

RESIGN!

All hail the Chap!

Club
presence
at the
Chap Ball
led by Mr B

Guess that's why they call them the Blues

A brief history of the
famous Oxford and
Cambridge colours

A snowball's chance?

David Bridgman-
Smith attempts to
rehabilitate the
cocktail equivalent
of the Christmas
sweater

Bringing the house down

Downton Abbey
themed improv
comedy at our
November
meeting

Once were warriors

Ed Marlowe
explains his
choice for the
last NSC
Film Night

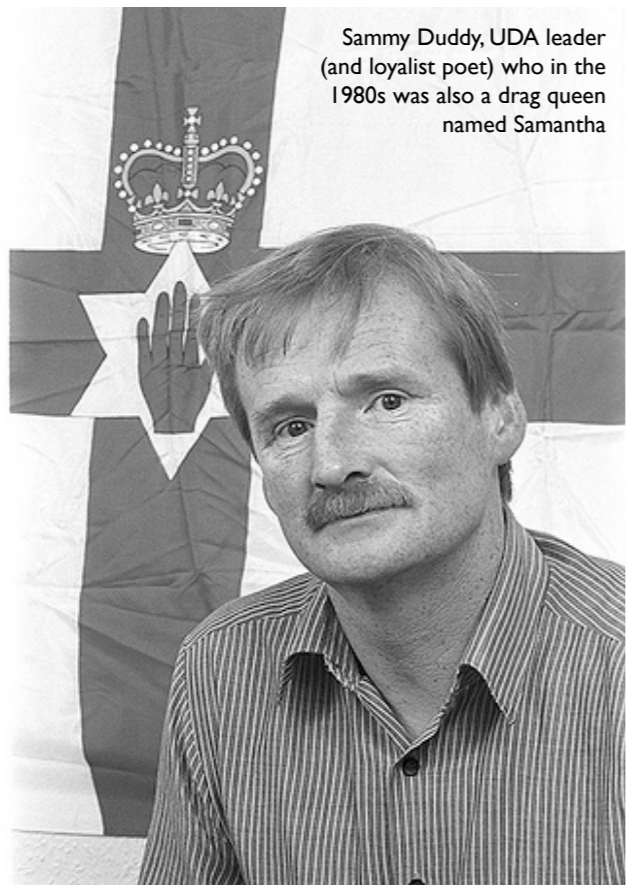




The New Sheridan Club traditionally meets in the upstairs room of The Wheatsheaf, just off Oxford Street. The Wheatsheaf is one of Fitzrovia's historic pubs, a one-time haunt of Dylan Thomas, George Orwell, Augustus John and Julian Maclaren-Ross. In fact Thomas met his wife Caitlin in The Wheatsheaf 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 5th December in the upstairs room at The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JB, from 7pm until 11pm. Mr Edward Marlowe will present his dossier on *Incendiary Eccentrics: Unusual Individuals from Within the Ranks of Ireland's Warring Paramilitary Factions of the Twentieth Century*. Ed has been playing his cards close to his chest, but on the subject of his exhaustive picture research he did mention that "I'm specially keen to get a good performance shot, if I can, of the guy who spent the Seventies and Eighties active as both a drag queen and a UDA paramilitary"... I myself have failed to find such an action shot, but on the right is the man in question in more normal clothes. You'll just have to imagine him in high heels, sequined gown and falsies.



Sammy Duddy, UDA leader (and loyalist poet) who in the 1980s was also a drag queen named Samantha

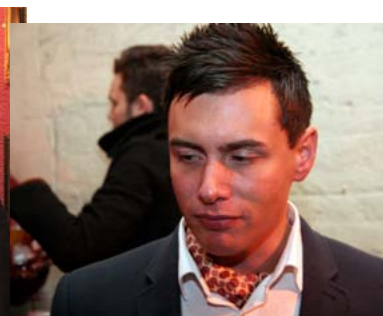
The Last Meeting

At our November meeting we broke with tradition, our entertainment coming not from a lecture but in the form of improvised comedy from "Upstairs Downton", a troupe whose mission is to improvise a "lost episode" of *Downton Abbey*/ *Upstairs Downstairs*. The cast all lampooned characters from *Downton Abbey* and at the beginning the writer "Julian Chaps" asks the audience to suggest some details that the cast must incorporate into the episode—in this case newts, taxidermy and aspidistras, and the plot revolved around his lordship's desperate attempt to produce a collection of stuffed newts to impress a visiting foreign prince in the hope that he might buy it and thus save the impoverished estate. With hilarious consequences.

Many thanks to the crew, whose performance went down very well indeed.



(Clockwise from above) Scarheart is suspicious of the press; friends of the performers are flummoxed by the signing-in book; two unsavoury characters in the narrative pretend to smoke; the denouement; a rare sighting of Benjamin; Scarheart keeps an eye on Maximillion Conrad; Anton contemplates the mean streets down which he must go; Rachel Downer and Robert Beckwith; the foreign prince saves the day; Julian Chaps invites the audience to chip in; Niall makes his point rather aggressively by the looks of it



Oxbridge Blues

BY MATTHEW HOWARD
CHAIRMAN OF THE WITHAM ROWING CLUB
THE WORLD'S FOREMOST IMAGINARY SPORTING ASSOCIATION

A history of these sporting colours

FOR DEVOTEES OF the traditional Corinthian sporting ideal, December marks the occasion whereby the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge meet at Twickenham and compete in the fixture known simply as the “Varsity Match”.

It was first contested in 1872, so 6th December 2012 will witness the 131st occasion the two Universities have locked horns. The

The first university Boat Race was rowed in 1829 at Henley. The Oxford crew was dominated by students of Christ Church, whose college colours were dark blue, and they rowed the race sporting white shirts with dark blue stripes. By contrast, Cambridge wore white with a pink or scarlet sash. The second Boat Race was rowed in 1836 and it is said that Cambridge’s R.N

Phipps, of Eton and Christ’s, thinking that the Cambridge boat should have a “colour” at its bows, called at a haberdashers and asked for a

piece of ribbon. The colour of the ribbon was light blue, possibly as a result of it being Eton’s colour, or that of Gonville & Caius, there being three Caians in the boat. We shall never definitively know the reason for Mr Phipps’s choice (the MCC has a similar ambiguity

about the origins of its colours), but through the rivalry of the Boat Race, the colours became inextricably linked with the universities and contests between the two, with light blue becoming the official colour of Cambridge University Boat Club.

