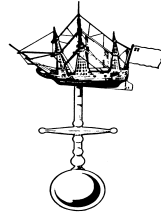


QUEENHITHE WARD CLUB



Queenhithe Ward Club Newsletter – Issue 12 Winter 2016 / 17

Old Time Music Hall Sunday, 27th November 2016

The end of November took a group of 21 of us to a great fun Sunday afternoon visit to an Old Time Music Hall at the Players' Theatre in the basement "Undercroft" of St. George's Church round the corner from the British Museum.



We started the afternoon at a small but very friendly café where the staff kindly gave us the sole use of their basement area to allow us to socialise. We met around an hour before the performance was due to start and enjoyed a good chat over a cup of coffee / tea and most of us partook of a slice of one of their delicious cakes.

As is tradition for "Music Hall" one pianist took to the stage, while all the Players' performers were "Artistes", with the Ladies being referred to as "Miss" & the Men as "Mister"! They performed 23 songs which were all great fun & brought us back to Victorian &

Edwardian days as we sang along to some of the songs & even reminded us of our childhood. The performance did stop for an interval to give us the chance to enjoy a glass of 'vino' & a further chat.

Carol Service & Lunch at Coq D'Argent Sunday, 13th December 2016

Forty five members and guests enjoyed a pre-Christmas treat at the annual Christmas Carol and Toy Service on Sunday, 18 December 2016, followed by a delicious lunch.



Members arrived at the Church laden with gifts of toys which were placed at the foot of the fabulous tree (donated by the Vintners Livery Company). These toys are all distributed by the Salvation Army and our past Alderman, Gordon, to needy children who might otherwise receive no presents.

In the absence of a current vicar, the Reverend Prebendary, James Crossley took the service. We were fortunate to have the current Lord Mayor, (689th), Andrew Parmley playing the organ and directing the choir. The Carols were wonderful and a mixture of the "old and new". In order to incorporate youngsters, some of them read lessons and contributed to the singing, this was lovely.

Following the Service St James' served wine and delicious canapés to allow the whole congregation to socialise – there were many regular attendees at St James' and also a group from Vintry & Dowgate Ward Club.

Both, Queenhithe & Vintry & Dowgate Ward Clubs booked tables for lunch at Coq D'Argent which proved to be a real success. In fact we had to agree with their manager "that we could be cosy" in order to fit us all into the restaurant. The venue was so popular we plan to use it again next year. Also Andrew Parmley & the Lady Mayoress circulated for a chat with everyone there which was much appreciated.

Celebration of 12 years service as Alderman to Queenhithe, 30th January 2017

The 30th January brought us to a very special historic event – **Gordon Haines** had served as Alderman to the wonderful ward of Queenhithe from 2004 - 2016 and retired last autumn, hence a celebration & thanksgiving for his service was important to us all.



We had the most amazing turn out for the “big day” with over 50 Club members attending, and possibly 70 from the City. The Church even ran out of Prayer & Hymn books! The Preacher was Prebendary Jeremy Crossley, Andrew Baars was organist & the St James’ Choir produced the most wonderful music. The first lesson from Genesis, was read by the “Club Chairman”, Roddy Morriss, and the second lesson from the Gospel according to St Matthew, was read by Gordon’s successor as Alderman, Alastair King. The hymns & prayers were in part sung by the choir, & some by the whole congregation, with Jeremy Crossley giving a lovely sermon.

Following the Service we made our way across Upper Thames Street, Jacques having decided to just open the barrier on the “closed bridge” to give us a shorter walk to the Northbank Restaurant, this was greatly appreciated by many, as the alternative route was either up the hill & along and down to the traffic lights or, putting our life in peril walking along the Cycle super highway! Alastair had booked the bar area in advance of the gathering, to give us the chance to socialise en masse & to enjoy canapés & a glass of ‘bubbly’. The large turn out had us queuing outside the Northbank to store our coats, but we then all enjoyed the company and the canapés & of course the toast to Gordon by Alastair with a presentation of 14 Waterford cut glass hock glasses.

Jack the Ripper Walk and Supper

17th February 2017

We were extremely fortunate to have a fine and comparatively warm February evening for this walk when 23 of us met with our guide Peter Glancy, at Tower Hill Station for a 2 hour walk around the area this “unknown killer” was known to have “worked” over a 3 month period.



We were incredibly lucky with our guide who brought the whole story to life, starting with a summary of the certainly 5 brutal murders which all took place in the Whitechapel area between August and November 1888. The victims were all prostitutes and their bodies were revoltingly mutilated. The 1st known victim was Mary Ann Nicholls, killed on 31st August, the 2nd, Annie Chapman on 8th September, then after a 3 week gap, two on 30th September, Elizabeth Stride (long Liz) & Catherine Eddoweson and finally Jane Kelly on 9th November. It has also been postulated by some “Ripperologists” that Martha Tabram

who was found in a stairwell in George Yard, with 39 stab wounds from her neck to abdomen on 6th August was probably the first victim. Both Martha & Long Liz had multiple stabbings, while the other four were totally mutilated. This led to much speculation as to the identity of “The Ripper” and many think he was likely to be either a doctor or possibly a butcher who would have a good understanding of anatomy, particularly the former. Needless to say there were reports of possible perpetrators who were seen in the vicinity of a body shortly after the event. There was lots more described in various little back streets which showed us the real horrors of what occurred.

Following the wonderful 2 hours which sped by, we ended up near Liverpool Street Station where we descended on Gow’s restaurant where we wasted no time in sitting down to a pre-chosen menu of delicious fish and chips followed by chocolate brownies & of course the “mandatory” glass or so of wine. We were not put off our food by the horrors revealed in the tour!