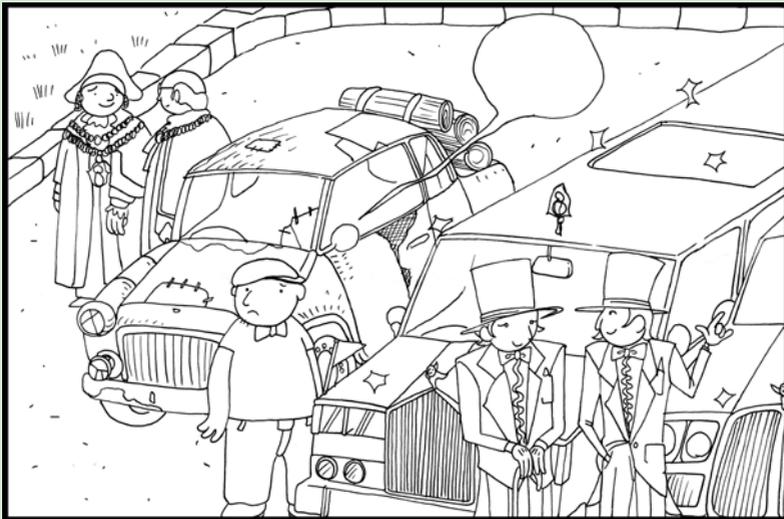


CIVIC SERVICE 2008

The 2008 Civic Service will be held in Westminster Abbey at 3pm on Sunday 19th October 2008. Please put it in your diary. Application forms to attend will be distributed during the Summer.



"We must do something about the car before the Queen's Garden Party, the other drivers are kicking sand in his face."

Thanks to Mr Clements and Hilary Potts for the cartoon



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.

The London Mayors' Association

Association

www.londonmayors.org.uk



NEWSLETTER

No. 24 Spring 2008

Inside: Annual Dinner • Royal Tour • Hugo Vickers • Walk

A WALTZ AROUND VIENNA



The Lord Mayor of Westminster with the Mayors of Southwark, Wandsworth, Harrow and Camden in Vienna

Everyone joining the Civic Visit to Vienna was a bit bleary eyed when arriving at the new Terminal 5 at Heathrow for the very early departure of the flight to Vienna.

On our arrival we were greeted by Ella, our wonderful guide for the entire trip.

After a quick break at our 5 star Hotel and a very light lunch, we set off on a coach tour of Vienna.

We were mesmerised by the range of magnificent and spectacular buildings, many dating back to the 16th century.



Cllr June Fewtrell & Pat Creutzenberg

Editor: Cllr Robert Davis DL. Editorial Contributions by Helen Watson

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VIENNA - A CITY OF HISTORY

After being dazzled by the sheer splendour of old Vienna, we arrived at a little bit of British soil in the city, the Residency of the British Ambassador to Austria, Mr Simon Smith.

Enjoying a typical English tea; sandwiches, cakes and a 'cuppa', we were able to explore and admire the pictures and artefacts.

After tea, members were treated to a most fascinating and enlightening account of the Ambassador's responsibilities which includes much work in connection with the European Union.

An excellent dinner at a typical Viennese restaurant concluded the first day of the visit before everyone collapsed into bed to catch up on much needed sleep.

The second day in Vienna will probably always be remembered as the day of the two lunches. But before those, we



Cllr Richard Bailey and his wife Susan outside the British Embassy

made a visit to the Winterreitschule, the magnificent home of the Spanish Riding School and the famous Lipizzaner horses which we watched being put through their daily training routines and exercises with their riders.

We then moved on to the superb 19th century neo gothic City Hall, domicile of the Vienna Mayor and Governor. We were welcomed and received by the Deputy Mayor who gave us a short talk about the City. She then announced that lunch was served. This was the 'crunch' as we knew that lunch had been booked at a nearby restaurant.

Gleefully, some of the men amongst us relished the thought of two lunches while the remainder of us politely managed a small morsel or two and pretended we had tiny appetites.