The Boat Race only became a regular



Newspaper coverage of the Varsity Match of 1901 and (right) 1902

As was expected, Oxford won the Inter-University Rugby Football Match at Queen’s Club. The game was, however, more even than was anticipated. Cambridge, who were the stronger forward, made a good fight, but their backs were quite outclassed. Crabtree, the Oxford captain, played a splendid game and got in twice for his side. Outside the scrum George Crabtree was the most conspicuous man in the field, both in running and collaring. Our illustration shows a rush by the Oxford three-quarters.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE RUGBY FOOTBALL MATCH AT QUEEN’S CLUB



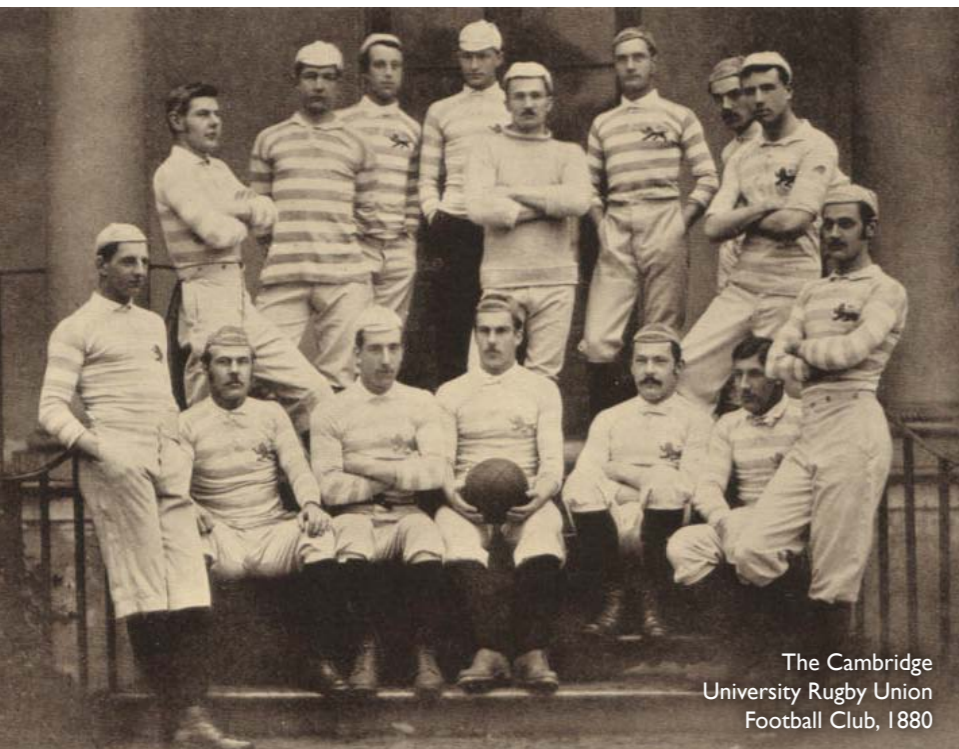
2012 Varsity shirts



fixture in 1856 (the annual cricket match, first held in 1827, having already become a regular fixture some 18 years previously), and when other sporting clubs in Cambridge wished to emulate their forebears, they were at liberty to sport whichever colours they chose. But thinking to continue an established tradition, sportsmen invariably picked light blue and, in courtesy, sought permission from CUBC before awarding this “Blue”.

Meanwhile in Oxford, it is known that by 1863 University oarsmen and cricketers had taken to wearing dark blue “coats”. The

introduction of the Oxford “Half Blue” can be precisely pinpointed to an entry in the Blues Committee minute book dated 10th June, 1885. Half Blues were soon distinguished by a blazer with alternating dark blue and white vertical lines, which are still sported today. In Cambridge by the 1860s the three senior sports—rowing, cricket and athletics—were awarding Blues, and the Presidents of each formed an informal “Blues Committee” to oversee such awards. By 1880 a number of smaller clubs involved in Varsity matches had successfully requested the right to award “Half Blues”. In general, the Full Blue standard is approximately that of being successful at a national level of student competition and the Half Blue standard is that of being successful at county or regional level. The awards process is very similar at the two Universities, where both award Blues and Half Blues based either on performance or on historical convention.



The Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club, 1880

players compete for the honour of their University, a cup, a commemorative tankard and, of course, the right to be known as a “Blue” for the rest of their lives. But why “Blue”? For this, we must look not to the rugby field but to the river, and go all the way back to the year 1829...



Twickenham 1932



CURUFC sweater



(Clockwise from far left) Cambridge 1949 Varsity Match shirt; Cambridge Half and Full Blue scarves; CUBC blazers; once awarded a Blue one is expected to wear it at every conceivable sporting opportunity; Cambridge Half Blue blazer



Full Blue sports include cricket, rowing and Rugby Union, with Half Blues generally reserved for those who excel in rather more niche sporting endeavours such as Eton Fives and croquet.



founded in 1872. There is a limit on membership, with no more than 230 Hawks-in-residence at the University at any one time entitled to membership. The equivalent club at Oxford is Vincent's on King Edward Street, which is a sports club

Men holding Blues and Half Blues in a Full Blue sport at Cambridge are eligible to join the Hawks' Club located on Portugal Place, a private members-only social club for sportsmen

predominantly (but not exclusively) for Blues at Oxford with an undergraduate membership limited to 150 at any one time. It will surprise few that women are considered for membership of neither club.

The scarf of the Hawks' Club and the clubhouse doormat: the initials stand for "God Damn Bloody Oxford"



The winner of a Blue or Half Blue is entitled to wear a blues blazer, which is one of the most recognisable and distinctive garments associated with the award. Full Blue blazers are completely coloured either Oxford or Cambridge blue. In Cambridge, Half Blue blazers have a number of different designs depending on the wearer's sport. A typical design is an off-white blazer with Cambridge blue lapels and trimmings. In Oxford, the Half



Scarf of the Vincent Club

Blue blazer can be one of two designs. The design of 1885, composed of thick vertical stripes of alternating dark blue and off-white, is still sported today. Alternatively, it can be dark blue, as the Full Blue blazer, with two white stripes above the club badge on the left breast.

There is also a variety of other Blue and Half Blue kit available, including scarves, ties, pullovers, bow ties and caps, many of which are illustrated here. And if one is entitled to wear any form of Blue's regalia, particularly the scarf, it would appear almost obligatory to sport such a garment on almost every occasion for the duration of one's University career, unless they have changed the rules. At the most recent count, there were over 70 different Varsity Matches (men's and women's) with new ones being added each



Referee Albert Freethy and the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) prior to a Varsity Match at Twickenham

year. But whether one's particular expertise is in the front row of a scrum or in gliding, the winning of a Blue or Half Blue is a source of great pride to those so selected to compete against the old enemy in their particular sports annual Varsity Match. Good luck to both teams this week. May the best team win and, as they say in the Fens, God Damn Bloody Oxford!

