

## **BREAD STREET WARD CLUB**

### ***Members' Booklet***

**UPDATE MAY 2012**



*A sign on a building within the ward*

## **BREAD STREET WARD CLUB**

### ***INTRODUCTION***

If you work in the City of London, especially in or close to Bread Street Ward (see map), or if you have any connections with the City, you might like to consider joining the Bread Street Ward Club.

The Club is an active informal group that meets to enjoy meetings, talks, visits and social occasions in and out of the City.

If you would like to join, or discuss anything about the club, please look at the Club's website at [www.breadstreetwardclub.org](http://www.breadstreetwardclub.org)

The website lists all the current officers and the committee.

The Chairman is elected annually, normally for a one-year term. The President is elected at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

The current President is the Ward's Alderman, Sir Michael Savory, who was the Lord Mayor 2004/5.

This history only scratches the surface of the amazing development of the City of London, but gives a few interesting peeps at the extent of it.

A copy of the Constitution is included at the back of this booklet.

**The objects of the club are to:-**

Encourage Members to take an active interest in civic affairs

**and**

Organise social functions and to arrange lectures and visits of general interest.

*The Club is non-political, non-denominational and non-sectarian.*

The club was re-established in 1967 by Murray Fox, later Sir Murray Fox Lord Mayor 1974/5 and long time President and friend of the Club.



The Club has been active since then. A “Bread Street Ward Club” existed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with distinguished members such as William Shakespeare and Sir Walter Raleigh.

Membership is open to any person who is or has been employed or is residing within the boundaries of the Ward of Bread Street (see map), or who is interested in the history and affairs of the Ward or the City of London generally. The ward boundaries were extensively revised in 2004. The current subscription (2012) is £10 per year. It is normally collected by Direct Debit and is reviewed each year. However, any changes require the approval of the membership at a General Meeting. There is currently no joining fee.

A number of events are organised each year and are open to members and their guests; however, on rare occasions events are oversubscribed and then restricted to Members only.

Events range from the annual dinner, usually in the Livery Hall of the Guildhall, to talks, walks or visits on a wide variety of subjects. Most events are related in some way to the City and usually are complemented by a meal in a nearby club or pub.

The Alderman and Common Councilmen representing the Bread Street Ward on the Corporation of London keep a close connection with the Club.

Normally the Alderman becomes President of the Club and at least one of the two Common Councilmen can serve ex-officio on the Committee.



*The ward's notice board (2007) by the gardens of St Paul's on New Change.*



### **What is a City of London Ward Club?**

In days gone by, the City was more residential as well as being a place of business and trade. As times progressed and communications improved, many of the people who had worked and lived in the City moved house to suburban areas. Some who had moved regretted the passing of the old neighbourliness and the loss of the active community life of which they had formed part. Accordingly, they began to create Ward Clubs enabling them to meet their business neighbours socially. The first 'modern' Ward Club was formed as long ago as the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Bread Street's Club is one of the newer, re-formed in 1967.



*A street sign in the ward*

### **City Wards**

For local government purposes, the City has always been organised into areas known as Wards. In Saxon times the City was in reality a small independent federated state of wards (holding Wardmotes) with its governing body, a "folk mote", the predecessor of the present Common Council. Even after the Battle of Hastings the City maintained its

independence; William the Conqueror only gained possession of it by means of a Treaty with the City's Burgesses.

A list made in 1130 shows only 20 wards situated in land belonging to St Paul's. By 1206 the number had risen to 24 and in 1394, by Act of King Richard II, the ward of Farringdon was divided into two separate wards, Farringdon Within & Without. This made the 25 Wards we know today, each being represented by an Alderman and a number of members of the Court of Common Council, the complete Council providing the civic local government as the Corporation of London.

### **Bread Street Ward boundaries & electors**

City boundaries were fixed centuries ago and remained inviolate throughout the subsequent re-development resulting in boundaries running through buildings, as was the case with Bow Bells House in Bread Street and No 1 New Change. The ward was one of the smallest in the City covering about 4 hectares to the east of St Paul's Cathedral, originally named from its principal street which was anciently the bread market; for by the records it appears that in 1302, the bakers of London were ordered to sell no bread at their houses but in the open market.

The franchise for electing the Aldermen and Common Councilmen is different from all other areas of the UK, primarily because there are so few residents (8,000) but over ¼ million workers who commute in daily.

In recent times the Corporation decided to extend the franchise to enable all City businesses to appoint voters for elections to the Court of Common Council. Before, only sole traders and those in partnerships could vote. An Act of Parliament was required to achieve this change.

