

The London Mayors' Association

www.londonmayors.org.uk



NEWSLETTER

No. 15 Christmas 2003

Inside: New Mayors' Reception • Civic Service • Clarence House Visit



The Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham

QUEEN'S GALLERY SELL OUT TOUR

In September, the London Mayors' Association were honoured to be allowed to host a private view of the newly refurbished and extended Queen's Gallery adjacent to Buckingham Palace, to view the major exhibition of Leonardo Da Vinci's Drawings.

The evening began with a fascinating lecture by one of the curators followed by a leisurely tour of the magnificent artifacts and paintings in the stunning Galleries.



The Mayors of Merton & Waltham Forest



The Mayor & Mayoress of Kingston Upon Thames, The Mayor of Kensington & Chelsea & the Mayor & Mayoress of Sutton

The Queen's Gallery

After the tour of the Queen's Gallery, Members adjourned to Westminster City Hall for a very enjoyable Dinner.



The Mayor of Greenwich & the Civic Ambassador of Newham



Sheila Lyon & the Mayor & Mayoress of Barnet



Cllr Ronnie Barden & Hon Ald Margaret Calcott James



The Mayor of Tower Hamlets & Mrs Gaye Branch



Mr Stephen Bourne & the Mayor of Haringey

NEW MAYORS' RECEPTION



The Mayor and Mayoress of Hounslow

Shortly after the round of Mayor Making Ceremonies, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Jan Prendergast, continued the new tradition of jointly with the London Mayors' Association inviting all the newly elected Mayors of the London Boroughs to a Reception in Westminster City Hall.

This year most of the newly elected Mayors attended as did Robert Finch the recently

elected Lord Mayor of London and his wife Patricia. The new Mayors were all impressed by the views from the Lord Mayor's Parlour of the whole of central London. This was also a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet each other. In fact, this year's intake of new Mayors has been the most active in the London Mayors' Association in recent years and now all but one of the 33 London Boroughs have their civic leader as a member of the London Mayors' Association.

The evening was also an opportunity for one of our Sponsors, Bob Bone of the London Parade, to tell all the new Mayors about the New Year's Day London Parade.

Helen Watson with the Mayor of Bexley



The Mayors of Greenwich & Bromley



The Lord Mayor of Westminster & the Mayor of Lambeth



The Mayoress of Brent, the Mayor of Hillingdon & the Civic Ambassador of Newham

CIVIC SERVICE

For the first time in many years, the London Mayors' Association's Annual Civic Service in Westminster Abbey saw every single London Borough represented.

Twenty five Mayors, three Deputy Mayors, the Speaker of Hackney, the Chairman of Lewisham Council, the Civic Ambassador of Newham and the Lord Mayor of Westminster processed fully robed and wearing full insignia, preceded by their Macebearer and Mace through the Cloisters of Westminster

Abbey making quite a sight. The Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Lord Imbert accompanied by many of his Deputy Lieutenants also attended in uniform.

The service was led by Canon Robert Wright, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. The full Westminster Choir sang beautifully and those present were fascinated by the Sermon given by Monsignor Mark Langham, Administrator of Westminster Cathedral.

A reception followed in the Great Hall of Westminster School at which the Lord Mayor of Westminster was presented with a Birthday Cake with a candle on, which she blew out in a single puff to celebrate a special birthday that weekend.

Thanks go to the Chapter and staff of Westminster Abbey, the Head Master of Westminster School, Jenny Bianco Caterers and Helen Watson for all contributing to make this one of the best Civic Services in recent years.



The Mayor of Dagenham, her Macebearer and a bust of the first Queen Elizabeth



The Mayors of Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham enjoy the post Service Reception



The Mayor of Waltham Forest



The Mayor of Lambeth preceded by his Macebearer



The Speaker of Hackney followed by the Mayor of Greenwich



Cllr Joe Trotter, Peter Moore the London Town Crier & Cllr Heather Johnson



The Mayors of Richmond, Hillingdon & Havering

Clarence House Visit

The London Mayors' Association were one of the first (and possibly the last) group of people allowed the honour to tour Clarence House, the current home and working office of the Prince of Wales and before him, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Such was the popularity of this special visit that we had to double the number of tickets available and then turned away over 50 members who applied too late. As it was, 108 members attended the staged visits in six groups of 18.

