

The London Mayors' Association

www.londonmayors.org.uk



NEWSLETTER

No. 28 Spring 2010

CIVIC VISIT TO ISTANBUL TURKISH DELIGHT



Members at the Dolmabahçe Palace

Arriving at Ataturk Airport on the Thursday afternoon and after obtaining our visas we were met by Ela Gurnam and Dogan Baydar who were to be our Turkish hosts and in two coaches

taken to our centrally located hotel, the five star Ceylan International.

With just time for unpacking, we were soon assembled in Reception to be taken to dinner at the 'Maiden's Tower', situated on an islet a short, but at times choppy, boat trip away from the mainland in the middle of the Bosphorus. In this delightful setting we had



The Deputy Governor of Istanbul with the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Cllr Robert Davis

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MINERETS, MEZZA AND BELL

our first experience of delicious Turkish food starting with the world famous mezza.

Our first destination the first full day of the visit was to the Dolmabahçe Palace. Sitting on the banks of the Bosphorus, it once belonged to the Ottoman dynasty and clearly demonstrated this with its opulent decorations, hereke carpets and fabulous crystal chandeliers.

The next port of call was to Pera House, the beautiful office and home of the British Consul General in Istanbul. We were received by the Deputy Consul General, Sarah Mooney, who with her staff, hosted a Reception in our honour.

After another excellent Turkish lunch, part of the group visited the Deputy Governor of Istanbul, with whom they held interesting and absorbing discussions on Turkish and British local government – discussions greatly helped by the Speaker for Hackney, Cllr Muttalip Unluer, who being a Turkish national understands both countries politics.

Cllr Robert Davis & the Mayor of Fatih



Bryan Collier, Cllr Dr Vivienne Manhein and the Speaker of Hackney at the Dolmabahce Palace



Cllr Barbara Campbell, Hon Ald Ernest Tomlin & Hon Ald Beryl Jeffery at Pera House



Cllrs Dawn Somper & Inder Singh Jamu with Nirmal Jamu

The majority of those not visiting the Governor went to the Great Byzantine Cistern – one of the Turkish Ambassador's wife's recommendations. This amazing, palatial and even beautiful underground water catchment area was originally built to ensure water supplies during attacks when the city was under siege.

Later that day, dinner was hosted by the Deputy Mayor of Istanbul in the Feriye Restaurant, built on the Bosphorus with magnificent views across the straits.

Saturday was the 'touristy' day. Starting with the Hippodrome, with its seating

LY DANCING



Bryan Collier & Cllr Marie Collier in the Topaki Palace



Members on the Bosphorus Cruise



Bob & Geri Bone at the Topaki Palace

Cllrs Jim Maddan & Leslie McDonnell in the Hippodrome



Cllr & Mrs Michael Lewis at the Hippodrome



capacity of 100,000. On to the Blue Mosque, built in the early 17th Century, the inside is decorated with exquisite mosaic tiles, being one of only two Mosques in Turkey with six minarets. Next came the Hagia Sophia dating back to the 6th century which remains in excellent preservation before moving on to the vast Topaki Palace, the administrative premises of the Ottoman Dynasty. The day ended at the Grand Bazaar, possibly the world's largest and most splendid bazaar of its type where bargains in gold, carpets, silk, Turkish Delight and tapestries can all be found.

Cllr Barbara Campbell tries out the sporting equipment in a local park



MINERETS, MEZZA AND BELL



Cllr Jean Lammiman & John Hinkley on a hill overlooking Istanbul



Cllr Jill Rhodes & Alice Enskat at the Dolmabahce Palace



Cllrs Catherine & Charles Rideout at the Dolmabahce Palace

Our final dinner was at the Kervansaray Restaurant, where apart from another delicious meal, some unexpected adventures and surprises were to come.

The centre piece of the entertainment being a Turkish Night Show including traditional Turkish dancing from the country's different regions and several belly dancers. However the centre piece of the evening was when our Chairman accepted an invitation to take to the stage and – and yes - to belly dance.

We understand he is now taking bookings for Borough Mayors Civic Dinners.

Then came the Lady Mayoress of Westminster who demonstrated her

dancing skills and high kicks by joining a northern Turkey country dance troupe.

Thankfully no one was asked join the Cossack knife and sword swallows and the other three Belly Dancers were content to demonstrate their skills without the assistance of the Chairman. Then Cllr David Payne got up on stage to sing a Tom Jones hit after which everyone joined in the dancing to the band, ending an enjoyable evening.

