have copies of those early editions—and I initially followed his design before fooling around with it till it reached its current form. In the future, who knows? A Newsletter in pill form?




Look Back In Languor


A MOMENT'S REFLECTION ON EXACTLY HOW WE OCCUPIED OURSELVES IN 2010

JANUARY (Left and below) Anton Krause's talk on duelling proves an excuse for Capt. Coppice and Jessie to give their fencing chops a workout (Jessie here seen tutoring Mai);



FEBRUARY (Left and below left) Guest speaker Robert Brook gave us a galloping free-form round-up of various concepts of what it means to be a "gentleman", Henry Ball showed off what appear to be NSC socks and, with the surprise arrival of curious strangers in the room, RN thinks he's in with a chance;



(above and below right) the Oxford Museum of the History of Science puts on a splendid exhibition of "Steampunk" gadgetry and an accompanying catwalk fashion show by some assembled Steampunks





MARCH (Above) Mr Christian Jensen (circled) brings us his new gin to taste, with riotous results; (below) Mr Neil Ridley takes us through a whisky tasting—Matthew Howard is confused, while Fleur de Guerre is intrigued by this unusually shaped lump of peat...



MARCH At the Rushen wedding, these little girls go instinctively for the Champagne, while Master Jacob already has his first suit



(Left to Right) Laurence Bennion, Oliver Lane, Torquil Arbuthnot, Artemis Scarheart



APRIL (Right) At the annual May Day punting picnic in Oxford, William Beckwith receives his first pipe



APRIL (Far left) Seth talks about the history of gentlemen's clubs. Michael Korausch (above centre) photographs us for a few months then retreats home to France



APRIL At the Tweed Run vintage cycle rally in London, the Club is well represented by Fleur and Messrs Neil Ridley (!) and Jon Fowler among others





MAY (Left and above) Rob Loveday talks about Rolls Royce Aero Engines



JULY Eugenie Rhodes talked to us about how to inject more luck into our lives—I wasn't allowed to photograph her, so here are pictures of the ancestral signing-in book, David Bridgman-Smith gurning and Matthew Howard making a point



JULY The annual Chap Olympics. Clockwise from above: Compton-Bassett and the Great Colonesi (Andy Hill) clash on the Umbrella Jousting field; Gustav Temple, editor of *The Chap*, inspects an olive while judging the Martini Knockout Relay; the Three-Trousered Limbo; Atters enlists the help of his butler (Tristan Langlois by day) to use his braces as a



MAY (Above) At the Cirque de Crème Anglaise Niall spurts poetry and Tim Ten Yen has us stroke his stuffed cat; (above right) Compton-Bassett turns 21 in a pub



JUNE Compton-Bassett gets a taste of Napoleonic military life as he joins a pan-European re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo



JUNE Matthew Howard beguiles us with highly suspect traveller's tales from darkest Siam



catapult to cheat in the Cucumber Sandwich Discus; and the real star of the arena, young Wednesday, is duly recognised with the overall gold medal

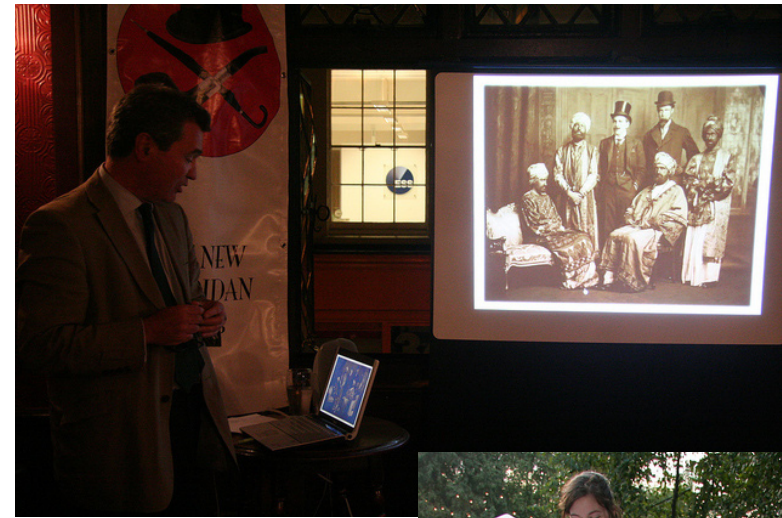




AUGUST Five Sheridanites go sherry tasting at Gordon's wine bar—at 10am! The annual Tashes cricket match takes place between those with facial hair and those without: the Hirsutes triumph