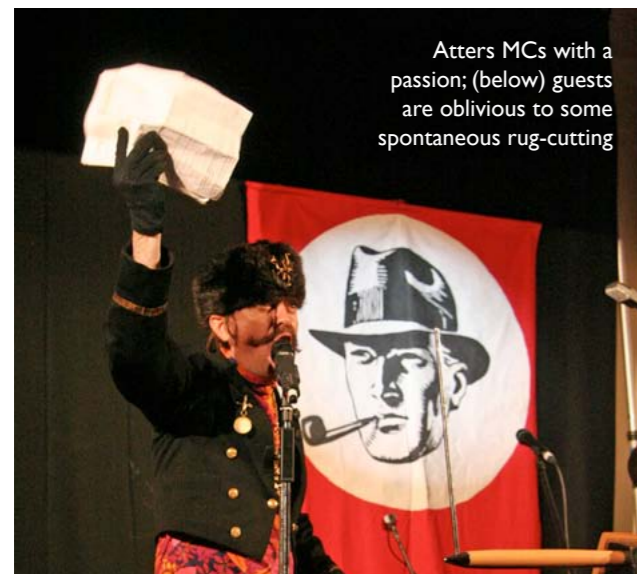
Matthew Howard is proud to have spent three years being educated in the Fens, his particular Alma Mater being located the "wrong side" of Reality Checkpoint, but conveniently close to Fenner's, the Cambridge University cricket ground, where he spent his summers neglecting his texts. He also lived with a rugby Blue for a year, whose appearance at Twickenham was the highlight of his sporting career.



(Clockwise from left) Oxford Half Blue blazer; two variants of the Oxford Full Blue sweater; Oxford Half Blue sweater; Oxford Half Blue scarf; the 2012 Varsity Captains, John Henry Carter of Oxford (left) and Rob Malaney of Cambridge

All Hail the Chap!

SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER saw *The Chap* magazine's Christmas ball, now an annual event. It had an "eccentric" theme this time, and entertainment included a flea circus, an acrobat balancing on a slack-rope, music from Albert Ball's Flying Aces and a surprise appearance by the Club's own Mr B. the Gentleman Rhymer. "Atters" Attree was MC, wearing a highly peculiar psychedelic onesie...



Atters MCs with a passion; (below) guests are oblivious to some spontaneous rug-cutting



Mr B mingles with the crowd before storming on stage for a 'surprise' performance



Bar staff get busy making cocktails for the masses



© Russ-Zombie Bell

The Chap editor Gustav Temple (r) with Zack MacLeod Pinsent



Yes, both cakes and ale were for sale



Louise Newton as Louise Quatorze

© Russ-Zombie Bell



Additional photos by Russ-Zombie Bell



Vicount Rushen with a fellow Member of the House of Keys (the parliament of the Isle of Man), the Foreign Secretary, I seem to recall



Pandora Harrison

© Russ-Zombie Bell



© Russ-Zombie Bell

(Above) The joint is jumping; (below) more spontaneous rug-cutting: (left) don't worry, they're just candy cigarettes





(Left) The first act of the evening began with a few japes like balancing on one leg with a bowl of water on his head, before clambering on to a slack-rope, removing his clothes in mid-balance (he may well have lost the genteel crowd at this point) and playing a violin; (below) this act consisted of a woman making spooky noises on theremin and saw and a man hitting things

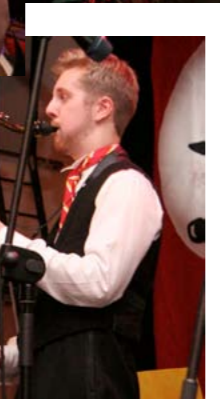


I never worked out what, or who the mechanical head was for



Ed Marlowe and Sara Sewandsew are bewitched by the flea circus ringmistress's patter

Albert Ball's Flying Aces, featuring more than a little soloing on the spoons (right)



The flea circus had its own pub to which the fleas could repair after performing



The majesty of Mr B the Gentleman Rhymer brings the house down



Our glorious Chairman, Torquil Arbuthnot



© Russ-Zombie Bell

Callum Coates (r) and Clayton Hartley



© Russ-Zombie Bell

CAN YOU DIG IT?

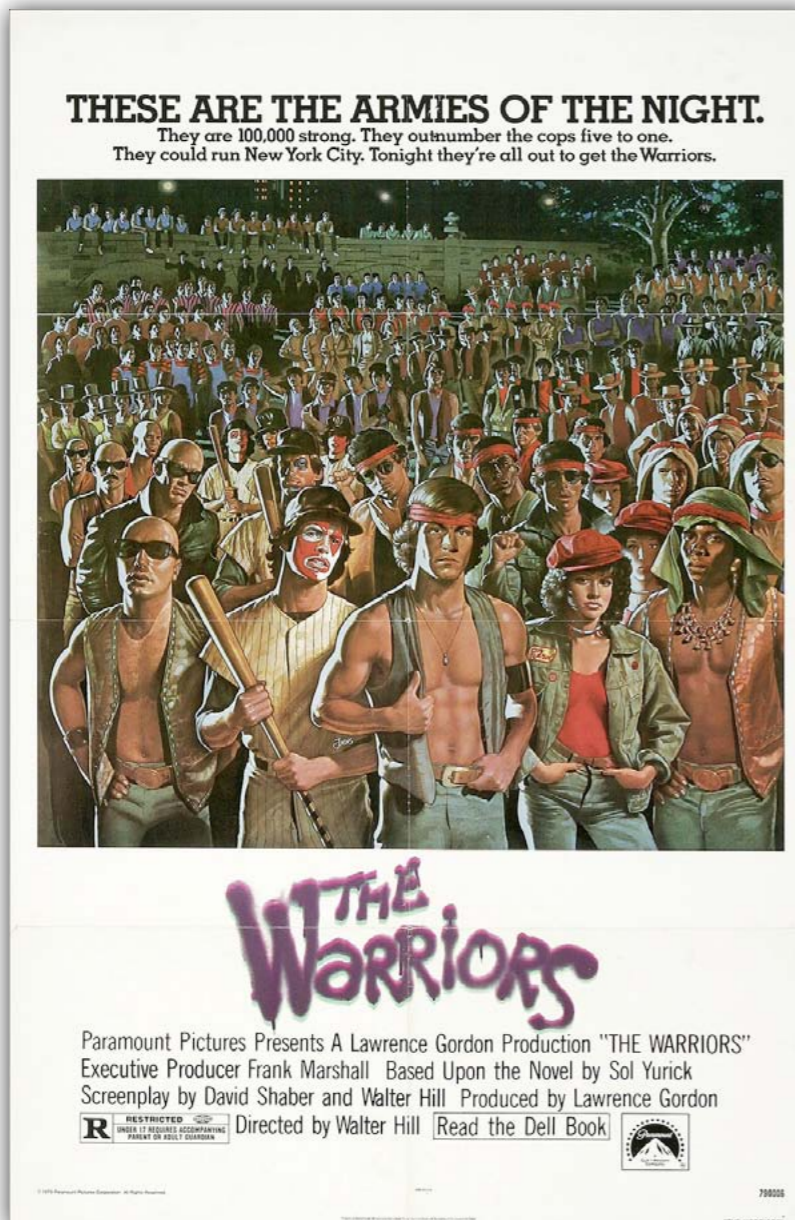
Ed Marlowe
explains why his
choice for the
November NSC Film
Night was the 1979
dystopian street gang
romp *The Warriors*

