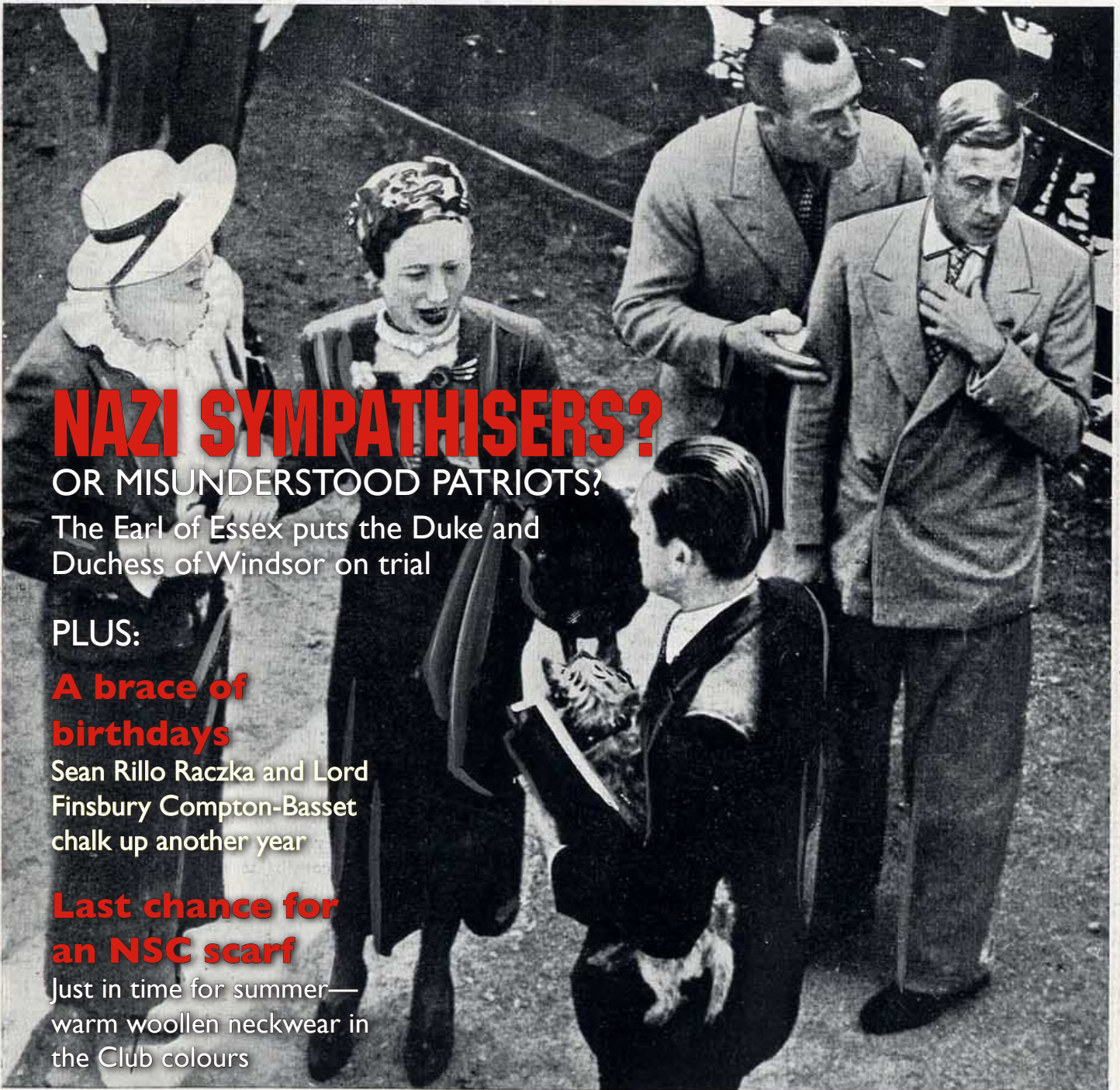


The New Sheridan Club

No. LV May 2011

Newsletter



NAZI SYMPATHISERS?

OR MISUNDERSTOOD PATRIOTS?

The Earl of Essex puts the Duke and Duchess of Windsor on trial

PLUS:

A brace of birthdays

Sean Rillo Raczka and Lord Finsbury Compton-Basset chalk up another year

Last chance for an NSC scarf

Just in time for summer—warm woollen neckwear in the Club colours

DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WINDSOR, MR. AND MRS. CHARLES BEDAUX

After Budapest, Paris . . .

(See "Royal Family")



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

The Next Meeting

The next Club Meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th May in the upstairs room at The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB, from 8pm until 11pm. Mr Robert Kingham, a friend of Captain Coppice's, will widen our eyes on the subject of *The "Grey Soul" of London*. This will be based on a walking talk that was commissioned from Mr Kingham by the Museum of London, as part of its season of *Urban Myths*, in which Robert takes a walk across the worn and hollowed stones of London in search of history and beer.

Judging by the flyer, Welsh author and mystic Arthur Machen features a lot. "He who cannot find wonder, mystery, awe, the sense of a new world and an undiscovered realm in the places by the Gray's Inn Road will never find those secrets elsewhere," Machen said. "It is a district both devious and obscure, and I suppose that its twisting streets and unexpected squares of dusty trees will all come to ruin before they are intelligently explored." Mr Kingham previously performed *Align* at the Museum of London, "a hallucinatory journey along a straight line through the psychogeography and myth of London". The idea for him to talk to us came from Capt Coppice when he noticed, on the NSC Events page, a note about the lecture on Lost London at the Hunterian Museum on 8th June and the accompanying Lost London quiz on Friday 13th May, for which I am encouraging

NSC Members to field teams.

Owing to the popularity of Mr Kingham's walking tours in April, two more dates have been added on 8th May and 11th May. Tickets are £9 (concessions £7, Friends of the Museum £6); to book call the Museum box office on 020 7001 9844 or follow the links on the Museum's website.

The Last Meeting

At our March meeting, after some problems getting the computer to talk to the projector, the Earl of Essex was finally able to embark on his thoroughly researched exploration of *The Duke and Duchess of Windsor: Nazi collaborators or misunderstood patriots?* He presented us with all the evidence and encouraged us to make up our own minds, though the fact that the Duke continued to be pally with the Nazis even after we were at war with them suggests where his sympathies lay—and he evidently felt betrayed by the country that obliged him to abdicate.

A crowd-pleaser featuring lots of pictures of the Windsors high-fiving with Hitler and Goebbels, Essex's detailed presentation featured a cast of thousands including various knights and lords, Anthony Blunt, Charles and Fern Bedaux, a couple of chateaux, a couple of suspicious foreigners, Alfred de Marigny and Ricardo Espirito Santo, a yacht and a vacuum cleaner. If your curiosity is piqued you can find an essay version of the story on page 4.



(Right) Essex orated from 25 pages of handwritten notes; (left) here he is before an image of Churchill and (below) of the Duke with Nazi top brass on his notorious 1937 visit



(Left) Mrs H. with two new Members, Timothy Eyre (r) and Patrick Britton; (right) Ian the White (l) and Vincent Moses; (left) Ellie Halley tries to reason with Robert Beckwith as Compton-Bassett smirks



(Below) Willow Tomkins considers crushing Fruity like a bug



(Above) Craig Young eyes the camera nervously but Robert Loveday is unruffled; (right) Mai and the back of Edward Marlowe

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor

NAZI COLLABORATORS OR MISUNDERSTOOD PATRIOTS?

By the Earl of Essex

IT WAS HENRY FORD who said, “History is bunk.” Or rather, he actually said, “History is more or less bunk.” And although he himself had many connections with the Nazis that he wished to be forgotten—Hitler kept a picture of Ford in his private office, read translations of his book *The International Jew* and awarded him the Grand Cross of the German Eagle, a decoration for distinguished foreigners—I think he probably had a point. At school, we were taught history from weighty tomes and perhaps believed that history was written in stone, but of course in reality we learn that it is constantly being reassessed and, all too often, rewritten.

Certainly, Churchill foresaw this when he set to work on his magnum opus, *The Second World War*, as soon as he left office in 1945, so keen was he to get his own version of the conflict into print before he could be contradicted. However, the Duke of Windsor’s memoirs, *A King’s Story* (published 1951), ghost-written by Charles Murphy, a senior editor at *Life* magazine who diligently kept to his task over two difficult years in the Duke’s presence, have not stood the test of time so well. So much so, that in recent years it has become fashionable in media circles, through print and television, to portray the Duke and Duchess of Windsor as not merely Nazi sympathisers but as active collaborators with

Hitler’s regime. It is this which is the subject of this essay.

