

The London Mayors' Association

Association

www.londonmayors.org.uk



NEWSLETTER

No. 22 Spring 2007

Inside: Prague Visit • Diplomatic Dinner • Whittington Walk

CZECH MATE

Prague survived the Nazi occupation during the Second World War and the domination of the Soviet Union until 1989 but it only just survived a visit of the London Mayors' Association to this beautiful historic city.

Over 50 members of the London Mayors' Association travelled to Prague including



Cllr Robert Davis & the Acting Mayor of Prague

the Mayors of Greenwich, Havering, Merton and Wandsworth and were led by our Chairman, Councillor Robert Davis DL.

After a short flight, the delegation were soon refreshed with a welcoming lunch in their splendid hotel situated close to the Powder Gate in the historic centre of the city.

The first afternoon was spent touring the Royal Castle which sits on the top of a hill on one of the banks of the River Vltava, that runs through the centre of Prague, majestically looking down on the historical old city. The castle was founded in the ninth century. Its commanding position saw it occupied by Royalty



Carolyn Doe & Corinne Simmons in the Lesser Town

CIVIC VISIT TO PRAGUE



The Mayor of Greenwich & the British Ambassador



Susan & Tony Kerslake in the Royal Castle

and subsequently (as it is today) by the President of the Republic. The tour included the spectacular St Vitus's Cathedral with the tomb of St Wenceslas.

Ambassador's Reception

Early on the first evening, the members of the Association were entertained to a drinks reception by the British Ambassador to the Czech Republic. Her Excellency, Linda Duffield also invited all the Mayors of the local boroughs within Prague to meet the delegation from London. After a speech

from the Ambassador, our Chairman, Councillor Robert Davis presented the Ambassador with a Mayoral Toby Jug. The Czech Press present were keen to interview members of the delegation.

The Visit to the Town Hall

The first full day started with a walking tour of the City Centre. At lunchtime, the members were invited to the Old Town Hall where the acting Mayor of Prague, Rudolf Blazek gave a speech and welcomed the members to his City. Prague's press, including national television were present to cover the event, particularly because they were interested in the views

The Mayor of Merton is interviewed for a Czech paper in the British Embassy





Clr Vanessa Cole at the Old Town Hall



Margaret & Colin Calcott James outside the old theatre



Inder Singh Jamu at the Royal Castle



Clr Lurline Champaigne & Clr Christopher Buckmaster outside the Opera House



Helen Watson & Clr Bob Belam in Golden Lane (in the Royal Castle)

of the London Mayors' Association on the 2012 London Olympics, as Prague are keen to bid for the 2020 Olympics.

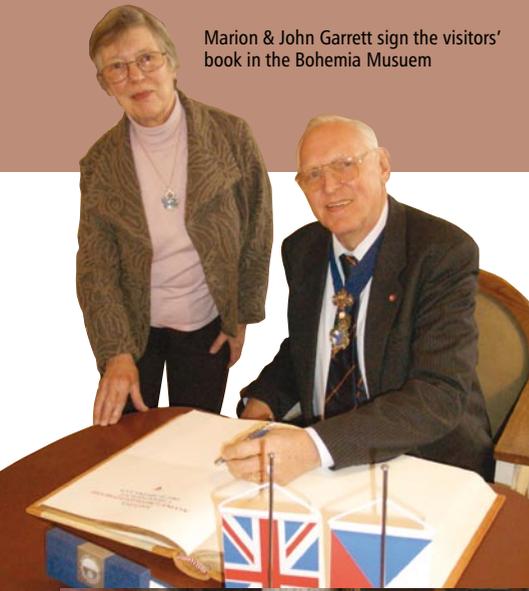
Two members of the Executive Council of the City of Prague joined members at a buffet lunch at a restaurant on the river. The afternoon included a walk over the historic Charles Bridge which is Prague's most familiar monument connecting the Old Town with the Lesser Quarter where

members toured the Church of St Nicholas with its splendid high baroque and rococo interior.

The Black Theatre

The second evening saw the members attending the Black Light Theatre, an entertaining show of music, dance and comedy. This was followed by dinner at a restaurant in the Lesser Quarter.

Marion & John Garrett sign the visitors' book in the Bohemia Museum



Carolyn Doe & Cllr Dennis Doe in the old town square of Hradec Králové



The Mayor of Hradec Králové with the delegation from the LMA



Pat Creutzberg & Roger Manning enjoy dinner at the 7 Angels Restaurant

Hradec Králové

The Saturday was spent visiting the city of Hradec Králové, an hour's drive to the north east of Prague. This is one of the most important cities in the Czech Republic with a population of over 100,000. The City Council has decided to invest millions in the infrastructure.

The members of the Association were received by the Mayor, Mr Divisek, at the Bohemia Museum, where we were given a presentation on the City and its strategic development plan. After a short

reception and the tour of the museum, members were then given a guided tour of the old part of the City before adjourning for lunch at a hotel overlooking the City, where we were joined by the Mayor and Deputy Mayors of the City. However, several members of the delegation disappeared during the course of the meal, having been lead astray by one of the Deputy Mayors and taken to a local Czech pub for some Pilsner!

