

MASTER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR

The 26th March 2012 at the Guildhall in the City of London, was a very special day in my life. I was made Master of Cripplegate Ward Club at the Annual General Meeting which was followed by a wonderful lunch in the Old Library. I was also honoured to have the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, together with Sheriff Wendy Mead and our President, Alderman David Graves, attending the lunch.

It was a very difficult time for me to be installed as Master, due to a knee operation which developed complications and resulted in a further six operations becoming necessary, but I had fantastic help from Past Master Christine Lee, Honorary Secretary Barbara Allan, and the committee, who were all wonderful in their support. My first event was in May and my passion for the military led me to arrange a visit to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst for a tour which was followed by a terrific lunch. We were made very welcome and from members' feedback, I know that everyone enjoyed the experience.

June saw us on a visit to Waltham Forest College which was arranged with the ladies in mind. Those who wished to do so enjoyed a manicure and pedicure whilst some went on a tour of the college. Afterwards we joined together with a champagne lunch. Although only a few attended, it was a very enjoyable day.

In July we visited Denbies Wine Estate in Surrey where we had a tour of the vineyards followed by a wine tasting and lunch.

We had a wonderful visit to Buckingham Palace in September when we toured the State Rooms and also saw the Diamond Exhibition. This event was over-subscribed and I was sorry to have to disappoint some members.

My choice for the annual banquet was the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly. We

had a very good attendance and I was fortunate to have as my guest the Rt. Hon. Mark Francois MP, Minister of State for Defence Personnel. Although we ventured out of the City this year, it enabled me to keep costs to a reasonable level.

We were again able to watch the Lord Mayor's Show from Guildhall and enjoyed a hearty lunch in the Guildhall Club afterwards.

For our Christmas event we were again able to enjoy an evening at the English Speaking Union where the Chapel Choir of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich provided a very good seasonal concert of readings and carols. This was followed by a light supper of mince pies and mulled wine.

My first event in 2013 was an evening visit to St. Paul's Cathedral where we joined the evening service and then had a very interesting tour 'behind the scenes'. We then crossed the road to Café Rouge for a very tasty meal. Once again, this event was over-subscribed and although it is sad to have to disappoint members, it is also rewarding to know that a popular choice has been made.

For my final event I felt I wanted to do something different so we went to the afternoon Tea Dance at the Waldorf Hotel. This was also very enjoyable and a large number of our members braved the dance floor! Those that did not wish to dance could listen to the excellent band and enjoy the ambience of the beautiful room.

To finish my Report, I would like to once again thank all my committee members for all the help they have given me and I would also like to thank Pipe Major Simon Bredin for playing the bagpipes at many of my events. I have had a truly remarkable year as Master and it has given me great pleasure to serve Cripplegate Ward Club.

Fred Pearson

February 2013