



Aldersgate Ward Club

Founded 1860 Revised 1909

Master: Mrs Joanna Cadman

12th July 2024

Dear Friends

Did you know that the 12th July is England's birthday? It marks the day, in 927, when Æthelstan King of the Anglo-Saxons, took control of the Viking-ruled lands in Northern England. Æthelstan's defeat of the Vikings led to the creation of a united England.

Unfortunately, this being England's birthday has not improved the weather! I had an email from a colleague the other day which started: 'now that summer is nearly over....' What!! We haven't had any summer yet that I have noticed and already we are writing it off! Let's hope that we get at least a little sunshine for my next event, a visit to Fenton House in Hampstead later this month. If you haven't booked yet for our Sunday outing to this charming National Trust property, followed by Sunday lunch, do have a look at the flyer which was sent to you a couple of weeks ago.



We had a lovely trip to Westminster Palace in April, and were royally looked after and entertained by the staff from MP Nickie Aitken's office. They gave us a fascinating tour of this incredible building, including both Houses, and a lot of very enjoyable gossip.

We strolled across Parliament Square for lunch at the Cellarium at Westminster Abbey, were delighted at the lack of rain for the exercise, and enjoyed a couple of hours of fellowship with good friends over a two course lunch and a glass of wine.

Also in April (my diary having been thrown by Easter being so early in the month) we had supper at *Le Beaujolais*, a private dining club off the Strand.

Quintessentially French in every way, it was a lovely meal, in very good company, finishing with the best cheese board in London



In time honoured tradition, June brought the beating of the bounds of the Ward, starting at Postman's Park by George Frederic Watts' Memorial to Heroic Self Sacrifice and ending at John Trundle House, at the northern boundary of the Ward (John Trundle, by the way, (1575–1629) was a London publisher and bookseller.) On the way, we had a fascinating tour of Ironmongers' Hall, were welcomed at Pewterers' Hall and had a very welcome cup of coffee at Plaisterers' Hall – and thoroughly enjoyed Beating the Bounds as we went, with our handy willow wands.

To my surprise, I find that I am now approaching the end of my year as Master of Aldersgate Ward Club, which has been an honour and a privilege, as well as great fun. I have just two more events to organise, the visit to Trinity House and a **Black Tie** dinner.



The dinner will be held at **Watermen's Hall** on Friday 20th September.

I will send out full information and a booking form shortly, but in the meantime please keep this date free in your diary. This is a delightful and intimate hall, the perfect place for a dinner amongst friends in the early autumn, and a lovely way to end my year as Master.

The **Ward Club's AGM** is on the 31st October, when we will welcome Phillipa Richards as the next Master of the Ward Club, and more details will come out in due course. As usual, of course, the AGM and supper afterwards will be held in the glorious surroundings of Guildhall.

We are also looking for enthusiastic members of the Ward Club to join our **Club Committee**. Hopefully, everyone that joins the committee will ultimately progress to being Master, but the main job of committee members is to support the Club, assist the current Master where necessary, deal with policy and further the aims of the Club. It's actually great fun, with only 3 formal meetings a year (held at Guildhall). Please give it some thought and let me, or our Secretary know if you are interested in finding out more, without any commitment at this stage.

And now let me turn to Brian Heppell, a very good friend of the Club who, with his wife Sharon, enthusiastically attended many events. I advised you last week that he had died very suddenly and I know that he will be sadly missed by us all. Sharon has now shared with me the details of his funeral, and looks forward to seeing as many of us as can be there:

Date: Friday 19 July 2024

Time: 1.45pm for 2.00pm

Location: Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.

This is a short walk from Old Street Tube Station, opposite Bunhill Fields.

Refreshments afterwards in Radnor Hall, inside the Chapel building.

No flowers, please. However, if members would like to make a donation to one of Brian's favourite charities, they will be gratefully received:

- **Lettering Arts Trust**

<https://www.letteringartstrust.org.uk/fundraising-and-support>

- **London's Air Ambulance**

<https://www.londonsairambulance.org.uk/>

Best wishes

Joanna