

President: Alderman Emma Edhem, Chairman: Laurence Johnstone,
Hon. Secretary: Murray Craig, Treasurer: Stuart Somerville



THE CANDLEWICK WARD CLUB
Founded 1670 Reconstituted 1739

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Fellow Members,

Although it is very late to be saying this, Clare and I wish all members of our Club and their families a happy and healthy year in 2024 and beyond.

At our Annual Breakfast in December - enjoyed by more than 200 members and guests - our President spoke of the progress the Club had achieved in the previous 12 months, growing our membership, arranging a high quality and varied programme of events during the year and seeing great energy and engagement amongst our members.

Our Club is certainly in great shape. This is largely down to you, the members, as well as the efforts of our Committee, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer and other helpers. I thank you all sincerely for your involvement and encouragement.

Looking at the year ahead, we are planning more of the same - and even better! See below for further details.

Our Club's Profile

A feature of our efforts over the last year has been to enhance our PR and promotion. Again, thanks to the work of a number of members, this has I believe been well achieved.

On our website, the "News" and "Past Events" sections now contain articles and photographs of the events we have held during the year as well as our planned programme.

As with many of our fellow Clubs, social media is being increasingly deployed. Action has been taken to progress this for Candlewick: thanks to committee member Sheila Bailey, our Club now has a live LinkedIn page. This will be increasingly populated with news and information on the Club's activities – please do take a look and, where appropriate, comment on or repost articles so that they are seen by your own connections.

Our Club's reputation in and beyond the City is flourishing. This is most aptly demonstrated by a letter I received from the Immediate Past Aldermanic Sheriff, Alastair King, after being hosted at our Civic Dinner last June. In this he remarked that in his view few if any Ward Clubs could stage an event of this quality and fun. We shall be holding another Civic Dinner on the evening of 4th June this year - the Lady Mayoress, both Sheriffs and their Consorts have already accepted an invitation to attend as our guests. It will be a special evening so please do put this in your diaries

And whilst on the theme of PR and promotion, at the Annual Breakfast we sold more than 30 of our splendid new Candlewick Ward Club Umbrellas. We have more of these available and will offer them for purchase and collection at some of our forthcoming events this year.

Continued.....

Aldermanic Election

As you may know, it is the convention that after 6 years in office, Aldermen of the City of London submit themselves for re-election by the residents and businesses of the Ward. Our **President, Emma Edhem** came into office for our Ward in 2018 and hence called for a Candlewick Aldermanic Election at the end of January. Being unopposed, the Lord Mayor's Writ was read out for her re-election on Wednesday last week thus officially starting her second term of office.

Please join me in heartily congratulating Emma on her re-election and sending her the Club's sincere good wishes and support for her new term ahead.

New Members and a New Vice-Chairman

At a meeting last week the Committee unanimously approved a further twelve fully-supported applications for membership of the Club as follows: *Alex Bilbie, Robert Clark, Paolo Cuomo, Derek Downham, Madeline Hawkins, Richard Hill, Robin Holmes, John Kronenberg, Richard Logue, Ji Middleton, Hannah Simcoe-Reed and Clive Tulloch.*

Please join me in warmly welcoming the above-named to the Candlewick fold. They are in addition to the 30 new members who joined us during 2023. We are very keen to continue this momentum so please do keep up the good work.

I am also delighted to tell you that with the Committee's wholehearted approval, **James St John Davis CC** has agreed to be our next Chairman, thus becoming Vice Chairman immediately and following me into the chair at the end of this year. This is really excellent news for the Club. Without doubt, James will do a fantastic job and lead us with great energy and enthusiasm..

Programme for the Year Ahead

Attached is the Club's programme for the year ahead. There are some fascinating opportunities to appeal to a wide range of tastes and interests. Some of the events are open to comparatively limited numbers - if these are oversubscribed then we may be able to offer a repeat event in due course.

Please do join us at as many events as you can, bring a guest or guests and please consider putting him or her forward to join our wonderful and historic Ward Club, the oldest such in the City of London. The pro-forma for membership applications is attached.

And finally, if you would like to help or become involved in any way or have any suggestions or queries then please don't be shy and do contact the Honorary Secretary or me.

Clare and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year ahead.

With kindest regards



Laurence Johnstone
Chairman, Candlewick Ward Club



Attachments:

- CWC Programme of Events 2024 (as at February 2024)
- CWC Membership Application Form