On the Saturday evening, the members enjoyed a high spirited dinner at the



The Mayor of Wandsworth and Beryl Jeffery at the Charles Bridge



Cllr Leslie McDonnell in the Old Jewish Cemetery

Ghetto. However, the discrimination was eventually relaxed at the end of the 18th Century and by 1850 it was incorporated into the rest of Prague. The members visited a number of historic synagogues, some dating back to the 16th Century as well as the very moving old Jewish Cemetery founded in 1478.

After some free time for a wander around the small streets of the historic city centre for some shopping, members then returned to London having had an enjoyable four days in the Czech Republic.

Cllr Richard Hoskins & Elizabeth Tomlin with a new friend



Corinne Simmons & Ernest Tomlin dancing to the music at the 7 Angels Restaurant

7 Angels Restaurant in the heart of the historic city centre of Prague with musical accompaniment, which caused a number of members to start dancing.

The Jewish Quarter

The final Sunday morning was spent on a tour of the moving Jewish Quarter of the City. For centuries the Prague Jews suffered oppressive laws and at one stage, were restricted to the Jewish





Cllr Denis Doe & the Czech Ambassador

THE CZECH AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION

A week prior to the departure of members of the London Mayors' Association to Prague, the Czech Ambassador His Excellency Mr Jan Winkler, hosted a reception in the Czech Embassy in Kensington.

Members enjoyed meeting the Ambassador and members of his staff over a glass of Czech wine with excellent canapés and learnt about Prague and the Czech Republic.

The Chairman, Cllr Robert Davis presented the Ambassador with a Toby Jug of a Mayor as a gift, to commemorate our visit as well as a pair of London Mayors' Association Cufflinks and an LMA wall plaque for the Embassy.



Wenda Belam with Anne & Roger Manning study the Itinerary



The Czech Ambassador & Beryl Jeffery



The Mayor of Greenwich & Inder Singh Jamu

SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND WORKS OF VACLAV HOLLAR

by Roger Manning



Former President Vaclav Havel and Cllr Anne Manning

Despite having arrived home from the Civic Visit to Prague only hours before, a stalwart group of thirteen former Mayors, Consorts and Mayoresses and the Mayor of Havering, (all of whom had travelled to Prague) attended a service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster on 26th March to celebrate the life of Vaclav Hollar.

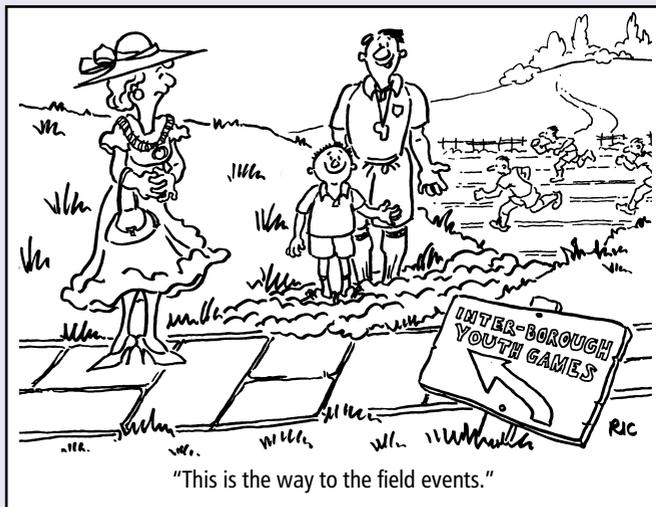
The Ambassador of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Mr Jan Winkler gave the Address which outlined the life of Hollar, the celebrated artist renowned for his drawings and etchings of landscapes, urban vistas and costume studies.

Hollar was born in Prague in 1607 and died in London in 1677. He is thought to be buried in St Margaret's churchyard. Ms Gillian Tindall, who has written the biography

of Hollar 'The Man Who Drew London' read an extract. The Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Michael Martin MP, read a text from Luke Chapter 24.

It was a pleasure to see former Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel and his wife at the church and, together with Mr Speaker, they placed flowers in front of the commemorative plaque to Hollar on the north wall of the church.

It was agreed by those representing the London Mayors' Association that the service was an appropriate finale to our most successful 2007 Civic Visit.



SIR IAN BLAIR SPEAKS TO



Sir Ian Blair

Portman Hotel in Portman Square hosted by the President of the London Mayors' Association, Cllr Alexander Nicoll, the Lord Mayor of Westminster who was accompanied by his wife Grania, the Lady Mayoress.

Other guests included the Lord Mayor of London, his Lady Mayoress, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Lord Imbert & Lady Imbert. The Chairman

of the Greater London Assembly, LMA member Cllr Brian Coleman also attended.