On the Sunday, after checking out of the hotel we enjoyed a boat trip along the Bosphorus allowing us to see at their best all the beautiful buildings built alongside the river. This was followed by a bus tour of the Asian side, a light lunch before departing to the airport to take our flight home.

Our sincere thanks go to our Tour Organisers, Bob and Geri Bone for making all the travel arrangements and ensuring everything went smoothly during the visit; to Ela Gurman and Dogan Baydar for looking after us and to Serif Yunen and Kamil Guller for being our interesting guides.

Mrs Rosemarie Barden
& the Mayor of Fatih



LY DANCING



Cllr Jim Maddan, Mr Vernon King Mr Paul Hill & Hon Ald Beryl Jeffery in the Blue Mosque



Michael & Sylvia Frost at the Maiden's Tower



Cllr John Eastaugh & his wife Carol as we passed the Dolmabahce Palace



Cllr Richard Bailey & his wife Susan at the British Consulate



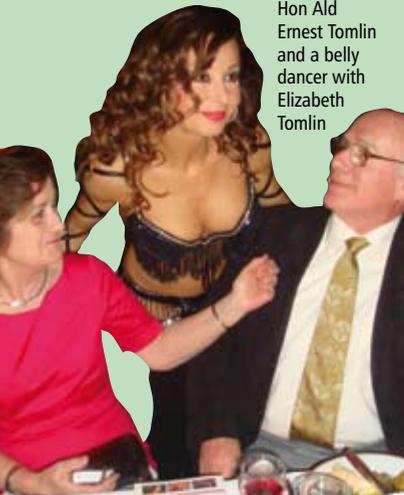
Cllr Robert Davis tries out some belly dancing



Cllr Stuart Thom & Elizabeth Woods outside the Hagia Sophia



Eleri Ebenezer & Cllr Josephine Barratt in the Topaki Palace



Hon Ald Ernest Tomlin and a belly dancer with Elizabeth Tomlin



Bob Bone & Cllr Ronnie Barden under the Bosphorous Bridge



Hon Ald Sue Polydorou and Hon Ald Beryl Jeffery in the Blue Mosque



The Mayor of Haringey & Veron King outside the British Consulate



MINERETS, MEZZA AND BELL



The Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Deputy Mayor of Istanbul with an interpreter



The Deputy Mayor of Istanbul and Cllr & Mrs John Clark



Hon Ald Ernest Tomlin and his wife Elizabeth at the Hippodrome



Cllrs Bob Belam, Barbara Campbell & Frances Taylor

Richard Zheng & Paul Hill in the Grand Bazaar



The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress of Westminster in the Blue Mosque



Helen Watson in the Topaki Palace



Cllr June Fewtrell & the Mayor of Fatih

LY DANCING



Cllr Catherine Rideout the Speaker of Hackney & Cllr Stuart Thom at the Governor's Office



Cllrs Jean Lammiman & Bob Skelly outside the Blue Mosque



The Lord Mayor of Westminster, The Speaker of Hackney, the Deputy Governor and the Mayor of Haringey



The Deputy Mayor and Cllr Frances Taylor



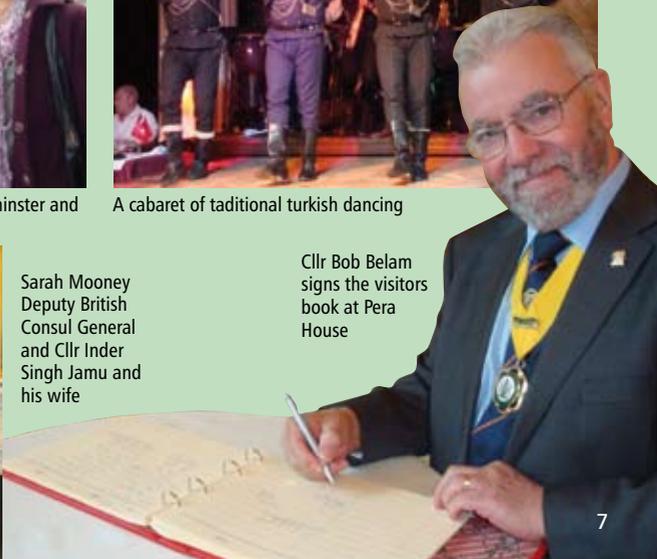
Cllr Frederick Thompson the Lady Mayoress of Westminster and Cllr Wendy Brice Tompson in the Grand Bazaar



A cabaret of traditional turkish dancing



Sarah Mooney Deputy British Consul General and Cllr Inder Singh Jamu and his wife



Cllr Bob Belam signs the visitors book at Pera House

A TASTE OF TURKEY



Wenda Belam the Speaker of Hackney & Cllr Catherine Rideout

H.E. The Turkish Ambassador, Mr Mehmet Yigit Alpogan and his wife kindly invited those visiting Istanbul for the 2010 Civic Visit to a pre visit Reception at their elegant and beautiful Residence in Portland Place.