AT THE NOVEMBER NSC film night, I presented for the audience's consideration the 1979 cult classic, *The Warriors*. I first saw this film in the 1990s, when it was featured on Mark Cousins' *Moviedrome*, a late-Sunday night TV slot on BBC2 that presented many wonderful classics and oddballs alike. A truly formative step in my cinematic education. I fell in love with this film immediately, later buying both cinematic and director's cut version on DVD and Bluray. For Halloween in 2008, I dressed as a Baseball Fury (purple and black face—the last one left standing!).

The Warriors is based on the 1965 book by Sol Yurick; his second novel, but his debut publication. Yurick himself is quite a character. Raised by devoutly Communist parents during the American Depression of the 1930s, he later joined the US Army and served in the Second World War before

heading to college on the GI bill. He briefly studied, then dropped, half a dozen different subjects, including science, sociology, philosophy and literature. After leaving higher education and struggling to establish himself as a writer, he supported himself with a job at the Department of Welfare of New York City. It was this role which brought him into contact with the lower strata of NYC society which would directly inform his work.

The seed of what would later grow into *The Warriors* was planted in Yurick's mind some time in the early 1950s, during a conversation with a friend who was also a writer (and the son of successful Hollywood scriptwriters). Discussing the notion of the "High Concept", where popular art is given weight by reinterpreting a literary classic (see, for instance, 1961's *West Side Story*, a reinterpretation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*), Yurick jokingly suggested the



story of a gang of juvenile delinquents travelling across New York in a journey paralleling the *Anabasis*, an ancient historical epic. This story would combine a reinterpretation of that classic with social commentary on youth rebellion as seen in *The Wild One* (1953), *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) or *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955), so popular in cinema at the time. This idea, although formulated as a joke, remained in the back of Yurick's mind, to reappear in the early 1960s.

A big part of the concept that grew into *The Warriors* was Yurick's awareness of Classic Comics, a comic book series which took such highbrow fare as the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* (but never the *Anabasis*) and rendered them in comic book format. The sort of gang kids whom Yurick considered his protagonists-to-be would never have read these classics in their original

form, but might well have accessed Classic Comics and identified with, even been inspired by, the ancient heroes depicted therein. When Yurick's story later made the jump to film, director Walter Hill wanted to develop this concept further by adding a prologue telling the story of the *Anabasis* in a comic book art style, with other similar panels featuring the Warriors themselves throughout the film. This was vetoed by the studio in order to speed up post-production to ensure the film getting to cinemas ahead of a rival gang film, *The Wanderers*, but ultimately they did appear on DVD with the 2005 release of a Director's Cut which weighs in at a whole minute longer than the theatrical release. What did make it into the film was the mass gang conference hosted by the character of Cyrus, very deliberately based upon Lucifer's



Swan takes on the Baseball Furies, a face-painting gang inspired by Hill's love both of baseball and the rock group Kiss



Ed in his own Baseball Furies outfit at Halloween 2008

call to rebellion in Heaven, in *Paradise Lost*. Although *The Warriors* was Yurick's first published novel, he had previously written *Fertig*, the story of a man who, having lost a child to the ineptitude of healthcare provision, set out on a murderous campaign of vengeance against those whom he held responsible. Seeking realism, the author took to entering hospitals himself in order to see whether he could plausibly gain

access to the sort of people who would be his protagonist's targets.

This desire for realism extended to the research he undertook prior to commencing work on *The Warriors*, the actual writing of which was completed in three feverish weeks. Initially, Yurick used his access to the real teen gangs of early 1960s New York for interview purposes, but soon came to feel that he was simply being told what they thought he wanted to hear. Instead, he took a panel van and bored spyholes in the side, then very early in the morning drove into the parts of town where these gangs congregated, spending the whole day observing them and their dialogue from this hide. Hard to imagine in 2012, but those were more innocent times, clearly. Yurick's desire

for reality also led him—wholly unlawfully—to walk the same section of the New York Subway tunnels as some of the boys in his story. Dangerous, mad, even, but let no one say that what is depicted in this regard in the novel or film is unrealistic!

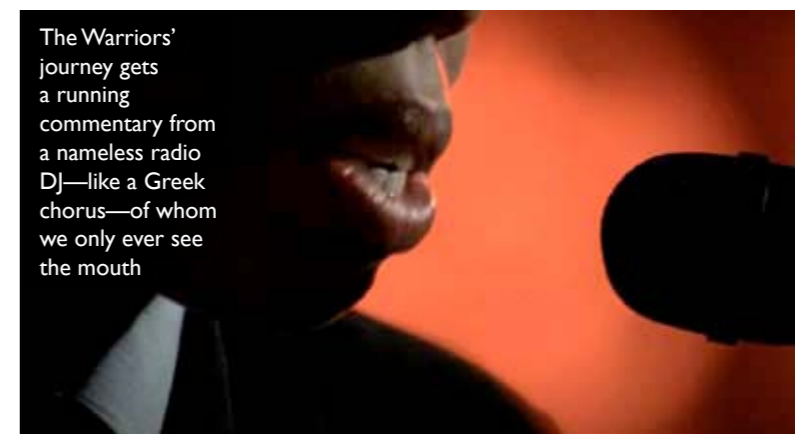
The Warriors novel was released in 1965, sold moderately well, and then slipped into semi-obscurity as do most novels. In the mid 1970s, however, Hollywood came knocking, and *The Warriors* finally came to celluloid. Inevitably, there were changes to be made. The Coney Island Dominators on whom the novel focused were rechristened simply The Warriors. A casual murder and gang-rape (the victim of the latter being the character on whom the film's Mercy was based) carried out by the gang were excised—after all, we are meant to find the celluloid Warriors sympathetic, mostly likeable characters. And whereas the Coney Island Dominators were all black, the Warriors are a mixed race gang (Paramount were alleged to have preferred an even mix of black and white characters for “commercial reasons”). It is true that for a very short period at the beginning of the film Cleon, a black boy, is very much in charge of the gang, given the title of Warlord. He soon disappears, replaced by Swan, a white hero. These are all changes that Yurick shrugs off as an “inevitable” part of the transfer from page to screen.