The principal speaker was Sir Ian Blair, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police who gave a speech emphasising the increase in the number of police and community support officers in London over the last few years. The Chairman, Cllr Robert Davis gave his annual

The London Mayors' Association 106th Annual Dinner was again held in the Raddison SAS



Cllr Alan & Hazel Weinberg



Charlie & Josie Cherrill



Rosemarie Barden & Sir Ian Blair



Sheriff Regan, Frances Blois and the Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress of London



Lady Blair & Cllr Robert Davis

LONDON'S MAYORS

report on the previous year's activities and welcomed all the guests individually. The Lord Mayors of Westminster and London also spoke.

After a champagne reception Members enjoyed a three course Dinner during which the students of the Sylvia Young Theatre School performed extracts from Gilbert and Sullivan to the delight of those attending.



Sir Ian & Lady Blair



Cllrs Christopher Buckmaster & Doreen Weatherhead & Alderman Sir Gavyn Arthur



The Lord Mayor of Westminster & Lady Mayoress of London



The Mayor of Greenwich & Cllr Joan Scannell



THE LIFE OF THE LATE QUEEN MOTHER

The Half Yearly General Meeting of the London Mayors' Association was held in February in the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms at Westminster City Hall. After the formalities of the Meeting, we were highly entertained by a fascinating talk on the life of Her Majesty, the Late Queen Mother by her biographer Hugo Vickers. The talk was illustrated with a slide show containing many unpublished photographs.

Intending to speak for just twenty minutes, the audience were enjoying the lecture so much they insisted he continued for nearly

fifty minutes, a rare occurrence. As a result of the success of the evening, Hugo has agreed to join us again one evening in the Autumn where he will give a full hours lecture on another fascinating subject over supper.

Hugo also brought a number of copies of his recently published biography of The Queen Mother and sold signed copies of them all within minutes.

The evening ended with a Reception where members were able to chat to Hugo Vickers.



Cllr Daphne Marchant & Richard Marchant



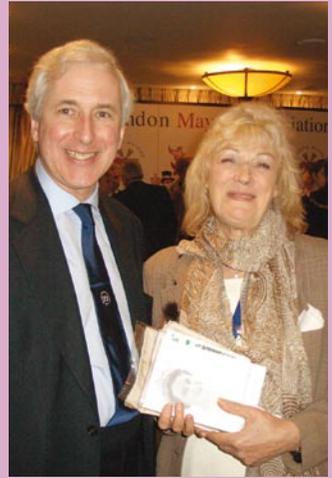
(left) The Mayors of Wandsworth & Hammersmith & Fulham with the Lord Mayor of Westminster



The Mayors of Ealing & Harrow



Cllr Ronnie Barden & Cllr Charles Elliman



Hugo Vickers and Rosemarie Barden



The Mayor of Bromley & the Chairmen of Lewisham & the Greater London Authority



The Mayor & Mayoress of Bromley with Cllr Catherine Rideout

The Diplomatic Dinner

The annual London Mayors' Association Diplomatic Dinner was again held in the Lord Mayor of Westminster's Reception Rooms in Westminster City Hall in early December 2006.

The guests were entertained to a bucks fizz reception followed by an enjoyable three course meal. Each table was hosted by a Mayor and joined by an Ambassador or High Commissioner. The diplomatic guests included the Ambassadors of the Czech Republic; Brazil; Argentina; Spain; Bulgaria; Estonia and Ecuador and the High Commissioners of the Bahamas and St. Kitts & Nevis as well as the Chargé d'Affaires for Hungary.

The toast was given by Cllr Frances Blois and the response was given by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic who spoke about the London Mayors' Association's Civic Visit to Prague in March 2007.



Consort to the Speaker of Hackney & Rosemarie Barden



The Ambassador for Brazil & his wife with Cllr Dennis Doe & Carolyn Doe



The Mayor of Barnet & Cllr Robert Davis



Sheila Elliman, the Mayor of Hillingdon & the Chargé D'Affaires for Hungary



The Czech Ambassador & the Lord Mayor of Westminster



The Mayor of Hounslow & the Indian High Commissioner



Cllr Bob Belam, the Ambassador for Ecuador and William Smith



THE CIVIC SERVICE



The Mayor of Southwark has his Jabot put on by his Macebearer

The Annual Civic Service in Westminster Abbey was again a very special event and one that stuck a special chord in all the hearts of those attending. For the first time, the service coincided with the Abbey's own celebration of the feast of the Dedication of Westminster Abbey and as the new Dean



The Procession of Mayors led by the Chairman of the GLA



The Mayor of Barnet & her Macebearer



The Mayors of Croydon & Bromley



The Mayor of Islington, The Speaker of Hackney & The Mayor of Havering



The Mayor of Harrow



Macebearers await their Mayors

had not yet been installed, the Service was led by the Sub-Dean (and Chaplain to the House of Commons), Canon Robert Wright.