Those attending in the morning later met up at the East India Club in St James's Square where a lavish light lunch was served. Those attending in the afternoon were given a sumptuous afternoon tea including scones and cream as well as pastries and cakes.

The tour of the five State or entertaining Rooms on the Ground Floor of Clarence House was very interesting, particularly because of the well briefed guides who explained everything about each of the rooms. Much was similar to the state of

the House during the late Queen Mother's tenure, but had recently been redecorated, whilst certain rooms had undergone major renovation under the direction of the Prince of Wales. After the tour, members then spent a little fortune in the specialist gift shop in St. James's Palace. A very special day for everyone who attended and as there are rumours that the Prince of Wales may not continue to open Clarence House to visitors, a rare one too. Thanks go to Graham Holland who helped organise the day



A portrait of the Queen as a young girl, in Clarence House



(Above)
Members congregate
outside the gates to
Clarence House



Cllr Marie Collier enjoying a lavish tea at the East India Club after touring Clarence House



Jonathan Munday
& Cllr Doreen
Weatherhead



The Mayor of Merton
and her consort after
the visit to Clarence
House



Graham Holland & Cllr Robert Davis at tea in the East India Club

Rosemarie Barden & purchases
from the Clarence House gift shop



The Summer *Exhibition*

In July, members were honoured to be entertained by the President of the Royal Academy, Prof. Philip King CBE to Breakfast, then to a private view of the Summer Exhibition. We were given a tour of the exhibits by the President himself who was able to 'try' to explain what some of the exhibits were! Thanks go to Ronnie Raymond Cox who organised the very enjoyable and illuminating visit.

Clr Marie Collier



Prof. Phillip King CBE
President of the Royal Academy
and Cllr Ronnie Raymond Cox
(with a sculpture by Prof. King)

Cllr Sheila Peacock & the Mayor of Barnet



The Mayor and
Mayoress of
Kingston upon
Thames



Two Gentlemen of Verona



The Mayor & Mayoress of Sutton

was innovative, colourful and very enjoyable.

"A broad, sunny and sumptuously costumed new production" said the Metro Newspaper. Attended by fifty members and a number of incumbent Mayors, this was a highly enjoyable evening.



Cllr Ronnie Barden with actors from *Two Gentlemen of Verona*



The Mayors of Waltham Forest & Camden with their Mayoresses

LONDON MAYORS' MASONIC LODGE

There is a Masonic Lodge in London which was formed in 1911 in order that Mayors and Past Mayors of London Boroughs could meet and where the discussion of politics and religion was not permitted. That rule still holds good and the Lodge, although it now has an open membership with only four past Mayors still in active membership, continues to meet regularly in Freemasons Hall and dines together after the meeting.

If you would like further details, please contact Cllr. Albert Kanjee on 01494 873707 or Malcolm Hall on 020 8857 6286.

Future New Mayor



The Mayor of Camden with his wife and infant son

The Mayor of Camden, Cllr Nazim Ali and his wife Amanda have produced a potential new member of the London Mayors' Association. Rio Ali was born in September and within weeks of his birth was performing his first mayoral engagement as escort to the Mayor of Camden at the London Mayors' Association Civic Service. He was the recipient of more kisses than even the Lord Mayor of Westminster, but despite this, Rio behaved himself throughout the service, not even crying when his Dad processed past fully robed. In fact, he slept throughout both the Service and Reception.

April in Paris



Cllr Robert Davis with the stars of the show Martin Barrass & Leda Hodgson

The London Mayors' Association were treated to a wonderful evening in August with a splendid Dinner at the Opus Restaurant in the Mayfair Intercontinental Hotel followed by the best seats in the house for a production of John Godbar's comedy *April in Paris* at the Mayfair Theatre. The Members attending thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were greatly amused by the play about a northern couple who win a competition with the prize being their first visit abroad. Laughter was in the air as we watched them try French food for the first time and see the sights of Paris before falling in love again.

Patrick O'Connor Mayor of Camden in 1966

An arresting time
remembered by Jim Turner
(Mayor of Camden 1991-2)

Luke Patrick O'Connor was Mayor of Camden in 1966. During the previous six years, 23 children had been run over in Robert Street, NW1. The 23rd child was Janet Thorn, who was very badly injured.

Our local tenants leader Mrs Elsie Comley, went along with, then, Cllr Dick Collins, to meet a delegation of about 30 tenants protesting about the lack of a crossing at the shopping area on Robert Street. They agreed to hold a protest at 6.00am on the following Monday. The Mayor, Cllr Paddy O'Connor was present and offered to participate.