To 'even-up' the number of electors per ward, a wide-ranging redrawing of ward boundaries was completed in 2003 with elections under the new boundaries from 2004. The total number of Common Councilmen was reduced to 100.

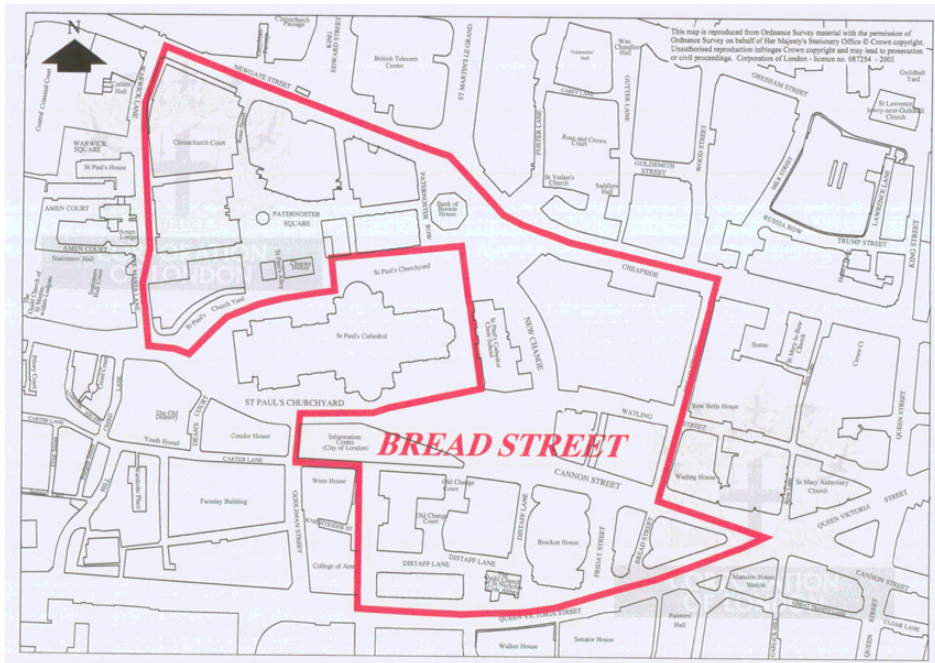


There are still the same 25 wards, and thus 25 Aldermen. The present Bread Street ward (see map overleaf) is still one of the smaller ones. The ward had four Common Councilmen, but this has now been reduced to two.

Each year, in March, each ward holds a Wardmote presided over by the Alderman. At this meeting the ward's business is carried out including calling any required elections for the Alderman, Common Councilmen or Beadle. If polling is required, the Wardmote reconvenes after the poll. At each Wardmote the Alderman appoints his Deputy for the year ensuing. Likewise the Honorary Ward Clerk.

Sadly, in the 2003 boundary review, we lost the east side of Bread Street that includes 35 Cannon Street (ex-Watling House) and what was 'our' part of Bow Bells House. A further change is likely in 2012/3.

Area gained includes the new Paternoster Square, the remainder of St Paul's Choir School, the church of St Nicholas Cole Abbey and the statue to the Firefighters in the Second World War at the top of the walkway from the Millennium Bridge opposite St Paul's.



The old Ward – a far cry from today in 1755





## Noble Volunteers in 18<sup>th</sup> century



*Current Temple Bar*

**Temple Bar** was, of course, the historic entry to the City of London from Westminster. Badly damaged in 1666 by the Great Fire of London, it became necessary to rebuild the structure. Commissioned by King Charles II, and designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the fine arch of Portland stone was constructed between 1669 and 1672. In 1878 the Corporation of London, eager to widen the road but unwilling to destroy so historic a monument, dismantled it piece-by-piece and stored its 2,700 stones. The brewer Sir Henry Meux bought the stones (at the instigation of his wife, a barmaid he married amid much scandal) and re-erected the arch as a gateway at his house, Theobalds Park in Hertfordshire.

It remained there, incongruously sitting in a clearing in a wood, until 2003. By then it had been purchased by the Temple Bar Trust from the Meux Trust in 1984. It was carefully dismantled and returned on 500 pallets to the City where it was painstakingly re-erected as an entrance to the Paternoster Square redevelopment, opening to the public in late 2004..

It acts as a grand entrance to the new Paternoster Square, seen from the front of St Paul's. Having lost so many historic buildings in the ward, we are fortunate to have this one in the new ward of Bread Street.



