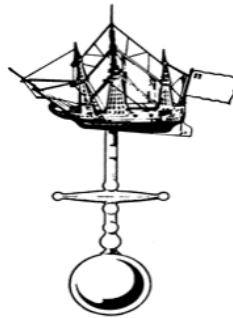


QUEENHITHE WARD CLUB



Newsletter 27 – Autumn-Spring 2022/23

Visit to Westminster Abbey 17th November 2022

It may have taken 3 years to actually get there, with all sorts of hiccoughs along the way, but a wonderful day was had by the 27 members of the Club who joined Val Rodger, our organiser for this event, in a private guided tour of Westminster Abbey.



A delicious lunch was taken in the Cellarium before joining our two verger guides who over the following hour and a half expertly took us through the centuries old Abbey and its history. The afternoon finished with a self-guided tour of the artefacts displayed in the Gallery.

Christmas Carol Service

18th December 2022



Unfortunately this year we had a reduced number of members attending, mainly due to problems with public transport which has become a nightmare and other members not feeling well. Despite no strikes scheduled for the day, many trains were cancelled and stations closed!

Despite this, we had members coming to the church service which was lovely with several of the carols being sung by the choir alone, and the others, the final verse getting an amazing descant by the choir, Andrew Parmley being the organist. We brought children's presents which were stacked under the tree, and Major Sally from the Salvation Army took these which she then organised distribution to the "needy" children in the Hoxton area. Following the service a

small number of our members went to the Cote restaurant near St Paul's Cathedral where they enjoyed a good 3 course meal and a glass of 'bubbly' and were delighted to have a very social early afternoon.

Visit to the Royal Opera House

21st January 2023

We had a very reasonable representation from the Club with 23 members attending the tour and 21 the lunch.



Following an excellent lunch at The Palm Court Brasserie, we made our way to the ROH in Covent Garden where we met an excellent, lively and informative tour guide. He provided an overview of the building, including exploring the front of house spaces, offering an insight into its colourful history and what it takes to stage a production in one of the world's leading theatres. It is a fully working theatre, famous world wide, and as such each tour is a unique experience and varies according to what is available on the day. This tour no longer enters the

backstage areas of the Royal Opera House, but we got access to the main auditorium to see a sample of some of the work put into a performance and the costumes used over long periods of time. Following the tour we all gathered in the ROH coffee shop where we then socialized over a cup of tea and a cake which was much enjoyed by all.

Visit to Trinity House

13th March 2023

Trinity House is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers, providing education, support and welfare to the seafaring community. On Monday 13th March 16 members of the Club (4 had to drop out at short notice) gathered at Trinity House, Tower Hill for a private guided tour of the building which has been their headquarters since 1796.



Our tour guide Kate included not only the origins of this maritime charity whose purpose is "for the benefit and safety of all mariners", but also the history of the building and the artefacts contained therein. At the same time she managed to incorporate many amusing side lines and anecdotes resulting in a very enjoyable hour and a half in her company.

leisurely end to a very pleasant day.

Our tour was followed by lunch at Traitors Gate pub in a private dining room, which allowed for a