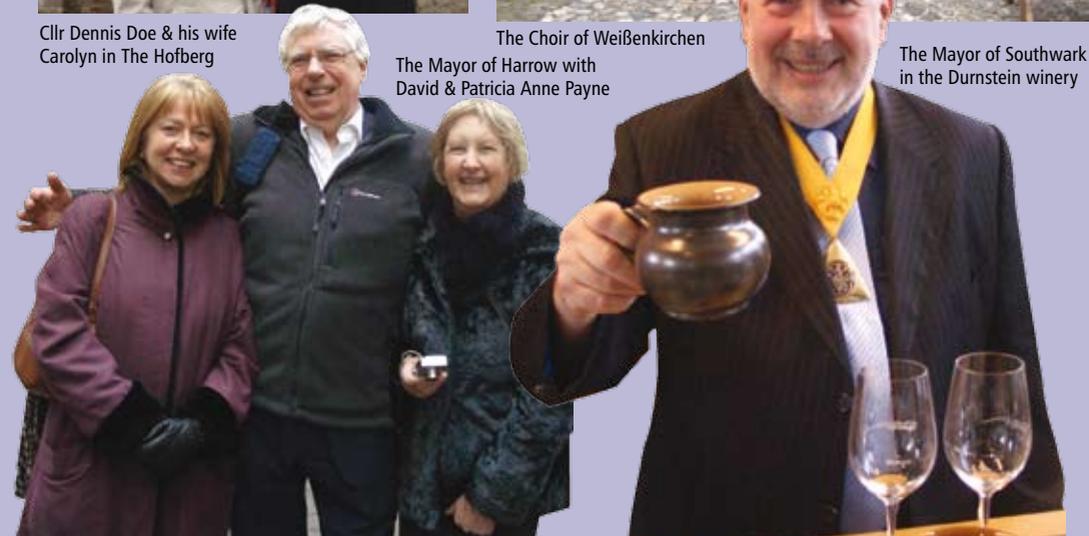
The British Ambassador Simon Smith and Cllr Robert Davis



Cllr Dennis Doe & his wife Carolyn in The Hofberg



The Choir of Weißenkirchen



The Mayor of Harrow with David & Patricia Anne Payne

The Mayor of Southwark in the Durnstein winery

After this first lunch we had the pleasure of being taken on a tour of the magnificent City Hall.

After a short walk, we arrived at the venue for the second lunch, another appetising Viennese meal. This, thankfully, was followed by a much needed walking tour of central Vienna, which took up most of the afternoon. Whilst dinner that night included a vienna schnitzel as big as our plates.

Saturday, our third day, was spent away from Vienna. Leaving by coach very early, we made our way to the Wachau Valley Region of Austria where much of the land is taken up with wineries. Nearing Krems we were joined by Evelyn Kitzwogerer, who was to be our special guide for the day.

Walking from the coach to Krems Town Hall were able to see a little of this delightful tiny Austrian town which looked as though it had much to admire.

TRAVELS IN VIENNA (THE CIVIC VISIT TO VIENNA CONTINUES)



The Mayor of Merton overlooking Melk

Right: Cllr Bob Belam & his wife Wenda



Father Martin with Hon Ald. Diana Whittingham & Helen Watson



The Mayor of Durnstein and the Lord Mayor of Westminster



The Mayor of Harrow and her consort with the choir of Weißenkirchen



Cllr Sheila Peacock & Cllr Inder Singh in Schunbruun

The Council's Chief Executive welcomed us and gave us what was to be the first of several glasses of wine of that day.

We then moved on to Durnstein where the Mayor, Mrs Barbara Schwarz, was waiting for us at the Durnstein Winery. After a wine tasting, the Mayor told us about Durnstein and the Winery and the life of a Mayor in the Wachau Region. A delightful lady, she was happy to meet everyone and to answer their questions.