*Pre-1878 Temple Bar*

*The new position of Temple Bar next to St Paul's*





## Historic Bread Street Ward

### The buildings

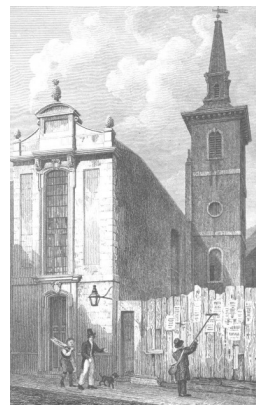
**All Hallows, Bread Street church** once stood on the east side of Bread Street. It was burned down in the Great Fire and rebuilt in 1684, only to be pulled down in 1876-77 under the 'Union of Benefices Act 1860'. The site and materials were sold for £32,254 and the proceeds used to build All Hallows East India Dock Road.

In Henry VIII's reign two priests of this church had a most unpriestly quarrel in which one of them was wounded. Both were imprisoned and made to walk barefoot in penance from St Paul's through the City. It was a rectory and a 'peculiar' belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, conveyed to him in 1365.

The site after 1878 was occupied by warehouses but is now offices.

**The Church of St Mildred's**, Bread Street, was destroyed by bombing in 1941. It was named after Mildred, the 7<sup>th</sup> century Saxon Saint Mildred the Virgin, abbess of a monastery on the Isle of Thanet and daughter to Merewald, sub-king of the West Mercians. It was founded about 1300 by Lord Trenchant of St Albans. The earliest record of the church is its rebuilding around 1300 – an aisled building with a clerestory.

It was burned in the Great Fire and rebuilt to Wren's designs in 1683 at a cost of £3,705 13s 6d. Shelley was married there. The ruins of St Mildred's Church were one of the last remaining bombsites of the City surviving into the 60's, though unfortunately most of the records were lost. The church was seen as the finest un-restored example in the City and its loss left the original ward without a church of its own.



*St Mildred Bread Street 1825.*



Two other churches were in the old Ward but neither survived the Great Fire. These were:

**St Margaret Moyses** situated corner of Friday Street and Cannon Street. The site was lost to widening of Cannon Street and paved over in 1830.

Also **St John the Evangelist**, which stood on the east side of Friday Street next to Watling Street.

The current ward area includes **St Nicholas Cole Abbey** in Queen Victoria Street, first recorded in 1144. The church was destroyed in the Great Fire and then rebuilt by the office of Sir Christopher Wren at a cost of £5,042 6s 11d, being the first church of the fifty-one to be rebuilt. It was bombed and burnt out in WW2 and rebuilt by 1962 after featuring prominently in the Ealing comedy 'The Lavender Hill Mob'. Named after the 4th century St Nicholas of Myra who is patron saint of, among other groups, children and fishermen. "Cole Abbey" is derived from "coldharbour" a medieval word for a traveller's shelter or shelter from the cold.

*St Nicholas Cole Abbey*



The whole of **St Paul's Choir School** is now in the ward, ensuring our link with 'The Children of Bread Street Ward' – the school's junior choir who add colour to the Club's annual Carol Service each year.

The new **Jubilee Gardens** on the old coach park site next to St Paul's and the new fountain opposite are also within the ward.

The **Mermaid Tavern** in Cheapside, frequented by Ben Jonson and just possibly by Shakespeare, had a side entrance in Bread Street, whilst one of the 'divers fair inns' in the street was celebrated in Stow's time for a 40-foot pole of fir-wood which was kept in the hall. Legend had it that this was a giant's staff, but in fact it was more probably a maypole.

Three Livery Companies had halls in the Ward. The **Cordwainers**, shoemakers by trade, so called because of their use of the leather of Cordoba. They are commemorated by a blue plaque in the gardens of St Paul's Cathedral. The 5<sup>th</sup> and last Hall was built in 1909/10 but was gutted

in the blitz on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1941. The **Fishmongers**, who traded in Friday Street where fish was much in demand on Fridays; and the **Salters** whose wares were obviously in demand by the nearby fishmongers also had Halls in the ward. Sadly none remain.



In Cheapside, on the south side between Old Change and Bucklersbury, was **Goldsmith's Row**, partly in the Ward. Built in 1491 by Thomas Wood, a goldsmith and sheriff, this was a row of splendid houses and shops four stories high, "beautified towards the street with the Goldsmiths' arms and likenesses of Woodmen, in memory of his name, riding on monstrous beasts, all richly painted and gilt".