His Excellency gave his guests a taste of what to look forward to seeing and experiencing in Istanbul while his wife provided positive hints on places to visit and to see.

In thanking the Ambassador and his wife for their hospitality Cllr Robert Davis presented the Ambassador with an LMA Plaque for his Embassy and a pair of LMA cufflinks for himself while Mrs Alpogan was presented with an LMA ladies silk scarf, which she immediately chose to wear.

Clutching their plane tickets and itinerary leaving the Residence, members were much looking forward to their visit to Istanbul and to meeting up again.



The Ambassador & Cllr Robert Davis

Hon Ald Eleri Ebernezer



The Ambassador & his wife greet Cllr Christopher Buckmaster





The Ambassador & his wife with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster

Susan Bailey,
Carol Eastaugh &
Patricia Ann Payne



Sylvia & Michael Frost



NEW LONDON MAYORS' ASSOCIATION BRIEFCASES

Members can now purchase lightweight black briefcases (with green lining) with handles and shoulder straps with the London Mayors' Association logo in gold for £20.00 each including postage and packing. Send your orders to Cllr Robert Davis at 8 Bentinck Street London W1U 2BJ with cheques payable to the London Mayors' Association.



ANNIVERSARY PARADE'S



Look behind you, Merton's monsters take the streets



Mayor of Waltham Forest raising funds



Southwark helping the heroes

Every crowd has a 'silver lining'! – And never more so than with the half a million revellers that will be waiting in Westminster for the 25th Anniversary New Year's Day Parade on 1st January 2011.

We promise it will be a highlight of your mayoral year – and give your chosen charity a welcome cash boost.

More than £40,000 will be up for grabs on 1st January 2011 in the Let's Help London Challenge – and as ever - borough entrants will be able to mount their own massive street collection.

Participating mayors are invited to series of sumptuous champagne receptions – and the gala concert series – which can also aid the charity fundraising effort.

The Silver Anniversary event will be broadcast live across the World, in Britain on the BBC website and screened several times on the Sky TV platform.

An international panel of judges will determine:

- How closely the entry matches the theme
- The effort invested in staging the entry
- How appropriate the entry is in relation to the borough

Founder and Executive Director of the event, Bob Bone, believes that the parade plays a unique role for the lives of Londoners.

“We have come of age!” said Bob. “The public have taken us to their hearts – and turn out in huge numbers.

“They have a few hours to celebrate the New Year – and their fabulous city – in a setting unrivalled anywhere in the World.

“We also delight in embracing mayoralities throughout London - and achieving official recognition from The GLA.”

The 2010 event saw the London Borough of Brent take top honours – winning £7,500 for the mayoral chosen charity.

SILVER LINING!



Plenty of room on top, LMA members celebrate in style



Another wizard entry from Westminster

It was Alperton Community School's inspirational use of recycled materials to create a cast of fantasy characters that secured first place for their borough. They were joined by a band of Brent Youth Volunteers – who wowed the crowds with a musical dance spectacular.

Merton was just two points behind them on the judge's scorecard with a celebration of three wonderful theatres within the borough - the beautifully restored Edwardian Wimbledon Theatre, The Polka Children's Theatre, and The Tiny Colour House Theatre.

Their panto packed pageant which won £6,000, was greeted with huge cheers (and shouts of 'Look Behind You!')

Westminster's Wizard of Oz entry featuring Cllr. Robert Davis and the children of The Sylvia Young Theatre School scored just one point fewer – earning their mayoral charity £5,000.

Other prizes went to Hounslow (4th -£4,000), Sutton (5th-£3,000), Barking & Dagenham (6th-£2,000), Redbridge (7th-£1,500), Enfield (8th-£1,500), Hillingdon (9th-£1,500), Hammersmith & Fulham (10th-£1,000), Richmond Upon Thames (11th-£1,000), Bromley (12th-£1,000).