The Preacher was the Rev. Dr Leslie Griffiths, a former President of the Methodist Church and since 1996 Superintendent Minister at Wesley's Chapel. Dr Griffiths

was created a peer in 2004 with the title Lord Griffith of Pembrey and Burry Port. He gave a very interesting sermon about London as a community.

After the service, members enjoyed a Reception in the Great Hall of the neighbouring Westminster School, where the Lord

Mayor of Westminster and the Chairman, Cllr Robert Davis gave speeches thanking the Sub-Dean and the Abbey Staff for organising the Service. Special thanks were given to Helen Watson (Secretary of the London Mayors' Association) for organising the afternoon.



The Lord Mayor of Westminster leads the procession to the Reception



The Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham in the Jerusalem Chamber



The Mayor of Barking & Dagenham



The Mayor of Brent



The Mayors attend the Reception

LONDON'S NEW YEAR PARADE



Cllr. Robert Davis as Charles II and Cllr. Susie Burbridge as Nell Gwyn on Westminster's 1st prize winning entry

This year's 21st birthday party event received support from the Mayors of all of London's Boroughs.

Twenty one Mayors took an active part on January 1st by placing entries from their Boroughs in the 'Let's help London Challenge' competition in which tens of thousands of pounds of charity prize money are on offer for the winners.

Top prize and £7,000 this year went to the City of Westminster whose entry featuring Covent Garden, its history and current position as a major tourist attraction, embellished by the splendid musical talents of students from the Sylvia Young Theatre School was made particularly memorable by the appearance of LMA Chairman Robert Davis in the role of King Charles II.

In second place was the visually

spectacular South Connections 'Aspects of Africa', a fabulously costumed Caribbean style music and dance act representing Ealing. Winner of this year's third prize of £5,000 for local charities was last year's winner, The London Borough of Merton. This year Merton was promoting the cause of recycling and presented a fantastic float that closely resembled a wedding cake. Certainly this was one of the most eye-catching floats and the combination of a wedding theme with recycling gave plenty to ponder on!

Sutton has always made an outstanding contribution to London's New Year's Day Parade and was a more than worthy winner of this year's 4th prize with its float depicting the lavender farms of the Borough and the many products produced from lavender. History was

PARADE AND FESTIVAL 2006/7

London's New Year's Day Parade and its associated events form one of the most important parts of the Mayoral Year for all of London's serving Mayors and many members of the London Mayor's Association.



Mayors ride along the Parade route in an open top bus



Deputy Lieutenant Roger Bramble presents the first place trophy to LMA President Cllr. Alexander Nicoll, Lord Mayor of Westminster

made by Sutton's great entry this year as it was the first ever to appeal to the sense of smell as well as the senses of sight and sound. A heady but alluring scent of lavender wafted from Sutton's float as it meandered its way around the 2 mile parade route.

It was wonderful to see the return of Havering to the list of winners. Havering won first prize in the very first Let's Help London challenge and after a few years absence from the competition has now returned with a vengeance culminating in this year's much deserved fifth place and a £3,000 contribution to a local charity. Creative costumes were the key to Havering's success. Regular winners Barking and Dagenham were sixth this year with a fabulous float created by Northbury Junior School, centred around

a Chinese theme and entitled 'Dragon's Den'.

Winners of the six judge's special prizes were Hammersmith and Fulham with the Rough Puppet Theatre Company, this year dashingly attired as stilt walking pirates; Southwark with the talented Tigercubs local cheerleading group and their very fine young Southwark Pilgrims and Newham who were represented by the incredible world class cheerleading group, the Ascension Eagles supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office. A splendid entry from Redbridge demonstrating the Borough's successful multi culturalism kept Redbridge in the winners circle for the 10th successive year. Hounslow's excellent entry from Grove Park Primary School deservedly brought its second ever prize to the Borough and Richmond upon Thames



South Connections, Aspects of Africa won 2nd prize for Ealing



Barking and Dagenham's Chinese inspired float that won 6th prize



Havering light up the day with their entry that won 5th prize

presented a dynamic and youthful entry from The Richmond Canoe Club which produced a special prize for the second consecutive year.

Although other participating Boroughs may not have won judges prizes in the Challenge, all who took part shared in the record street collection in excess of £6,000. But most important of all everyone who took part had a fantastic day thoroughly enjoying themselves and delighting a streetside audience of over half a million people not to mention a worldwide television audience some

forty times greater.

December 29th saw the LMA Gala concert at Westminster Central Hall, to which all serving Mayors were invited and for which all Mayors were offered a number of complimentary seats for people from their Borough. The concert was preceded by a reception at Westminster City Hall hosted by LMA President, The Lord Mayor of Westminster and event Patron Roger Bramble DL. The concert itself was much enjoyed featuring some of the finest young American musicians who had travelled to London specially for the



Children of Sutton at the head of Sutton's Parade entry, winners of 4th prize



Mayor of Havering Cllr. Wendy Brice Thompson presents to Havering's Parade Honours winner at the LMA Gala Concert at Westminster Central Hall



Merton's impressive float that won 3rd prize

Concert and Parade. During the concert a number of Mayors were able to present a Parade Honour to their Borough's selected unsung hero for 2006.