**Bread Street Compter** This was an ancient prison for debtors under the control of the City Sheriffs and existed until 1555 when its prisoners were transferred to the the new Compter in nearby Wood Street. Stow says as follows: "On the west side of Bread Street amongst divers fair and large houses for merchants and fair inns for passengers had they one prison house pertaining to the Sheriffs of London....." One wonders what the inhabitants of the "divers fair and large house" thought about it being in their midst! There appears to be no reference to it after its move so it was presumably demolished. The story goes that Richard Husband, the keeper, had the property of the 'compter' by lease which the corporation could not remove him out of it. Finding him 'incorrigible on this security' they built the 'compter' in Wood Street and took the prisoners out of his custody



**Gisor's Hall.** It seems that in Basing Lane was the mansion house of the ancient family of Gisors, some of whom for several generations served the chief offices in the magistracy of the City. John Gisor was Lord Mayor in 1245, and another John in 1386.

The **Bank of England's** elegant post-war building, sadly now demolished was appropriately sited. Old Change, close by, was so called from the King's Exchange where bullion was kept for coinage. In Friday Street the Scottish financier William Paterson, whose idea it was to found the Bank, is said to have met friends each week at, strange to relate, the Wednesday Club. This link passed to the Ward Club who, after its restarting in 1967 had many members who were (and still are!) Bank of England employees and meetings were held there.



*New Change – old*



*New Change - new*

The monument to **Admiral Arthur Phillip, R.N.** (the Founder of Australia and first Governor of New South Wales 1788-1792), which stood in the Church, is now set on the Watling Street boundary wall of the 'Fidelity' building, 25 Cannon Street. Before that it was on the wall of the previous building, Gateway House, there only from the 1960's to the 1990's. See

more under the '*Who's Who of Bread Street*' Originally a splendid memorial existed in St Mildred's Church, only parts of which survived the Blitz and were salvaged from the rubble.



*Admiral Phillip in Watling Street*



**Paternoster Square** is an example of an area redeveloped twice since the 1950's and has its own rich history. After the Second World War it was redeveloped in what some would call a 'brutal' style of architecture and this was then demolished as early as the 1990's. There followed a long saga of proposals and consultations with the Prince of Wales becoming involved. The resulting new Paternoster Square attempts to recreate some of the old street lines and may well be considered to be both easier on the eye than the post - war development and also complementing St Paul's.



“Which way to London Bridge?”



“Cunningly disguised ventilation shaft”



“The old & the new”



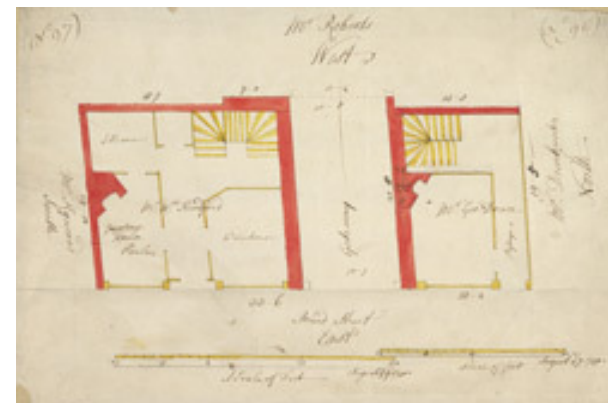
An addition to the ward is the new Stock Exchange fronting onto Newgate Street.



The modern Stock Exchange at the north end of Paternoster Square



Mercers' Company amassed great wealth and in the 18<sup>th</sup> century began to buy property in the City which was then leased to tenants. Records of the plans in Bread Street survive, dated 1766.



Plans of Mercer's lettings

**Firefighters' Memorial** On the edge of the new ward just south of St Pauls at the junction of Carter Street and visible from the new Millennium Bridge stands a memorial to the firefighters who so valiantly tried to minimise the damage caused by the bombs which fell on the City during the second World War.



*Firefighters' Memorial*

### **The Who's Who of old Bread Street**

Bread Street gained its name quite simply because it was the place where London's bread was sold in the Middle Ages. In Edward I's reign the City's bakers were ordered to sell their wares here and nowhere else, but clearly the bakers were not without competitors because in Henry VI's reign, John Mitchell, Mayor in 1437, ordained:

"That foreign bakers bringing foreign bread for sale shall stand at the following five places, and not elsewhere, viz., Billingsgate and Quenehithe with neighbouring vacant places, at Fletebridge between the gate of the common latrine and the outer gate of the prison of the Flete with intervening lane, in Chepe between the High Cross and the Conduit, and in

Cornhyll between the Conduit and Ledynhale, under penalty of forfeiture of the whole of their foreign bread."

By the time Stow wrote in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, however, the bakers of Bread Street had already given place to "rich merchants" and "divers fair inns".

