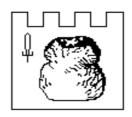


Bread Street Ward Club

A history of the Ward Club and Ward as well as an insight into the Club

Reviewed and updated July 2022





Bread Street Ward Club

Ward & Club History

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NB. Please note that text from this History should not be copied for other uses

<u>The Bread Street Ward Club</u> is an active informal group that meets to enjoy meetings, talks, visits and social occasions in and out of the City. It also encourages Members to take an active interest in civic affairs. This is the story about many aspects of the personalities and buildings that have formed the ward over the centuries as well as the make-up of the current Ward and Club.

This story relates to both the Club, the ward and a bit about the wider City of London. It only scratches the surface of the amazing development of the City of London in general and Bread Street ward in particular. It gives a few interesting peeps at the extent of it. The people and the buildings are of historic interest and often significance.

Walking around the ward today it is difficult to imagine what the streets and building looked like centuries ago; the shops and businesses that were thriving then, nor the impact of the Great Fire in 1666. A very different time!

A Bread Street Ward Club existed many years ago as evidenced on Page 18. In the 16th century it enjoyed distinguished members such as William Shakespeare and Sir Walter Raleigh. It was re-established in 1967 by the late Sir Murray Fox, Lord Mayor 1974/5 and long-time President and friend of the Club – see Pg 37. The Club has remined very active since then.



Sir Murray Fox



The ward's notice board by the gardens of St Paul's on New Change, before being due an update after the 2022 Common Councillor elections.

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

Ward club committee members are nominated by two other members and elected at the AGM, normally in May. The Chairman is nominated by the Committee and elected for a one-year term. The Club's President is historically the Ward's Alderman and elected to that office at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Our current ward Alderman and President Sir William Russell (see Pg 39) is the recent Lord Mayor 2019-21, having been Sheriff in 2016. He was elected Alderman in March 2013 and re-elected in August 2018. He succeeded Sir Michael Savory (see Pg 38).

The Committee may invite one or both the Common Councilmen to serve 'ex-officio' on the Club's Committee.



Alderman William Russell newly elected as the Lord Mayor in 2019

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 losing the old neighbourliness and active community life. So, Ward Clubs were reestablished, enabling them to meet their business neighbours socially.

The first 'modern' Ward Club was formed as long ago as the 18th century. Bread Street's Club is one of the newer, having been re-formed in 1967.



A street sign

City Wards

For local government purposes, the City has always been organised into wards. In Saxon times the City was a small independent federated state of wards (holding 'Wardmotes') with its governing body, a 'Folkmote', the predecessor of the present Common Council. Even after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, the City maintained its independence. William the Conqueror only gained possession of it by a Treaty with the City's Burgesses.

A list from 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 up the 25 ward names we know today. Each ward is 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'. There are currently 100 Common Councilmen.

Each ward is required to hold a 'Wardmote' annually in March, presided over by their Alderman. At this meeting the ward's business is carried out, including any required elections for the Alderman, Common Councilmen or Ward Beadle. Aldermen are elected for a six-year term and Common Councilmen for a four-year term.

An Honorary Ward Clerk assists in the running of Wardmotes and ward elections and any general business arising not in the remit of the Common Councilmen. The current Honorary Ward Clerk for the Bread Street ward is Michael Evans, first appointed by Alderman Neil Young in 1991 and then re-appointed by Alderman Sir Michael Savory and Sir William Russell.

If polling is required, the Wardmote reconvenes after the poll. At the Wardmote, the Alderman appoints his Deputy for the year ensuing and in addition appoints the Honorary Ward Clerk.

The current Deputy is Dr Giles Shilson first elected in 2009 and re-elected in 2013, 2017 and 2022. The other Common Councilman is Emily Wedgwood Benn, first elected in 2022. The nest elections for Common Councilmen are due in 2025. Elections were due in 2021 but delayed a year because of Covid.

A Ward Beadle is elected for each ward, although the post now is purely ceremonial. The Beadle accompanies the Alderman to a number of occasions during the year (see list on Page 15). He carries the Ward Mace – see below.