But again we had to move on – this time to the Danube and a river cruise to Melk, during which we had a superb buffet lunch and more wine.

We subsequently arrived in Melk to see the breathtakingly beautiful Benedictine

Abbey, which as well as being a Monastery is a school for 900 pupils.

We were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor of Melk and Father Martin, the Abbey's Director of Tourism, who took us through the striking grounds and into the Abbey itself, where we were welcomed by Abbot Georg.

Abbot Georg told us a little bit about the Abbey and then members were taken to the Benedictine Museum and a tour of the magnificent building. The tour ended on an outside balcony from which there was a stunning panoramic view of the glorious Wachau Valley. We were taken to the large and handsome Abbey church where a Monk delighted us with a wonderful and stirring organ recital.

Very reluctantly leaving behind this wonderful Abbey, we went on to Weißenkirchen to be welcomed by the Mayor, Mr Anton Bodenstein, who was waiting for us in a delightful little courtyard where a Tyrolean men's choir was delightfully singing.

The day ended at the hotel Kirchenwirt for another three course dinner (and wine of course) before a long journey back to Vienna and bed.

Sunday morning was spent at the Schonbrunn Palace. Dating back to the 16th century it was the home of the Hofburgs. The Palace has 1441 halls and rooms, but our weary feet could only take in 20 of them.

After checking out of the hotel everyone spent Sunday afternoon doing their 'own thing'.

Sincere thanks go to the many people involved in the planning and organising of the trip especially Bob Bone and all his team.



Corrine Simmons & Colin Ormsby with a model of St Stephens

MORE FROM VIENNA



Members after their tour of Schonbrunn



Joe & Jean Trotter and a champagne fountain

Elizabeth Tomlin and Cllr Frances Taylor



The Deputy Mayor of Vienna and the Lord Mayor of Westminster



The Mayor of Weißenkirchen with the Mayors of Merton, Wandsworth & Harrow



Cllr Christopher Buckmaster in Melk Abbey

A LITTLE BIT OF VIENNA IN LONDON

Members travelling to Vienna were delighted to receive an invitation to attend a Reception hosted by Dr Gabriele Matzner-Holzer, H.E. The Ambassador for Austria to the Court of St James.

The Reception held in the Ambassador's elegant Residency in Belgrave Square, provided an opportunity for those going to Vienna to meet each other.

The Ambassador welcomed everyone and expressed her pleasure in Vienna being chosen as the venue for this year's overseas visit. Vienna, she said, is a city of pure delight and she felt sure everyone would enjoy all it had to offer, including the architecture and the food.

Cllr Robert Davis LMA Chairman, thanked the Ambassador for her very kind hospitality and her valuable help and advice arranging the trip.



The Austrian Ambassador, Cllr Robert Davis and Helen Watson



The Mayors of Camden and Harrow with The Austrian Ambassador



Rosemarie Barden and Joe Trotter

Left: Members listening to the Ambassador's speech

DIPLOMACY AT ITS MOST RELAXED THE DIPLOMATIC DINNER

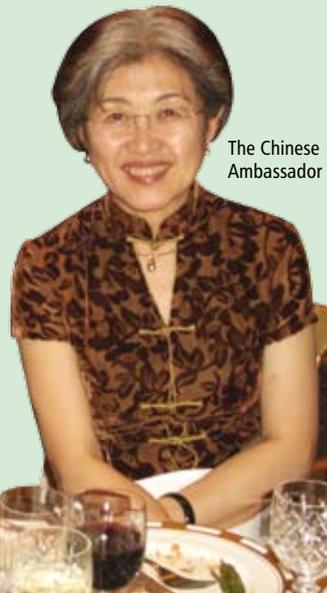
We reported in the previous edition of the Newsletter the decision to hold two Diplomatic Dinners in the autumn of 2007. Hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Carolyn Keen, the second of the dinners was held in December 2007 in the Lord Mayor of Westminster's Reception Rooms and was attended by eight Ambassadors, some of whom were accompanied by their spouses. We were also delighted to be joined by Sir Anthony and Lady Figgis, attending their final LMA Diplomatic Dinner before Sir Anthony's impending retirement as Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.



The Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps with Ronnie Raymond Cox & The Belgium Ambassador

Councillor Robert Davis our Chairman, proposed the toast to all the guests and the Ambassador of Slovenia, Mr Iztok Mirošič, being the senior Ambassador present, responded before proposing a Toast to the London Mayors' Association.

Our thanks yet again to Mrs Jenny Bianco and her loyal staff for providing the catering for the dinner. They are also thanked for bringing the first touch of Christmas into the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms with the pretty miniature scarlet poinsettias placed on each table.



The Chinese Ambassador



The Ambassador of Albania and Cllr Sheila Peacock

MAYORS' SECRETARIES REAP THEIR REWARDS

Once again the Executive Committee was pleased to invite the Borough Mayors Secretaries to join them at lunch kindly hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Carolyn Keen, in her Reception Rooms at Westminster City Hall.

The luncheon party was much enjoyed by the Mayors' Secretaries and the LMA Executive Committee alike. The Secretaries love the occasion as it gives an opportunity to meet. The LMA Officers and Committee members appreciate the opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to all the Secretaries for their work and support throughout each Mayoral year.

Because of the chatter, catching up on news, and dare we say it, gossip, the Secretaries stayed longer than most thought they would, or even should. The sight of Westminster City Hall support staff arriving in the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms to prepare for another function had everyone running to the door, just in case they were given the work to do.

Our thanks to Jenny Bianco and her staff for providing the lunch and, very important, thanks to all the London Borough Mayors who agreed to losing their Secretary for a day so they could attend the lunch and provide the opportunity for the LMA to say this very sincere and special 'thank you'.



Derek Johnson and Irene Foskett



Jo Trotter and Sue Goss



The Bromley Girls



Stephanie Nunn and Margaret Humphrey



Dee Manley, Beryl Jeffries and Pat Withers

FLYING THE MAPLE LEAF



Cllr Felicity Barwood, Cllr Francis Blois and Michael Chartres



Louise Sinclair

The setting for this year's Half Yearly Annual General Meeting was the splendour of Canada House, where the wonderful great front doors leading from Trafalgar Square were opened for our Members.

Presiding over the proceedings Councillor Carolyn Keen, Lord Mayor of Westminster and President of the LMA, thanked the Canadian High Commissioner for granting us the use of the building.

During the business part of the meeting, LMA Chairman, Councillor Robert Davis gave a summary of the Association's activities since the Annual General Meeting held in

Cllr Robert Davis, The Lord Mayor of Westminster and The Canadian High Commissioner



July 2007, including the very successful visit to the Isle of Wight. Mr Michael Chartres OBE, our Treasurer, presented a resumé of the financial situation while Cllr Doreen Weatherhead provided a membership update.

After the formalities of the Meeting the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr James R Wright delighted members by giving an insight in to the life of a High Commissioner at the Court of St James' and his experiences when visiting Buckingham Palace to present his Credentials to HM the Queen. He also gave a short history of Canada House and some of the treasures housed there.

Following his address, members joined His Excellency in the beautifully decorated and furnished High Commissioner's Salon for an enjoyable Reception, at which many guests experienced, for the first time, Canadian wine – its good!.

We are most grateful to the Ambassador for permitting our meeting to be held in Canada House and to Jennifer Barbarie,

Head of Public Advocacy and Outreach Political Affairs at the Canadian High Commission who was most helpful and supportive arranging the function.