The problems encountered by the production while filming during the long, hot New York Summer nights are the stuff of legend. The mass gang rally featured many extras who were members of real-life gangs. It is said that many

plain clothes policemen also mixed with those crowds—just in case. One night, filming had to be halted owing to the police having roped off a key location in order to secure the crime scene of a double homicide.

When released, the film, set in “the near future” (as per a caption at the opening of the film), was taken to be in large part a commentary on the city's contemporary youth violence problems. The poster for the film famously declared “They are the Armies of the Night... They outnumber cops five to one...”, sparking fears, and several alleged instances, of inspiring criminal attacks. Some cinemas refused to show the film at all; others embraced it, and were rewarded with a hit. In Kansas, *The Warriors* knocked *Star Wars* off the number one box office returns spot. It remains a classic to this day, absolutely worthy of a place alongside *The Wild One* or *Rebel Without a Cause* in the pantheon of American outsider youth cinema. Yurick himself had more mixed feelings: “I thought,” he says, “on the whole, that the movie was trashy, although beautifully filmed.” Perhaps he was disappointed at the part that the “high concept”, which he originally sought to mock, played in the success of his story on film. One influential critic, initially minded to give the film a poor review, happened to hear that *The Warriors* was based on the *Anabasis*. When Yurick confirmed this, the same critic did a *volte face* and published a rave review.

(Right) The scene where Luther, leader of the Rogues, clinks empty bottles and taunts, “Warriors, come out to play!” was partly ad libbed; (below) a fight in a gentlemen's lavatory against the Punks; one chap seems to have an NSC jumper!



The Warriors' journey gets a running commentary from a nameless radio DJ—like a Greek chorus—of whom we only ever see the mouth

Is it a classic? Kitch? Or, indeed, is it both? I highly recommend you seek out the film on disc (as well as Yurick's novel, rereleased in 2003 after years out of print, following demand from fans of the film). Whether you find the Director's Cut or the original theatrical release—both available online for the price of a pint—this is a film to be enjoyed, to be savoured, a film around which to arrange a party and have your friends all come dressed as gang members. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you *The Warriors*.

Can you dig it?



The Cocktail Cabinet

Wherein Members use Christmas as an excuse to drink even more than usual

The Snowball

By David Bridgman-Smith

For the festive period I thought it was only fitting to look at a suitable cocktail, and few drinks could be more suitable for Christmas than the Snowball. I'm not speaking of the whisky variation of the Gin Fizz, but rather the drink consisting of advocaat, fizzy lemonade and lime. After all, 60% of UK advocaat sales take place in December, largely due to this Christmas cocktail.

The exact origins of the drink are uncertain, but it rose to popularity in the 1960s. At this time, it appears that some controversy arose between the British and the Dutch as to whether or not advocaat should be fortified by wine or brandy, respectively. Some authors even refer to the British version (with wine) as "bottled Egg Flip", rather than advocaat. Today, the name synonymous with advocaat

is Warninks. This is a Dutch brand of the liqueur that is made from brandy, sugar, vanilla and egg yolk. Each 70cl bottle contains 11 egg yolks (I am told this is more than any other brand).

Let's compare some different recipes:

Public House Snowball

40ml advocaat
5ml Rose's Lime Cordial

100ml Lemonade
Serve over ice

The choice of Rose's Lime Cordial is OK in a pinch, but if you can use fresh lime juice I think it works much better, as the cordial version is a bit cloying. Also, I think that a bit more lemonade is needed

Short Snowball



Some folks advocate chilling all of these ingredients intensely before serving, including keeping the glass in the freezer, to negate the need for ice. I tried this method and agree that it works well, although it doesn't stay chilled for as long as the iced version.

Short Snowball

Equal parts advocaat, fresh lime juice and lemonade
Serve on the rocks

Originally, I was pretty much of the opinion that whoever

came up with this had been sipping antifreeze, but in actuality it's not bad at all. It is more intense than a Snowball using normal ratios, and has a zesty lime finish. "Custard ice-cream and lime sorbet" seem to be the best words to describe this concoction.

Snowball+

60ml advocaat
20ml vodka
5ml fresh lime Juice
240ml lemonade
Serve over ice

Using vodka to "fortify" this drink

Snowball+



The Works



seems like a bit of a cop-out; I mean, I can fortify a glass of orange squash and few will notice, but it doesn't make it big or clever. Having mixed it up, I don't think that the vodka adds very much at all; if anything, it seems to throw the balance off a bit, turning a delicious, sippable Christmas treat into a monster with the kick of a mule.

The Works

45ml advocaat
45ml gin
45ml anisette/pastis
15ml double cream
Shake the ingredients with ice, then strain into an ice-filled highball glass and top-up with lemonade

I was very sceptical that this would work, but I rather liked it. The dry gin stops it from becoming sickly and the pastis adds a pleasant aniseed flavour, which works very well with the creamy Advocaat.

Nigella's Recipe

60ml advocaat
180ml lemonade
Optional squeeze of lime
Add ingredients to an ice-filled tall glass and serve

Simple flavours: nothing too complex, but creamy and fresh, with the option of some extra zest if you fancy it. This is a very accessible and, in my experience, the typical recipe used. This is a real winner and definitely what I shall be serving to the family this Christmas.



Nigella's Recipe



SnowKing

SnowKing

30ml brandy
30ml advocaat
30ml The King's Ginger
Top up with lemonade

Excellent—more powerful than your usual Snowball, with the brandy and King's Ginger making it ever so warm and comforting. Exceptionally festive: all it needs is a holly sprig garnish.

Evergreen Snowball

30ml advocaat
20ml vodka
10ml green crème de menthe
150ml lemonade

Build in a tall, ice-filled glass, stir and serve

A bright, festive, green and rather rich cocktail, with plenty of minty flavours and some rich creamy notes, too. Very indulgent, this is probably best to use as a post-dinner drink—taken before dinner it will be sure to ruin your appetite.

In conclusion

Some of these drinks were certainly better than others. I think that Nigella's was a highlight: it had just the right balance of rich and refreshing flavours. One tip I did learn is that it is important to not scrimp on the lemonade, or you risk making your drink too rich. I also think the SnowKing had an extra, wintery edge due to the warm, spicy flavours of ginger and may be well worth a try. The biggest surprise for me was the recipe I've called "The Works". On paper it doesn't appeal, but in reality it was rather scrumptious.