AUGUST Sophie Jonas and Andy Hill tie the knot; Evadne Raccat talks to us about the Duchess of Devonshire's ball (but I am not allowed to take pictures, hence none here) and our summer party The Far Pavilions celebrates colonial decadence; games include Poppadom Clay Pigeon Shooting



SEPTEMBER (Above) Mr Martyn Downer talks to us about hoaxer Horace de Vere Cole; (far right) four of us attend the 1910 Prom recreation in period dress; (right) we get to meet Gwendolyn Matilda Iggulden



OCTOBER (far right) Mr Sean Longden gives us style tips from movies from 1930–1960; Sean Rillo Raczka puts on a Weimar cabaret party at ULU

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER (Below) The Candlelight Club is launched



The Cocktail Cabinet

Wherein Members praise potions, tinctures, snifters and phlegm-cutters

Club Cocktails

by David Bridgman-Smith

Other clubs have their own cocktails named after them—the Clover Club, the Pegu Club, Buck’s Fizz—so why not the New Sheridan Club?

Grabbing a bottle of our house gin, SW4, “The Gin of Champions”, I hot-footed it down the flagstone steps to the Club’s basement lab to devise a number of special drinks to celebrate both the Club and the gin.

SW4 is made at Thames Distillery in the SW4 postcode of London (and is therefore a relative rarity, a London Dry Gin that is actually made in London). It is designed with the flavour profile of the early London dry gins of the Nineteenth Century in mind. It contains twelve botanicals and has a notably strong juniper flavour with some citrus and spice. If you like your gin to be in the classic London Dry style, SW4 is for you.

SW4 gin was created to be the perfect partner to tonic water and to make a smashing G&T, and indeed it does. So my first cocktail is a little twist on the classic.

Club Tonic

50 ml SW4 gin
1 tsp lime juice
100 ml tonic water
3 dashes Angostura Bitters

Add ice, the gin, the bitters and the lime juice to a highball glass and top up with tonic.

The next drink is a short sipper and a variation on the Clover Club; this is my favourite of these cocktails.

The New Sheridan Club

50 ml SW4 gin
25 ml lime juice
25 ml Pomegranate Grenadine

Add ingredients to a cocktail shaker, shake with ice, strain and serve.

As winter approaches, there is nothing like a hot toddy cocktail to chase away the chills:

Fireside Gin

50 ml SW4 gin
2.5 ml lemon juice
25 ml sugar syrup
100 ml boiling water

Add the gin, lemon juice and sugar syrup to a heat-proof glass and stir, then top up with boiling water. Add a pinch of cinnamon or nutmeg for some extra flavour.

The following two final cocktails were created by Adam Smithson at the excellent Graphic Bar in Golden Square, London.

High Tea

50 ml SW4 gin
25 ml lemon juice
25 ml Earl Grey liqueur
12.5 ml sugar syrup
½ white of one egg

Add the ingredients with ice to a cocktail shaker and shake. Strain and serve.

Far Pavilions

50 ml SW4
25 ml Lime Juice
20 ml Egg White
15 ml Sugar Syrup
3–4 dashes of Elixir de Grande Chartreuse
Pinch of mild chilli powder

Add the ingredients with ice to a cocktail shaker and shake. Strain and serve.

