



THE CANDLEWICK
WARD CLUB

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Chairman's Newsletter

Spring 2025



Dear fellow Members,

I trust this finds you in good health and spirit. The Club is off to a great start in 2025 and I trust you will find this update interesting and useful.

This is a true red letter year for me as I have the great honour and privilege to serve as Chairman of our Ward Club and Member for Candlewick on Common Council. This truly is the most remarkable organisation, refined and tempered over centuries in and through the work and fellowship of those who've come before us.

I've had excellent feedback on the Carol Service and Annual Breakfast, with a number of remarks on the Club aprons! I'd like to reiterate my gratitude to the Immediate Past Chairman, Laurence, for his dedication and passion for the Club and active Chairmanship over the past two years. He raised the profile of our Club and the Ward community more broadly and instigated several new initiatives including Corporate Membership to engage the Candlewick business community. All this whilst delivering a fun and engaging events programme as well as updating and enhancing our governance arrangements. Laurence is a towering figure in the City and Livery and I have had in him a brilliant guide and support, alongside that of our indomitable and esteemed Honorary Secretary, Murray.

I've been so pleased to have many of you join our first events of the year and you will find an overview of our visits in this update alongside information of the events to come including the House of Lords, Civic Dinner and Garden Party. Needless to say we've learnt a great deal, shared many laughs and enjoyed the rich fabric of the City.

You'll see the exciting developments in our Arms and Club branding, which have been expertly refreshed and delivered - following the discovery of the original Club Arms at the London Archives - by my husband, Oliver, and his team at Apostle Studio. I hope you'll take a moment to visit the new website and follow the Club's page on LinkedIn.

And finally, three firm dates for your diary: we're delighted to confirm that the House of Lords tour, led by Lord Strathclyde, will take place on Wednesday 14th May. Booking details will be shared next week. The Civic Dinner is confirmed for Thursday 5th June at Pewterers' Hall. Reservations can now be made via the website. Finally, The Garden Party is also confirmed for 24th July in the garden of St Mary Orgar in the Ward, by kind permission of VVV.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming months.

Very best wishes,
James

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The London Archives *14th February*

Members of the club enjoyed a customised and detailed tour of the London archives put together by the Director.

We started with a walk-through of the standing collection and the seasonal exhibition which included a variety of city transport posters detailing the evolution of the various transport links and hubs of the City of London. We proceeded into the bowels of the archives to see how the collection is stored and were amazed to find over 30 km of records spanning 1000 years. We were given a demonstration of the preservation process which included an incredible box making machine.

We took some time to review the records of the city surveyor as well as the ecclesiastical records of several of the city churches, including our own St Mary Abchurch and St Lawrence Jewry. We were then guided through the restoration and preservation centre of the London archives, where we saw a number of documents, several of which had been damaged by water and were being painstakingly repaired, page by page.

Members spoke to the conservators and saw their work up close. We then came to the most exciting part of the tour which was a special display of a variety of documents, maps, records and paraphernalia relating to the Ward of Candlewick and the Candlewick



Ward Club. Amongst the items on display was one of the original depictions of the Club coat of arms, showing the doves and candle dipping racks in spectacular relief on vellum. Members leafed through the minutes of committee meetings and invitations to club events, all containing the most elegant calligraphy and many well known and historic names.

The centre of this exhibition included the oldest document held in the London Archives, the William Charter. This piece of calf skin fits in the palm of ones hand but has truly enormous historic importance. It was issued by King William, the Conqueror in 1067, addressed to the Citizens of London. It is the



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first and oldest formal grant and recognition of the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Citizens of London and many scholars agree it is the basis of the charters that followed, including Magna Carta in 1215. A truly spine-tingling experience to see this precious document in the flesh alongside the Royal Seal depicting William on horseback. We then enjoyed a terrific Italian lunch in Exmouth Market where we exchanged tales and many of the new things we'd learnt.



Lloyd's Tour *16 & 17th April*

Edward Lloyd. A name not very many recognise but one that is synonymous with the world's largest specialist insurance Market, having been founded in his Coffee House some 336 years ago.

Lloyd's of London, the Corporation of Lloyd's or Society of Lloyd's in one of the City's most notable financial Marketplaces with a reach spanning over 167 countries and syndication model which provides cover equivalent to the GDP of almost two dozen countries. It represents just over 25% of the

City's GDP and employs some 60,000 people. We visited the famous inside-out building in Lime Street where the Chairman provided a walking tour through the building, giving an overview of the history and function of Lloyd's with the opportunity to see brokers and underwriters discussing and placing risk in the famous Underwriting Room - known to those who work here as 'The Room'.