At 6 am on that Monday morning everyone had arrived at Robert Street to protest, as agreed, including myself. During the demo, I picked up a trestle table to block deliveries to the adjacent Co-Op, when Mayor O'Connor took it from me and as he placed it down, he was arrested by the Police and taken to Clerkenwell Magistrates Court.

On my arrival to bail the Mayor out, I was informed that he had already been charged. Paddy's trial was at the Southwark Assizes. However, after a three day trial he was acquitted.

On leaving the court, I said to Paddy "That was a bit of good luck". Paddy however replied "No, that was not good luck. The Judge does not get on with his wife and only goes home once a month and it is now time for his monthly visit".

Whether this was Paddy's sense of humour, or the truth, I will never know!

We finally got our crossing, thirty two years later!!

Jim Turner
Former Mayor of Camden

View from afar



HON ALDERMAN IAN CROFT,
Mayor of Croydon 1992/3 writes

It was fascinating chatting to BBC TV Newsreader Darren Jordan at the London Mayors' Association AGM; like me, his first career was in the forces and we found we'd been to similar dangerous places and both had even jumped from airplanes.

Looking back, I didn't set out to have military themes in my own Mayoral Year, but it happened, and my most memorable event was giving the Freedom of the Borough to all the Territorial Army Units based in Croydon.

Because of my globe-trotting, the AGM was my first London Mayors' Association meeting for four years. From my commuter's desk in London during

the 1970s and 80s, I had this dream of permanent sunshine and so on retirement I made it happen.

With the proceeds from our Croydon house, we bought an equivalent home in West Dorset, where my wife, Barb, and I live from May to October and one in Western Australia to spend the Oz summer.

There was enough left from the house transactions to fund our travel between the two homes for years. The cost of living in Australia is about half that of the UK. In addition we have no winter heating costs. So I can afford exotic stopovers. Last year it was a train journey from Kanchanaburi along the Death Railway and this year it will be Labuan where I served during the Confrontation war with Indonesia.

Our Australian home is just south of Perth, right on the coast and surrounded by golf links and sand dunes. There, it has arguably the best climate in the world. I am often accused of living the life of Riley and even of selling Croydon Town Hall - and there's no answer to it, I can only grin from ear to ear. But that's partly because I can still come back to savour these privileges, like meeting in the Banqueting Hall, which our Association enjoys.

Ian Croft

Obituaries

Sir Gordon Pirie CVO CBE
Lord Mayor of Westminster 1974-75

After retiring from the RAF in 1946 he served 32 years in local government in Westminster where, having overseen the amalgamation of the old Boroughs of Marylebone, Paddington and Westminster in the 1960s, he became the first Leader of the new Westminster City Council and subsequently Lord Mayor of the new authority in 1974-75 and an active leading member of the London Mayors' Association.

He was first elected to the old City of Westminster in 1949. As well as being Lord Mayor of the new City he had been Mayor of the old City of Westminster in 1959-60.

Joan Dutton MCSP
Mayor of Sutton 1992-93

Joan set up a first when she was made Mayor of Sutton in 1992 as she was following her husband Ted in office and this was the first time a husband and wife team had held this office. Her grandfather had served as Mayor of Haslington in Lancashire in 1927.

During her year of office, Joan set up 'Connect 2' a buddy scheme for people with learning difficulties. Joan was a Councillor for 12 years until the 1994 elections. Being a keen golfer and bridge player she remained active until the end, despite a long illness. w

Visit to Pinewood Studios

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2004

Want to be in the movies? Well for fifteen minutes of fame, you can join the London Mayors' Association on a tour of Pinewood Film Studios to watch major international feature films being filmed. As we went to press the studios are currently filming Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera", "Thunderbirds" and "Alexander the Great". Not only will we be given a personal tour of the studios in small groups but we will also join the executives from the Studios at a luncheon in the Commissary. The cost will be £45.00 per person which will include a return coach trip from and to Westminster City Hall and lunch as well as the tour of the studios. Due to Pinewood's demands, the number of places are very limited and so will be sold on a first come first served basis. An application form is enclosed.

