

THE CANDLEWICK WARD CLUB CIVIC DINNER
5TH JUNE 2023

60 Candlewick Ward Club members and guests attended our annual Civic Dinner, which this year was held in the impressive, and yet intimate setting of Watermen's Hall, St Mary at Hill. We were delighted to welcome Alderman & Sheriff Alastair King and Sheriff Andrew Marsden and their Consorts as our principal guests.

After pre-dinner drinks, the Toast Master announced that dinner was served. Once we were seated in the dining hall, the Chairman welcomed us all and invited 7 new members to stand and be warmly greeted by all present. The Cook and the Butler displayed their customary skills in presenting an attractive and delicious dinner with excellent wines.

After dinner and the loyal toasts, the Olympic Singers, a young trio of talent together with their accompanist, provided a wonderful musical interlude.

The Chairman then rose to speak remarking that the Hall, the only surviving Georgian hall in the City, was opened in 1780, some 110 years after the foundation of our Club. He said he was under strict orders to be brief but found sufficient time to thank the Master Watermen for allowing us to dine there, the caterers, the musicians, our Honorary Secretary and all involved in organising the evening. After welcoming his personal guests he then introduced the Civic Team, inviting the members present to rise and join in a toast to Our Guests.

The Chairman concluded by presenting Sheriff King with a donation to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and to each of the Sheriffs a gift - a modern edition of a book originally published in 1798 containing coloured prints depicting soldiers of all the volunteer units in London that were formed at the time in response to the perceived imminent danger of invasion by the French Napoleonic forces.

Alderman & Sheriff Alastair King rose and replied with great wit and aplomb, thanking the Chairman and Club for their warm hospitality and support. After toasting the Club, we retired for a stirrup cup and a safe journey home at the end of an excellent and highly convivial evening.

Candlewick Ward Club Member - Stephen Hammerton