We were privileged to see some of the Nelson Collection as well as the Loss Books and other records from Edward Lloyd's Coffee House, which stood for a time in the Ward of Candlewick. Edward and his family lived in the Ward and he was known to frequented the Old Boar's Head tavern, now Yarnwicke House on Cannon Street - formerly Candlewick Street.



We travelled up and down the towers of Lloyd's in the glass lifts which move on the outside of the building, providing an incredible view of the City and the new skyscrapers in the City Cluster. We took in the Council Chamber, which is the former Ballroom of Bowood House - painstakingly transferred piece by piece into the Rogers' Building in 1986. The original design model was on display and we had the opportunity

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to traverse the central atrium to view the Market from every angle, made all the more spectacular by the glorious Spring sunshine.

We then had a delicious Easter lunch in the Lloyd's Coffee House, sat on the long benches in and amongst the Underwriters and Brokers who had taken a break from their boxes (underwriting desks) to catch up on news and views in the Coffee House, as they have been doing daily for well over 300 years!



The CWC Arms

On our recent visit to the London Archives, one of the Senior Curators showed us the oldest surviving version of the Club's original Arms. It was found as part of the preparation for the special exhibition for the Club, in a Minute book dating from 1743. While the book suffered water damage years ago, its cover and a watercolour illustration of the Arms were carefully salvaged and preserved.

This artefact offers much-needed clarity to the Club's current rendering of the Arms—which had often sparked debate around exactly what bird was featured—and inspired a moment to refresh the identity of one of the City of London's most storied Ward Clubs.

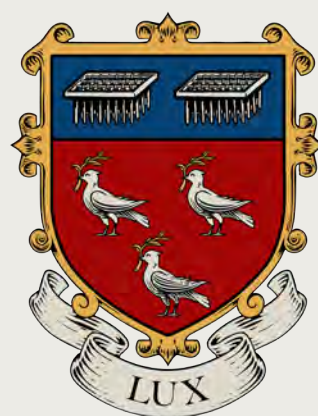
The shield features a striking design: a blue chief bearing the charge of two candle dipping racks—an emblem of the ward's historic craft—and a red base where three crested doves, each holding a golden olive leaf, perch in a symbolic gesture of peace and prosperity. These elements are brought together under the Club's motto, LUX, which remains unchanged. Interestingly, these doves also appear on the Arms of the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers, for many years based in the Ward.

To honour this piece of history, I commissioned illustrator Harry Murr — whose clients include the Royal Household — to assess and re-render the arms. The result is a refined and refreshed identity for the Candlewick Ward Club, one that speaks to a centuries old legacy while proudly facing the future. The updated crest will now feature

across communications, publications, and events, including our new website, which is now live and I encourage you all to visit it.

This rebrand marks more than a visual update; it's a celebration of continuity and civic pride—values I am fast learning have defined the Candlewick Ward Club since its earliest days.

Olly St John Davis





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Calling Notice: The Civic Dinner *Pewterers' Hall* *Thursday 5th June*

This year our Civic Dinner will be held on the evening of Thursday 5 June at Pewterers' Hall in the City at Oat Lane EC2V 7DE.

The Hall is a splendid setting for a dinner and if the weather is fine we hope to have our pre-dinner Reception outside in the garden. The building is full of historic treasures including many of the Royal Charters granted to the company including those granted by Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, James I and Charles II.

We are extremely fortunate that the Lady Mayoress, Florence King and the Chief Commoner, Deputy Henry Pollard, will be attending as our principal guests. The Chief

Commoner, a close colleague and friend of the Chairman, has kindly agreed to be our guest speaker - aside from his City Civic roles, he is Immediate Past Master of the Guild of Investment Managers and a Liveryman of the Skinners' Company, very well placed to entertain us to a fascinating and insightful after-dinner speech.

As well as fine wines, dining and fellowship, the evening will include a special musical interlude featuring a quartet of young musicians from the Synchronia Orchestra.

Please do join us, invite your friends and take this opportunity to dine in the splendid and historic surroundings of this fine hall.

The timetable for the evening will be:
6.30 pm – Reception and pre-dinner Drinks
7.15 pm – Dinner
10.30 pm – Carriages

The price per person is £149 inclusive of reception drinks, dinner, wines, coffee and VAT.

Please complete the booking form for the dinner via our website:

BOOKING FORM ➤



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