

CRIPPLEGATE WARD CLUB: MASTER'S REPORT 2018-2019

It has been a privilege and honour to serve as the 141st Master of Cripplegate Ward Club having been elected at the AGM on the 23rd March 2018.

Directly after my election I hosted our Civic Lunch in the splendid Old Library in the Guildhall. Our guest of honour was Sheriff Neil Redcliffe accompanied by his wife Mrs Emma Redcliffe. Other guests included the Master of my own Company the Fan Makers, Dr Michael Smith; Stephen Gee the Prime Warden of Sheriff Redcliffe's Company the Basketmakers; our own Past Master Judy Tayler-Smith Master Upholder who brought as her guest Alderman John Garbutt, Upper Bailiff Weavers' Company elected to be the High Sheriff of Greater London in 2020. During my speech I presented cheques for both Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund.

The theme for my year was 'Fellowship and Food'. I introduced new events to our repertoire, taking the Club outside the confines of the City on seven occasions. Each event planned to offer something of interest to complement the good food and fellowship of the experience.

Members will find fulsome reports of my programme of events on our new website accompanied by photographs which they are welcome to download.

To briefly recap just the programme:

<i>18 April 2018</i>	British Postal Museum and ride on the Underground Railway with lunch at Luc e Limone.
<i>16 May 2018</i>	Tour of Thomas Goode & Company Ltd, South Audley Street, with lunch at the University Women's Club.
<i>12 June 2018</i>	Forman's Fish Island, Stratford, tour and demonstration in smoke house. Dinner with Lance Forman speaking.
<i>10 July 2018</i>	Guildhall School of Music and Drama Gala Night with dinner in the Barbican and a performance of <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> at the School.
<i>16 August 2018</i>	An afternoon at the British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum, West Dulwich, with supper at the Alleyn's Head.
<i>13 September 2018</i>	Dulwich Art Gallery private tour with lunch at The Real Greek, Dulwich Village.
<i>9 October 2018</i>	Annual Black Tie Banquet at Skinners Hall with Rosewater Bowls graciously provided by the Fan Makers Company.
<i>10 November 2018</i>	The Lord Mayor's Show with lunch in the Members' Dining Room, Guildhall Club.
<i>12 December 2018</i>	Christmas Carol Service, with the Worshipful Company of Musicians, at St Michael's, Cornhill. Celebratory dinner at the Bow Wine Vaults.
<i>16 January 2019</i>	' <i>MY FAIR LADY</i> ' Regent's Canal Cruise with lunch.
<i>21 February 2019</i>	Dinner and dancing at the Mayfair Chesterfield Hotel with music from mariachi musicians, <i>The Mexican Way</i> .
<i>13 March 2019</i>	Quiz evening at St Botolph's Church Hall with Shepherd's Pie and Prosecco.

Over my year of office the Ward Club has received thirty new members. Our total membership currently stands at 225 and our finances are very healthy. We rode the demands of GDPR over April and May.

We have this year made charitable donations to The British Vintage Wireless & Television Museum; REACT charity and St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney, out of Club funds. We have reinvigorated our website. I hope Ward Club members find it informative, a good representation of the Club not only through its activities but also its history and place in the firmament of the City of London. We have greatly supported the Guildhall School of Music and Drama at their Gala evening which was over-subscribed. We have therefore increased our future ticket allocation and hope that all who would like to come to this unique and very special event in the School's calendar will not be disappointed in future. It is not only an amazing evening but such good value. On the subject of value, I would like to offer our thanks to Mark Grove of The Cook and the Butler for the excellent food, wine and service we have truly enjoyed during my year. Today's lunch will be no exception.

I have introduced a Ward Walk for the Committee into the programme of events and a Quiz night for the Ward Club. The latter event with a heavy emphasis on the social aspect of the evening in preference to brain function. I remind Club members that we came a very respectable second in the Inter-Ward Quiz, only beaten by one point by this year's winner.

I know the Master-elect, Geoffrey Savage, has worked tirelessly putting together an interesting and varied programme for his year. I am therefore confident that I pass the badge of office into very capable hands.

As I step down I would like also to offer my thanks to our President, Alderman David Graves for his kind advice and support through my year. I would also like to thank the Committee for their support and both our Honorary Secretary, Barbara Allan and our Honorary Treasurer, Sidney Morton for their very efficient and careful guidance through my term as Master. I have certainly enjoyed my year and do hope everyone enjoyed the events. Even more thanks go to you, members of the Cripplegate Ward Club, for your wonderful support.

Last but not least I would also like to thank Past Master Christine Lee for persuading me to join this wonderful Ward Club. May it continue to thrive.

Mary Nurse BA (Hons), MBA, Master 2018-2019.