London's New Year's Day Parade is very important for London, its Mayoralties and the LMA. It is one of the very few events in which all of London is invited to take part, and in which all of London's Civic Mayors can play an active pan London role.

London's New Year's Day parade is the best and biggest event of its kind in the world. It is a great advertisement for London and all of London's Boroughs. It raises lots

of money for local Mayoral charities. It is a joy to take part in and a delight for the hundreds of thousands who come to see it live, and the millions more all over the world who watch the event on TV.

The event can only succeed if serving Mayors support it. Soon organisers will be writing to outgoing Mayors asking them to pass on information for the 2008 event to their successors. It would be wonderful to think that all members of the LMA will pull together to ensure that their Borough plays its part in the world's greatest annual street event.

LONDON MAYORS WHITTINGTON WALK

Mayors in their flowing red robes and wearing their chains and badges of office, once again followed in the footsteps of Dick Whittington and walked from Highgate Hill (where Dick is reputed to have heard the bells call him back to London to become Lord Mayor) to Mansion House.

The morning started with a light breakfast in the new "Turning Point" restaurant of the newly extended Whittington Hospital. After some welcoming speeches,

the Mayors processed to the statue of Dick Whittington's cat for a photo call before the walk officially started.

It was a beautiful sunny spring day for the Walk and so accompanied by the Police and led by the Lord Mayor of London, his Lady Mayoress and Sheriff Richard Regan and his wife, the Mayors in robes and chains were quite a sight meandering through the streets heading for the City of London. Amongst those walking was our Chairman, Cllr Robert Davis DL, who

was representing the Lord Mayor of Westminster as Lord Mayor Locum Tenens.

A drink at a pub at the half way point enabled members to refresh themselves whilst both ITV & BBC London News programmes filmed interviews with various Mayors. After the short break, the walkers were accompanied for the rest of the way by the Green Hackle Marching Pipe Band. [www.greenhackle.co.uk]

After arriving at the Mansion House, the Lord



The Mayors of Brent Barnet & Redbridge start the Walk



The Mayors are accompanied by a marching pipe band



The Mayors reach Mansion House

the Walk starts



The Mayors on the steps of Islington Town Hall

Mayor of London, Alderman John Stuttard and the Lady Mayoress, hosted a well earned sit down chicken curry lunch for the participants and then presented certificates to the participating Mayors.

Thanks go to Executive Committee member Graham Holland for organising the day so perfectly.



The Mayors of Camden & Islington accompany the Lord Mayor of London with the Speaker of Hackney



The Mayors enjoy a beer at the half way point



The Mayors of Camden and Kensington & Chelsea enjoy lunch at the Mansion House



The Mayor of Barking & Dagenham receives her certificate from the Lord Mayor of London



REFLECTIONS *of a Former Lord Mayor*

by Ronnie Raymond Cox, Lord Mayor of Westminster 1997-1998

On May 4 2006 I retired from front-line politics after 40 years. I had first been elected in 1968 with Pip, my wife, to Camden Council, but in 1977 I had to resign my seat when I was posted by my firm to Paris.

However, shortly after my return to London in 1990, I won a seat on Westminster Council. Then in May 1997, I was elected Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster.

Before coming into office I was asked to define my themes. However, I thought at 69 years of age, I was too old to chose just one, so I chose six: the elderly (like me), the disabled (like Pip), the young (as we are both primary school governors), the Arts (because I come from a family of artists), the Armed Services (because I was a soldier for 17 years as was our youngest daughter, Elspeth) and the church (because we are both regular churchgoers).

During my year, I visited many schools to talk to the kids. At one, a 9-year-old girl asked me: "Have you ever made a wrong decision?". I could only reply "Of course, the only person who never made a wrong decision is one has not made any decision at all!"

One theme I had under-estimated was International Relations. I received visits from Mayors in Africa, the United States, the Balkans, China and Russia and I also got the opportunity to

visit the Mayors of Paris and Berlin.

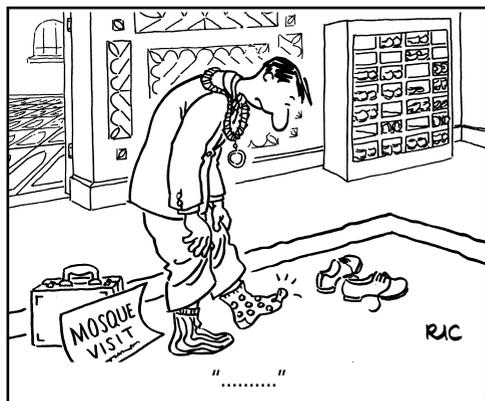
On short notice, I was asked by the Foreign Office to look after Mayor Marion Barry, the then Mayor of Washington DC. I had been asked to find out how Washington was coping with its numerous problems, so, in all innocence, I asked: "tell me, how are you getting on with your drug problem?" I was nonplussed when he replied: "just fine!" It was a week later that I discovered he had just been released from a prison sentence for drugs!