The current Ward Beadle is Biagio Fraulo. He took over from Angus Ross in 2022, who in turn took over in 2000 from Robert (Bob) Crabb BEM (Beadle from 1976 to Sir Murray Fox, Neil Young and Sir Michael Savory).

The duties of a Ward Beadle were originally effectively as a police officer for keeping the peace within his ward. The Beadle was also an officer of the City Courts, summoning the freemen for jury or coroners' inquest service. The latter duty was performed until the re-organisation and merger of the City and Westminster's Coroner's office.





 $Hon\ Ward\ Clerk\ Michael\ Evans\ with\ Beadle\ Biagio\ Fraulo\ and\ ex-Beadle\ Angus\ Ross.$





Beadle Angus Ross

Engraved and re-gilded by gift of William Lawrence, Alderman for the ward 1848–55 and his son Sir William Lawrence, Alderman 1855-95.



Club President Alderman Sir William Russell at the Lord Mayor's Show 2019

Bread Street Ward boundaries & electors

City ward boundaries were fixed centuries ago but this more recently resulted in boundaries running through buildings, as was the case until 2003 with Bow Bells House in Bread Street and No 1 New Change. The ward has always been one of the smallest in the City, covering about 4 hectares around St Paul's Cathedral and named from its principal street which was the main City bread market. Records in 1302 show the bakers of London were ordered to sell no bread at their houses but only in the open market (see Pgs 19/20).

To 'even-up' the number of electors per ward, a wide-ranging redrawing of ward boundaries was completed in 2003 when the total number of Common Councilmen was reduced to 100. The ward once had six councillors, but this was first reduced to four and from 2013 further reduced to two. Sadly, in 2003 the ward lost the east side of Bread Street that includes 35 Cannon Street (ex-Watling House) and what was 'our' part of Bow Bells House. Areas then gained included the then new Paternoster Square, the remainder of St Paul's Choir School (Pg 50/1), the City Information Centre (Pg 65) and the statue to the Firefighters in the Second World War (Pg 64) standing at the top of the walkway from the Millennium Bridge opposite St Paul's.

The franchise for electing the City's Aldermen and Common Councilmen is different from all other areas of the UK, primarily because there are so few residents (8,706 the estimate in 2018) but over ½ million workers who commute in daily (pre-Covid!). Until some years ago only residents, leaseholders, sole traders and those in partnerships could vote. In recent times the Corporation agreed to extend the franchise beyond residents. This now enables all City businesses to appoint voters for elections. An Act of Parliament was required to achieve this change. So now, just the few residents and business appointees can vote.

The last boundary review was completed in February 2013. The ward then lost the buildings to the east of Distaff Lane, including Bracken House and the buildings on the triangle to the east of Friday Street. In return, it gained 1-4 St Paul's Churchyard and regained St Nicholas Cole Abbey Church (see Pg 45)

The ward now has an electorate of around 430.

From the Corporation of London website

The ward is now bounded on its north by Cheap Ward; to the east by Cordwainer Ward; to the south by Queenhithe and Vintry Wards; and to the west by Castle Baynard and Farringdon Within Wards. Its geographical boundaries are Bread Street in the east; Newgate Street and Cheapside in the north; Warwick Lane and Ave Maria Lane in the west; and Queen Victoria Street to the south.

St Paul's Cathedral is outside the ward boundary, being in Castle Baynard Ward, but St Paul's Cathedral School, situated between the cathedral and New Change, is within the ward. Also, within the ward we have the rebuilt Paternoster Square, bordered by the Temple Bar, back recently in the City after a 126 year absence (see Pages 47/48).

The only church now remaining in the ward is St Nicholas Cole Abbey in Queen Victoria Street (see Page 45). For others now demolished see Pages 41-6.

Two areas have been redeveloped in recent times, Paternoster Square (see Pages 61-63) and No 1 New Change (see Page 57).

The wider 'City of London'

The area called the City of London, or the 'Square Mile', started as the Roman Town 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 local trades with some guilds tracing their origins back to the 12th century. The earliest charter still in existence was granted to the Weavers' Company in 1155.

Since the mid-20th century there have been no civil parishes in the City of London. A single civil parish was formed from 1907, but that was abolished in 1965. Earlier in 1870 there were around 115 civil city parishes!