For more cocktail recipes, product reviews and musings on booze, see the New Sheridan Club's **Institute for Alcoholic Experimentation**

Evergreen Snowball



What the Dickens..?
It's the



New Sheridan Club CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 8th December

7pm-12am

The Punch Tavern, 99 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DE (020 7353 6658)

Admission: NSC Members FREE; guests £5, though this is offset against Membership for any who sign up on the night

Dress: Dickensian... So, misers, jolly barrowboys, pickpockets, bluebottles, bludgers, cracksmen, flimps, ladybirds, magmen, clerks, spectres, etc.



We hope to see you all (yes, even the ones who live in Zanzibar) at the Club's annual Christmas

party, this time with a Dickensian Christmas theme. Gawd bless us,

every one!

There will be silly games, including Shoot the Crutch from the Cripple and our cunning Electrical Pocket-Picking Game.

There will be the usual

complimentary Snuff Bar, Lucky Dip—reach in and seize the tat of your dreams!—and of course our Grand Raffle, your chance to go home with one of a number of prizes of highly questionable desirability plus a few rather choice items too. Entry to the raffle is free, but only to NSC Members, including anyone who joins before the raffle starts.

Making a special live appearance will be everyone's favourite Chap Hop artist, Mr B. the Gentleman Rhymer, entertaining us with his spirited parlour music.

As usual we will have enhanced the venue's bathrooms with an array of colognes, pomades, moustache waxes, etc.

But most of all there will be wassailing and good cheer and all that. There may even be some carol singing. The Punch Tavern will be serving food until about 9pm and we have the place till midnight.



CLUB NOTES

Christmas House to Become Summer House?

IF YOU'VE BEEN a Member for a while you probably know about the Sheridan Christmas House, but for the benefit of others I will explain. The idea is to hire a country pile for a week just before Christmas and fill it with Sheridan types. If you can muster, say, 20 likely sorts, the cost usually comes down to something like £100 a head plus food and drink. The denizens spend the days engaging in country pursuits, poking around the locale with a stick, enjoying local attractions (and hostelries) or just loafing about the house until it is time for dinner. The idea is to pretend to be living the life of the idle rich of 100 years ago, and dressing for dinner is *de rigueur*—black tie as a rule, but usually white tie for the one day designated as "Christmas Day". Cooking is shared, with different teams volunteering to handle the catering on different days. There is normally a Secret Santa system for Xmas gifts too.

Sadly organising this event is pretty hellish, as someone has to front the money and getting people to commit and cough up can be arduous. This year Helena Waterson gamely volunteered but she tells me that, following notices earlier in the year, the demand has not been there. So her plan is to try a summer version instead to see if more people are available. Watch this space.

New Members

AS THE ANNUAL twelve-day Bacchanale of fleshly indulgence and abandoned inhibitions looms, we jovially help to raise the (doubtless underage) shining faces of the following satyrs up to the flowing punchbowl of NSC Membership, all of whom have symbolically supped for the first time this month: Mark Campbell, Mark Furchon and Clive Williams.

Film Night:
Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

7pm, Monday 17th December
The Tea House Theatre, 139
Vauxhall Walk, London SE11 5HL

For Christmas we present the unabashed sentimentality of this classic, which was at the same time a dig at the cynicism of society and creeping commerciality of the festivities—and that was in 1947. Imagine what the writers would make of 2012.

At the Macy's Department Store Thanksgiving Day parade, the actor playing Santa Claus is discovered to be drunk by a whiskered old man. Doris Walker, the no-nonsense special events director, persuades the old man to take his place. The man proves to be a sensation and is quickly recruited to be the store Santa at the main Macy's outlet. But Doris learns that he calls himself Kris Kringle and claims to be the actual Santa Claus.

Moreover he starts directing customers to rival stores which can better match what they are after. Yet this only serves to make the customers greater fans of Macy's for its honesty, and the boss of the store is delighted with the strategy.

However, the fact that Kringle insists he really is Santa is doomed to catch up with him and the forces of conventionality start to conspire to have him certified as insane. It falls to a young lawyer to defend him, asking if society has really come to the point where it calls a man mad for espousing honesty, kindness and generosity?

Oddly, the studio chose to release the flick in June, on the grounds that more people when to the cinema than, disguising all references to Christmas in the publicity. Nevertheless it won Oscars for best supporting actor, screenplay and original story, and was nominated for best picture.





The NSC 'Exchange & Smart'

MEMBER SEAN LONGDEN has suggested that it might make sense to allow NSC types to offer for sale items of particular interest to other Members within the pages of this organ. Which sounds like a perfectly good idea to me. So this month we'll let Sean kick off. If you have any Chappist items you would like to flog just email me with the description and your contact details for publication.

A) FOR SALE: Blue Double-Breasted Suit



This is a blue herringbone wool double-breasted suit. There are no labels to give an indication of maker or date but the style and cut means it most likely dates from the mid-1950s. The suit measures: Chest (armpit to armpit)

46 inches; jacket waist 42 inches; shoulders 20 inches; length (from bottom of collar to hem) 30½ inches; outer sleeve 23 inches; trousers waist 40 inches; inside leg 30 inches; 18 inches circumference at cuffs.

The suit is in very good condition, except for an easily repairable tear along the seam of the jacket lining.

Price: £45 or nearest offer (plus postage, if necessary)

B) FOR SALE: Aquascutum Double-Breasted Overcoat

This is a double-breasted Aquascutum lambswool overcoat, probably from the 1960s. The coat is very heavy and warm. Chest: 48 inch; length from bottom of collar: 41½ inches; across shoulders: 19 inches; sleeve (inner measurement): 16½ inches; sleeve (outer measurement): 25 inches

Price: £45 (plus postage if necessary)



C) FOR SALE: Black Suit, 1930s/1940s

This is a black single-breasted suit with peaked lapels that dates from the 1930s or 1940s. It is continental (most likely German) in a style known as a 'Nachmitte und Abend' (afternoon and evening) suit. These were more formal than a lounge suit but were less formal than a dinner suit and were worn, as the name suggests, in the afternoon and evening. It is in very good condition and has hardly, if ever, been worn. A good opportunity to acquire a genuine vintage suit at a low price.

Jacket: Chest: 42 inches; shoulders 19 inches; sleeve (inner) 20 inches; sleeve (outer) 26 inches; length from bottom of collar to hem: 30 inches. Trousers: Waist: 33 (+ 2 inches to let

out); Inside leg 31 inches (1 inch to let down); Outside leg 41 ½ inches.

Price: £55 (plus postage if necessary)

For all these items contact Sean Longden by email on city.plough@gmail.com. CLICK ON IMAGES FOR ENLARGEMENTS.



