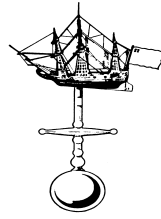


QUEENHITHE WARD CLUB



Queenhithe Ward Club Newsletter Issue 10 – Summer 2016

Visit to Brick Lane Music Hall - “Jack & His Big Stalk” 22nd January 2016

This was again a popular event where 27 members attended. Vincent Hayes is the founder of the Brick Lane Music Hall and it was established in 1992. He is the regular host of the shows and is a wonderful comedian between the scene changes! Unfortunately photography was prohibited, hence a poor photo, but lots of fun.



The Brick Lane Music Hall moved to Silver Town in 2004. The Church was completely renovated as a typical Victorian-style Music Hall Theatre, renowned for its entertainment.

The Reception/Bar opened at 6.30pm in a rather crowded area! We then went through to our tables for a three course meal served at 7.30pm by candlelight in the main area of the Theatre. The meal was very enjoyable and served hot, which was most commendable for the number of people there!

The ‘Show’ began at 9pm. It was a very professional and highly amusing Show.

Glancing around everyone was laughing heartily, especially at some of the jokes, as always the jokes were very topical! In true tradition the Pantomime, was ‘slick’ with the many changes of scenery and clothes giving us a good evening’s entertainment. The ‘Dame’ actually ended up with fifteen changes of frocks!

During the interval the Raffle prizes were presented to the Winners, which included taking a photo and presenting the Winner with a bouquet of flowers.

This was a successful evening, despite some members having had to travel for 3 hours.

Queenhithe AGM at Painters’ Hall

16th May 2016

Following a quiet period due to issues with the potentially planned events, the AGM demonstrated the best turn out in my time in the club, with 61 attendees. I think it isn’t the AGM itself attracting members, but the “bubbly” and sociability plus an excellent dinner with plenty of wine.



The AGM agenda followed the normal format without any problems manifesting themselves! Patrick, our retiring chairman returned from his honeymoon with Val, in time for the event, and talked about his year as chairman. He then passed the chair to Roddy Morriss, who told us about his exciting planned events for the forthcoming year. The next event being Beating Retreat, sounding very exciting.

Following the meeting, all members made a very speedy transfer to the next door room where a glass (or so for some) of “bubbly” was being served, and everyone had time to mingle and chat to some friends not seen for some time. We then went upstairs to the Livery Hall, which is always a joy to be in and we were served a delicious meal of glazed ham, salads & new potatoes, of course supplemented by plenty of wine, and followed by a selection of scrumptious desserts, then coffee and chocolates. Everyone was enjoying themselves so much, members were keen to stay and chat rather than going home by 21:30 hours.

Beating Retreat , Horse Guards Parade

9th June 2016

30 seats were booked ahead of time for this and within 48 hours of the flyer being circulated, all tickets were taken and it was great to see some members who had not attended an event for a long time.



We started the evening meeting at Little Frankie's Italian restaurant in Whitehall for some food, of course supplemented by a glass or two of wine.

The Household Division's Beating Retreat is a spectacular evening pageant of music and military precision drill to include horses, cannon and fireworks. The event is performed annually on Horse Guards Parade in front of the lovely backdrop of St James's Park. It is traditionally performed the week prior to the Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour). It was especially pertinent this year being the Queen's 90th birthday. The Military Beating Retreat concerts date back to the 1690's.

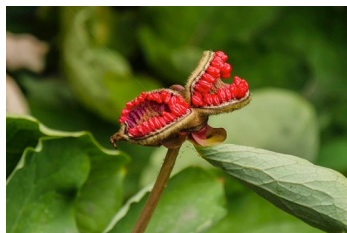
Traditionally the beating of the drum was used to order troops to break off fighting and withdraw to the safety of their camps as darkness fell.

Today Beating Retreat is an evening of military concert with a marching display, usually marking the lowering of the Regimental flag at sunset. These soldiers are, of course, immediately recognizable by their amazing distinctive uniforms and headdress (busbys). The whole evening demonstrated the passion of the British for precision, working together and amazing spectacle and the appropriate use of the cannon fire and the wonderful display of fireworks to wind up the evening – it isn't easy near the longest day of the year to enjoy fireworks at their best! This spectacle shows 'London at it's finest' and I think we should be proud to understand the like of the event cannot be seen elsewhere in the world.

Chelsea Physic Garden

22nd July 2016

A lovely sunny day brought 24 of us to the Chelsea Physic Garden for an incredibly interesting tour followed by a delicious tea. The garden is the oldest botanic garden in London, founded in 1673 by Sir Hans Sloane, a physician, naturalist & botanical collector, & is the 2nd oldest in the UK, after the University of Oxford Botanic Garden.



Once into the garden which has an area of around 3.5 acres (1.4 hectares) we were confronted by a beautiful statue of the founder Sir Hans Sloane, this was only constructed a couple of years ago in Portland stone replacing an earlier one which went into disrepair. Originally the garden was founded to train apprentices in the identification & use of medicinal plants, and was specifically chosen to be near the river to benefit from the microclimate of warm air currents. The garden is now smaller than in the 17th century due

to a loss of space due to the river bank construction & widening of Royal Hospital Road.

This photo is of a peony – 'paeonia mascula', it was impossible to choose which photo to include as Paul put together a large number of fabulous photos for us. You can view them all by clicking on the link: <http://bit.ly/QCPGarden>. The world famous garden is home to around 5000 different plants dating back to 1682, when a seed-exchange program was initiated with 'Hortus Botanicus Leiden' by a Dutch botanist, Paul Herrman, and has lasted till the present day.

Another very famous botanist and collector to feature in the Physic Garden is Sir Joseph Banks whose name was first made famous on his expedition to the South Pacific on Endeavour, and subsequently he made a voyage to the north Atlantic where he collected volcanic lava specimens featuring at Chelsea. There are hundreds of interesting facts about the garden & I would recommend anyone at all interested to make a visit.

Past Queenhithe Chairman & Beadle to the Ward



Here we see Dave Keil (far right in the photo) escorting the Mayor of Oerlinghausen during their Summer Civic Parade.