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING EVENT VISIT THE PARADE WEBSITE: www.londonparade.co.uk

OR CALL LIZZE BONE IN THE PARADE OFFICE: 020 -8566 8586 Ex 0



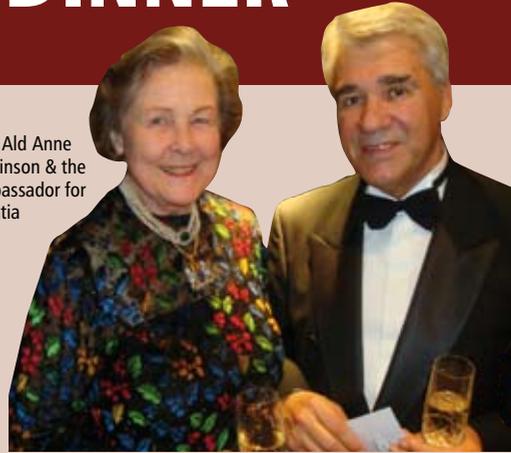
Band on the run

A DIPLOMATIC DINNER



Clr Christopher Buckmaster & the Ambassador for Slovenia and his wife

Hon Ald Anne Mallinson & the Ambassador for Croatia



The Ambassador for the Phillipines & the Mayor of Houslow and his Consort



Clr Brian Crowe, Cllr Dawn Somper, the Spanish Ambassador and his wife and Cllr Stuart Thom

Once again the final function of 2009 for LMA members was a Diplomatic Dinner held in the Lord Mayor of Westminster's Reception Rooms. And yet again this proved a very popular event with applications to attend far outnumbering the number of places available.

The Lady Mayoress, Mary Brown Sandys, spent the day tastefully decorating the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms and his Parlour with a magic touch of traditional British and North American Christmas decorating, making all the rooms look quite delightful.

Jenny Bianco and her team not only provided a delicious dinner but also gave the rooms a final touch of colour by placing mini poinsettias on each table.

The Ambassadors of Spain, Slovenia, Croatia & the Phillipines together with the High Commissioner of Malta joined us for the occasion. His Excellency the Ambassador for Spain, being the senior Ambassador present, responded, in faultless English, to the Chairman's Toast to our guests, with an entertaining and appropriate speech, highlighting the long traditional relationships between our two countries.

Joe Trotter & the Lady
Mayoress of Westminster



Michael Chartres & the
High Commissioner for Malta



The High Commissioner for Malta and Cllr Jean Lammiman



The Mayor of Barnet & the Ambassador for the Phillipines

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Councillor Alex Karmel Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham (2009-2010) who during the last few weeks of his mayoralty announced his engagement to his Mayoress Councillor Jane Law.



THE ANNUAL



Charlie Cherrill & the Mayor of Tower Hamlets

What could be more apt than the Association's annual dinner being held in the Churchill Hotel during the Mayoral year of the great grandson of the great man for whom the hotel is named. As well as the LMA feeling this was to be a great occasion the Hotel's Manager, Mr Michael Gray, and his staff were as excited about this coming together of generations. The occasion was a 'sell out' with over 20 potential disappointed guests remaining on a waiting list on the day.



Cllrs Ronnie Barden & Doreen Weatherhead with Boris Johnson

The Chartwell Suite, the Banqueting Suite used for the dinner looked magnificent and colourful with the tables dressed by our florist, Malcolm Hazell, with towering arrangements of spring flowers and two magnificent pedestals either side of the top table to complete the picture. The LMA is most grateful to Bob Bone for sponsoring the flowers.



The Mayor of Richmond & the Consort to the Mayor of Southwark



The Lord Mayors of London & Westminster flank the Mayor of London

L DINNER

Our guest speaker, Mr Boris Johnson, Mayor for London, did not disappoint. He took time between courses to go around tables to meet guests, have his photograph taken and sign his autograph. His speech was funny and appropriate and made easy listening. As always he had undertaken his research and spoke with passion about the role of Mayors – Civic and elected.

The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Nick Anstee and the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Duncan Sandys, also addressed guests, as did the Chairman, Councillor Robert Davis who gave a report on the Association's functions, events and achievements during the past year.

The sponsorship is very much appreciated of William and Emily Wilson for sponsoring the 'Rat Pack' who entertained between courses with hit numbers of the late Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jnr.

Mr Jamie Wallis, our Toastmaster made all the announcements and filled in the gaps with much aplomb, as only toastmasters can.

We were delighted that many of the sponsors were able to join us for the evening including representatives from Vertex (who sponsored the Dinner) and the Project Centre (who sponsor the newsletter).