A delegation from the Russian Duma came to ask me how we ran elections in London. I told them but added that even our system was not perfect – I had once found a two year old baby and the family dog on the Electoral Register!

At a Royal Garden Party, we joined the Queen in the Royal Tent for Tea, where Pip told her that we could watch the changing of the guards from the Lord Mayor's Parlour. She replied: "Oh you must be in the tea-break house. My children called it that because when it was being built in the early 1960s, every few hours a whistle would be blown and the workmen would down-tools for a cup of tea and so it was christened the tea-break house!" After that I would tell my visitors they were in Her Majesty's Tea-Break House!

I am often asked: "what was the most outstanding day in your year?" My only reply has to be: "the most memorable day was, for all the wrong reasons, the funeral of Princess Diana". I was present in the Abbey throughout the unforgettable service when Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, gave his extraordinary speech praising his sister but attacking the Royal Family in their presence.

To have been Lord Mayor of the unique City of Westminster was a fantastic honour and experience. I have said since: "it was the only time in my life when I could say anything to anyone and get away with it!"



JENNY BIANCO DL – CHEF D’LA MAISON

Behind every successful event there is a hardworking chef behind the scenes in the Kitchen and the London Mayors’ Association is no exception. London Mayors’ Association events are to a great extent, the success they are, due to former Lord Mayor of Westminster Jenny Bianco. Jenny has run her own home catering company for many years and with a regular team of waitresses (who we all recognise from the many LMA events they have attended) and other support staff. Having retired from Westminster Council in 2002 after sixteen years in local government including several as Chairman of Social Services and Chief Whip, she is now (when not catering) Deputy Lieutenant Representative (DL Rep) for Southwark, having recently retired as DL Rep for Enfield. We are very indebted to Jenny and her staff, as we could not afford to arrange high quality events at reasonable prices without her support.



Jenny Bianco (second from right) surrounded by her regular team of waitresses in the Westminster City Hall kitchen.

SECRETARIES OUT TO LUNCH

It was hoped that the Mayors of the London Boroughs were busy carrying out mayoral engagements one lunchtime in January as they would not have found their Private Secretaries or Mayoral Assistants in their office. Of course, they were all attending the annual London Mayors' Association Luncheon for the Mayors' Secretaries and Assistants hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster in his Reception Rooms at Westminster City Hall. After a champagne reception, guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet and were able to socialise with each other as well as members of the Executive Committee.

The Lord Mayor and the Chairman, Cllr Robert Davis both gave speeches thanking the secretaries and support staff for all the work they do for the Mayoralty in London, for individual Mayors and for the London Mayors' Association.



Rita Gresty (Harrow), Margot Ferris (Haringey) & Sue Goss (Islington)

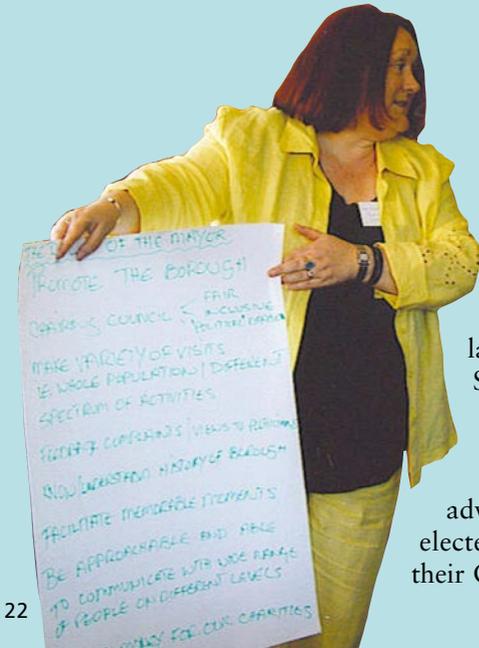


Alison Croucher (Kingston), Liz Ball (Harrow) & Dee Manley (Wandsworth)

New Mayors Induction Day

The London Mayors' Association launched a new initiative last year with a Saturday Seminar for new Mayors and their consorts. The idea is to give advice to the newly elected Mayors and their Consorts.

Organised by Vice Chairman Cllr Ronnie Barden with help from a number of other former Mayors and consorts, the event will be repeated again in 2007 for the Mayors newly elected into office. The event will take place on Saturday 9th June 2007 from 9am until 2pm and will include coffee and refreshments during the



VISIT TO NEW ARSENAL STADIUM

by Councillor Ronnie Barden Vice Chairman of the London Mayors' Association

Excellent relations between the Arsenal football club and Islington Council enabled Mayors in office and members of the LMA to tour the new Emirates Stadium. We were able to explore parts not generally seen by the public. From the changing rooms to the hydro therapy pool, we experienced the thrill of emerging through the tunnel to the magnificent pitch, imagining the 60,432 capacity fans cheering us on. We even sat in the luxurious leather chairs of the directors box. It was a glorious sunny day to appreciate the amazing architectural beauty of this innovative and state of the art edifice. Even Spurs fans were grudgingly impressed!