Clive Champagne, Cllr Bertha Joseph and the Mayor of Bexley with Gaye Branch



Cllr Catherine Rideout



Janet Lewis



Christine Peters, Cllr Brian Coleman, and Cllr Heather Johnson and Bryan Collier

THE ANNUAL DINNER



The Lord Mayor and the Guest Speaker Mr Clive Roslin



Cllr Heather Johnson, Cllr Ross Houston, Mandy Parnell and Rosemarie Barden



The Lord Mayor and her Consort with Cllr Brian Coleman and his mother Mrs Gladys Coleman

The setting for this year's annual dinner was the splendid Chartwell Suite in the Churchill-Hyatt Hotel in Portman Square, which was virtually filled to capacity.

The room looked magnificent with the tables nicely laid, with coloured crystal perfume bottles by each lady's place and a colourful menu and programme for every guest. The final touch was the spectacular and impressive table floral arrangements. Provided by John and his staff at Dovers Flowers, the four foot tall 'martini' glass vases filled with deep red roses, Anturios and red apples, were much admired and sought after by guests.

Lord and Lady Imbert joined the Association for their final Annual Dinner in Lord Imbert's official capacity as Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, before his April retirement.

After dinner Lord Imbert gave a short address, during which he thanked the Association for involving himself, and Lady Imbert, in its various functions and saying how much they had both enjoyed these. We wish Lord Imbert, and his wife Iris, a very happy and peaceful well earned retirement from public life.

The Mayor of Harrow and the Civic Ambassador of Newham



After Dinner and entertainment from the children of the Sylvia Young Theatre School performing songs from the "Rat Pack", Councillor Robert Davis, our Chairman gave a résumé of the Association's activities during the past twelve months.

Our Guest of Honour Mr Clive Roslin, Journalist and Radio presenter, then gave a hugely entertaining and amusing speech about his career on TV and Radio. This seemed to consist of being offered interesting assignments which, on completion, were followed

by invitations to move on and to explore alternative avenues of broadcasting.

The General Manager, Mr Michael Gray, who joined us for dinner, and his most helpful staff, are thanked for their help and support.

The Children of the Sylvia Young Theatre School with The Lord Mayor of Westminster

The Mayor of Hillingdon and her consort with Brenda Cripps



Robert and Ann Landeryou and Helen Watson

Boroughs Get Global Attention

The 22nd New Year's Day Parade has been hailed as a massive 'global triumph' – and gave London boroughs a World stage on which to shine.

Massive crowds, estimated at more than 475,000, packed the 2.2 mile route and revelled at more than 8,000 performers from numerous nations.

More than 500 TV stations in several continents were fed live coverage of the event - and BBC News made it their lead item.



Bob Bone, Executive Director of the Parade said: " We had a wonderful crowds on the streets – and a terrific reaction from our global TV audience.

"The borough entries were better than ever – a real tribute to all those that helped make it happen.

"The feedback has been fantastic – giving London the perfect platform to show what it has to offer."

No less than 18 London boroughs competed for an impressive charity prize pot in The Let's help London Challenge – with Ealing carrying off the £6,000 First Prize.

Their spectacular depiction of the rise and fall of slavery – utilising sounds and colour of carnival with the group South Connections, entertained and educated in a manner that caught the panel of international judges eye.

Westminster came second, celebrating a 100 years of West End theatre, earning their mayoral charity £5,000.

Enfield was placed third (£4,000) with a warning of global warming whilst Tower Hamlets and Southwark were joint fourth.



Tower Hamlets' entry celebrated the borough's rich cultural diversity.

Southwark rang in the New Year with a World Record by ringing more than 1,200 changes on church bells – mounted and mobile – proceeding along the route.

Merton's Big Carousel was placed fifth (£2,500) and Redbridge's celebration of the borough's past and present came sixth (£1,500).

Six special award winners each received £1,000 – Harrow, Barking and Dagenham, Hounslow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Sutton and Brent.