We are also indebted to Mr Michael Gray and all his staff for their dedication and hard work in ensuring the function was the success it was undoubtedly was.



Alderman & Sheriff David Wooton & the Mayor of Barnet



Helen Watson & Joe Trotter



Jose Cherril & the Mayor of Southwark



The Lady Mayoress of London & the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London

THE ANNUAL DINNER 2010



The Lord Mayors & Lady Mayoresses of London & Westminster



The Hon Cllr Joanne Gardner & her husband



The Lady Mayoress of Westminster & Marina Johnson



The Mayor of London greets Joe Trotter

THANK YOU TO THE BOROUGH MAYORS SECRETARIES

Angela Richardson
(Barnet) &
Dee Manley
(Wandsworth)

At the end of March as many Mayors Secretaries who could escape their office for a few hours to be made to feel special for a while, assembled in the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms at Westminster City Hall to enjoy an lunch with LMA Executive Members.

The Borough Mayors Secretaries give a lot of help and support to the LMA Chairman and Secretary throughout the Mayoral year and it is only appropriate they should be shown how much this is appreciated. They are essential in ensuring Mayors who join the Association are aware of all the LMA activities and processing the applications to attend and making all the necessary arrangements.

The Secretaries enjoyed their time to meet and chat and catch up on Borough news, while the Executive members hosting the event enjoyed meeting with them and having the opportunity to say 'thank you'.

This is a also a perfect opportunity for the President and Chairman of the Association to personally thank the Secretaries for all their hard work during each Mayoral year.



Jacqui Alabaster (Havering), Sheila Townsend (Tower Hamlets) and Alison Croucher (Kingston upon Thames)



Sonia Sutton & Gillian Allwright both of Southwark



Lunch is served.

THE LONG WALK TO MANSI

THE ANNUAL MAYORS WALK

It wasn't just the sunshine that made the people of Islington, Hackney and the City smile on Sunday 11 April, all but two of the London Borough Mayors dressed in their Robes and Chains, making their annual pilgrimage from the Whittington Hospital to the Mansion House also brought lots of smiles and the usual interest.

Led by the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Nick Anstee, accompanied by his Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs, and the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Duncan Sandys, the procession ambled its way through the streets to Islington Town Hall, where the Green Hackle Pipe Band was waiting with a musical welcome.

After light refreshments were served in the newly restored theatre of the Town Hall, with the Pipe Band playing, the procession continued on its way to complete the 5 half mile walk to the Mansion House, where a very welcome and much appreciated hot lunch was served.

The LMA thanks the Metropolitan Police for marshalling the procession, stopping the traffic to safely get the procession across roads and around roundabouts and to the City of London Police and their horses for escorting us through the City.

Many thanks also to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London for hosting lunch in the Mansion House; the Mayor of Islington for hosting refreshments in the Town Hall and special thanks to Graham and Margaret Holland for organising the whole event and for making it work.



The Lord Mayor of London



The Mayors at the Gainsborough Studios (with a sculpture of Alfred Hitchcock behind)

ON HOUSE



The Lord Mayor of London & Mayor of Islington



The Mayors of Harrow & Barnet



The Mayors of Richmond Kensington & Chelsea and Merton



The Mayors of Brent Waltham Forest & Redbridge leaving the Whittington Hospital



The Lord Mayor of Westminster being interviewed by ITN

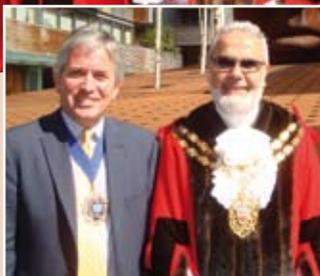


The Lord Mayor of London with the Mayor of Ealing and her consort

THE ANNUAL MAYORS WALK



The Mayors of
Enfield Haringey &
Walham Forest



The Lord Mayor
of London &
the Speaker of
Hackney



The Mayors of Merton & Greenwich reach Mansion House

IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR! BY BOB BELAM

On a Sunday in February 2010, the Mayors from 2003-2004 had a wonderful reunion. The best yet, with ten Past Mayors, one Past Lord Mayor plus their Mayoresses or Consorts. The total was 22 with 7 apologies. Not bad!

With the train difficulties over the weekends, we decided to meet in central London to give everyone a fighting chance of getting there. A simple arrangement with The Spaghetti House near St Martin-in-the-Field Church meant we had their top floor to ourselves for as long as we liked.

We made the most of our time together and hope to meet again later in the year.



Photo: the 2003-2004
Chain Gang Reunion