



Cripplegate Ward Club

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Wednesday 21st July 2010

Thames River Police Museum 11.30am
Wapping Walk 10.30am
Italian Lunch 12.45pm



The Thames River Police is the oldest uniformed police force in the world. The Museum in Wapping is located in what was once the carpenter's workshop at Wapping Police Station. Situated within the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police's Marine Support Unit, the Museum offers visitors a unique insight into the history of this vital part of the policing of London. Exhibits include uniforms and documents, which trace the history of the Thames River Police from its inception in 1798 to the present day. There is also a fine collection of the every day "Hardware" of policing from handcuffs to cutlasses.

The museum curator will guide members through the history to the present day. In order to effectively deal with the problems of policing London's River in the twenty first century, the tasks undertaken by today's officers must differ greatly from the work carried out by their eighteenth century predecessors. Today, fast patrol launches, some of them capable of more than forty knots have replaced the original rowing galleys and officers are more likely to be involved in "Counter Terrorism" patrols than in attempting to prevent river pirates looting the river's shipping.

An optional extra is offered for those who wish to get a flavour of this interesting part of London starting with a Blue Badge guided walk from Tower Bridge through Wapping High Street to the River Police Museum. With major changes to the area over the past decades from working docks to luxury developments the Guide will highlight the fascinating history of Wapping.

The morning concludes with a two course lunch (including wine) at the nearby well known and fashionable Italian restaurant // *Bordello* noted for generous portions and stylish atmosphere. The event will end at about 2pm.

Numbers are restricted to 25 and bookings will be taken strictly in order of receipt of booking form and cheque.

Timetable and Travel Details

10.30am Those starting with the Wapping Walk should meet at Tower Hill Station [Circle and District Lines; and a good selection of buses]. Half-way down the steps that lead from the station exit to the underpass that goes to the Tower is a statue of a Roman General, with a backdrop of a length of the Roman City Wall: it stands on a small paved area, and that is where the walking party will gather. We will depart promptly at 10.30am

11.30 am Those going direct to the Police Museum

By Train go to Wapping Station London Overground, East London Line, accessed from Jubilee line at Canada Water, District and Hammersmith & City lines at Whitechapel, and DLR at Shadwell;

By Bus Get off bus **100** [route passes through London Wall, Liverpool Street and St Paul's underground stations] or **D3** at Wapping Station. The Police Station and Museum are about 300 yards WEST of the Station, along the narrow cobbled Wapping High Street

12.45 am The restaurant, *Il Bordello*, where we will have lunch is immediately opposite the museum and highly recommended by the Master who lives in Wapping High Street.

"Il Bordello is truly terrific. Its trick is to be both swanky and approachable... and the food is wonderful."
Review - *TimeOut Eating and Drinking*