Our thanks go to Joe Trotter and the Mayor of Islington for arranging this visit and of course to the Arsenal Football Club, for such a memorable day.



Cllr Ronnie Barden



Arsenal New Stadium – The Mayoral Dressing Room

morning and lunch at the end of the seminar. It will be held at Westminster City Hall and a small charge will be made for the lunch.

All newly elected Mayors will be invited direct. If any former Mayor or their consort wants to assist and give a short lecture on an aspect of being Mayor and/or consort or want to participate in the workshops, please contact Cllr Ronnie Barden on 020 8989 3929.



The Official Opening of the Emirates Stadium

By Cllr Jyoti Vaja
Mayor of Islington



Arsenal Football Club began life when a group of workers at the Woolwich Arsenal Armament Factory decided to form a football team in late 1886. The Gunners moved to Highbury in 1913 and then into their new home - the Emirates Stadium in 2006. Arsenal do so much for Islington Community, especially the young people and so much of it goes without much recognition.

The official opening of the Emirates Stadium by the Queen was scheduled for Thursday 26 October 2006. Sadly, the Queen was unable to attend due to back problems. So the Duke of Edinburgh stepped into her shoes by describing himself as the “second best unveiler of plaques. He had been trained by the best”. In return for not being able to open

the new Stadium, the Queen invited the club to Buckingham Palace for tea. I was honoured to be amongst one of those invited. It is the first time the Queen has ever invited a football team to the Palace.

Tea was preceded by a tour of the Palace’s Staterooms. It was a truly amazing place full of history, ornate decor, fabulous antique paintings and sculptures. The normal tour which lasts an hour and half was squeezed into half that time. The best part was still to come - meeting the Queen, drinking tea (coffee is only available on request) and stroking her Corgis’. It was a real pleasure chatting to Her Majesty as she is so down to earth. The last time I had met her was during her Silver wedding anniversary year at the Barbican.

THE LONDON CHAIN GANG OF 2003/04

by Cllr Dennis Doe, Mayor of The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames 2003/04

The London Chain Gang of 2003/04 met again for lunch - this time in Kingston upon Thames on 18th February 2007. When we fixed the date and I chose The Cammasan Chinese Restaurant we didn't realise it was the Chinese New Year Day – the Year of the Pig! So, with twenty three former Mayors, Mayoresses & Consorts attending, all badged up, we were entertained by a splendid Lion Dance. Former Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster, Councillor Jan

Prendergast, painted the eye of the lion. The local press were present and Jan, Dennis and the lion were front page news in the Kingston Guardian. We meet next in the LB of Enfield. *Hung hey fat choi.*



Cllr Melvyn Cohen, Carolyn Doe & Cllr Maxi Martin

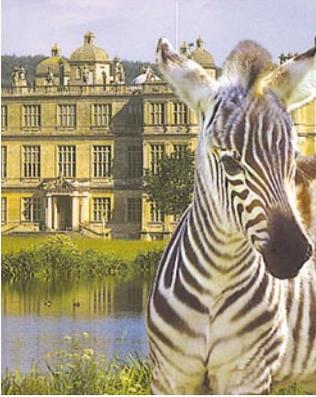


Cllr Jan Prendergast dots the eye of the Lion



Members enjoy the lunch

FUTURE EVENTS



Day Trip to Longleat

Date: Sunday 1st July 2007

Cost: £60.00 per person inclusive

A day long visit to Longleat House in Wiltshire and the Safari Park, star of BBC TV's "Animal Park"

A Coach (air conditioned and with a WC) will pick up a number of Members at Ilford Town Hall at 7.15am and collect the rest at Westminster City Hall at 8.15am. We will arrive at Longleat at about 11am where we will be given a tour of the Stately Home and the Safari Park. Lunch in the Wessex Pavilion Restaurant is included.

[Please note we are limited by the size of the Coach to 48 Members and guests. So tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.] Thanks go to Cllr Charles Elliman JP for kindly making all the arrangements.

Three Day Trip to the Isle of Wight

Dates: Friday 20th July 2007 to Sunday 22nd July 2007

Cost: See enclosed application form

The London Mayors' Association are to make a three day Civic Visit to the Isle of Wight. We will be entertained by the Chairman of the Council (a Unitary Authority) and will be given a tour of County Hall. The Chief Executive and leading Councillors will entertain us throughout the visit. We will stay over night in a good hotel and visit Osborne House and other attractions. The cost includes travel and all food and accommodation.

