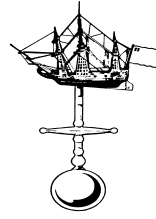


QUEENHITHE WARD CLUB



Queenhithe Ward Club Newsletter – Issue 11 Autumn 2016

This newsletter is coming out a bit sooner than would be anticipated as our current Alderman, Gordon Haines is retiring after serving 2 full terms in post and we were very proud to have had him as President of The Queenhithe Ward Club.

We very much hope that he will be succeeded by our current Ward Deputy, Alastair King, who has represented the Ward since 1999 (17 years) and has been the Ward Deputy since 2006 (10 years). The photo shows Alastair alongside the mosaic initiated by Gordon, bordering the Queenhithe Dock.



Keep an eye on Alastair's website: www.queenhithe.com

Please don't think he is walking to get away from the Ward in his first YouTube clip, he is actually going to get a better view of the Ward!

For residents of the Ward, the most important ongoing saga is of the redevelopment of Queensbridge House which has now been derelict for over 2 decades & having finally started, the demolition has been more or less at a standstill for several months due to problems with TFL & the City. This again has an excellent YouTube clip.

Alastair is an incredibly motivated current Deputy and as a long term resident of the Ward, is very aware of all the residents desires and the issues confronting us.

One area of major concern is the air quality in Upper Thames Street – Alastair is working closely with the City in monitoring this & interestingly the PM10 levels have dropped by almost 25%, while the NO₂ levels by around 27.5% over 2 years.

He is also ensuring the City prepare for Brexit, and this again, is well documented in his website as mentioned above. This website is exceptionally good and informative, while appealing to read.

Pride & Prejudice at Regent's Park Theatre

8th September 2016

This was a not surprisingly, incredibly popular event. Tickets were sold out within 24 hours of circulation of the flyer. I had been a little nervous, as we had to pay for the 30 tickets 2 or 3 months in advance. We were very blessed with beautiful weather for the evening, although we ended the evening wrapped in our jackets!



We started the evening with our own picnics, but very happily supplemented with “bubbly” and very substantial extra nibbles organized by our chairman – Roddy, with Susanna. A handful of members arrived a little later, but we managed to save a little of the good stuff for them. Roddy had visited the area previously and knew that we wouldn't all have to sit on the ground, in fact we all had excellent wooden benches round tables – I think there are some members who once sitting on the ground, would have had to stay there!

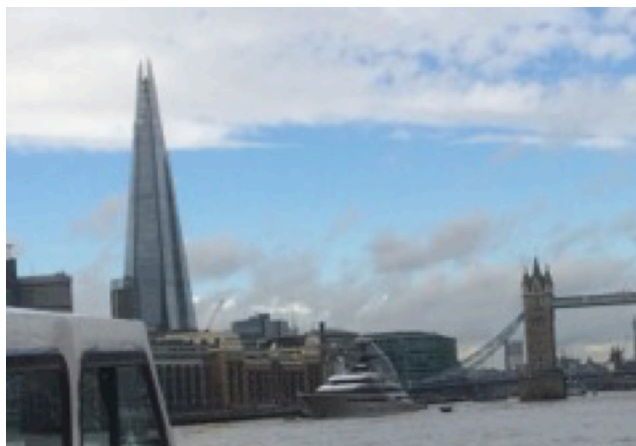
Roddy was smart enough to book tickets very early for the production as the show was a total ‘sell-out’. The play itself – **Pride and Prejudice** was

an excellent production – I am very grateful to Rose who managed to take the photo in the dark, the stage props being relatively minimal, but by rotating the central structure managed to portray a great change of scenery. The cast included Matthew Kelly as Mr. Bennet and Felicity Montagu as Mrs. Bennet. *It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.* As the Bennet sisters haplessly search for love in the play, it is Mr Darcy who unwittingly finds his match. An superb evening was enjoyed by all.

City Cruise Tower Pier to Greenwich

1st October 2016

18 Queenhithe members braved the rains on Saturday October 1st and met at Tower Pier for a lunch cruise on the Thames. Not really knowing what to expect, we boarded the Millenium of London and were shown to our tables for lunch, thankfully inside. The boat was modern and comfortable with large long windows either side of the dining area to give us all a river view.



With drinks ordered, we set off at a leisurely pace up river as far as Vauxhall Bridge whilst a delicious 2 course lunch was being served. On turning round to go down river, our knowledgeable guide gave us a detailed explanation of the many historical buildings along either river bank complete with little anecdotes, making this more than just a river cruise. Did you know that the famous ‘Duck Tours’ had to have 2 drivers, as different licences are required for the road and river, that the great hour bell of the Great Clock of Westminster which is known as Big

Ben developed a crack shortly after it's installation giving it its distinctive but less-than-perfect tone, that newly qualified nurses from St Thomas's Hospital are called ‘Nightingales’ after Florence Nightingale who nursed there and the huge super yacht named Kismet, moored at Butlers Wharf near Tower Bridge belongs to billionaire Shahid Khan, owner of both Fulham FC and NFL team called the Jacksonville Jaguars, hence the four metre silver statue of a jaguar with teal eyes gracing the bow. Sailing further down river to Canary Wharf, the rain stopped and some of us ventured upstairs to the top deck for a better view of our surroundings, passing house boats whose rents were a mere £10,000 per annum – very reasonable for a mooring but a deposit of 20 years rent has to be paid in advance!

On returning to Tower pier, our 1 ¾ hour cruise being over, we disembarked, all agreeing that this had been an excellent outing and one that many of us would like to repeat again.

Thank you Chris & Graham for the photo & writing this & sending photo as I was unable to go.