At war with Uncle Willie

Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the Duke of Windsor, later King Edward VIII, was born at White Lodge, Richmond, Surrey in 1894. As King George V’s eldest son, he was heir to the throne. At the age of 13 he became a naval cadet and was sent to France to study the language; he became fluent in French and German. In 1912, he went up to Magdalen College, Oxford, but he was a poor student and after two years it was decided that he should take a commission in the

Winston Churchill



The Duke of Windsor during the First World War



The Duchess of Windsor

PixelAddiction.com

British Army. He spent his last days of freedom visiting his “Uncle Willie”, better known as the Kaiser, and it has been suggested that these happy holidays of his youth inspired his love of all things German. And of course his mother, Mary of Teck, was a German princess.

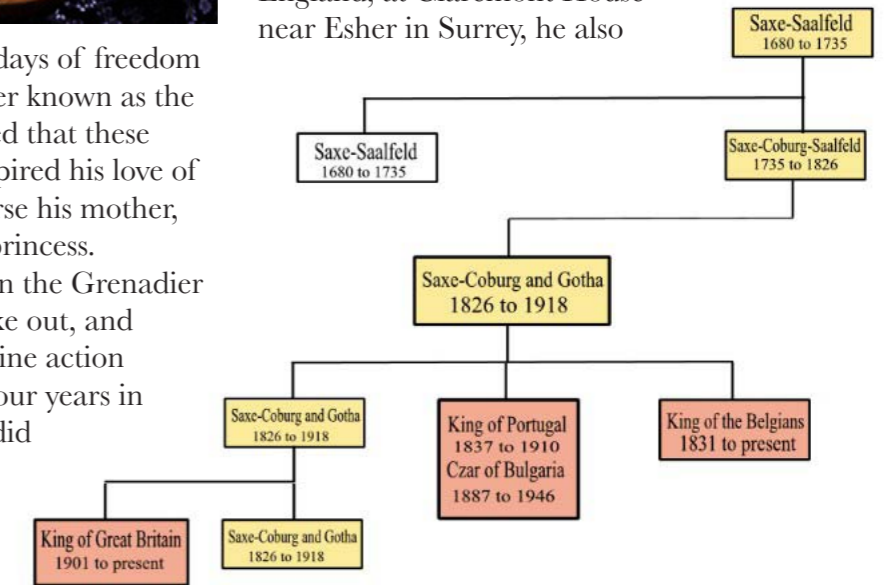
Edward was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards in 1914, when war broke out, and although prohibited from frontline action would spend most of the next four years in France. He commented that it did not matter if he were killed, as he had four younger brothers, but Lord Kitchener, secretary of war, refused him active service as he was concerned with his being captured and used as a hostage in any future peace negotiations. However, on one occasion a German shell hit his staff car, killing his driver, just after he had left for a troop inspection. One general responsible for him referred to him as “fearless, but a bloody nuisance”.

By 1917, increasing anti-German paranoia in Britain caused George V to fear for the survival of the monarchy. In a public-relations exercise, he changed the family name of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to

the House of Windsor. The Kaiser, on hearing of this, caustically commented that when he next visited the theatre, he looked forward to seeing “The Merry Wives of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha”. The war left a lasting impression on Edward and he was determined to ensure that Britain should never again go to war with Germany, particularly after his uncle, the Czar, was assassinated with his family following the Bolshevik revolution in 1917.

Witness 1: The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha

Charles Edward was the last duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in Germany, and was Edward’s cousin. Born in 1884 in England, at Claremont House near Esher in Surrey, he also



The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha

held the British titles of Duke of Albany, Earl of Clarence and Baron Arklow. However, following his decision to side with the Kaiser and Germany during the First World War, in which he was commissioned as a general in the German army, he was stripped of his British titles and his children were deprived of the right to use British royal titles, following an act of parliament in 1919. After the Russian Revolution there were power struggles between the left and right-wing parties in Germany and he was dispossessed of his dukedom.

He also relinquished his right to the German throne.

Now a private citizen, Charles Edward became associated with various right-wing and paramilitary political organizations, and he joined the Nazi Party in 1935, becoming a member of the SA (the Brownshirts), rising to the rank of Obergruppenführer. In 1936 he was sent to Britain, from which he had effectively been exiled, as president of the Anglo-German Friendship Society, to improve British-German ties and explore the possibility of a pact between the two countries. However, he rather upset his British royal relations by attending King George V's funeral in his SA uniform. He made contact with the new king, his cousin Edward, and sent Hitler encouraging reports about pro-German support, particularly amongst the aristocracy. He would also play host to Edward's tour of Germany in 1937.

Following the war, he was heavily fined and virtually bankrupted by a "denazification court". Gotha came under Russian jurisdiction and was confiscated, but Coburg remained in family hands as part of Bavaria. He died, a rather obscure and bitter man, in 1954.

Witness 2: Joachim von Ribbentrop

Wallis Warfield Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor as she became, was regarded with suspicion by both the British and American governments, and was trailed throughout her life

by British intelligence and the FBI. There was a so-called China Dossier which had been authorised by Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin before the death of King George V, and



Joachim von Ribbentrop



Von Ribbentrop with Hitler

supposedly alleged that she indulged in "perverse sexual practices" during her time in China in the 1920s, in various Chinese whorehouses; Baldwin allegedly showed it to the wavering Conservative MPs during the abdication crisis.

The Duchess of Windsor certainly maintained close relations with Joachim von Ribbentrop during 1936. Von Ribbentrop, regarded as vain and pompous, was not from a rich family and married into money with Anna Henkel, daughter of the wealthy Wiesbaden sparkling-wine-producing family, travelling as a salesman for the company across Europe during the 1920s. He served as German ambassador to London from 1936 to 1938, and would become a trusted confidant of Hitler and his foreign minister throughout the war. Von Ribbentrop apparently sent the Duchess seventeen carnations every day, one for every time that they had slept together. The Duchess was suspected of maintaining contact with Von Ribbentrop throughout the war, and of passing classified information to him.

In October 1937 The Duke and Duchess of Windsor accepted an invitation to tour Germany. Ostensibly a private visit to study housing and working conditions, it became a Nazi propaganda coup and the British government ordered the ambassador to Berlin, Sir Neville Henderson, to take a holiday during the visit. The Duke and Duchess were greeted at Berlin's Friedrichstrasse station by Von Ribbentrop and several high-ranking Nazi officials. The crowd of several hundred Germans gave the Nazi salute, with cries of "Heil Windsor!" and "Heil Edward!" The Duke

was given a tour of one of the Reich's showcase facilities, the Osram factory at Grunewald. It had extensive gardens and recreational facilities, including a well-furnished restaurant and a full-size swimming pool. In the evening, a concert was put on for the Duke in one of the halls and attended by factory workers; the tenor Eyvind Laholm gave a rendition of the "Grail Aria" from *Lohengrin*, and when it was finished the assembled audience struck up the "Horst Wessel", the Nazi marching song. The Duke's host was Dr Robert Ley, head of the Reich's Labour Front. Ley was a crude but intelligent man, fond of telling off-colour jokes. He had risen from a background of street-brawling and fist-fighting with communists and, as a result, had a slurred speech impediment that made him appear drunk. He also possessed a certain crassness that led him to proclaim that the Nazis had developed a "death-ray" as the Reich crumbled in 1945.

The Duke was also taken by Ley to the SS Totenkopf (or "Death's Head") division headquarters at Crossensee. There the SS regimental band struck up the British national anthem, whilst a guard of

honour presented arms and Edward gave the Nazi salute, with SS Reichsführer Himmler also in attendance. Finally, the Duke and Duchess were given a private audience with Adolf Hitler at his sprawling alpine home at Berchtesgaden. They were ushered into a vast, semi-sunken reception room, dominated by a wall of glass that gave an uninterrupted view of the Alps beyond. The Duchess noted with interest that all the furniture covers had been stitched with tiny swastikas and National Socialist motifs. At the end of their meeting, the Windsors took tea with Hitler before he escorted them to their car.