For several hundred years the price of bread was fixed by the Assize. The price remained constant but the amount received for the price varied, with the result that bakers frequently seemed to be in trouble over short weight, for example, in 1258 AD:-

**Justiciar Hugh Bygot** summoned before himself and before the Earl of Gloucester all the bakers of the City who could be found, together with their loaves; and so, by some few citizens summoned before them, judgement was given in reference to their bread: those whose bread did not weigh according to the assay of the City, not being placed in the pillory, as they used to be, but, at the will of the Justiciar and Earl aforesaid, exalted in the tumbrel, against the ancient usage of the City and of all the realm."

We can only now conjecture what the word 'exalted' meant in that context, but its combination with "Tumbrel" would have had sinister implications; probably the guilty were ducked in the river, the "exaltation" being the upper elevation part of the punishment exercise on the Ducking-Stool.

**Sir Nicholas Brembre** "the worthie and puissant man of the City" was a collector of customs for the Port of London and at one time employed Geoffrey Chaucer for his comptroller. He was an Alderman of the Ward, was Lord Mayor of London (1377/78 & 1383-86) and the chief supporter among the citizens of Richard II. Although popular with his supporters, he was tyrannous during his mayoralty of 1383/84, among other things executing a Cordwainer for complicity in a riot in Cheapside. He had powerful enemies and was eventually vanquished by them, being impeached for Treason by his arch enemy the Duke of Gloucester. Notwithstanding his support of the Monarch, he was executed in 1388.



**John Milton** was born in Bread Street on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1608 in his father's house which stood on the east side at the corner of Bread Street and the north side of Watling Street. He was baptised at All Hallows before the end of that year. As a child he was a literary prodigy. He was educated privately until 1621 when he entered St. Paul's School. He graduated from Christ's College, Cambridge in 1629 but did not enter the Church as might have been expected in those days. Milton was fluent in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French and Italian and by 1627 had written his first poetry in Latin and Hebrew. His first known English poem was written in 1628. His Masque, 'Comus', was written in 1634. He travelled on a Continental tour in 1638/39 and met with many important churchmen and intellectuals including Galileo. His eyesight deteriorated from 1644 and he lost the sight in his left eye in 1648; by 1652 he was totally blind. He continued to work, composing and dictating until he died. During this time he dictated his epic poem 'Paradise Lost'.



Milton was a religious man with interests in music, mathematics and astronomy. He supported the Puritan and Commonwealth side in the Civil War and in 1649 he was appointed Secretary for Foreign Tongues to the Council of State led by Cromwell. In effect, he was England's first Secretary of State and Foreign Minister. Many of his writings were both controversial and ahead of their time. His 'Areopagitica', presented to the English Parliament in 1644, argued with passion and lucidity for freedom of the press. In 1651 he wrote a powerful argument against the Divine Right of Kings. Milton's brilliance made him nationally and internationally famous

but also put his life at risk in those turbulent times. His concepts and arguments were strongly influential in the establishment of our modern religious, civil and domestic liberties. Milton's contribution to the founding of Constitutional Monarchy and the birth of modern republics such as the USA can be clearly traced.

It can be said that John Milton was Bread Street's most famous son and the City's most famous Cockney. A stone plaque now in Bow Churchyard, commemorates the christening of John Milton in All Hallows Bread Street in 1608.

His Quadricentenary celebrations in 2008 saw a 'Blue Plaque' unveiled by the Lord Mayor, accompanied by Sir Michael Savory and Beadle Angus Ross, on Bread Street and the passage into St Mary-le-Bow Churchyard named John Milton Passage. There were many celebrations and lectures to mark this anniversary of a very special man.

*Blue plaque in Milton Passage*





*The Lord Mayor, Alderman (now Sir) David Lewis with Alderman Sir Michael Savory and Beadle Angus Ross at the unveiling ceremony on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008*

### John Donne



Born in Bread Street in 1572 and died in 1631 and was buried in the old St Paul's cathedral. His monument survived the 1666 fire and is on display in St Paul's today. He became an English poet, satirist, lawyer and priest. In 1621 he became Dean of St Paul's and was an MP from 1601-14 for Brackley – not a paid position! An eloquent preacher, 160 of his sermons survive.

A new statue to John Donne is planned for the Jubilee gardens next to St Paul's and the Club have contributed to this venture.

**Thomas Carpenter**, a haberdasher, who lived in Friday Street and who died in 1731, left a sum of £1,000 in trust to assist poor young men in the Ward of Bread Street and surrounding wards to establish themselves in business. Later the Fund was extended to assist in the education of children whose parents are residents or employed in the Ward of Bread Street. The Trust funds have grown considerably over the intervening years and the Trustees continue to make educational grants to suitably qualified candidates each year. The majority of the present Trustees are members of the Bread Street Ward Club.