This drink was inspired was inspired by the club colours of red, black & silver and the day the club meets, Wednesday. For Adam, Wednesday is represented by the colour



(left to right) The Fireside Gin cocktail, the New Sheridan Club cocktail, the High Tea cocktail and the Club Tonic

green (still a mystery to me, but this correlation between one sense and another—in this case associating a colour with a word—is known as “synaesthesia”). This manifested itself in the addition of the rather obscure Elixir Vegetal de la Grande-Chartreuse. This deep green concoction is made by the Chartreuse monks—and has been since 1737. It is made to a recipe in a secret manuscript given to the monastery by the Marechal d’Estrees in 1605; apparently only two monks know the precise recipe. Some 130 different plants and flowers go into it, along with alcohol (it is 71% ABV) and sugar, and it is intended as a tonic.

These are just a few cocktails that have been created in the Club’s honour using SW4: I hope you get a chance to try them. I would encourage you to experiment yourself—and if you come up with some treats I would really like to hear about them.

For more musings on booze, see the NSC’s **Institute for Alcoholic Experimentation**

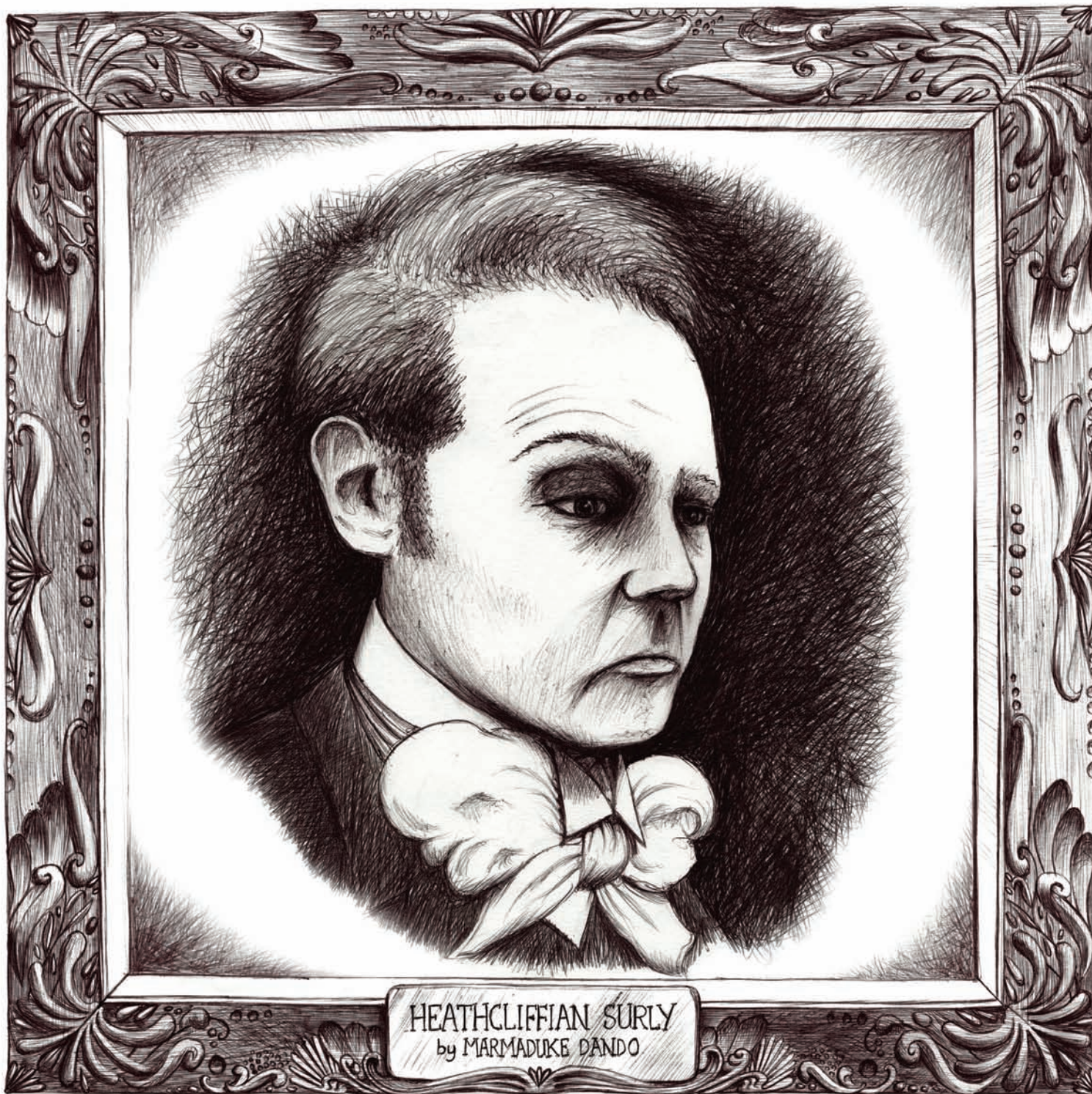
Earl Grey Liqueur

The **High Tea** cocktail calls for an Earl Grey tea liqueur, but this is not something that is particularly easy to come by, so here is a recipe.

300 ml vodka
50 ml sugar syrup
6 tsp loose Earl Grey tea (or the contents of 6 Earl Grey teabags)

Add the vodka, sugar syrup and tea to a container (a clean empty wine or spirit bottle will do) and shake. Leave to steep for 90 minutes, shaking every 15 minutes.

Strain using a tea strainer or a coffee filter and bottle.



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"...distinctively haunting..." - Steve Lamacq, BBC 6 Music

"...poetry in motion..." - Charlie Ashcroft, *Artrocker*

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The Greatest Shows on Earth



THREE EXHIBITIONS TO SEE THIS MONTH

Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition

Until 12 May 2011
 Sunday–Wednesday 11am–7.30pm,
 Thursday–Saturday 11am–9pm
 The O2 Bubble
 Peninsula Square, Greenwich,
 London SE10 0DX
 Adults £13, children £9

Featuring more than 300 items recovered from the wreck of RMS *Titanic*, this exhibition attempts to recreate whole interior sections from the doomed ship, including the Grand Staircase and both First Class and Third Class staterooms. Items range from tools and equipment needed to run the ship to personal effects of passengers and crew, and include metals, ceramics, glass, and, surprisingly, textiles, papers, leather and objects such as olives,

The RMS *Titanic* and one of its megaphones on the sea bed



nuts and soap. You'll find china etched with the crest of the White Star Line alongside a 3,000-

pound section of the ship's hull. The artefacts have been recovered from the ocean floor two and a half miles down over seven research trips since the wreck's discovery in 1985. One passenger, Adolphe Saalfield, 47, from

Manchester, was a perfume maker by trade and boarded as a First Class passenger accompanied by a leather case with 65 phials of samples. Amazingly, 62 of these are still intact and you can savour the fragrances he created as part of the exhibition.

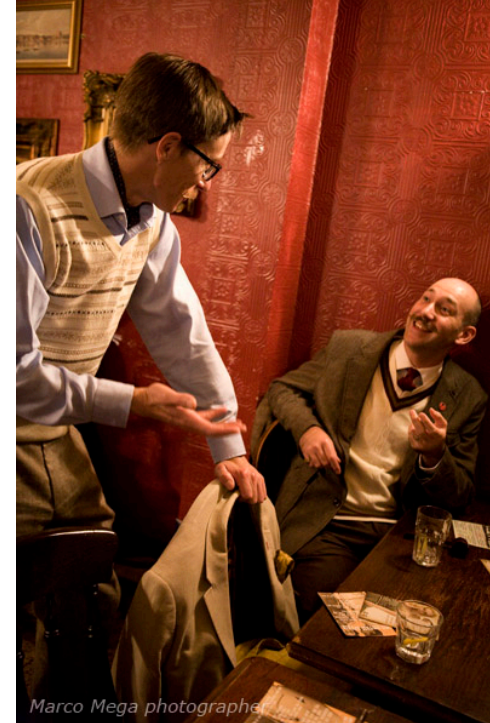
The Ministry of Food

Until 3rd January 2011
 10am–6pm daily
 (closed 24th–26th December)
 The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road
 London SE1 6HZ
 Adults £4.95, Children £2.50

Your last chance to see this display which has been running for much of the year. The exhibition examines how the British public adapted to a world of food shortages, and marks the 70th anniversary of the introduction of food rationing in Britain. The exhibition shows how growing your own food, eating seasonally, reducing imports, recycling, and healthy nutrition were just as important in 1940 as they are today. You can explore a wartime greenhouse, a 1940s grocer's shop, and a typical kitchen complete with larder, gas cooker, and an ample stock of economy recipe books.

