



Aldersgate Ward Club

Founded 1860 Revised 1909

Master: Mrs Joanna Cadman

14th March 2024

Dear Friends

They say that time flies when you are having fun and that must be the case, as I find to my great surprise that I am now more than a third of the way through my year as Master of this lovely Club – definitely the best in the City. And so I thought it might be a good idea to have a look back at what has happened so far, and a look forward to the rest of the year. Especially since, hopefully, we will soon see some proper spring (and a great deal less rain!) and can start to anticipate the summer to come.



I started my year with a lunch after the Lord Mayor's Show in November, and cannot remember a sunnier day for this event. Its always such a lovely spectacle, but even more pleasurable in the sunshine.

We went to Haz, close to St Paul's for lunch after the show. A small but very enjoyable party, and Haz looked after us well. It was a nice start to the year.



In December, we celebrated Christmas with a party at the City University Club, close to the Tower of London. Sparkling wine reception, crackers, presents, turkey and all the trimmings, good friends and fun. What's not to like about that!



We were delighted to welcome Aldermanic Sheriff Broniek Masojada to the Club's Civic lunch at the beginning of February and to listen to him speak on the life of the City.

It was a pleasure, as always, to have the company of our President, Alderman Christopher Makin, and to be able to enjoy the company of old friends and new, in the lovely surroundings of the Guildhall.



And, then at the end of the month, we pushed away the winter blues with a gin tasting at the London Gin Distillery and a hearty supper at the Olde Cheshire Cheese on Fleet Street.

A heartwarming occasion in more than one way, with a great deal of fun and laughter and a very entertaining and knowledgeable host at the Distillery. I am much more up to speed about what makes a good gin now than I used to be!



Easter crept up on me! Being about as early as it can be in the Church Calendar, resulting in my next two events both happening in **April**.

On the **12th April** we will have a tour of the **House of Commons**, arranged and hosted by the office of Nickie Aiken, the Member of Parliament for the Cities of London and Westminster. This promises to be a lovely event, with lots of inside gossip on the life of the House. The tour will start at 11am, and will last for about an hour and a half, after which we will stroll down the road for lunch. The House will be in Easter recess then, hence the date, as anything earlier in the month might have clashed with members' Easter arrangements.

Supper at the private dining club, Le Beaujolais, is on the **18th April**. We are promised a delightful two course set menu, followed by the best cheese board in London. The food and the wine will be memorable at this little bit of France in Covent Garden. One to look out for.

On **May 29th** we are off to Greenwich, to visit the Painted Hall and the Chapel in the Old Royal Naval College, followed by lunch at the Trafalgar Tavern. I am going to suggest that we meet on the Embankment and travel by boat down to Greenwich, always a pleasurable experience in itself, and will keep my fingers crossed for a lovely sunny late spring day.

In **June** we will beat the bounds of the Ward, starting at Postmans Park, as always. More of that a little later.

I had intended for us to go to **Spencer House** in **July** but have discovered that it is closed to the public until further notice. So we will visit Sutton House, a Grade II* listed Tudor manor house in Hackney, following a tour of this fascinating and little known National Trust property with a tapas lunch at the Spread Eagle.

August will bring a visit to Trinity House, followed by supper, and in September I am planning a black tie dinner at Watermans Hall, and would be glad to know if you are interested, without any commitment at this stage of course.. I hadn't planned anything for October, as the AGM will be in that month, but might suggest afternoon tea at the National Liberal Club if that is of interest.

I do hope to see you soon and that the year is an interesting and enjoyable one for us all.

Best wishes

Joanna