**Percival Pott**, 1714-88, lived in Watling Street and was a notable surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital. In medical circles his name still has world-wide fame. The term Pott's fracture is commonly applied to the compound variety of broken ankle which he sustained "as he was riding in Kent Street, Southwark; he was thrown from his horse, and suffered a compound fracture of the leg, the bone being forced down through the integuments (skin).

Conscious of the dangers attendant on fractures of this nature and thoroughly aware how much they may be increased by rough treatment or improper position, he would not suffer himself to be moved until he had made the necessary dispositions. He sent to Westminster, then the nearest place, for two chairmen to bring their poles, and patiently lay on the cold pavement, it being in the middle of January, until they arrived. In this situation he purchased a door, to which he made them nail their poles. When all was ready he caused himself to be laid on it, and was carried through Southwark, over London Bridge, to Watling Street, near St Paul's, where he had lived for some time. At a consultation of surgeons the case was thought so desperate as to require immediate amputation. Mr Pott convinced that no one could be a proper judge in his own case, submitted to their opinion, and the proper instruments were actually got ready, when Mr Nourse (his former master and then colleague at St Bartholomew's Hospital), who had been prevented from coming sooner, fortunately entered the room. After examining the limb he conceived there was a possibility of preserving it; an attempt to save it was acquiesced in, and succeeded."

**Sir Richard Ford**, who died in 1678 and was Lord Mayor 1670/71, Sir Richard Hoare, who founded a bank, was Lord Mayor in 1712/13 and died in 1718, Brass Crosby, Lord Mayor in 1770/71 and Ralph Holland, Alderman from 1435-44 all have a colourful tale to tell.



*Percy Shelley*

**Percy Bysshe Shelley** (1792 to 1822) married Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin in St Mildred's Church in Bread Street on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1816.



*Admiral Phillip*

*Admiral Phillip memorial in Watling Street*

**Arthur Phillip**, the Founder of Australia and first Governor of New South Wales 1788-1792, was born in the Ward of Bread Street October 11<sup>th</sup> 1738. He was baptised in All Hallows, Bread Street in 1738, entered the Royal Navy in 1755 and died 31<sup>st</sup> August 1814. He was commander of the First Fleet taking mainly prisoners to Australia.

An annual service of commemoration is held in St Mary-le-Bow church at which the club is represented. An address by someone with experience on the Admiral, the First Fleet or the early colony makes the service a worthwhile event to attend. As well as the Watling Street memorial – see Pg 16 - there is also a memorial tablet in the church at which a wreath is laid during the service.

The above mentioned are obviously only a sample of the many famous/notorious characters connected with the Ward.

### More Recent History

It is a sad fact that the whole of the ward's area was virtually flattened as a result of the bombing in the Second World War. Many of the post-war buildings have themselves been, or are planned to be demolished and new buildings erected.

### One of the businesses of Bread Street



In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century much of the Bread Street area was occupied by companies involved in textiles and allied trades. One such company, **W Williams & Son (Bread Street) Ltd**, a haberdashery company was started in 1819 in the East End. In 1865 they opened a warehouse at No1 Old Change, moving in 1865 to Friday Street and in 1868 to Bread Street where their original warehouse remained until the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

A sale of oddments in a December in the 1890's realised £10k and was described as a "humourless but undignified event" and it was discontinued soon after.

The warehouses were first destroyed in September 1940, not by bombing but by fire despite an elaborate sprinkler system. It was low tide on the Thames and the water supply was only sufficient for isolated fires. The strong room survived and all essential papers and documents recovered.

The firm moved to Chesham only to have their building requisitioned by the Ministry of Aircraft Production! They returned to repaired premises at Milton Buildings, 48 Bread Street and 21 & 21a Bread Street. In turn these were badly damaged in January 1941 and the company again retired to north-west London returning before the end of the war to Aldersgate Street.



Buildings erected after the war as Paternoster Square, Watling House, Gateway House and Bow Bells House have already been redeveloped again and most recently the Bank of England annex building was demolished and replaced by No1 New Change, now a thriving retail and restaurant complex and offices.

### The wider 'City of London'

The area called the City of London, or in common terms the Square Mile, started as the Roman Town later contained within the City Walls. Many mediaeval institutions still exist today, including the retention by the City of its own Local Government (Corporation of London), its own Police Force and many titles only now found in the City, such as Aldermen.



The City is still divided into 25 wards. Many of them are named after the trades associated with those areas e.g. Bread, Cordwainer, Vintry.

There are also over 100 Livery Companies, most of which are based on the old 'Guilds' or trade associations, although new ones such as the 'Water Conservators' are coming into being or applying for Livery. There are about 25,000 Liverymen.