Witness 3: Charles Bedaux

Charles Eugène Bedaux was born in Paris in 1886, the son of a French railway executive. He



The Duke and Duchess with Hitler

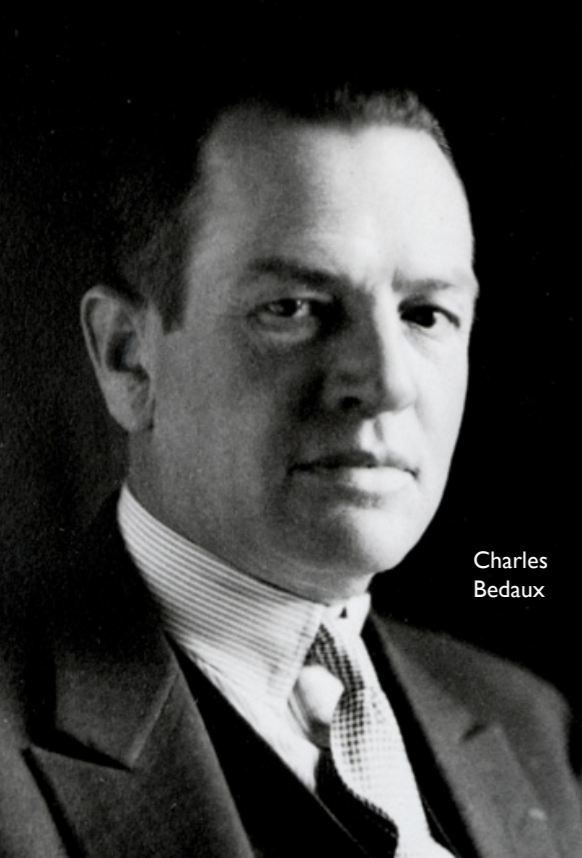


The Duke inspect SS troops



The Duke with Goebbels

was educated in France and, after a brief spell in the Foreign Legion, he left for America to make his fortune. He married Blanche Allen, of German origin, and they returned to Europe to visit his family and hers in Germany. Returning

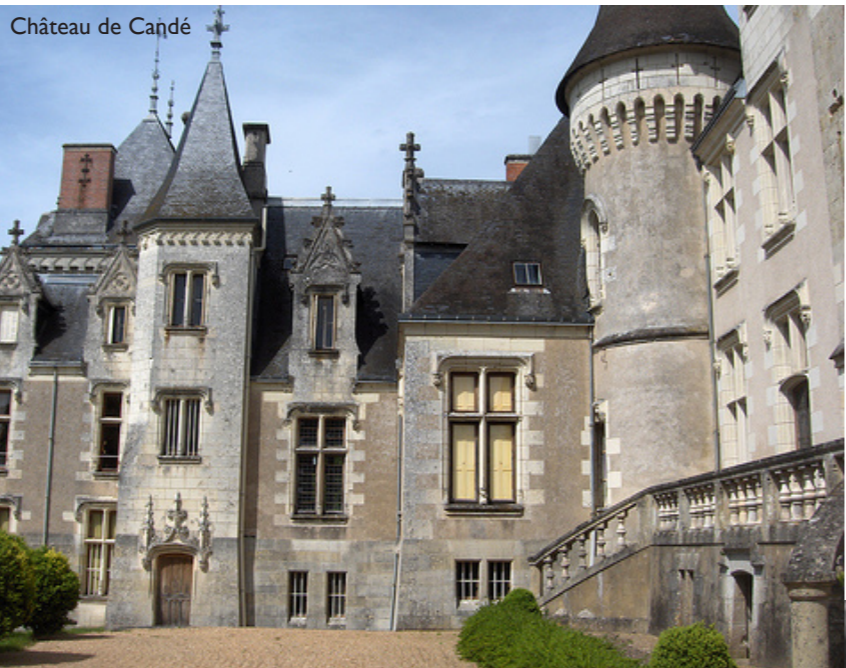


Charles Bedaux

to America, he found work as a “Sandhog”, digging the workings for the East River subway tunnel in New York, and became a US citizen in 1916. Saving what money he

background or nationality. Bedaux’s success made him extremely wealthy and he returned to Europe, replicating the Bedaux System in each country. He also managed to pay very little tax by keeping constantly on the move and staying ahead of the tax authorities. He was, however, booted out of Russia for trying to introduce a system that went somewhat against the ethos of the Bolshevik regime.

To facilitate his move into Europe’s social elite, he bought a string of homes, including a hunting lodge in Scotland and a castle in Hungary, but his favourite residence was the Château de Candé near Tours, in France, which he purchased for 1.6 million francs in 1927. He set about renovating the chateau, a former



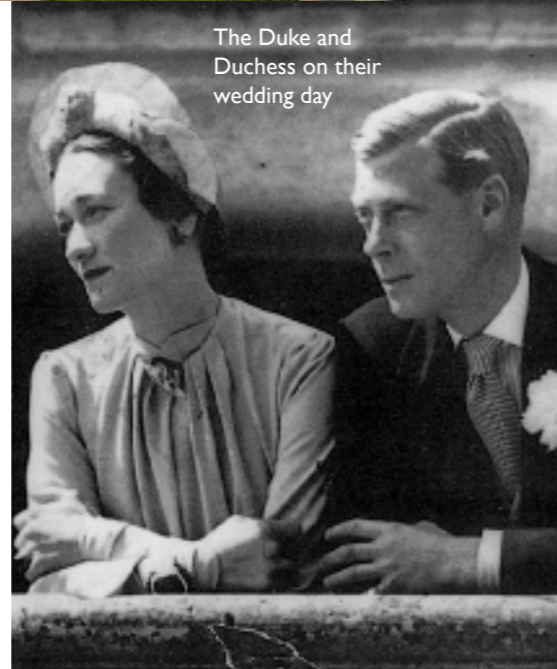
Château de Candé

could, he developed a system for speeding up workers by cutting out wasted motion and improving efficiency, rather grandly known as the “Bedaux System”. An expert would time each worker with a stopwatch, with each hour divided into sixty “Bedaux” units instead of minutes. Workers who performed better than the average unit time would receive a small bonus, while those who performed worse would be demoted or fired. He introduced this system to companies using printed cards explaining it.

Bedaux’s business soon became so successful that he kept an office on the fifty-third floor of the prestigious Chrysler Building in New York, designed like the refectory of a medieval monastery, and he would also entertain clients in the building’s famous “Clouds Room” restaurant. These now included such blue-chip names as General Motors, Ford, Du Pont, ITT and Texaco. Although a stocky figure, Bedaux always dressed immaculately in double-breasted suits of the finest cut, and also wore two-tone “co-respondent” brogues. He also kept an apartment in Greenwich Village where he entertained his mistresses, decorating each room according to the lady’s

monastery, by adding over half a mile of plumbing, several bathrooms, garage blocks, a swimming pool and even a private golf course.

Bedaux had now established companies in Britain, France, Italy, Holland and



The Duke and Duchess on their wedding day

Germany. But although business initially went well in Germany, the economic crash in the 1920s led to political instability with the communists and unions becoming particularly strong; they rejected the Bedaux System out of hand. Bedaux, however, became involved with some of Germany’s biggest industrial companies, including Krups, Mercedes, Opel and I.G. Farben, all of which were supporters of the emerging Nazi Party and whose company heads provided it with financial backing. Bedaux cultivated his Nazi Party contacts, including Dr Hjalmar Schacht, head of the Reichsbank, and Dr Robert Ley. Bedaux became a fanatical Nazi, and so his invitation to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor to hold their wedding at the Château de Candé, probably through their mutual friend, the American ambassador in Paris, William C. Bullitt, who would later house the US Embassy there, had ulterior motives.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor were married at Château de Candé in June 1937. Not a single member of the Royal Family accepted an invitation to the wedding, under strict instructions from King George VI. Most of Edward’s friends also stayed away. There were problems finding a clergyman prepared to perform the ceremony, as the Church of England refused to countenance a wedding to a divorcee. Eventually, a Reverend Jardine offered to marry the couple, although he later fell foul of the Church authorities for performing the ceremony. The Duke and Duchess had to be content with a ceremony in the chateau’s dining room, attended by just sixteen close friends. The Duchess was dressed in pale blue and the Duke in full morning dress. After the civil ceremony necessary under French law, there was a religious ceremony, and the proceedings were all over by 3.30pm. Major Edward Dudley Metcalfe, otherwise known as “Fruity” to his friends, was best man. He had known the Duke since they met in India in the 1920s, when he was a cavalry officer, and accompanied the



The wedding party including Fruity Metcalfe and Herman Rogers

Duke on his sojourns to London nightclubs when he was the Prince of Wales. He would later be abandoned by the Duke in Paris, when the Germans invaded France in 1940; the Duke fled to the South of France, and “Fruity” had to make his own way back to Britain as best he could, by hitch-hiking and bicycle.

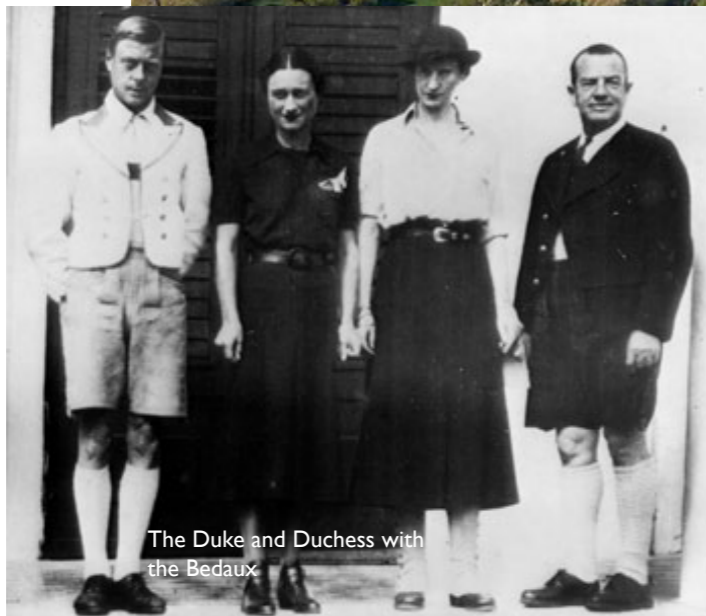
Also at the wedding were Herman and Katherine Rogers, close American friends of the Duchess of Windsor, with whom she stayed at their French Riviera home during the abdication crisis, and Lord Brownlow, a close friend and lord-in-waiting to Edward when he was Prince of Wales. He became heavily involved in the abdication crisis when he accompanied Mrs Simpson, as she then was, on her flight to France to escape the media furore; he encouraged her to renounce any intention to marry the King. Following the abdication, Brownlow attempted to extricate himself from the Duke’s circle by refusing to attend the wedding; the couple regarded him as disloyal, and the Duchess never forgave him. Following the accession of King George VI, Brownlow was shocked to read in the Court Circular that he had been replaced as lord-in-waiting. Telephoning Buckingham Palace for an explanation, he was curtly informed that his resignation had been accepted; he had never offered it, but his name was ordered never to appear in the Court Circular again.

