

## **THE CANDLEWICK WARD CLUB OUTING TO SEE THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW, 11 NOVEMBER 2023**

It was a cold but clear day as we trundled down Ludgate Hill to join an enthusiastic group of Candlewickians led by Chairman Laurence to take up position ready for the Lord Mayor's Show.

I hadn't been since a child and was surprised to find that most fellow spectators had never been. Dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Show is fondly known as the oldest, best-loved and least-rehearsed civic procession in the world.

Much excitement as we waited for the procession to start - unmarked police cars and sniffer-dogs but without incident. And then we spotted - we thought - a sniper on the roof of a building over the road, who rather disappointingly turned out to be a janitor emerging for a quick cigarette.

The procession swept by over about two hours comprising some 130 "floats" (these would originally have been barges on the river) each being announced by Laurence so we didn't miss a thing. The somewhat footloose approach of some participants was fun to compare with the military precision of the HAC, Household Cavalry and the amazing Strathallan School Pipe Band playing the theme tune to "The Great Escape".

My favourite float was the State Bank of India (appearing as if the entire staff were there so goodness knows who was minding the shop) with Bollywood tunes disappearing down the hill as a marching band from Westphalia in Germany came past in full lederhosen followed, somewhat incongruously, by a team of magnificent Shire horses.

And then before we knew it, the Aldermen and the Sheriffs were upon us followed by the Lord Mayor in his golden State Coach. After that, it was off to lunch at Apothecaries' Hall, another gem as it is one of the oldest livery halls and Grade 1 listed. We had a splendid lunch in the Great Hall and noticed the rhinoceros all around us, embroidered in the carpet, in gold on the tableware and lots of rhino sculptures. These are said to be a link to the ancient unicorn with powers of healing – but a modern theory we learnt is that the rhino emblem signifies that doctors have a thick skin and charge a lot!

The Show is a wonderful day out so do mark this firmly in your diaries for 2024.

**Rosemarie Jones, Guest of Candlewick Member Christopher Jones**