A number of present and past Club members have served as Masters of their respective Livery Companies, including the late Sir Murray Fox and Rodney FitzGerald and also Sir Michael Savory, John Taylor and Barry Davis. A number of current Club members are Liverymen, whilst others are Freemen of the City Of London.

The government of the Corporation of London is vested in the 'Court of Common Council' comprising two bodies. The Court of Commoners comprises the Common Councilmen elected from each ward. The total has been reduced to 100, two representing Bread Street Ward.

There is a wide variety of work carried out by the Corporation in addition to its primary role as the Local Authority for the City. This includes the management of the property and land belonging to the City (Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches and more) and for managing and maintaining many of the bridges across the Thames. Also retaining the pageantry and historic places like Guildhall, part of the fascination of the City.

The 'Court of Aldermen' has 25 members (one per ward). An Alderman is elected by the voters in the ward and, if found acceptable to the Court of Aldermen, serves for a period of 6 years after which he/she must resign or stand for re-election. The upper age limit is 70. All Aldermen serve as Justices of the Peace.

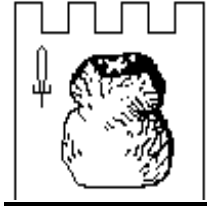
From that body each year one Alderman is nominated by them to be the Lord Mayor of London for one year. The Lord Mayor is the Chief Magistrate of the City, first Justice of the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), head of the City Lieutenancy, Clerk of the Markets and Admiral of the Port of London, an impressive list. He also presides over the Court of Common Council similar to a Mayor or Chairman presides over a City,

Borough or District Council. After his inauguration he holds the Lord Mayor's Show. He hosts and attend many functions, to receive and entertain Heads of State when they visit Britain and he travels widely at home and, at the behest of Government, overseas as an 'Ambassador' for the City and Britain.

There are many special positions within the City including two Sheriffs (usually one an Alderman and the other a layman), and, as officers for the Lord Mayor, the Swordbearer, Common Cryer and Serjeant-at-Arms and the City Marshal.

The Club is proud to have had members as Lord Mayor - our founding President, the late Sir Murray Fox became Lord Mayor in 1974, and Sir Michael Savory in 2004. Alderman Neil Young was Sheriff in 1991, Alderman Sir Michael Savory in 2001 and John Taylor and the late Rodney FitzGerald have also been Sheriffs. Two club members have served as Chief Commoner in recent times - Terence Donnelly held that office in 1991, but sadly died in office and Tom Jackson in 2004.





## **Compilers**

Originally researched and compiled in 1982 by J Derriman and C M G Durston, past Chairmen of the Ward Club.

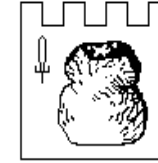
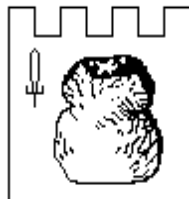
Revised and updated 2001, 2006 and 2012 by Angus Ross and Michael Evans, both recent Chairmen of the Ward Club and respectively the current Beadle to the Alderman and the Honorary Ward Clerk.

Research on Milton undertaken in 2006 by committee member Leon Jacklin.

Modern photographs by Angus Ross & others

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to the Clarendon Press for their permission to quote the text on "Percival Pott" which has been extracted from page 20 of "Dictionary of National Biography from the Earliest Times to 1900, 1921-1922 edition; also to the Corporation of London for their permission to quote passages on the sale of bread from "The Calendar of Letter Books of the City of London" and from "Chronicles of the Mayors and Sheriffs of London".



# **BREAD STREET WARD CLUB**

## **CONSTITUTION & RULES**

(as amended on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2004)

### **1. Name and Character**

The Club shall be known as the "Bread Street Ward Club" and be non-political, undenominational and non-sectarian.

### **2. Objects**

The objects of the Club shall be:

- a) to encourage members to take an active interest in Civic affairs; and
- b) to organise social functions and to arrange lectures and visits of general interest.

### **3. Qualifications for membership**

Membership of the Club is open to any person who is or has been an elector residing or working within the boundaries of the Ward of Bread Street is or has been employed within such boundaries or is interested in the history and affairs of the said Ward of Bread Street or of the City of London generally.



In addition the Committee may recommend to the membership the election as Honorary Life Members of the Club those who in their opinion have rendered outstanding service to the City of London, the Ward of Bread Street or the Bread Street Ward Club.

4. **Applications for Membership**

Applications must be proposed and seconded by members of the Club and shall be considered by the Committee, whose decision on such application shall be final.