Bedaux had married Fern Lombard, a society girl from Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, in 1917, following his divorce from Blanche.

They were both present at the Windsors' wedding, but were conveniently absent when the photographer was present. However, they would remain close friends of the couple, who ended their honeymoon with a stay at Bedaux's castle at Borsodivánka in Hungary. The relationship only ended in 1943, when the Bedaux were interned by the French authorities, with Charles charged with collaboration and outright treason. Fern Bedaux was eventually released, but Charles, after being held by the French for a year, was extradited by the FBI in December 1943



Château de la Croë



The Duke and Duchess with the Bedaux

France, after they had been recovered from a German reconnaissance plane that had crashed in Holland. The Germans subsequently decided to invade Belgium through the Ardennes, rather than through the Lowlands as

originally intended. They advanced so rapidly through the British and French defences that the British had to make good their escape through Dunkirk.

The Duke, however, had other ideas and decided to settle the Duchess in Biarritz, driven by his loyal chauffeur Ladbroke, with several maids in tow. The Duke returned to Paris, but it became clear that it would soon fall and the Mission's papers were destroyed in May 1940. The Duke had his monogrammed luggage with the "W.E." cypher loaded into his Buick limousine and was driven by Ladbroke with the few remaining servants to their luxury villa in the South of France, La Croë, near Antibes, collecting the Duchess from Biarritz on the way. The consul general in Nice, Hugh Dodds, persuaded the Duke that it was not safe to remain in France. Churchill wanted them to travel on to Gibraltar and thence to Britain, but the Duke looked more favourably on going to Spain, and the couple booked into suite 501 at the Ritz Hotel in Madrid.

Spain, although officially "neutral" during the war, was run by the fascist dictator General

Francisco Franco, who had won the civil war in Spain in the 1930s with the assistance of German bombers. Although Franco was not personally friendly with Hitler, he allowed Spain to be a conduit for key raw materials for the Reich, including iron, coal, mercury and, most controversially, American oil via the Canary Islands. He also allowed the Germans to maintain a massive diplomatic presence in Spain, with their embassy in Madrid totalling 391 people, the majority of whom were secret service personnel, divided between the Abwehr of the Wehrmacht and the SD branch of the SS.

Admiral Canaris, head of the Abwehr, was also a close friend of General Campos Martinez, chief of the Spanish secret service. Churchill, fearing that the Duke may be compromised by the Germans, cabled him: "We should like your Royal Highness to come home as soon as possible. Arrangements will be made with His Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid, with whom you should communicate." The Duke prevaricated with Churchill during a series of cables between the two men, the Duke seeking financial assurances, a military or civil position of influence, recognition of the HRH title for the Duchess, and military duty exclusion for his batman; meanwhile, Churchill was planning the survival of Britain. Churchill, who was a personal friend of the Duke and who had supported him during the abdication crisis, to his own political detriment, now lost his patience and issued the Duke with a thinly veiled threat of a court martial in a top secret cable: "Your Royal Highness has taken military service, and refusal to obey direct orders of a competent military authority would create a serious situation. I hope it will not be necessary for such orders to be sent. I most sincerely urge compliance with wishes of the Government." The Duke, however, refused to return to England without further "assurances", presumably, immunity from any form of prosecution.

Meanwhile, the Duke engaged the services of the Italian chargé d'affaires, Count Zuppo, to safeguard the Windsors' beloved Riviera home, by contacting their (and particularly the Duchess's) old friend, Count Ciano, Mussolini's foreign minister, requesting that the Château de la Croë be placed under the protection of the Italian government. The fact that Britain was at

war with Italy was not regarded by the Duke as important. In Paris, the Windsors' bank account in the Banque de France would remain inviolate, despite other accounts there being looted by Carl Schaefer, the German Alien Property Custodian, whose job it was to confiscate the assets of foreign nationals who had left France.

After staying in Spain for a month, the Windsors were eventually persuaded to leave their suite at the Madrid Ritz, on 2nd July 1940, and travelled on to Lisbon, supposedly in preparation for a return to Britain. The Windsors moved into a beautiful pink stucco seaside villa at Cascais, which had a large swimming pool and was curiously named the "Boca di Inferno" (or Mouth of Hell). The villa was the home of the prominent Portuguese banker and Nazi sympathiser Dr Ricardo do Espirito Santo y Silva, more commonly known to British intelligence as "The Holy Ghost".

Portugal, like Spain, was officially neutral during the war. However, it too was run by a fascist dictator, Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, who was sympathetic to the Nazi regime and who had sided



Dr Ricardo do Espirito Santo y Silva

with General Franco during the Spanish Civil War. Salazar collaborated with the Nazi regime by supplying tungsten, a vitally important raw material for the German armaments industry. Lisbon was also a hotbed of Nazi secret service activity during the war, and its lush, green and cool climate made a welcome alternative to the hot, dusty and poverty-stricken Madrid. Von Ribbentrop, the German foreign minister, now authorised SS-Brigadeführer Walter Schellenberg to make contact with the Duke and ensure his safe passage to another neutral country, preferably Switzerland, via Spain. It

was proposed that the Duke would then be offered the throne after a victorious Nazi regime had defeated Britain, and he would be paid a handsome retainer of 50 million Swiss francs to keep him and the Duchess in the style to which they had become accustomed. Schellenberg was an educated man with a degree in law and political science, and at the age of only 30 would become head of the SD in 1941. He had previously met the Duke on his tour of Germany in 1937.

Espirito Santo now invited the German ambassador in Lisbon, Hoyningen-Huene, to meet the Duke, and this meeting was reciprocated at the ambassador's residence, the plan being to invite the Duke and Duchess on a hunting trip at a Spanish noble's castle, whence the couple would be spirited to Switzerland.

Churchill undoubtedly had some knowledge of these machinations, as Britain had captured the German Enigma codes and was busily deciphering German diplomatic traffic between Berlin, Lisbon and Madrid. Churchill now sent Walter Monckton, the new Minister for Information, and the Duke's friend and legal advisor during the abdication crisis, to stay with him in Portugal. The purpose of Monckton's visit was to inform the Duke that he should now depart Lisbon and take up an appointment as Governor of the Bahamas. Espirito Santo duly reported Monckton's arrival to Schellenberg, whilst maintaining a constant presence with the Duke in order to persuade him to stay in Portugal, while the Germans prepared to defeat Britain. However, the Duke quickly decided to sail for the Bahamas on the liner *Excalibur*, on 1st August 1940, which may have been connected with the Germans telling him that British intelligence were planning to murder him.

Witness 4: Axel Wenner-Gren

The Duke of Windsor referred to the Bahamas as "a third-class British colony", while the

Duchess likened the appointment to "the St Helena of 1940" (in reference to Napoleon's exile). The Duchess, in particular, found the heat in Nassau oppressive and the social life drab. She demanded that renovations be made to Government House before they moved in but she was dismayed to find that the British government would only provide limited funds, on account of the expense of the war effort.

The government had attempted to restrain the couple's financial activities but the Duke and Duchess continued to live luxuriously, throwing opulent dinner parties to entertain wealthy foreign businessmen. They would also take lengthy vacations, lasting weeks and sometimes months, to visit friends in the United States and Mexico; one such friend was Axel Wenner-Gren.

Wenner-Gren, born in 1881, was a Swedish national and founder of the Electrolux company. Schooled in Germany, he realised that to acquire the great wealth he desired he needed to move to the US. There he worked for a Swedish lighting company as a salesman, winning a large contract to supply lighting for workers on the Panama Canal. He had the foresight to convert his sales commissions into company shares, which rocketed in value on the award of this contract. He eventually acquired enough to buy out the company. Seeing a

display of an industrial vacuum cleaner, he saw the huge potential of a domestic version. He became a sales agent of the Lux company who produced it, and persuaded them to develop a model suitable for home use. He established his company in the US, UK and France in 1912 using agents to win orders by the use of home demonstrations. His company, Svenska Elektron, was so successful that he was able to merge it with Lux in 1919, obtaining the sole future sales rights and renaming the company Electrolux later the same year. Electrolux would become a leading provider of electrical goods in the 1930s.

