



THE CHATHAM DINING CLUB

THE CHATHAM DINING CLUB is a well-established London dining & debating club, meeting some six times a year. Founded in 1910, initially for army officers to become better acquainted with International Affairs and other interests outside the military milieu, it has met continuously since then (with breaks for the First and Second World Wars).

It now offers a chance to hear distinguished speakers on subjects of international/national interest, including domestic politics, economics, finance, military matters, ethics and the arts, with many speakers choosing their own topic. As the years have passed, the scope of the Club's original objectives has widened, and it has now embraced a much wider membership to include anyone who is interested in world and domestic current affairs beyond their work and special interests.

A key secondary purpose for the Club is to create a friendly environment with good food, wine and company; allowing many opportunities for those present to network both inside and outside their own particular sphere of interest.

The meetings are relatively small gatherings, the informality of which may be gauged by the willingness of the speakers to present their views frankly, knowing that they will not be quoted outside the meeting. The Club's membership stands at around 150 with dinners held currently at The Travellers' Club, The Caledonian Club, Brooks's Club and The Rifles London Club.

Recent speakers have included Lord Robertson; Sir John Tusa; Baroness Helena Kennedy QC; Dame Pauline Neville-Jones; Sir Vince Cable; Lord Waldegrave; Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles; Iain Duncan-Smith MP; the Chinese Ambassador, Liu Xiaoming; the Hon Dominic Asquith; Sir Malcolm Rifkind; Lord Hennessy; Caroline Wyatt; Owen Paterson MP and Professor Chris Rapley.

Speakers for 2016/2017 include Sir Ciaran Devane, Chief Executive of the British Council; Lord Phillips, the first head of the Supreme Court; Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education and previously for International Development; and Sir Anthony Seldon, political historian and biographer.

www.chathamdiningclub.org.uk

Club Committee: Major General Jamie Balfour C.B.E. D.L. (Chairman), Jeremy Archer Esq. (Hon. Treasurer), Nicholas Bell Esq., The Hon. James Cripps, Penny, Lady Carleton-Smith, Jocelyn Seligman Esq., Nicholas Verney Esq., Lady Michael Cecil (Secretary)