Forthcoming Events



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

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

🎩 NSC Club Night

Wednesday 5th December

8pm-11pm

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

Members: Free

Non-Members: £2 (first visit free)

See page 2.

Design Gallery Winter Exhibition

Until Monday 24th December

The Design Gallery, 5 The Green, Westerham, Kent TN16 1AS

Admission: Free

Clearly hoping that you will get your chequebook out and buy something exquisite as a Christmas present, the Design Gallery are putting on an exhibition of Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Arts and Crafts and other 20th Century jewellery, plus cocktail cabinets, dining suites, sculpture, ceramics, lighting and more, all at eye-watering prices. See www.designgallery.co.uk. They also have a 3,000 sq ft warehouse that is available to visit by appointment.

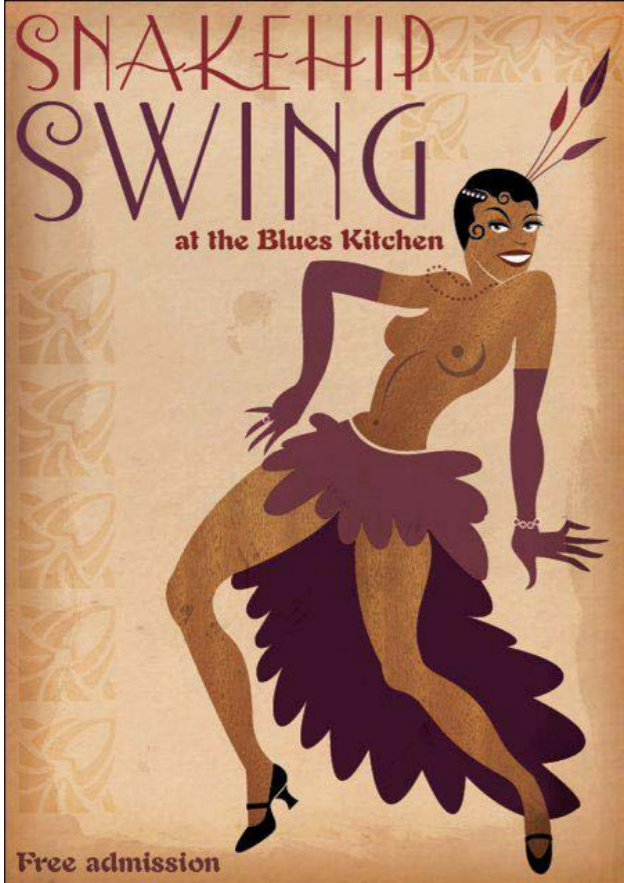
Cakewalk Café

Wednesdays 5th, 12th, and Christmas Special on 19th December

8pm-1am (swing dance classes 7-8pm and 8-9pm)

Passing Clouds, 1 Richmond Road, Dalston, London E8 4AA

Admission: £5 (£3.50 if you're in 1920s/1930s clobber) or £8 including a dance class; £12 including both.



Live swing jazz every Wednesday, with optional dance classes from Swing Patrol. The Christmas Special on 19th features Dom Pipkin on piano plus the Cakewalk Café Orchestra featuring Enrico Toumossou, Ewan Bleach, Paul Taylor and Al Nichols, and electro-swing DJing from Sacha Dieu. Note that the night will then take a two-week break.

The Gentleman's Closet Christmas Taster
 Wednesday 5th December
 6–9pm
 Penny Fielding Gallery & Interiors, 34 Orford Road, London E17 9NJ
 Admission: Free

Auntie Maureen's pop-up shop The Gentleman's Closet makes a brief pre-Christmas appearance, with a special offer—spend £35 or more on gent's garb and gifts and you'll receive a 10% discount voucher redeemable at a future date (excludes local designer/maker collection).

The Guinea Club
 Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th December
 8pm
 Bar Solo, 20 Inverness

Street, London NW1 7HJ
 Admission: Free
 A night of traditional cabaret, hosted by NSC Member Anke Landau channelling Marlene Dietrich... For this month the bar's website says they are also doing "Christmas Guinea Club" on Mondays, but no further information is given.

The Eccentric Club's Twin-Dinner
 Friday 7th December
 7.13pm
 The Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, Mayfair, London W1K 4ER
 Admission: £55 (members), £65 guests, in advance
 Dress: Glamorous, tasteful and elegant, though slightly eccentric; gentlemen, jackets
 The Eccentric Club, of which the NSC Members are officially friends, is holding a dinner that is both a late celebration of its 122nd anniversary and an early celebration of Christmas. You can attend as a guest without actually being accompanied by a member, though you are requested to contact the club secretary first.

Antique vs Vintage
 Saturday 8th December
 11am–5pm (trade from 10.30am)
 Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell Village, Epsom, Surrey KT17 1UF
 Admission: £2 (£1 NUS; trade free)
 Busy, high-quality fair with one hall for antiques and one for vintage fashions. More at www.antiquevsvintage.co.uk.

The NSC Christmas Party
 Saturday 8th December
 7pm–12am
 The Punch Tavern, 99 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DE (020 7353 6658)
 Admission: NSC Members free, guests £5 (offsettable against membership)
 Dress: Dickensian...
 See page 18.



Auntie Maureen's Food Festival
 Sunday 9th December
 11am–5pm
 Penny Fielding Gallery & Interiors, 34 Orford Road, London E17 9NJ
 Admission: Free
 Our own Auntie Maureen takes time off from vintage DJing to present a mini-fair of local foodie treats. If you would like space to set up your own stall call 07432 430386.

Snake Hip Swing
 Tuesday 11th December
 9pm–12am
 The Blues Kitchen, 111–113 Camden High Street, London NW1 7JN
 Admission: Free
 Swing music night featuring live and recorded music, this time with DJ Lady Kamikaze and a live set from the Bessie and Her Boys.

Tricity Vogue's Ukulele Christmas Cabaret
 Tuesday 11th December
 8–11pm
 The Lincoln Lounge, 52 York Way, King's Cross, London N1 9AB
 Admission: Free

The brightest stars in the ukulele universe strum their stuff as celebrated cabaret diva Tricity Vogue plays Elf-in-Charge to Helen Arney, the Duchess of Crouch End, Genevieve and the Zut Alors and more, plus festive singalongs and a ukulele open mic.

Mr B's Chap-Hop Christmas Ball
 Thursday 13th December
 8pm
 The Prince Albert, 48 Trafalgar Street, Brighton BN1 4ED
 Admission: £8 in advance, £10 on the door
 The official Chap-Hop Christmas Ball, featuring a special Christmas-tinged set by Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer alongside special

guests We Are Goose as well as parlour games, dancing and general festive cheer.