Uncommon Ground

The London College of Communication
 Technically you can't see this show as it closed last Monday—which is a shame as one exhibitor in the photography MA show is Marco Mega, whose project on "retro-socialising" involved trips to a number of NSC events. However, he appears to be putting together a book of the images and there is an online sampler of actual pages of text and imagery, showing many NSC events (with a revealing "outsider's eye" commentary!) at www.blurb.com/books/1722206. Marco invites feedback (emails to mmphoto120@gmail.com) so do slide over and have a look.



Stewart Waller and Luke Wenban snapped by Marco at an NSC meeting



CLUB NOTES

New Members

IN HONOUR OF THE BIRTH of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the grim pagan beliefs behind most of our seasonal traditions, I would like to drag a Yule log into the mead halls of the following thegns, all of whom have taken the NSC blood oath in the last month: Ms Fiona Salter, Mr Thomas Hills, Mr Paul van der Hart, the Revd Karl Wilson, Mr Michael Spinaze, Mrs Belinda Spinaze and Ms Kelley Abercrombie.

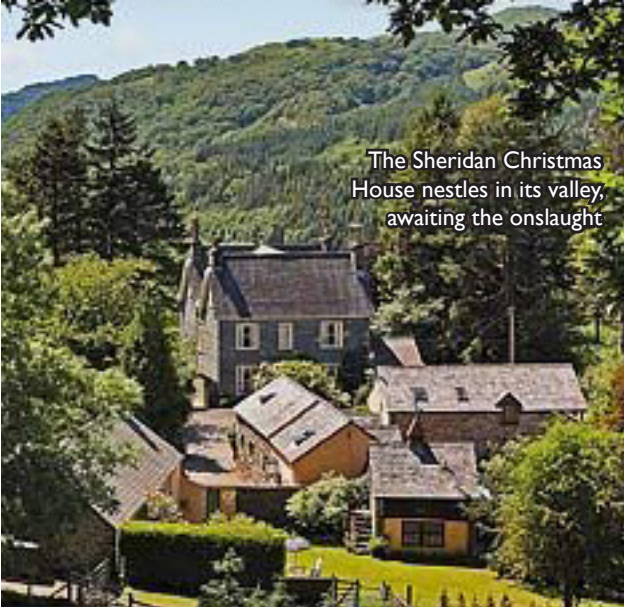
Club Members Solve Sloe Gin Riddle

YOU MAY BE AWARE of the Institute for Alcoholic Experimentation (motto: "It's Just a House"*), the dipsomaniac wing of the New Sheridan Club. One of the things we are pledged to do is use Science to establish best practice in the arena of drink fixing and the best ingredients for any particular job. In the past we assembled

* In joke: a booze sample was delivered recently actually addressed to "The Institute for Alcoholic Experimentation". Mrs H. could hear the courier outside our door on the phone to his boss, saying, "But it's just a house..."



The tasting team: (l-r) Will Sprunt, Clayton Hartley, Fleur de Guerre, Compton-Bassett, David Bridgman-Smith, Robert Beckwith and Sara Bridgman-Smith



The Sheridan Christmas House nestles in its valley, awaiting the onslaught

a mob of lushes to blind-taste eight tonic waters side by side, and most recently we attempted the Herculean task of comparatively tasting no fewer than 17 sloe gins, all commercially available right now. Of course these things are all subjective, but by compiling the preferences of the seven NSC Members who made up the panel we came up with some clear patterns. You can read all about it shortly on the blog itself, but if you fancy being involved in future tasting panels drop me a telegram. Coming up in the New Year we have a ginger beer tasting and a vermouth tasting...

