

**EVENING AT THE CENTRAL SCHOOL OF BALLET**  
**25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023**

A party of 32 Candlewick members and guests were warmly greeted by the executive director, Mark Osterfield and staff at the Central School of Ballet's new and impressive studios at Paris Gardens on the South Bank.

In a special performance, we were treated to a programme of contemporary and classical dance pieces from a diverse field including Sir Fredrick Ashton, Michael Pink, now artistic director at The Milwaukee Ballet, and Philip Feeney the school's musical director. The final and very dramatic piece included music by ABBA.

The performances included male and female solos and ensemble dances mainly by the graduating class, about to embark on a nationwide end-of-term tour including the presentations we saw. Without exception, the show pieces lived up to the high standards set by the school for its students (under the ethos of "Excellence in Technique") all of whom rehearse for at least 25 hours per week in addition to fitness and strengthening classes and academic studies.

The school, run as a Conservatoire, has 120 students aged 16 to 19 aiming to attain a BA Hons. degree upon graduation.

Over wine and delicious eats post-performance, Mark Osterfield spoke of the goals and aspirations of the school. In reply, our Chairman Laurence Johnstone explained how he and his Livery Company became involved with the school. He thanked the students and staff for looking after us so well and concluded by presenting a cheque from the Club to support the students with their studies.

An inspiring and most enjoyable evening was had by all. As well as our hosts at the school, we should thank Chairman Laurence and our Hon. Sec. Murray for arranging it so well.

**Candlewick Member, Robert Dalrymple**