



Cripplegate Ward Club

Master: Dr David Pearson

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Dear Cripplegate Ward Club members,

26th August, 2021

I hope this finds you and yours well and that you are making the most of this intermittent summer. This week we had the good fortune of a lovely summer's day for the Club's trip on the River Thames on the Sailing Barge Will. We had the full complement of passengers of 50, so for the second month running our first in-person events since February 2020 have been sold out.

The sailing barge was built in 1925, the largest Thames barge of all. She traded between London and coastal ports ranging from as far as Plymouth to the south and Hull to the north with various cargoes including coal and chalk, until the mid-1960s when she was sold into private ownership and sailed as a yacht. In the 1980s she became the private dining room of the directors of P & O with a magnificent mahogany panelled interior that we fully enjoyed.

We embarked at TowerPier and were served with a glass of Crémantde Loire from my private collection. Within minutes we were sailing towards Tower Bridge and as if by magic, but actually by prior arrangement, the Bridge opened so that our fully masted sailing barge could pass through. For many this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

We continued downriver passing Canary Wharf and Greenwich and then we were served with a buffet lunch with six different choices of freshly prepared food. Some chose to eat this at table in the dining room while others chose to be on deck so they could carry on enjoying the views and the sunshine. A Chilean Sauvignon Blanc and a Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon, again from my private collection, were served with the food. These were supplied at cost with a corkage charge by the caterer of just £1 pp. There was a brownie for dessert and there was also plenty of cheese and biscuits.

Soon after lunch we reached the Thames Barrier and passed through it and then returned the way we came. Again for many this was the first time in their lives to have seen the Thames barrier. Everyone said that it was a great day out and I have had several emails to that effect.

The next event is a visit on 16th September to Rothamsted Research Station situated in Harpenden, Herts just half a mile from where I live. Rothamsted is the oldest agricultural research station in the world and has conducted continuous experiments since 1841. It is the only event planned in my year as Master to take place outside London but I would hope that people would not be put off by what is a relatively short journey taking just 30 minutes by train to Harpenden from St Pancras International and slightly longer from the other Thameslink stations in London such as Farringdon.

There are three parts to this day. Firstly, after welcome teas and coffees we will receive a lecture on the work of the research station and then there will be time for questions and answers. If you don't think this work is important then consider how else are we going to feed the 10 billion people projected to live in the world. Secondly, I will then lead a guided walking tour of the estate which is most attractive and we will also have the opportunity to see some of the experiments in situ. After about 80 minutes the walk will then finish at the Harpenden Arms Hotel, a nice pub in the centre of the town just a few minutes' walk from the station. A menu has been selected which is detailed in the booking form and I hope that as many of you can book as possible but we are limited to 30 overall.

Please send your bookings to me:

Dr David Pearson, 9 The Warren, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2NH. email dcpearson@btclick.com

On Monday 4th October we will hold our Annual Civic Lunch in the Old Library at Guildhall. The Annual Civic Lunch is normally held in March immediately after the AGM but that of course was not possible. Members may not be aware that the Guildhall provides the Old Library for no cost of hire to Ward Clubs once a year and the authorities have kindly held the offer open for later in the year when it would be possible to hold the lunch. We have therefore decided to hold the lunch rather than the annual black tie banquet in a livery hall which would end up as considerably more expensive.

The guest speaker is Alderman Sir Charles Bowman, Lord Mayor in 2017–18, who in my opinion, among a very competitive field, is one of the best public speakers among our civic leadership. His wife Lady Samantha will also be gracing us with her presence and, encouraged to do so, will be wearing a hat.

Unlike the other events I have mentioned there is practically no limit to the number that can attend as the Old Library has a capacity of nearly 500 seated. The record attendance was held three years ago with 150, so for our first major occasion together in two years can we set a new record?

Please send your booking form by Wednesday, 15 September to Upper Warden John Sleeman, Brook Cottage, Sychem Lane, Capel, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6TT
Email: john.sleeman@outlook.com

We will send out more details soon of our November event. Please make a note that it will be the customary lunch after the Lord Mayor's show held on the morning of 13th November, again at the Guildhall but this time in the private member's room with other Ward Clubs.

August is a relatively quiet month for the City, but I am involved in a project to commemorate various anniversaries of St Thomas a Beckett's birth, murder and sainthood with the Beckett Project for London to be held on 17th/18th June next year. I am on the steering committee and, together with the Creative Director held a meeting this month with Alderman Vincent Keaveny, the prospective Lord Mayor for the ensuing year.

On a personal level I have published my third book "Thread and Patches". My first two books related to my profession of marketing but the idea for my third one was not to write a chronological tale but rather to develop themes – 'threads' in computer speak – and to embellish them with 'patches', which in computer speak means fixes or Band-Aids. It is not an autobiography but it is autobiographical.

A much better writer than me or indeed about just anyone else is William Shakespeare. I have seen all his plays and he is of course incomparable. But I particularly like his insults and jokes: here are a few.

Thou sodden-witted lord! thou hast no more brain than I have in mine elbows

— *Troilus and Cressida*, Act 2 Scene 1, Lines 42-43; *Thersites to Ajax*

I do bite my thumb, sir

— *Romeo and Juliet*, Act 1 Scene 1, Line 44; *Sampson to Abram*

Would thou wert clean enough to spit upon!

— *Timon of Athens*, Act 4 Scene 3, line 361; *Timon to Apemantus*

Go, prick thy face and over-red thy fear, Thou lily-livered boy

— *Macbeth*, Act 5 Scene 3, Lines 14-15; *Macbeth to a servant*

I do desire we may be better strangers

— *As You Like It*, Act 3 Scene 2, Line 254; *Orlando to Jacques*

There's no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune

— *Henry IV Part 1*, Act 3 Scene 3, Line 111-12 ; *Falstaff to Mistress Quickly*

Thou whoreson zed, thou unnecessary letter!

— *King Lear*, Act 2 Scene 2, line 62; *Earl of Kent to Oswald*

You are not worth another word else I'd call you knave

— *All's Well That Ends Well*, Act 2 Scene 3, lines 262-63; *Lafew to Parolles*

You Banbury cheese!

— *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Act 1 Scene 1, line 120; *Bardolph to Slender*

I am sick when I do look on thee

— *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 2 Scene 1, line 212; *Demetrius to Helena*

Keep safe & cheerful, (not an insult)

David