Wenner-Gren would use his wealth to diversify his interests, buying other large



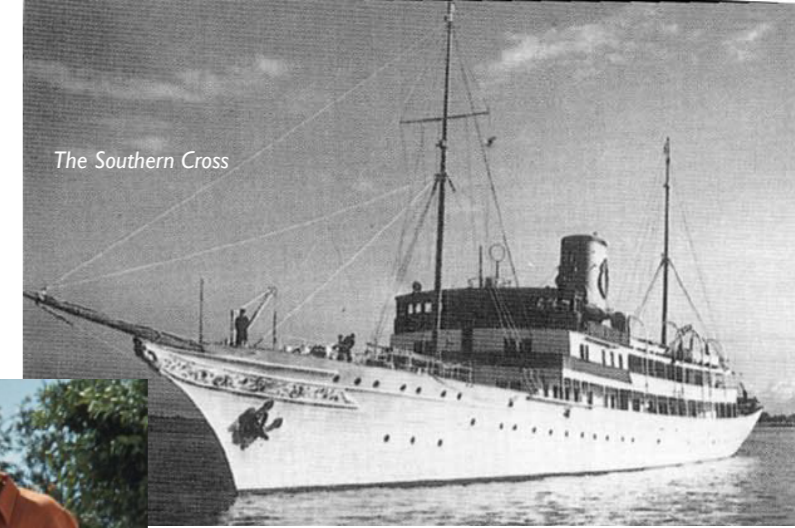
© Bettmann/CORBIS
Axel Wenner-Gren

companies including newspaper publishers, arms manufacturers and banks, and had a personal fortune estimated at \$100 million by the outbreak of the war. He purchased one of the world's largest yachts, *The Southern Cross*, once owned by the reclusive millionaire Howard Hughes, and set sail to the Bahamas with his American wife and children in 1939. There, he took up residence in an impressive mansion in Nassau named "Shangri La", and set about becoming acquainted with the islands' most socially prominent citizens, including the Duke of Windsor.

Wenner-Gren was known to have a close association with Herman Göring. It was believed this friendship facilitated Sweden's relationship with Germany during the war, allowing it to stay neutral. Wenner-Gren would also boast about his friendships with other leading fascists, including Benito Mussolini and Mexico's General Maximino Camacho. He invited the Duke and Duchess for a cruise on his yacht to Miami, and it was believed that he had also provided the Duke with \$2 million to aid his lavish expenditure on entertainment, and on the Duchess. However, British and US intelligence were monitoring Wenner-Gren's movements and he was forced to leave for Mexico. US intelligence believed that he was using a bank he had established in Mexico to finance Nazi arms deals, illegal currency dealing and ultimately undue influence over the Mexican economy. It was later found that the bank's customers included the Duke and Sir Harry Oakes.

The Harry Oakes Affair

Sir Harry, born 1874, was a gold prospector and Canada's wealthiest citizen. He was actually an American by birth but found it expedient to become a Canadian, having made his fortune



The Southern Cross



© Bettmann/CORBIS
The Duke and Duchess in the Bahamas

gold mining at Lake Shore, near the town of Swastika, Ontario. Oakes was known to keep stocks of gold at his numerous homes and was wary of people trying to relieve him of his wealth, notably the tax authorities.

He kept a villa at Niagara, in the fashion of a Tudor castle, using panelling from Cardinal Wolsey's home Hampton Court, and he also had two homes in Palm Beach, Florida. In London, he had a residence at 15A Kensington Gardens, and a dour Victorian mansion set in 800 acres of wooded valley at Broad Oak near Heathfield

in Sussex, which he renamed "Oak Hall". There he employed a dozen gardeners, one of whom was solely engaged to keep leaves off the driveway, and whom Oakes would fire if he found a single leaf.

Sir Harry entertained his London society friends for dinner there, although he had an unfortunate habit of spitting grape pips across the dinner table. In Nassau he had two homes, and it was at his main residence that he was found clubbed to death on 8 June 1943. He was in his bed, covered with down from a pillow, and an attempt had been made to burn the body with petrol. Sir Harry was a brusque man who had offended many business associates over the years, but he was a friend of the Duke of Windsor, whose responsibility it now was to investigate the murder. The Duke was shocked and appalled by his death, and in an effort to avoid a scandal he overruled the Bahamian CID and brought in from Miami two detectives who had provided his personal security when there.

Captains Melchen and Barker quickly assessed the murder scene but did not secure it. Harold Christie, a friend and business associate



The Duke with Harry Oakes

who had been staying overnight with Sir Harry claimed to have heard nothing, and was not considered a suspect. Local Nassau society considered a Mauritian playboy, Count Alfred de Marigny, a more likely suspect. He had eloped with Oakes's 18-year-old daughter Nancy and stood to gain a fortune on Sir Harry's death.



Count Alfred de Marigny

He was brought in for questioning. During the interrogation, detectives were able to lift a fingerprint of De Marigny from a whisky glass, which they placed on a screen at the murder scene; two hours later, De Marigny was arrested and formally charged with Oakes's murder. The fingerprint scam was exposed by De Marigny's defence counsel during the trial, and he was acquitted.

There were many rumours surrounding the circumstances of Sir Harry's murder: one was that the Duke had been involved in massive currency speculation and owed Oakes a large sum of money; another was that the Duchess was having an affair with Oakes. But it was more likely that Harold Christie owed Oakes money and that Oakes had called in the loan as he was planning to move to Mexico. No one else was ever charged with the murder and Christie would become a significant personality and property developer in Nassau. He was knighted by the Queen in 1964, and died a wealthy man in 1973. In his official report to London, the Duke wrote, "The whole circumstances of the

case are sordid beyond description."

The Duke, who constantly believed he was on the verge of bankruptcy, was in fact a wealthy man and was not known as "the millionaire miser" without good reason. He sought a meeting with Sir Edward Peacock, with whom he had dealt during his abdication, and who

was the banker to the Royal Family, a director of the Bank of England and later Barings Bank. Peacock agreed to meet him in Miami, but could do nothing to help. The Duke had been granted an income of £21,000 from the Privy Purse on his abdication, although it was originally recommended that he should receive £50,000.

To supplement his income, the Duke engaged in highly illegal currency dealing, by converting US dollars and French francs into sterling, both during and after the war, when he and the Duchess returned to Paris owing large sums of money.

Witness 5: Charles Fulton Oursler

While in the Bahamas, the Duke gave an interview to the right-wing American journalist Charles Fulton Oursler, who was the editor of a popular weekly, *Liberty*, and who was also a close friend and confidant of President Roosevelt. The Duke said it would be "a tragic thing for the world if Hitler were overthrown" and that "Hitler was the right and logical leader of the German people". He then went on to say that he regarded Hitler as a great man, and asked Oursler whether he supposed that "your president would consider acting as a mediator when, and if, the proper time arrives?" Eventually, the Duke expressed the opinion that it sounded "very silly to put it this way, but the time is coming when someone had to say, you two boys have fought long enough, and now you

have to kiss and make-up!" President Roosevelt requested that Oursler did not publish the story, considering the damage it could cause to the Royal Family and the outcome of the war.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, was well known for her antipathy towards the Duchess of Windsor; the Duchess had taken to mimicking her at parties, and referred to her as "Cookie". The King, supported by Queen Elizabeth, did nothing to prevent the government from threatening the Duke with the withdrawal of his retainer should he and the Duchess consider returning to Britain on a permanent basis. However, in many respects, their political views mirrored those of the Duke and Duchess. The King and Queen

were known to support Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement and, somewhat unconstitutionally, allowed him to greet the crowds from the balcony of Buckingham Palace after his meeting with Hitler in Munich in 1938 and announcement of "peace in our time". The King had even sent Hitler a birthday card. The King also made contact with Lord Halifax, another supporter of appeasement, when foreign secretary, and said that he "was glad to think that steps were being taken to prevent these people leaving their country of origin"; he was referring to Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis in Europe and entering Palestine, a British protectorate at the time. Queen Elizabeth was also very fond of Halifax, and supported his candidature for prime minister to succeed Chamberlain. She was hostile to Churchill at the time, but Halifax stepped aside in his favour.

Witness 6: Anthony Blunt

In March 1945, King George VI authorised the Royal Librarian, Owen Morshead, together with Anthony Blunt, who worked at the Library

part-time but was a full-time MI5 agent, to go on a secret mission to Schloss Friedrichshof in Germany. Ostensibly, this was to secure papers relating to the German empress Victoria, a daughter of Queen Victoria—but more likely it involved correspondence between the Duke of Windsor and leading members of the Nazi regime. The castle was the home of Prince Christoph of Hesse, who was married to Sophie, a sister of the present Duke of Edinburgh. Prince Christoph had joined the Nazi Party in 1933, and by 1935 was chief of the Forschungsamt (Directorate of Scientific Research, a special intelligence operation run by Herman Göring). He was also Standartenführer (colonel) of the SS, on Heinrich Himmler's personal staff.

