

THEY WELCOME 1947

Chelsea Arts Ball

New Year's Eve and London's Albert Hall goes gay for the Chelsea Arts Ball. That's how it used to be in pre-war days and that's how it is again this year. Everybody was there - Spanish beauties, Cossacks, gauchos, mandarins - all to welcome 1947. A little made, perhaps, but who said the British are always too serious?

4,000 Dancers pack the floor. Twenty two bars (open from 10 till 5) sold 15,000 bottles of beer and a 100 dozen bottles of champagne. Tickets were 3 guineas - officially - latecomers paid twice that amount on the Black Market. With the last stroke of midnight, the 30 ft. Phoenix became the symbol of the reborn Three Arts Ball. From the ceiling thousands of balloons shower down.

Here they come. The floats with all the levellers. This one came as Eve. Roughest passage of all went to the float marked "for export only."

As a way of letting in a good New Year it had something for everyone - a laugh for you - pictures for us - and a black eye for the man in Black.

Skating at Wembley

Over at Wembley's Empire Pool things look much the same. Skating boots take over from dancing shoes, and Eve's go out for queens.

It is just as much fun and just as mad. Musical chairs are enough of a scramble in the front parlour - on ice - well they're faster than ever.

The girls can do it just as well - if anything they're faster off the mark.

That's how they welcomed 1947.