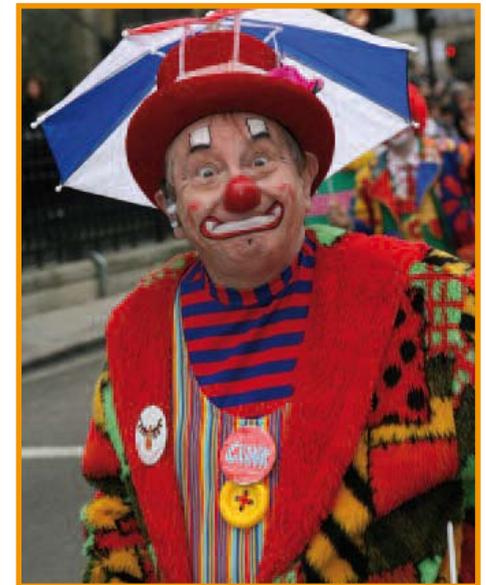
Inset Picture: Our chairman as The Phantom of the Opera



But it wasn't all about winning.

Even the borough entries that didn't pick up a prize had the benefits of a terrific day out, the glare of the media spotlight and a share of the mammoth street charity collection.

And believe it or not plans are well underway for an even better event on January 1st 2009!



To secure your borough's participation give the parade office a ring and get further details on 020-8566 8586.

Visit the event's website on

www.londonparade.co.uk



HUGO VICKERS & HIS OBITUARIES



Hugo Vickers gives his talk

Following the enormous success of Hugo Vickers addressing the Association's members during their Half Yearly Annual General Meeting held in February 2007, Hugo was invited to return to join members at a supper held in January.

Hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Carolyn Keen, in the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms at Westminster City Hall, the evening proved to be relaxed and very enjoyable.

After an excellent supper catered by Jenny Bianco and her faithful team, everyone sat back and relaxed with a cup of coffee, or a glass of wine, anticipating another entertaining presentation by Hugo. Guests were not to be disappointed.

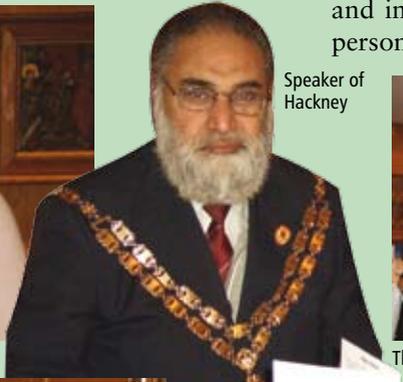
During his first presentation in February last year, Hugo spoke movingly

and amusingly about his long time interest in the late Queen Mother. On this occasion he chose to entertain guests with an in depth and amusing bird's eye view into the world of obituary writing. He highlighted the traditionally accepted diverse viewpoints held by the UK national broadsheet newspapers regarding obituaries and the editors' opinions about the type of person for whom they will print an obituary.

Hugo offered an amusing insight into the methods which often have to be used in order to find the relevant and important aspects of a person's life.



Helen Watson laughing at Hugo's speech



Speaker of Hackney



The Lord Mayor welcoming guests



18 Cllr Lurline Champaigne & Michael Enskat



Ronnie Raymond Cox & Gaye Branch

SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW BUCKINGHAM PALACE

A number of current Mayors and other ALMA members were disappointed not to be able to accept the invitation to attend the first Buckingham Palace Private Viewing in August 2007. It was therefore gratifying to hear from Buckingham Palace that we had a second chance to do so on the evening of Thursday 17 April.

The main advantage of an exclusive private viewing is limited numbers and the visiting party divided into two groups with both groups having their personal guide.

As you slowly progress up the magnificent staircase through the State Rooms, the history of each room is explained as well as how each are used by The Queen and other members of the Royal Family. The guides are thoroughly professional and really immersed in the history - and working - of Buckingham Palace. They only explained the serious side of The Queen's working Palace but are able to pass on some amusing and personal anecdotes which brings the visit alive.

At the end of the tour a welcome glass of champagne was served. After a short walk across to Westminster City Hall, members enjoyed supper, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster in her Reception Rooms.