Ceremony of the Keys

WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2003

Members are invited on a tour of the Tower of London followed by Supper in the Officers' Mess and a front line view of the ancient Ceremony of the Keys. The price will be £25.00 per person. Cheques to Robert Davis, 8 Bentinck Street London W1U 2BJ

103rd Annual Dinner

SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2004

The London Mayors' Association Annual Dinner will be held in the Ballroom of the Radisson SAS Portman Hotel

in Portman Square London W1. A five-star Hotel with a distinguished ballroom, the Annual Dinner will be presided over by the Lord Mayor of Westminster and attended by many members and guests. A bucks fizz reception will be followed with a three course dinner and wines. The price will be kept below that of last year at £55.00 per person. An application form is enclosed with this Newsletter which should be sent with cheques to: **Helen Watson of 7 Highview Court, 57a Augustus Road London SW19 6LU.**

Visit to Madrid

**THURSDAY 25TH MARCH 2004 TO
SUNDAY 28TH MARCH 2004**

Following the success of earlier foreign civic visits, the London Mayors' Association will be travelling to Madrid in March. We will stay at the recently renovated 4-Star Emperador Hotel, located in Gran Vía and close to all kind of shops, banks, cinemas, theatres and with easy walk of the historic city centre.

The visit will include tours of this beautiful City, a visit to the fabulous Royal Palace and time to wander through the famous Prado Museum. On the Saturday we will travel to the town of El Escorial (Not only the mausoleum of the Spanish Monarchs, but a Palace and monastery complex) and then to the Valley of the Fallen, an underground church and tomb topped with a 500 foot stone cross, which can be seen from a distance of 30 miles. Although supposedly honouring all the dead in the Spanish Civil war, only two names are commemorated, those of General Francisco Franco and of José Antonio Primo de Rivera, founder of the Falange.

All meals, travel (including flights by British Midlands from Heathrow Airport) and hotel are included in a price per person of £550.00. (The price is the same whether sharing a double room or occupying a single room).

This is likely to be a popular trip and tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. Application forms are included in this Newsletter and should be sent to: Robert Davis at 8 Bentinck Street London W1U 2BJ with cheques.

Half Yearly General Meeting and Wallace Collection Visit

The Half Yearly General Meeting will be held at 4.15pm on Tuesday 6th January 2004 in the Lecture Theatre of the Wallace Collection, Manchester Square London W1. At 3pm that day, Members will be able to join a tour of the Wallace Collection given by its Director Rosalind Savill. After the formal Meeting, members will be invited to attend a Reception in the new Atrium. Tickets for the Tour (£10.00) and the Reception (£10.00) can be purchased by returning the application form which accompanies this Newsletter. Attendance at the General Meeting itself will be free.

For the Future

On the evening of the 6th July 2004 we will be visiting the Magic Circle for Supper and a series of magic shows. Put this in your diary. Details to follow in a future Newsletter. If you want to put your name down now, write to Robert Davis at 8 Bentinck Street, London W1U 2BJ.

Annual General Meeting

In the midst of the grand splendour of the Banqueting House, the only remaining part of Whitehall Palace, the home of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs from Henry VIII to William III, just yards from the place where King Charles I was beheaded, the newly installed Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Jan Prendergast chaired the Annual General Meeting of the London Mayors' Association.

Attended by a record breaking number of members, including the Lord Mayor of London, the formalities of the AGM were followed by a fascinating and enjoyable speech by BBC TV News Reader Darren Jordan. This was followed by a wine reception with canapes in the Great Hall of the Banqueting House beneath the famous Rubens ceiling. Thanks go to Lin Kennedy, the Chief Executive of the Banqueting House for allowing us to use the

facilities but for also attending herself and giving us all a detailed history of the building. At the AGM, the following officers were elected:

Chairman:
The Lord Mayor of Westminster

Vice-Chairman:
Cllr Ronnie Barden

Treasurer:
Michael Chartres

Secretary:
Helen Watson

At the subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee, Cllr Robert Davis was elected Executive Chairman and Cllr Diana Whittingham Executive Vice-Chairman. Councillors Edith Macauley (Merton) Bryan Collier (Newham) Josephine Barrett (Hillingdon) and Peter Gardner (Havering) were subsequently co-opted on to the Executive Committee for the first time.



Cllr Robert Davis and Darren Jordan (BBC TV Newsreader)



Lin Kennedy (Manager of the Banqueting House) with the President, Margaret Calcott James and her husband Colin



Cllr Joe Trotter and Cllr Frances Blois