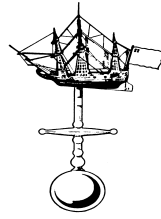


QUEENHITHE WARD CLUB



Queenhithe Ward Club Newsletter Issue 7 – Spring 2015

Civic Lunch in the Guildhall Crypt

13th January 2015

There was an unprecedented number (88) of members signing up for this event and I think there were no disappointed members. The Guildhall staff and caterers from “The Butler and The Cook” looked after us well and produced a delicious meal.



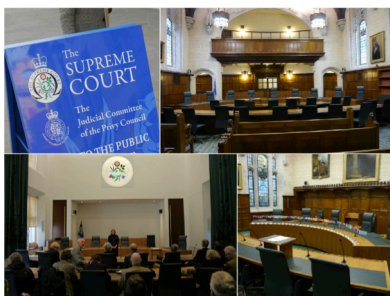
We were absolutely delighted that our Sherriff Fiona Adler agreed to find time to join us – I think her presence was the encouragement for so many members to attend (the photo is herself together with a caricature painting denoting her background and interests). The day started with a champagne reception where we all gathered and socialized with people we hadn't seen for some long time. Following this we moved along to get seated round our circular tables – it's always a

challenge getting a seating plan “which works”, but luckily we had no complaints. Once we had satisfied our craving for food, Fiona gave us a really interesting talk on her role as a Sherriff, I don't know how she copes with the endless amount of commitment and all in a wonderful spirit. Our Chairman, Janet, then gave us a talk. Everyone obviously enjoyed themselves as it was approaching 4.0pm before we left Guildhall in a “happy state”.

Visit to The Supreme Court

27th February 2015

Once again we had a maximum ‘turn out’ for this visit as we were limited to 25 members and of course we easily reached our quota.



The tour was scheduled for 3.0 pm, hence we started the day with a satisfying lunch at the Sherlock Holmes Pub located between Charing Cross & Embankment. This set us up well for our visit to the Supreme Court, located only a short walk from the pub in Parliament Square.

The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal in the UK for both civil and criminal cases from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It hears cases of the greatest public or constitutional importance affecting the whole population.

There are no actual trials, but legal discussions on cases in “a learned manner”. We had an excellent guide, quite new to the job, but clearly an excellent choice and listened to her in both courtrooms 1 and 2 as shown in Paul's photos. We learned that cases are normally appealed from a lower court if there is much uncertainty as to how the law should be applied, this is then regarded as the final court of appeal, being able to reverse the decision of the lower court from which the case was referred. There are always an odd number of judges so that a verdict can be made, frequently only 5. Interestingly the judges do not wear formal dress as they do at The Old Bailey for eg.

Visit to Middle Temple

19th March 2015

Again many members found this to be an exciting outing in Janet's year and 25 people turned out, unfortunately 3 called off sick the previous evening. There are now only four active "Inns of Court", and it is unclear which is the oldest, but the Inner and Middle Temple are recorded as being separate societies in a 1388 yearbook.



The Inn is located near the western boundary of the City of London. The Middle Temple is a large complex having a Great Hall, a chapel, a library and sets of chambers for many hundred barristers serving the legal profession today. The garden is also magnificent and covers several acres with a layout similar to an Oxbridge college! It remains virtually unchanged since its build between 1562 & 1573, having survived the Great Fire of London and both World Wars. It

is an amazing place available for weddings, corporate events, etc etc. We congregated in the gallery overlooking the "Middle Temple Hall" where we met our guide. This is one of the finest examples of an Elizabethan Hall in the country, being 101 feet long and 41 feet wide, spanned by a double hammer beam roof. There are oil paintings at the west end of the Hall of Queen Elizabeth I who is thought to have dined there regularly, Charles I, Charles II, James II, William III and Queen Anne and George I, while there are memorials to other notable people within the amazing stained glass window. Our guide showed us around many of the rooms and gave us extra chat about them. We finished by devouring an excellent lunch in the Great Hall itself which was superb and great service.

Windsor Castle – Military Knights Tour

15th April 2015

There was fantastic interest in our visit to Windsor, despite it being located some 25 miles west of central London – 45 members attended and we were very fortunate to have brilliant weather.



The day didn't actually involve a tour but an excellent lecture by two "Military Knights" giving us the history of their residence at the Castle.

The Military Knights were constituted by King Edward III in 1348 following the Battle of Crécy when many had to 'liquidate' their estates to raise a ransom to secure their release. Until 1833 they were known as the Alms Knights (described as the Poor Knights). Originally 26 were appointed at the establishment of the Order of the Garter.

Henry VIII decreased this number to 13, Charles II increased to 18 and William IV renamed them "The Military Knights of Windsor". Today, they may not be poor, but must be military pensioners. They are not members of the "Order" but must escort Knights and Ladies of the Garter in services at St George's Chapel. The talk ended at about 12.45 pm, many were then ready for lunch and we crossed the road to the Duchess of Cambridge pub where we were well fed. Others decided to do a little more sight seeing within the castle, St George's Chapel and/or the State Apartments before either coming across the road for lunch or departing home.

A great benefit of our entrance ticket is that providing we got it stamped on exiting the castle, we can visit again at any time during the next year. I actually didn't go round the castle on the day, but returned to view the State Apartments, these are vast and amazing and St George's Chapel. I plan another visit during the year, there is so much to appreciate in the Castle.

Thank you Paul for the collages and anyone wanting a jpeg to expand let me know: RoF417@gmail.com