5. **President and Honorary Life Vice Presidents**

The Committee of Management for the time being shall nominate a fit and proper person to be President of the Bread Street Ward Club and such nomination shall be put to the membership at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be called following the said nomination. The person so appointed shall be an ex officio member of the Committee.

The Committee of Management may from time to time nominate a person or persons as Honorary Life Vice President(s) of the Bread Street Ward Club such nomination being a mark of esteem to those who have given the Club and/or Bread Street Ward and/or the City of London long and meritorious service. All such nominations shall be put to the Membership at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting as appropriate. Persons so appointed shall not be ex officio members of the Committee.

6. **Chairman**

At the Annual General Meeting each year the members shall elect a Chairman for the ensuing year whose duties shall be:

- a) to preside at all functions and meetings of the Club or of the Committee of which he is a member ex officio;
- b) to make decisions on all matters of minor importance affecting the administration of the Club which cannot, on account of urgency, be brought before the Committee;
- c) to foster the organisation of social functions, visits and other activities of the Club during his period of office.

7A. **Officers**

At the Annual General Meeting each year the members shall elect for the ensuing year the following Officers who shall be ex officio members of the Committee:

- (i) An Honorary Secretary or two Joint Honorary Secretaries;
- (ii) An Honorary Treasurer.

7B. **Committee**

The Committee shall comprise the Officers, the immediate past Chairman and not more than six elected members. In addition the Committee shall have the power as its members see fit to invite one or both of the Councilmen for the Ward of Bread Street for the time being to be a member of the Committee for the year ensuing, such appointment to be by majority vote. The Committee shall also have power to co-opt further members should it be considered necessary or desirable.

At its first Meeting after each Annual General Meeting the Committee shall elect (from amongst its members) a Deputy Chairman to act for the ensuing year in the absence of the Chairman.

In every year immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting one third of the elected Committee Members for the time being or, if the total number of elected Committee Members is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third, shall retire in rotation. As between those Committee Members appointed on the same day those to retire shall be determined by lot.

At the Annual General Meeting each year the members of the Club shall elect sufficient of their number as is necessary to fill all available Committee places or such lesser number as is possible according to the number of candidates offering for election. Nothing in these Rules shall be construed as preventing retiring Committee Members offering themselves for re-election for a consecutive term.

8. **Honorary Auditor**

At the Annual General Meeting there shall be elected an Honorary Auditor for the ensuing year.

9. **Duties of the Committee**

The duties of the Committee shall be as follows:

- a) to make decisions on matters of policy affecting the Club;
- b) to appoint any sub-committees with power to act on its behalf and to co-opt other members on to such committees;
- c) to deal with applications for membership (see paragraph 4).

10. **Annual subscription**

The Annual Subscription shall be fixed by the Club in General Meeting, and shall be due and payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January. In the case of any individual whose subscription has not been paid by the following 30<sup>th</sup> September membership shall be considered to have lapsed. The subscription for the year of joining shall become due and payable on election to membership, but no subscription shall be charged for a year in which a member joins after 30<sup>th</sup> September.

11. **Annual General Meeting**

An Annual General Meeting shall be held once in each calendar year and not later than fifteen months after the previous Annual General Meeting. At this Meeting the Income and Expenditure Account of the Club, duly audited, shall be submitted in respect of the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March immediately preceding the date of the Meeting. At least fourteen days notice of the time and date and place fixed for the Meeting shall be given by the Honorary Secretary.

12. **Extraordinary General Meeting**

The Committee may, whenever it is thought fit, and shall on the written request of at least ten members, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting provided fourteen days notice (in writing) of the time, date and place is given by the Honorary Secretary, together with an indication of the business to be transacted.

13. **Quorum**

For General Meetings of the Club six persons shall form a quorum. For meetings of the Committee three persons shall form a quorum.

14. **Voting**

All propositions after being seconded shall be determined by the majority of the members present and voting on the question, and the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. No other member shall be entitled to more than one vote.

15. **Conduct of Members**

If, in the opinion of the Committee, any member is guilty of conduct likely to be injurious to the Club, the Committee may require the member to give an explanation, either verbally or in writing. If the explanation is not considered satisfactory by a two-thirds majority of the Committee, then the Committee shall request such member to resign and, failing a satisfactory response, vote on the member's expulsion, when a two-thirds majority of the Committee must vote in favour of the resolution.

16. **Interpretation**

Any questions raised by members of the Club concerning the interpretation of these Rules shall be referred to the Committee for final decision.

17. **Alteration of the Rules of the Club**

The rules of the Club shall not be altered except by the Club in General Meeting.

*As amended at the AGM on 10th May 2004*