The Mayor of Redbridge surrounded by her Mayoress and Deputy Mayoress



The Mayor and Mayoress of Brent



The Speaker of Hackney and the Mayor of Waltham Forest with their wives



The Mayor and Mayoress of Wandsworth and The Mayor of Camden

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DICK WHITTINGTON AND OF COURSE HIS CAT

On Sunday 30 March the London Borough Mayors and members of the LMA met at the Whittington Hospital for breakfast prior to setting off on the annual pilgrimage through the streets of London following the romantic and historical route made by Dick Whittington with his cat when he was called back to London to become the first Lord Mayor of London - or so history tells us.

Led by the present Lord Mayor of London, Alderman David Lewis, the colourful procession first made its way to the Whittington Stone and Cat to make the traditional photo call and the customary lucky pat of the cat.

A stop for a 'pint' and a photograph on the steps of Islington Town Hall, the procession, were joined by the Green Hackle Marching Pipe Band.

Just before reaching the City of London, the Pipes and Drums of the Honourable Artillery Company welcomed the procession outside their Headquarters, Armoury House.

Finally reaching the Mansion House, we were revived with a welcome glass of champagne and a delicious curry lunch.

Our very grateful thanks to Graham Holland and his wife Margaret who again made all the arrangements; to the Metropolitan Police for escorting the procession and the City of London Mounted Police for their wonderful horses and riders.



The Mayors on the step of Islington Town Hall



The Lord Mayor and Mayoress of London and their dog



One Mayor (Barking & Dagenham) gets a push



The Lord Mayor of Westminster & the Mayor of Ealing



The Lord Mayor of London leads the mayors into the city



Helen Watson with the Mayors of Bromley, Camden and Harrow

MORE PICTURES OF THE WALK



The Mayor and Mayoress of Barking and Dagenham with Cllr Ronnie Barden and the speaker of Hackney and his wife



The Mayors are lead by the Green Hackle Marching Band



The Mayor of Brent and the Civic Ambassador of Newham



The Mayors of Bromley & Richmond have a well earned break

The Mayor of Bexley & Alderman and Sheriff Ian Luder



LORDS DINNER & TOUR - EVENING OF SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2008

The MCC have invited members of the London Mayors' Association for an evening tour of Lord's Cricket Ground and of their famous Museum. This will be followed by a Reception and then a three course Black Tie Dinner in the famous Long Room.

Members will only be required to pay for the Dinner (at a cost of £75.00 per person) as the MCC are treating us to the tour and pre-dinner reception. However, members can not take the tour alone without joining us for Dinner.

This is a unique opportunity to see behind the scenes of this world famous venue and dine in one of the most famous rooms in British sporting history.

The capacity of the room means that we can accommodate guests, so please bring as many friends and family as you like, although there is a finite number we can seat in the room, so we will sell tickets on a first come first served basis.

Application Forms are enclosed with this newsletter.

NEW LORD LIEUTENANT FOR GREATER LONDON



Sir David Brewer CMG

The London Mayors' Association are extremely proud that for the first time the Lord Lieutenant for Greater London will be one of its own Members.

Alderman Sir David Brewer CMG, Lord Mayor of London in 2005-2006 has been appointed by Her Majesty as the new Lord Lieutenant following the retirement of Lord Imbert in April. We congratulate him and look forward to seeing him at many of our annual functions and events and hope that we enjoy as close a friendship with him and his wife Tessa, as we enjoyed with Lord & Lady Imbert.

THE LONDON CHAIN GANG OF 2003/04

On 20th January 2008 the past London Mayors' from 2003-4 met once again for their Sunday Lunch; this time at the Sophie's Choice Restaurant at Sidcup. We thank Donna & Denis Daniels, past Mayor & Mayoress of Bexley, who organised the Lunch on this occasion. Eighteen attended and had a most enjoyable time. We continue to meet two or three times a year – the next one will be in June organised by Janet Gillman, past Mayor of Greenwich.



The Chain Gang outside Sophies Choice Restaurant in Sidcup.