Paul Gunn & Worsted
 Friday 14th December
 9.30pm
 Oliver's Jazz Bar, 9 Nevada Street, Greenwich, London SE10 9JL
 Admission: £7
 NSC Member Paul Gunn forays out with his band Worsted, singing "original songs of etiquette and good manners for a modern age", many of them with lyrics by *The Chap* editor Gustav Temple, both from their album *Chapology* and more recent material.



Die Freche Muse Christmas Special
 Friday 14th December
 10pm–4am
 A secret warehouse venue in Hackney
 Admission: £15 in advance
 Dress: 1920s and 1930s, strictly enforced

Hosted by Baron Von Sanderson, Die Freche Muse is a club night created in the great tradition of European Cabaret: irreverent, decadent, sexually ambivalent and dissolute. For this Christmas special music comes from Albert Ball's Flying Aces, a vintage DJ plus a bumper burlesque from Missy Fatale, Sophia St Villier and Fifi Fatale (no relation to Missy, I don't think).

The Candlelight Club Christmas Bootlegger's Ball
 Saturday 15th December
 7pm–12am
 A secret London location
 Admission: £25 in advance
 Dress: Prohibition dandies, swells, gangsters and molls, degenerate aristos and decadent aesthetes, corrupt politicians and the Smart Set



Come and say a last goodbye before Christmas at the Dover Castle pub, seen here in 1944, which is pretty much how we like to think of it

In the Know

The Candlelight Club is a clandestine pop-up cocktail party with a 1920s speakeasy flavour, in a secret London venue completely lit by candles. Each event offers a one-off cocktail menu with special themes, plus live period jazz bands and vintage vinylism from the New Sheridan Club's own DJ MC Fruity. Ticket holders get an email two days before revealing the location. For Christmas we're throwing a big Bootlegger's Ball in a 1920s ballroom, with the liquid help of Bootlegger, a new unaged bourbon-style whiskey (or "white grain spirit", as they are obliged to call it for legislative reasons). During Prohibition, illicit distilling carried on, in shacks in the hills and secret basement factories. There was no time to barrel-age the liquor, with Prohibition agents on the prowl, so the resulting moonshine was colourless and clean-tasting. Bootlegger has been developed to mimic this period style. (Don't worry, it won't make you blind! It's actually rather smooth and tastes like a cross between vodka and bourbon.) There will also be sleazy jazz from the Boomtown Swingalings and flapper-style hoofing from Charleston dancers the Bees Knees.

The White Tie Club presents
Black & White Tie Christmas Reception
Saturday 15th December

7pm

Bedford & Strand, 1a Bedford Street,
WC2E 9HH London

Admission: Free

Dress: Black or white tie

The White Tie Club presents a formal evening wear event in a reserved area of the cocktail bar Bedford and Strand. Have a look at their Facebook group for further details and endless discussion about white tie.



NSC Film Night

Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

Monday 17th December

7pm-11pm

The Tea House Theatre, 139 Vauxhall Walk,
London SE11 5HL (020 7207 4585)

Admission: Free

See page 19.

Spin-a-Disc

Mondays 19th and 31st December

8-11pm

The Nag's Head, 9 Orford Road, Walthamstow
Village, London E17 9LP

Admission: 19th free, NYE £8 from the pub or
email ask@auntieamaureen.info

A music night organised by Auntie Maureen:
you bring your favourite discs (33, 45 or 78 rpm)
and she spins them.

The Dracula Society Christmas Party

Wednesday 19th December

6pm till late

The Theatre Bar (upstairs), The Victoria, 10A
Strathearn Place, London W2

Admission: £3 on the door, all welcome

Dress: "Fancy dress optional"

Those of a Gothick persuasion may like to bimb down to this blood-sucking knees-up. In accordance with Dracula Society tradition, Santa will make an appearance with a sack of festively fiendish gifts: to secure a present from sack, just bring along a suitable, gift-wrapped package to help fill it. There will also be the customary Caption Competition. The venue's excellent food will be available from the bar.

Marmaduke Dando at the Lamb

Thursday 20th December

8pm

The Lamb, 54 Holloway Road, London N7 8JL

Admission: Free

NSC Member and rebel crooner
Marmaduke Dando performs with his band.



NSC Pre-Crimbo Drinks

Friday 21st December

6-11pm

The Dover Castle, 43 Weymouth Mews,
London W1G 7EH

Admission: Free

I'm assuming that tradition will prevail and those of us still in town will gather on the last Friday before Christmas at the ancestral watering hole, the Dover Castle pub...

The Candlelight Club

New Year's Eve Party

Monday 31st December

7.30pm-2am

A secret London location
Admission: £35 in advance
(rising to £40 nearer the time)
Dress: Prohibition dandies,
swells, gangsters and molls,
degenerate aristos and
decadent aesthetes, corrupt
politicians and the Smart Set
In the Know

See above. We'll be seeing
in the New Year in style
with Champagne, Jazz Age

cocktails and dancing to live swing from Benoit Viellefon and his Orchestra.

Vintage New Year's Eve Party

Monday 31st December

7pm-2am

Royal Festival Hall, the Southbanks Centre,
Admission: £80 or £139 to include a three-
course meal

Wayne Hemingway takes his usual scatter-gun approach to "vintage" by taking over the Royal Festival Hall as part of the South Bank's winter festival. There will be a 1920s-1940s club hosted by Viv the Spiv, a 1960s "pick-up joint", 1970s disco, 1950s rock and roll and various bands playing music from the 1920s to the 1990s. Difficult to know how to dress... One of the big pulls, of course, is going to be the opportunity to see the Thames fireworks. More details at www.southbankcentre.co.uk.

White Mischief New Year's Eve

Extravaganza

Monday 31st December

8.30pm-3am

Bush Hall, 310 Uxbridge Road, London
W12 7TJ

Admission: £40 early bird tickets (theatre style
seats); £60 cabaret seating; £30 standing tickets;
book at nye2012.brownpapertickets.com

MCed by Professor Elemental, and taking place in a relatively intimate venue by White Mischief standards, this night features a range of burlesque, comedy, aerialism and acrobatics. Tickets and timings are complicated so check the Facebook event for details.



NSC Club Night

Wednesday 2nd January

7pm-11pm (lecture at 8pm)

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

Members: Free, non-
Members: £2 (first visit free)

Just a warning that the
January meeting will indeed
be the day after New Year's
Day (we were unable to move
it). Mr Luke Wenban will
entertain us on the subject of
Agent Zigzag.



Viv the Spiv, Atters, the Flirtinis and Donna Grimaldi wish you a merry Christmas from the Chap Ball!



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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. You can even befriend us electrically at www.facebook.com.