

In recent weeks I have made the **ACQUA'INTANCE** *n.s.* **The state of being acquainted with; familiarity; knowledge** of Dr Samuel Johnson, LL.D of 17 Gough Square and his famous **DI'CTIONARY** *n.s.* **A book containing the words of any language, in alphabetical order with explanations of their meaning; a lexicon; a vocabulary; a word-book** and of his **CAT** *n.s.* **A domestick animal that catches mice, commonly reckoned by naturalists, the lowest order of the leonine species, 'Hodge', who sits** **DEMU'RELY** *adv.* **with affected modesty; solemnly; with pretended gravity** in the Square, frequently bedecked with a red ribbon or even **ADORNED** *v.a.* **To dress; to deck the person with ornaments** with a **NECK'CLOATH** *n.s.* **that which men wear on their necks** recently a bright green bowtie, gifts from passing **ADMI'RERS** *n.s.* **1. The person that wonders, or regards with admiration. 2. A lover.** It is known that Sam had a brilliant mind but now that I am one of his many female **FRIENDS** *n.s.* **1. One joined to another in mutual benelovence and intimacy; opposed to foe or enemy** I have learnt that he had a good, compassionate **HEART** *n.s.* **The muscle which by its contraction and dilation propels the blood through the course of circulation, and is therefore considered as the source of vital motion. It is supposed in popular language to be the seat of courage, sometimes of affection** beneath that rather imposing **APPE'ARANCE** **5. Outside show. Under a fair and beautiful appearance there should ever be the real substance of good (Rogers).** You will realise that my intimate relationship with the *Dictionary* has gone a little to my **HEAD** *n.s.* **The part of the animal that contains the brain or the organ of sensation or thought!**

My new friend's opinions travel down the years loud and clear and you can only agree with him when he's heard to mutter '**there's nothing ... by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn**' as he leaves for The Mitre round the corner in Fleet Street to meet his philosophising brotherhood, The Literary Club. Sam, or as George Smollett referred to him '**The Great Cham**', would have had plenty to say on the subject of marriage - '**Nothing flatters a man as much as the happiness of his wife, he is always proud of himself as the source of it**' - and of a second time round as '**A triumph of hope over experience**'; or perhaps cucumbers were discussed - '**A cucumber should be well sliced, and dressed with vinegar, and then thrown out as good for nothing**'. With the 2015 election looming, his advice to a potential candidate was '**You can't be in politics unless you can walk into a room and know in a minute who's for you and who's against you**' though his view that a '**Politician. n.s. 1. One versed in the arts of government, one skilled in politics. 2. A man of artifice; one of deep contrivance**' might strike a very topical chord.

Overseeing all this **DELECTA'TION** *n.s.* **pleasure; delight** and **WIT. n.s.** **The power of the mind; the mental faculties; the intellects** at The House, are two **CHICKS** *n.s.* **3. A term for young girls** whose friendliness, helpfulness and cheer have delighted and if you call in to No. 17 you too may be lucky enough to share a 21st-century custard tart [**PIE**] *n.s.* **Any crust with something baked in it.** Mmmm!

Judy, Dictionary Research Volunteer, 2015