Blunt eventually managed to retrieve the files by gaining entrance to the castle overnight, under the noses of the American occupying forces, and loaded them into a truck to return to Britain. They now reside in the Royal Archives.

Anthony Blunt was exposed as a Soviet spy in 1964, after being interviewed eleven times by his superiors at MI5 since 1951. The Attorney-General Sir John Hobson declined to prosecute Blunt—as he was threatening to reveal the contents

of the royal papers. He was Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures at the time, a post he held until 1972. He was then appointed as Advisor for the Queen's Paintings and Drawings until he retired in 1978.

Blunt was publicly exposed in Andrew Boyle's book *A Climate of Treason* in 1979 and named by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the House of Commons later the same year. He was stripped of his knighthood but never questioned over his role in 1945.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the evidence. I leave it for you to decide whether the Duke and Duchess should be for the high jump.



Portrait by Philippe Halsman, 1950

The Cocktail Cabinet

Wherein Members enjoy the view through the bottom of a glass

The Mint Julep

by David Bridgman-Smith

With the Kentucky Derby this Saturday, 7th May (and an aptly themed Candlelight Club on the same day), there was really only one choice for this month's Cocktail Cabinet: the Mint Julep.

The Mint Julep is a mix of bourbon, water, sugar and fresh mint. It is traditionally served with shaved/crushed ice in a silver or metal cup.

As with many (maybe even most) cocktails, the exact origin of the Mint Julep is uncertain; some Virginians claim the honour, but it is more often associated with Kentucky.

The term "Julep" is thought to come from the Persian word "gulab", from the words for "rose" and "water", via the Medieval Latin "julapium". During this time it was common for medicinal elements (that would often taste bitter) to be mixed with sugar and water to make

them more palatable, rather like the origins of the gin and tonic.

Why Mint?

Mint itself has some medicinal qualities as a stomach-settler or appetite-raiser, which could explain its use in the drink. It also has a strong taste, so it could be useful to help disguise the taste of the rougher whiskeys. Alternatively, it could be that it just happened to grow in great beds around the fresh water springs used to provide the water for the Julep. It is suggested that at the Churchill Downs, site of the Kentucky Derby, the mint grew out the back, making it a very convenient ingredient.

This brings us us on to the Derby itself. Since the inception of the track in 1875, Mint Juleps have been served in the clubhouse, and from the late 1930s the drink attained a more official standing at the track with commemorative glasses being sold for just 75 cents. These glasses are still sold at the track today, although the Julep served there now uses mint syrup, which is much more efficient.

James Bond fans



may also note that in the movie *Goldfinger* Bond orders a Mint Julep using the words: "sour-mash [whiskey] not too sweet". He and Auric Goldfinger sip their drinks whilst the villain explains his plans for Fort Knox, another treasure of Kentucky.

Recipe 1

1. Take a metal (preferably silver) cup and gently rub some fresh mint leaves around the inside
2. Discard the leaves
3. Fill the cup to the top with crushed ice, making sure that it is firmly packed
4. Add sugar syrup (a dash or two)
5. Add bourbon (at least a double)
6. Give it a quick stir
7. Garnish with a spring of mint

I used Old Granddad bourbon, which gives some smoked notes to the drink; some may find this bourbon a bit too much on its own, but it is amazing how a little sugar, water and mint can really transform the spirit into a drink that is even enjoyed by folks who are not usually whiskey fans. The advantage of using a metal cup over a glass is that the conductivity of the metal keeps the drink really cold and you get a pleasant frost coating on the outside of the cup. This truly is one of my favourite drinks.

Recipe 2

1. Fill a Julep cup with crushed ice
2. Add mint syrup and bourbon, then stir
3. Garnish with a sprig of mint

I made the mint syrup by infusing some mint leaves in simple sugar syrup for a couple of days.

This second julep seems less flavourful and I found that more syrup is needed to provide the same depth of flavour as the first. It's still good, but there is a bitter aftertaste as you get to the bottom. Simply put, the first was better.

A third option would be to use mint-infused bourbon. I've heard very positive things



A Julep strainer in its rightful place over a Julep cup

about this method, but have not yet had the opportunity to try it.

What about the Julep strainer?

You may have seen one of these—like a large perforated spoon—used by a barman to strain a cocktail into a glass. But it is not just an alternative to a Hawthorn strainer (the kind with a spring or coil around the edge). It was originally designed to fit over a Julep cup and to stop the crushed ice hitting the drinker's teeth or moustache. Alternatively you can use a straw. Although a straw may be easier to come by, personally, I prefer to use a strainer if available.

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



Will Smith on *The One Show*



London. They are relaxed affairs, where a Member curates the evening with a film or films they would like to see: this time Evadne Raccat presented *Topsy-Turvy*, Mike Leigh's 1999 drama about Gilbert and Sullivan, focusing on their creative stalemate after the relatively unsuccessful *Princess Ida*, resolved by the hatching of *The Mikado*. The film delights in all manner of period detail and the lives, characters and woes of the members of the cast and G&S themselves. Ms Raccat introduced the film, pointing out that while it was not a commercial success at the time, its makers nevertheless managed to create its lush and historically accurate visual feast (involving completely refitting Richmond Theatre to stand in as the Savoy) on a relative shoestring by the standards of most modern productions.

If you have an idea of a flick or two that you think Club Members would appreciate, do get in touch and we can sort out a screening.



CLUB NOTES

Club Celebrates G&S on Celluloid

ON THURSDAY 14TH APRIL the New Sheridan Club had another of its celebrated Film Nights at the Compass public house near Angel in

Members Take to the Airwaves in Media Blitz

FRENCH REPORTER Christian Roudeau interviewed the NSC's own coatmaker, William Smith, on BBC 1's *The One Show*, broadcast on 3 May 2011, investigating the contrast between

Parisian sartorial conformity and Britain's "don't care" attitude.

Will, who also writes for *The Chap* Magazine, said of high street fashion, "Too much emphasis is put on stack-it-high, sell-it-cheap. That's not necessarily good for the economy or one's sense of self worth."

"I think people should be turned out well. Some people would argue that a pair of skinny jeans, a low-cut vest and a nicely asymmetrical haircut is being turned out well..." Cue video footage to prove conclusively otherwise. Will himself looked impeccable, of course.

Christian also discussed our love of



C-B after a few ales, with a disapproving Hartley in the background
Photo by Michael Westmount-Fairside

"smelly" vintage clothes with Naomi Thompson of Vintage Secret, who swiftly improved the French journalist's "perfect style" with a nice red cravat.

Christian concluded that, unlike chic but boring Parisians, we Brits aren't afraid of eccentricity. Who knew?

Meanwhile, Compton-Bassett made an impromptu appearance on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* which I gather might now become a regular slot. Even the unpredictable, and sometimes insalubrious, Lord Rupert was interviewed on London station Colourful Radio, though this was more about his Satanism than Chappism, I gather. I'm told he made a persuasive case...

Birthdays Abound

MUST BE SOMETHING about the time of year. Only this Monday Compton-Bassett celebrated 22 years on this earth with a slap-up meal at the RAF Club followed by some jars of fine real ale at The Harp, where he was befriended by some Brazilian photojournalists who I believe may consequently be coming along to the May Club Night. I hope they're better dressed than they were on Monday. And two weeks before that Sean Rillo Raczka marked his own birthday with a revolutionary-themed party, in which he waved Mao's little red book, made a four-hour address to the faithful (well, OK, two-minute) and ended dancing on top of a skip outside the pub. No one combines political radicalism, sartorial conservatism and social depravity like Sean. Mind you, June is usually even more infested with birthdays: in fact our Glorious Chairman is having a party next month...



Sean Rillo Raczka takes a night off from student activism to celebrate his birthday—in revolutionay style



Club Bling for Da Laydeez

I AM FULLY AWARE that available Club regalia (with the exception of the scarf, actually) is rather gent-centric. I did look into the possibility of a ladies' silk scarf in an NSC design but got few takers for the idea.