There are over 100 Livery Companies, most of which are based on the old 'Guilds' or trade associations, although new ones continue to come into being. There are about 25,000 Liverymen.

A number of the present and past Club members have served as Masters of their Livery Companies, including the late Sir Murray Fox, Rodney FitzGerald, Sir Michael Savory, Sir David Wootton, Adrian Waddingham, John Taylor, Barry Davis and Sir William Russell. A number of current Club members are Liverymen, whilst others are Freemen of the City of London, a prerequisite for becoming a Liveryman.

The government of the Corporation of London is vested in the 'Court of Common Council'. The Court of Commoners comprises the Common Councilmen elected from each ward. The total has been reduced to 100 and two represent Bread Street Ward. The other body is the Court of Aldermen. which has 25 members (one per ward). One Alderman is elected by the voters for each ward and can serve for a period of 6 years after which he/she must resign or stand for re-election. The upper age limit is 70.

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 and even the Animal Reception Centre at Heathrow! Also, they retain the pageantry and historic places like Guildhall, part of the pageantry and fascination of the City.



Lord Mayor of the City of London

Each year, one Alderman is nominated by the Court of Aldermen to be the Lord Mayor of London for the year ensuing, such nominations having to be approved by the Livery of the various companies.

The day after their installation, he/she holds the Lord Mayor's Show (2nd Saturday in November). As well as representing the City to foreign dignitaries, hosting and attending many functions, receiving and entertaining Heads of State when they visit Britain and travelling widely at home and, at the behest of Government, overseas as an 'Ambassador' for the City and Britain, the lord mayor fulfils several other roles:

- Chairs the Court of Aldermen and the Common Council
- Heads the Commission of Lieutenancy of the City
- Chief Magistrate of the City
- Admiral of the Port of London
- Chancellor of the City University
- President of Gresham College
- Trustee of Saint Paul's Cathedral

Ceremonies and traditions



Coat of arms of the City of London.

The Latin motto reads Domine Dirige Nos, "Lord, guide us".

Stuart Fraser, in 2011 as the then corporation's deputy policy chairman wrote "it is undoubtedly the case that we have more tradition and pageantry than most, for example the yearly Lord Mayor's Show."

There are eight formal ceremonies involving the Corporation:

- 1. Midsummer Common Hall for the election of the two sheriffs (24 June or nearest weekday);
- 2. Admission of the sheriffs, their oath-taking (the nearest weekday to the Michaelmas date);
- 3. Michaelmas Common Hall for the election of the lord mayor (29 September or nearest weekday);
- 4. Admission of the lord mayor, the so-called "Silent Ceremony" (Friday before the Lord Mayor's Show);
- 5. Lord Mayor's Show; formally, "the Procession of the Lord Mayor for Presentation to the Lord Chief Justice and Queen's Remembrancer at the Royal Courts of Justice" (the Saturday after the second Friday in November);

- 6. The Ward Motes; elections in the City wards and general meeting of the ward in non-election years (normally the third Friday in March);
- 7. The Spital Sermon; literally a sermon given in the Guildhall church (St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall), delivered by a senior cleric on behalf of the Christ's Hospital and Bridewell Hospital (now King Edward's School, Witley) (a day in school term between March and May);
- 8. United Guilds Service in St Paul's Cathedral which involves all of the livery company masters, the lord mayor, sheriffs, the aldermen and high officers. This is the newest ceremony, having only been instituted in 1943.

There are many other important City positions including two Sheriffs (usually one alderman and one layman), and, as officers for the Lord Mayor, the Swordbearer, Common Cryer, Serjeant-at-Arms and the City Marshal. Other positions include four 'Ale Conners' and two 'Bridgemasters'!

To be elected as the lord mayor he/she must have served as a sheriff. The Club is proud to have had recent members serving as the lord mayor. The late Sir Murray Fox was in 1974 (647th), Sir Michael Savory in 2004 (677th), Sir David Wootton (Langbourn Ward) in 2011 (684th), the late Sir Roger Gifford (Cordwainer Ward) in 2012 (685th) and Sir William Russell in 2019 (692nd). During the Covid19 pandemic, Sir William Russell served for two consecutive years, the first lord mayor to do so since 1861.

