The Johnson Circle

The following list provides minimal biographical information concerning many (but, inevitably, by no means all) of those whose lives touched Johnson's at some point. Some were friends of a lifetime; others only the slightest acquaintances; but all appear within the pages of the Chronology. A few very minor figures about whom nothing seems to be known or who are referred to only in passing have been omitted.

Abington, Frances (1737–1815), actress.
Adams, Dr William (1706–89), successively Scholar, Fellow and Master of Pembroke College, Oxford; taught SJ during his brief undergraduate career.
Adey, Mary (1742–1830), daughter of Joseph Adey, town clerk of Lichfield.
Allen, Edmund (1726–84), printer; SJ’s landlord and neighbour in Bolt Court.
Arblay, Mme D’: see Fanny Burney.
Argyll, 5th Duke of (1720–1806).
Asaph, Bishop of: see Jonathan Shipley.
Aston, Elizabeth (1708–85) of Stowe Hill, Lichfield, daughter of Sir Thomas Aston, Bt, and sister of Jane Gastrell.
Aston, Mary (Molly) (Mrs Brodie) (1706–c.1765), sister of the above and sister-in-law of Gilbert Walmesley; loved by SJ.
Attwood, Dr Thomas, Worcester oculist.
Auchinleck, Lord (1708–82), father of James Boswell.

Banks, Sir Joseph (1743–1820), explorer, Fellow of the Royal Society, member of the Club from 1778.
Barber, Francis (Frank) (?1745–1801), SJ’s negro servant.
Barclay, Robert (?1740–1820), co-owner of the brewery formerly owned by Henry Thrale.
Baretti, Giuseppe (1719–1789), teacher of languages.
Barker, Edmond (1721–780), physician and Unitarian; one of the original members of the Ivy Lane Club.
Bathurst, Dr Richard (d.1762), a physician; one of the original members of the Ivy Lane Club.
Beattie, James (1735–1803), Professor of Moral Philosophy, Marischal College, Aberdeen; poet.

Beauclerk, Topham (1739–80), one of the original members of the Club.

Bell, William (1731–1816), Prebendary of Westminster from 1765.

Bentham, Edward (1707–76), Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, from 1754; Professor of Divinity from 1763.

Bickerstaffe, Isaac (1733–1808), Irish dramatist and librettist.

Blacklock, Thomas (1721–91), blind poet.

Boccage, Mme du (1710–1802), French author.

Boothby, Hill (1708–56), sister of Sir Brooke Boothby, Bt, of Ashbourne Hall, Derbyshire.

Boswell, James (1740–95), attorney, biographer, diarist.

Bowdler, Thomas (1754–1825), physician; later celebrated for his *Family Shakespeare* (1818).

Bowles, William (1755–1826), of Heale House, Wiltshire; member of the Essex Head Club.

Boyd, the Hon Charles (1728–82), brother of the Earl of Errol.

Brocklesby, Dr Richard (1722–97), one of SJ’s physicians; a member of the Essex Head Club.

Bromfield, Robert (1722–86), physician to the Thrales.

Brown, Thomas (?1657–1717), Lichfield schoolmaster.

Bunbury, Henry (1750–1811), caricaturist; a member of the Club from 1774.

Bruce, James (1730–94), explorer and traveller in Africa.

Burke, Edmund (1729–97), politician, orator, writer; an original member of the Club.

Burney, Dr Charles (1726–1814), organist, conductor, composer, musicologist.

Burney, Frances (Fanny), later Mme D’Arblay (1752–1840), novelist; daughter of the above.

Bute, 3rd Earl of (1713–92), politician.

Butter, William (1726–1805), physician practising in Derby and London.

Byron, Sophia (d.1790), wife of Rear-Admiral John Byron.

Cambridge, Richard (1717–1802), author.

Campbell, Thomas (1733–95), Irish clergyman and diarist.

Carless, Mrs: see Ann Hector.

Carmichael, ‘Poll’, inmate of SJ’s household.