Now I have received the following missive from new Member Miss Bunty Flint:

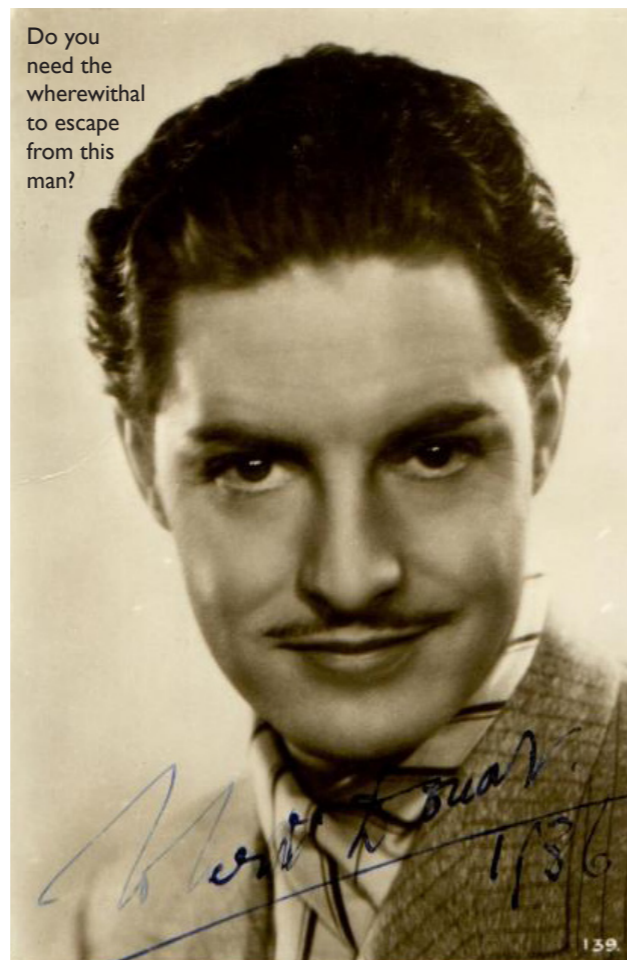
"A powder compact enamelled with the Brolly Roger, not unlike the lapel badge in appearance if not in size, would be a charming accoutrement. However, this may prove rather expensive to produce and perhaps there is not so much call for such an item these days, therefore I suggest a handbag mirror. Such an item would have multiple uses: it would obviously display sartorial and social elegance while touching up make-up, it would be a useful tool for checking if one is being followed and could likewise be used to attract the attention of a waiter, or lover, across a crowded room. It could even be used as a device to signal across the Scottish lowlands should one find oneself handcuffed to Robert Donat. Though why on earth anyone

Your Chance to Own a Club Scarf

YOU MAY REMEMBER that I announced the opportunity for Members to become the proud owners of a NSC scarf a couple of issues ago. I confess I haven't actually got round to placing the order yet, so, before I do, I thought I'd offer you another chance to sign up. The scarves are wool, in stripes of the Club colours and will keep you nice and toasty in the forthcoming summer months.

The scarves are £21.50 each including delivery to one address (i.e. mine)—if I'm likely to see you in the flesh then I can simply present you with it, but if I'll need to mail it to you then there will be a delivery cost which I'll have to calculate by getting Mr Tsua, creator of the thing and owner of the only prototype, to weight one. I shall inform you of the damage.

If you fancy such a garment, drop me an email to mrhartley@newsheridanclub.co.uk.



would wish to escape from his clutches, even for a moment, I have always singularly failed to understand."

Would any other Members, female or indeed male, be interested in an NSC-blazoned handbag mirror? Do you have any other suggestions for official Club accessory ideas?

New Members

AS THE SPECIAL FORCES commandos of modern-day garish vacuity storm the secret Pakistani bunker of languid elegance and old-world élan, I would like to offer the human shield of unjudging affability (and perhaps also a pipe-smokescreen and some particularly stout thornproof tweeds) to the following doughties, all of whom have taken the pledge of New Sheridan Club Membership in the last month: Dr Jim Holding, Crystal Fischetti, J. Maladroit, Dr Marcus Cooke-Smith, Benedict Koller and Alan Leslie Spencer.

Summer Party Chaos

DESPITE MY BOLD trumpeting last month of where and when the NSC Summer Party would take place, it just shows you should never believe anything you read in the press. Sadly the powers that be at Alexandra Palace, having changed their minds several times about the date, have now decided we can't use the Palm Court after all. However, we are now investigating some alternative venues so all I can say is, watch this space...



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 4th May
8pm–11pm
Upstairs, The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB
Members: Free
Non-Members: £2 (first visit free)
See page 2.

🔴 Oxford Punt 'n' Picnic

Saturday 7th May
noon–closing time
A variety of locations in Oxford
Admission: There will be a share of the punt hire, perhaps £20, plus you'll need to bring food and grog

Usually held on or near St George's Day (but not this time, because this was the Easter weekend which threatened Transport Chaos), this usually involves meeting at the Turf Tavern at 11am for a stiffener before heading to the Magdalen Bridge Boathouse to pick up the punts at midday. The flotilla then punts to a traditional picnic spot (next to what I believe is called The High Bridge, near the Cricket Club) for a feast, arriving around 2pm. The journey back usually involves more likelihood of someone plunging overboard, and if we get all the boats back afloat then a celebration is called for at a hostelry...

The Candlelight Club

Saturday 7th May
7.30pm–12am
A secret central London location (venue will be revealed when you buy your ticket)
Admission: £15 in advance
Dress: 1920s dandies and swells, gangsters and molls, degenerate aristos and decadent aesthetes, corrupt politicians and the Smart Set In the Know

A clandestine pop-up cocktail bar, in a tucked-away, candlelit den with a 1920s speakeasy flavour. Each event offers a one-off bespoke cocktail menu and there are special themes and featured ingredients, masterminded by Will Sprunt, plus vintage DJing from the Club's own MC Fruity and live performances.

This time it's a Kentucky Derby special—the race will be taking that very day in Louisville, Kentucky—featuring the fine qualities of Kentucky whiskey Woodford Reserve and a

range of cocktails that show it to its best, plus prizes for the best-dressed Southern Gentleman and Southern Belle. At time of writing there are a handful of tickets still available.

Kingston's Affordable Vintage Fair

Saturday 7th May
11.30am–5pm
The Space Bar, Kingston SU, Penryn Road, KT1 2EE
Admission: £2
Featured by the likes of Elle, Asos, Stylist and Grazia, Judy's Affordable Vintage Fair gathers 40 of the UK's leading vintage traders, offering an eclectic mix of stock spanning six decades at affordable prices. There is also a bar plus cupcakes. See www.vintagefair.co.uk.

Newcastle's Affordable Vintage Fair

Saturday 7th May
12–5pm
Northumbria SU, 2 Sandyford Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8SB
Admission: £2 (£1 student card or OAP)
As above. See www.vintagefair.co.uk.

The "Grey Soul" of London

Sunday 8th May
5–8.30pm
The streets of Finsbury, London
Admission: £9 (concessions £7, Friends of the Museum of London £6); to book call the Museum box office on 020 7001 9844 of follow the links on the Museum's website.

Robert Kingham's walking tour: see page 2.

Glasgow's Affordable Vintage Fair

Sunday 8th May
12–5pm
Queen Margaret Union, 22 University Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8QN
Admission: Not stated but presumably about £2
As above. See www.vintagefair.co.uk.

Chester's Affordable Vintage Fair

Saturday 14th May
10.30–4.30pm
Chester Guildhall, Watergate Street, Chester, CH1 2LA
Admission: £2 (£1 student card or OAP)
As above. See www.vintagefair.co.uk.



Eltham Palace Art Deco Fair

Saturday 7th–Sunday 8th May
10am–5pm
Eltham Palace, Court Yard, off Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5QE (020 8294 2548)
Admission: £9.30 (concessions £8.40)

Browse through stalls selling all things Art Deco, from jewellery to furniture. The venue is particularly notable—Eltham Palace is a strange mixture of architectural styles, with an original Tudor great hall and restrained exterior, opening on to some exquisite 1930s rooms added by the Courtaulds, including a gorgeous rotunda with inlaid wood panelled walls and an innovative (for the time) concrete and glass domed skylight. I seem to recall the dining room has pink leather upholstery and a silver leaf ceiling. A thoroughly modern integral vacuum cleaning system was also included in the new rooms, and there is even a run for the couple's pet lemur. Note that the entry fee for this fair is what you would normally have to pay to see the building anyway, so it is good value. There are extensive gardens too. I can feel a picnic coming on... More about the venue at www.elthampalace.org.uk.



The "Grey Soul" of London

Wednesday 11th May
6–9.30pm
The streets of Finsbury, London
Admission: £9 (concessions £7, Friends of the Museum of London £6); to book call the

Museum box office on 020 7001 9844 of follow the links on the Museum's website.

Robert Kingham's walking tour: see page 2.

The Hendricks Lectures present Selina Hastings on Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh

Thursday 12th May
6pm–9.30pm
The Last Tuesday Society, 11 Mare Street, London E8 4RP
Admission: £7 or £4 if skint

Describes the pupil/teacher relationship that existed for almost fifteen years between Evelyn Waugh (the teacher) and Nancy Mitford (the pupil).



Lost London Quiz

Friday 13th May
6.30–8.30pm
The Hunterian Museum, The Royal College of Surgeons, 35–43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE

Admission: Free but email hello@thelondonist.com

with your expected team size (max 5) and the subject line "Londonist Quiz". In connection with the Lost London lecture, and to celebrate Museums at Night 2010, the Hunterian and londonist.com are putting on a quiz to test your knowledge of the London that is no more—from buried rivers to vanished museums, from Victorian tenements to great palaces.

Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway presents 1940s Weekend

Saturday 14th–Sunday 15th May
For times and locations see www.rhdr.org.uk

At least eight steam locomotives will be whisking guests up and down this miniature railway, and at stations there will be displays of vintage vehicles, 1940s dancing and music, an historic warplane fly-past, a replica armoured train, plus evening entertainment too.

The Candlelight Club

Saturday 14th May
7.30pm–12am
A secret central London location (venue will be

revealed when you buy your ticket)
Admission: £15 in advance
Dress: 1920s dandies and swells, gangsters and molls, degenerate aristos and decadent aesthetes, corrupt politicians and the Smart Set In the Know

See above. This event turns its mixological thoughts to what was happening in Paris in the 1920s, as talented barmen fleeing Prohibition wound up there and started a cocktail revolution. Featuring the Gallic charms of Benoit Viellefon and his Orchestra.

Brighton's Affordable Vintage Spectacular

Sunday 15th May
11am–5pm
Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 9XZ
Admission: £4 (£3 student card or OAP)
Featured by the likes of Elle, Asos, Stylist, Red and Grazia, Judy's Affordable Vintage Spectacular gathers 65 the UK's leading vintage traders, offering an eclectic mix of stock spanning eight decades at affordable prices, along with a 1940s tea party, vintage entertainers, plus the Vintage Furniture Flea selling mid-century homewares and furnishings. See www.vintagefair.co.uk.

The Inaugural Liverpoolitan Tweed Run

Sunday 15th May
Rendezvous 9am–10.50am
First rendezvous point is Cappuccino's café in The Pavilion in Birkenhead Park; there will be a second rendezvous point at the Seacombe Ferry at 11.10am.
Admission: Free

A minimum-exertion, maximum-elegance bicycle outing for ladies and gentlemen who find plastic helmets, "mountain bikes" and gaudy Lycra distasteful and intimidating. An informal ride with opportunities for tea and buns, beer and chips, etc. along the way as well as picnics and sea-bathing for the adventurous. Participants are those whose dress is dignified



and stylish, urbane rather than urban. The route is predominantly free of motor traffic or punishing inclines and offers plenty of health-giving sea air. For more details there is a Facebook event.

Double R Club

Thursday 19th May
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”—and recommended by our Chairman Torquil Arbuthnot. The availability of tables is released to a mailing list one week before the event. To join the mailing list simply email therrclub@gmail.com with “mailing list” in the subject line.

The Fitzrovia Radio Hour on Tour

Thursday 19th May
7.30pm
The Maltings, Eastern Lane, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1AJ
Admission: Unclear

Fresh from a sell-out Edinburgh Festival run, The Fitzrovia Radio Hour recreates the unique spirit of 1940s radio plays, brilliantly evoking a dinner-jacketed age of casual imperialism and stiff upper lips. Fitzrovia mixes the chauvinist attitudes of 1940s Britain with sharp contemporary humour to produce a heady comic cocktail. Sound effects are created live: a Bakelite hairdryer imitates a blowtorch, a desk fan becomes an aeroplane, and multiple types of cabbage help to stage a fight scene.

The Fitzrovia Radio Hour on Tour

Friday 20th May

7.30pm
The Pound Arts Centre, Pound Hill, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9HX
Admission: Unclear
See above.

Chap of the Year

Saturday 21st May
8pm–2am
The Grand Hall, Euston Road, London, United Kingdom
Admission: £20 in advance (or call 020 724 1617)

Come and see the finals of this competition organised by *The Chap* magazine. The three-round contest will be a celebration of elegant

dress, grooming and good manners, as the ten caddish challengers (at least half of whom are NSC Members) are asked to pit their gentlemanly (or, in Mai's case, ladylike) skills against one another in front of a live audience.

Throughout the evening the audience will be able to ruminate on the debonair displays and whom they deem fit to wear this coveted crown, all the while enjoying cocktails from the Bourne & Hollingsworth bar (if you can get to the bar,

that is—B&H bars are notoriously understaffed).

Following the award ceremony, the party continues. Guests will be entertained by live bands, vintage DJs and amusing sideshows, or by exchanging romantic missives with other guests via a butler (our own Lord Rupert).

The Hendricks Lectures present
Max Egremont on Siegfried Sassoon
Tuesday 24th May
6pm–9.30pm
The Last Tuesday Society, 11 Mare Street, London E8 4RP

Admission: £7 Or £4 if skint
Investigates the life and work of this great war poet.

The Hendricks Lectures present DJ Taylor on Bright Young Things

Wednesday 25th May
6pm–9.30pm
The Last Tuesday Society, 11 Mare Street, London E8 4RP
Admission: £7 or £4 if skint

The bohemian group of Bright Young People produced not only some of the most celebrated novelists of the early 20th century, but its own literary form—“the party novel”. Beneath the gossip and frivolity of its subject matter lay a sense of disquiet and impending tragedy.

The Candlelight Club

Saturday 28th May
7.30pm–12am
A secret central London location (venue will be revealed when you buy your ticket)
Admission: £15 in advance
Dress: 1920s dandies and swells, gangsters and molls, degenerate aristos and decadent aesthetes, corrupt politicians and the Smart Set In the Know

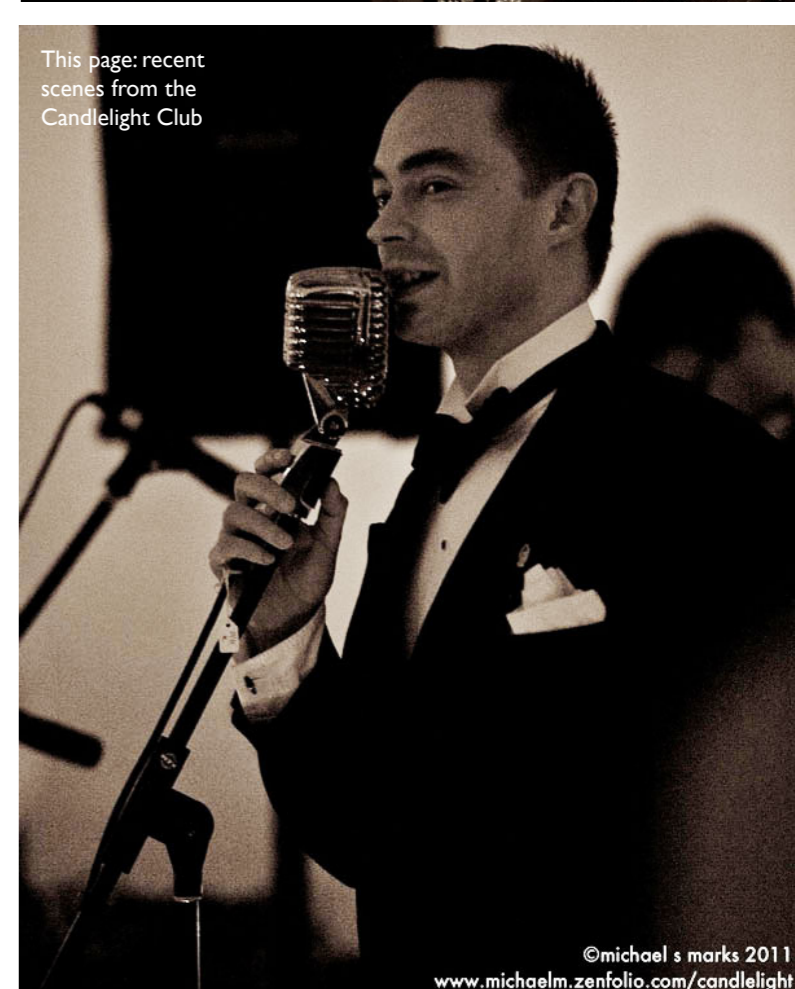
See above. The theme this time is An English Country Garden, featuring a cocktail menu that evokes the tastes and scents of Blighty in the summer, with live music from those Woosterish rakes Top Shelf Jazz.


The Cake Walk Revival

Monday 30th May
From 5.30pm
The Palm Court, Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 7AY
Admission: £5

Regular event, usually on the last Sunday of every month, but shunted to the Bank Holiday Monday on this occasion. Dance to live swing-era jazz music inside Alexandra Palace's stunning Palm Court.

To get to the Palace either take the train to Alexandra Palace rail station (From King's Cross via Finsbury Park) and walk up the hill, or go to Wood Green tube. The W3 bus stops at both stations every 5–10 minutes and will take you to the Palm Court entrance. Enter via the Phoenix Bar.





Club sweetheart Fleur de Guerre, snapped at Compton-Bassett's birthday bash by Michael Westmount-Fairside. Fleur's own birthday is next month.

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.

CONTACTING US

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