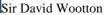
The late Alderman Sir Murray Fox was a sheriff in 1971, the late Rodney FitzGerald (CC from 1981) in 1983, John Taylor (CC from 1991) in 1990, the late Alderman Neil Young in 1991, Alderman Sir Michael Savory in 2001, the late Alderman Sir Roger Gifford in 2008, Alderman Sir David Wootton in 2009, Adrian Waddingham in 2013 and the current Alderman Sir William Russell in 2016.

Two club members who have served as Common Councilmen have been appointed as Chief Commoner in recent times. First was Terence Donnelly in 1991, sadly dying in office. Second was Tom Jackson (CC from 1978) in 2004 who died in 2015.





Sir RogerGifford







Adrian Waddingham

Rodney Fitzgerald





Sir Michael Savory

Sir William Russell

Those shown as 'Sir' are recent members of Bread Street Ward Club who have served as Lord Mayor. The others have only served as a Sheriff.

A list of the Aldermen of the ward over the centuries has been compiled and are subject of a separate file. There are likely some discrepancies in the records, so the list cannot be seen as definitive.

There are some years (1611, 1651, 1661, 1666, 1667) where there were clearly City troubles and many who served as Alderman were dismissed with significant fines of around £200 to £800, a not inconsiderable sum in the 17^{th} century! A closer look at this will prove an interesting project.

A report on historic Bread Street Ward 1603

From John Stow, A Survey of London, 2nd ed. (London, 1603)

BRedstreete ward beginneth in the high streete of west Cheape, to wit, on the south side, from the Standard to the great Crosse. Then is also a part of Watheling streete ofthis warde, to wit, from ouer against the Red Lion on the North side up almost to Powles gate, for it lacketh but one house of S. Augustines church. And on the south side from the red Lion gate to the Old Exchange, and downe the same Exchange on the East side, by the west end of Mayden lane, or Distar lane, to Knightriders streete, or as they call that part thereof, Old Fishstreet. And allt he north side of the said old Fishstreete to the South ende of Bredstreete, and by that still in Knightriders streete, till ouer against the Trinitie Church, and Trinitie lane. Then is Bredstreet it selfe, so called of bread in olde time there sold: for it appeareth by recordes, that in the yeare 1302. which was the 30. of E. first, the Bakers of London were bounden to sell no bread in their shops or houses, but in the market, and that they should haue 4. Hall motes in the yeare, at source several terms, to determine of enormities belonging to the said Company.

This streete giving the name to the whole warde, beginneth in west Chepe, almost by the Standarde, and runneth downe south, through or thwart Watheling street, to Knightriders street aforesaide where it endeth. This Bredstreet is wholy on both sides of this warde. Out of the which street on the East side is Basing lane, a peece whereof to wit, too and ouer against the backe gate of the Red Lion in Watheling streete, is of this Bredstreete ward.

Then is Fryday streete beginning also in west Cheape, and runneth downe South through Watheling street to Knightrider streete, or olde Fishstreet. This Friday streete is of Bredstreet ward, on the east side from ouer against the northeast corner of S. Mathewes church, and on the west side from the south corner of the said church, down as aforesaid.

In this Fryday streete on the west side thereof is a Lane, commonly called Mayden Lane, or Distaffe lane, corruptly for Distar lane, which runneth west into the old Exchange: and in this lane is also one other lane, on the south side thereof, likewise called Distar lane, which runneth downe to Knightriders street, or olde Fishstreete: and so be the boundes of this whole ward.

[—]Transcribed by Melanie Chernyk (Student Research Assistant) and Janelle Jenstad (general editor), 2004.

Bread Regulation over the years

1258. The Assize of Bread and Ale (Latin: Assisa panis et cervisiae) controlled the weight and quality of the bread and beer manufactured and sold in towns, villages and hamlets. It was the first law in British history to regulate the production and sale of food. At the local level, this resulted in regulatory licensing systems, with arbitrary recurring fees, and fines and punishments for lawbreakers.

The law was amended by the Bread Acts of 1822 and 1836, which stipulated that loaves should be sold by the pound, or multiple thereof, and finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1863.

<u>1302.</u> That year, during the reign of Edward 1, a decree was made that bakers' loaves must only be sold from stalls on Bread Street market. