

CRIPPLEGATE SOCIAL EVENTS REPORT

Richard Whitford – Master 2014/15

As stated in my Speech at our AGM on 24th March 2014 “I will in my year, reflect the heritage of the City and other heritages by visits to museums and art exhibitions, and in particular the Ward's links with Armoury House”.

Accordingly, our first visit in May was to the Wallace Collection where amongst other items we saw the magnificent oil painting of the Laughing Cavalier, every stitch in his clothes is very finely painted.

June should have been a visit to the Bluebell Woods in Kent but because of severe floods the blue bells had been washed away, so the trip was cancelled.

July saw our field/river trip to the Ceremony of Swan Upping at Henley. A sunny day and the first time in two years we were able to watch the signets being ringed and checked for health. The swans are getting wise to boats now! A very fine commentary from my friends Ron and Penny Gulliver.

In September Kew Gardens and the Royal Palace, a dampish day but the kitchens of Kew Palace were a warm relief, where to accommodate George II and his family, a kitchen staff of over 30 were engaged continuously in providing hot meals. The heat of the open grills and ovens, the rats and the mice, and the noise were hard to imagine. A very welcome lunch followed at The Coach and Horse's on Kew Green.

October saw us at Armoury House, the home of the HAC, for the Annual Banquet when the Museum was opened especially for us.

November was the Lord Mayor's Show where we watched the preparations from Guildhall Yard and then saw the procession. This was followed by lunch at the Guildhall.

The Carol Concert was in St. Margaret Church Lothbury, which survived the Blitz, together with The Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, arranged by Sandra Wordall who is their Master.

A cold and damp January, so it was lucky that we visited the Petrie Museum of University College London, under cover. This museum houses over 80,000 every day objects of Egyptian and Sudanese archaeology collected by Flinders Petrie, including a 5000 year old dress.

Finally, to The Guards Museum, The Guards Chapel and the new Flanders Field Memorial Garden at Wellington Barracks, where we saw the history of the seven Guards Regiments. This was followed by a very enjoyable dinner in the Museum.

I would now wish to thank all those members of the social committee who helped me with these events.