Private tour of Buckingham Palace

Date: Tuesday 21st August 2007 at 4.45pm

Cost: £85.00 per person including Dinner



The London Mayors' Association have managed to secure a privileged private and exclusive guided tour of the State Rooms of Buckingham Palace after the Palace has closed to the public, which will end with a reception

in the Palace. We will then move to the Lord Mayor of Westminster's Reception Rooms for Dinner.

Private Tour of the Cabinet War Rooms and the new Churchill Museum

Date: Tuesday 4th September 2007

Time: 6pm



A special guided tour of the recently refurbished Cabinet War Rooms and the newly opened Churchill Museum will be followed by a reception in the Museum and then a buffet supper in the Lord Mayor of Westminster's Reception Rooms at Westminster City Hall.

Price: £35.00 per person (including tour and supper)

AGM

The AGM will be in July 2007 – details will follow in a separate mailing

The London Inter-Borough Rifle Shooting Challenge Cup 2007

Date: Sunday 9th September.
Place: The Ham & Petersham Rifle Club in Ham, Richmond upon Thames.
Time: During the afternoon.

How do Mayors enter the competition?

Details have been sent to all Mayoral Offices. [Further details from Cllr Dennis Doe: dennis.doe@councillors.kingston.gov.uk]

What's involved?

The Competition has been held every year since 1911, except for the War Years. There are preliminary knock-out rounds shot in each club's premises, under the guidance of the National Small-bore Rifle Association. The Final involves shooting at small discs – the winner removing their discs faster than any other team. The Final involves the five clubs / Boroughs who won through the preliminary rounds. Each Borough's Mayoralty comes to support their team. The Final has been held in Ham since the 1920s. Last year's winner was the LB of Wandsworth.

Annual Civic Service in Westminster Abbey

Date: Sunday 14th October 2007 at 3pm

The London Mayors' Association have been invited by the new Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Jon Hall, to again join the Abbey for Evensong to celebrate the Mayoralty in London. For

the second year running, the service will also coincide with the Abbey's own celebration of the feast of the Dedication of Westminster Abbey. More

details and an Application Form will follow in a separate mailing in July 2007. In the meantime, please put this date in your diary.



LONDON MAYORS' ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

Did you enjoy the cartoons in the Newsletter?

Would you like a 2008 London Mayors' Association Calendar using these cartoons, as gifts for colleagues, family and friends?

The front page will carry the LMA crest, but you will be able to *personalise* the calendar by substituting your own mayoral portrait, Borough beauty spot, etc., for which a blank page will be provided.

If you are interested please contact Mrs Hilary Potts at hilary.potts@ukonline.co.uk

Prices are being investigated and will be available from Hilary.

CARTOONS

Special thanks again go to Mrs Hilary Potts (past Mayoress of Ealing) and Mrs Patricia Sinyangwe who together produced the wonderful mayoral cartoons included in this newsletter, for kindly allowing us to reproduce them in the Newsletter.



The London Mayors' Association Crest

The London Mayors' Association crest mounted on a wooden plaque to hang on the wall is now available to buy. The costs are £40.00 each. They are very impressive hung above the fire place at home. Orders can be made by contacting Cllr Robert Davis at 8 Bentinck Street London W1U 2BJ (020 7486 9041).

London
Mayors' Association

Gifts

The London Mayors' Association range of gifts are still available for Members to purchase. These include two styles for cufflinks that can be purchased either as a cut-out of the full coat of arms or as a shield, brooches and lapel badges. Ties are also available in blue, red, green and yellow.

Costs: Cufflinks are £20.00 each
Ties are £20.00 each
Lapel Badges are £5.00 each
Brooches are £7.50 each

STOP PRESS

Ladies silk scarves are now available for purchase at a cost of £20.00 each and are available in bright red, gold and blue.

AND a new order of the full range of badges and brooches have just arrived from the suppliers in new smart presentation boxes that make excellent gifts. Orders can be made by contacting Cllr Robert Davis at 8 Bentinck Street London W1U 2BJ (020 7486 9041).



NCP celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2006. We are a name familiar with every Londoner, we are synonymous with car parking – and our car parks are a familiar site across the capital.

But NCP is much more than that in London. We are a highly visible employer in a number of London boroughs, delivering services including on street parking management and CCTV management on behalf of 13 London boroughs. Across the capital as a whole we employ nearly 3,000 people.

And NCP's Challenger buses have become a familiar sight in West London since we launched the service in 2005.

We are a highly visible presence in the communities where we deliver local authority services – and we have embraced that with groundbreaking initiatives such as Partnership Plus™ agreements which details ways we can work with local police forces to be an extra set of eyes and ears helping them reduce street crime.

And NCP have pioneered training standards to make customer service at the heart of what we do. We want Londoners to feel an NCP colleague is there to help.

That is why we are delighted to sponsor the London Mayor's Association newsletter. The Association is working hard to make London a great place to live and work – and NCP is too.