Last Call for the Christmas House

EVERY YEAR A GROUP of Sheridanites hires a big house in the country for a week and spend their days stalking the countryside, investigating local sights and attractions or simply putting their feet up before a roaring log fire with a good book and a pint of sherry. The guests take it in turns to do the catering and dinner is always in black tie, of course—apart from the one day that is designated "Christmas Day", when dinner is white tie, a tree is decorated and "secret Santa" gifts are exchanged. In short, the object of the exercise is to pretend you are the idle rich from about 100 years ago,

This year it's from 11th to 18th December at Plas Meini, Llan Ffestiniog, Gwynedd. In Wales. The cost for the week is a very precise £160.57 and Ensign Polyethyl (a.k.a. Jessica Beattie) tells me that there is still one twin room available. If this tickles your fancy, contact Jessie at jmcpeattie@hotmail.com. See page 25.

Your Christmas Gift Problems Solved!

Ah, that annual knotty conundrum—what to buy the sylish *flanêur* or *flanêuse* about Town who rightly disdains most manifestations of modern life? The answer is right here, ladies and gentlemen, in the form of these New Sheridan Club goodies. Of course if the man or woman is not yet a Member of the NSC you'll have to buy them Membership first—only then will he or she be eligible to sport these items.

The 100% silk Club Tie is woven for us in our house colours of black, red and silver, and the black stripe

contains a discreet "shadow weave" of the Club's logo repeating. These ties are just £15 Plus £1 delivery (£2 if you live somewhere far-flung). You may also be pleased to know that the luscious enamel disc found on the lapel badge you received upon joining the Club is also available mounted as cufflinks (£10 a pair), a tie slide (£6) and a stick pin (£4). Replacement badges are also available for just £3.

If you are interested in snaffling some of this bounty email me at mrhartley@newsheridanclub.co.uk.



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.

🍷 NSC Club Night
Wednesday 1st December
8pm–11pm

Upstairs, The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place,
London W1T 1JB
Members: Free
Non-Members: £2 (first visit free)
See page 2.

The Chap presents
Night of a Thousand Waistcoats
The Grand Anarcho-Dandist Ball
Saturday 4th December
8pm–2am
The Bloomsbury Ballroom, Bloomsbury Square,
London WC1B 4DA
Admission: Tickets from Ticketweb or call
0207 7724 1617
Dress: 1890s decadence, 1920s villainy, 1930s
glamour, 1940s spiv
After the success of last year's tenth
anniversary ball, this is now an annual affair.



Moving to the much larger and grander Bloomsbury Ballroom, London's only remaining original Art Deco ballroom, this year's extravaganza will be hosted by the louche Nickolas Grace, the actor who played Anthony Blanche in

the original *Brideshead Revisited*. In the Grand Ballroom there will be a full cabaret line-up, topped by the irrepressible Mr. B the Gentleman Rhymer, giving an exclusive live preview of his brand-new longplayer, *I Say!*. This evening of old-world jollity will also include wandering acts among the guests, including Viv the Spiv, Escalado horseracing and the legendary "Chap Room", where guests may dictate a letter to a 1950s secretary and have it delivered on a silver salver to another guest by a butler. All this will be aided by retro cocktails from partners Bourne & Hollingsworth.

The Orphanage Winter Dance

Saturday 4th December
10pm–4am
Adam Street, just off the Strand
Admission: Currently £15 though the suggestion is that these are "early bird tickets".
See www.lasttuesdaysociety.org

Another Viktor Wynd outlet, this party features DJs and live jazz from the Alan Weekes Jazz Quartet plus the house mariachi band.

Saturday Night Swing Club

Saturday 4th December
7.30pm–2am
City Firefly Bar, 18 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EP
(Nearest tube: St Pauls; overground: City Thameslink)
Admission: £12/£11 LSDS members
Dress: Glamorous retro or modern but an effort appreciated!

52nd Street Jump and the London Swing Dance Society present three floors of dancing to DJs including residents Dr Swing and Mr Kicks. In the Alhambra Lounge you'll find rhythm and blues, jump jive, boogie woogie and swing; in the Savoy Club you can receive taster classes in dances from the 1920s and 1930s; and in the Rendezvous Ballroom you will be treated to the dance music of the 1920s to the 1950s. All

guests also get a free £3 drinks voucher. More at 52ndstreetjump.co.uk.

Wilton's Vintage Christmas

Monday 6th–Saturday 18th December
Times TBC
Wilton's Music Hall, 1 Graces Alley, London, E1 8JB
Admission: £25

Everyone's favourite restored music hall (dating from the

1850s) will open its doors for a fun-filled vintage Victorian Christmas experience entertaining you with "scenes from Dickens and Mayhew" (blimey, disease, malnutrition, poverty and casual violence—what larks!) hosted by Mr John Wilton himself. Match-stick girls and chestnut roasters, mulled wine, wandering minstrels and a Music Hall sing-a-long. For more details see www.wiltons.org.uk or telephone 0207 702 2789.


The Hendrick's Autumn Lecture Series presents An Erotic Magic Lantern Show

Thursday 9th December
Doors 6pm, talk at 7pm
The Last Tuesday Society, 11 Mare Street, London E8 4RP
Admission: £10

British voyeurs of the late nineteenth century had to make do



with the constraints of peering through a mutoscope simply to grab a glance of what the butler saw while their French counterparts could enjoy an entire lantern show of *amours*. Professor Mervyn Heard seeks to rebalance the situation a century later with this special Christmas show of antique French erotic slides. Tickets can be bought in advance.

 The New Sheridan Club presents its Christmas Party
Back to the Futurists
Saturday 11th December

7pm–12am
The Punch Tavern, 99 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DE
Admission: Free to NSC Members, £5 to guests
See page 11.

The National Army Museum presents Jingle Bell Jive

Saturday 11th December
7.30pm–12am
The National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT
(020 7881 2455)
Admission: £15 (£12.50 concs, £7.50 under 15s)

Celebrate Christmas with an authentic 1940s

dance night at the National Army Museum, swinging and jiving to a live big band. There will also be a vintage make-up stand and a photo booth producing period-looking photographs.

The Sheridan Christmas House

Saturday 11th–Saturday 18th December
Plas Meini, Llan Ffestiniog, Gwynedd
Cost: £160.57 per person for the full week

The annual week of drinking, carousing, revelry, festivities, wassailing, singing, dancing, smoking and eating. One day is designated as "Christmas Day"—complete with traditional meal, stockings and "secret Santa" gift-giving. In the evenings we dress in Black Tie for dinner, except for Christmas Day, which is naturally white tie.



This year we shall be terrorizing a beautiful rural Victorian manor house in Snowdonia, set in a 108-acre estate where the owners breed Shetland Ponies. A river and waterfall bound the estate—so there is a mile stretch of fly fishing and swimming in the waterfall’s pool (if you can break the ice on it). Nearby attractions include Harlech and the Great Castles of North Wales, Port Merion, the Ffestiniog Steam Railway, the Welsh Highland Light Railway, a Slate Cavern, sandy beaches, the Llyn Peninsula and the mountains of Snowdonia. Children, dogs and pipe-smokers are all welcome.

There is a railway station within three miles of the house. Journey times from London Euston are 4.23 hrs by train; by car the AA Route Finder says it is 4.47hrs. The total cost will be £160.57. This covers the week’s rent, food, insurance, security deposit, Christmas Tree... and, if we’re lucky, possibly some of the booze too. As in previous years we will take it in turns to do the cooking. All those who are interest please email jmcpbeattie@hotmail.com.

Die Freche Muse Christmas Special

Friday 17th December

10pm–4am

A secret Dalston location

Admission: £17.50 in advance, £20 on the door

Dress: 1920s–1940s

A retro/speakeasy/lounge sort of affair, described by host Baron Von Sanderson as “in the great tradition of European cabaret, irreverent, decadent, sexually ambivalent”. Performances this time come from Japanese bondage artists, comic crooner Frank Sinazi, aerialist Astra Beck, a 1940s fire eater, some clowns and vintage DJs. As it is a private venue the Baron needs a full guest list, so even if you are intending to pay on the door, RSVP to die.freche.muse@gmail.com and you will be informed of the location.

My Vintage Dresser presents

The Yuletide Jamboree

Saturday 18th December

8pm–2am

The Hare and Hounds, 106 High St, Kings

Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ

Admission: advance tickets £15, rising to £20 nearer the time

Dress: Smart (as if you needed telling)



Entertainment from burlesque stars Peski DeVille, Snappy O’Shea and Lady Wildflower, live bands, disc jockey playing choons from the 1920s to the 1950s, all hosted by Master of Ceremonies Paul Savage, plus a raffle and homemade cakes. For more info see myvintagedresser.co.uk.

The Candlelight Club presents

Christmas By Candlelight

Saturday 18th December

7.30pm–12am

A secret central London location

Admission: £15 in advance

The Candlelight Club is a clandestine pop-up cocktail bar with a 1920s speakeasy theme, located in a secret subterranean den lit entirely by candles. We weren’t going to do an event in December but everyone had so much fun at the last two nights that we decided we couldn’t resist squeezing another one in before the New Year. Your ticket entitles you to a free cocktail on arrival and a quirky supper of exotic sandwiches, then there is our live band Albert Ball’s Flying Aces plus vintage platters spun all night by the NSC’s own MC Fruity.

As a special Christmas treat we’ve made a limited edition album of Candlelight Club tunes lovingly pressed on to a CD that looks like vintage vinyl (see artist’s impression above)—these are free to all guests but will only be available at this event. Your goody bag also includes a slug of SW4 gin, “The Gin of Champions”, so you in effect have a miniature version of the Club to keep you warm over Christmas.

The cocktail list at the Candlelight Club is



different every time; for details of the Christmas food and drinks menu keep an eye on www.thecandlelightclub.com, but I can tell you that one cocktail involves a “mincemeat vodka” handmade by the NSC’s own drinks boffin David Bridgman-Smith. I think that Will Sprunt, who masterminds the Candlelight Club’s food and drink, is planning a cocktail blending this with cream and sweet sherry—in effect, Christmas in a glass.

Hendrick’s New Year’s Eve Eve Masked Ball

Thursday 30th December

9.30pm till very late indeed

The Bridge, Weston Street, London Bridge, London SE1

Admission: £15 now from www.thelasttuesdaysociety.org (rising to £25 nearer the time)

Dress: Divine Decadence—masks obligatory, clothes optional

The usual array of decaying decorations and decadent activities will be augmented by the

Albert Ball’s Flying Aces, who may or may not be appearing this month at the **Candlelight Club**, which does not exist.

Originally formed in 1916 by the aviators of 266 Squadron RFC to relieve the horror of their daily dog-fights high above the trenches, the band would gather in the evenings to play the popular songs of the time. After the 1918 Armistice they stayed together, performing a repertoire of French, German, American and British jazz, music that epitomises the spirit of that lost generation, jaunty and upbeat in the face of adversity.

Driven by their wartime experiences, their mission is to bring peace and understanding to a 1920s world—a particularly apt message at this time of year.

Trans-Siberian Marching Band, the London Gay Symphony Orchestra, Mariachi Jalisco, a chocolate fountain, giant balloons and oodles of nudity, no doubt.

The Orphanage New Year’s Eve Dance

Friday 31st December

10pm–4am

Stone Horse Paper Cow, 128–140 Liverpool Street, London

Admission: Currently £15, rising to £20 later. See www.lasttuesdaysociety.org

Another Viktor Wynd outlet, this party features DJs and usually live performances too.



A GRAND REOPENING

On 20th November, 360 Degrees Vintage reopened in bigger premises within the covered market in Greenwich. For more photos of the new shop see the Club's flickr page.

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

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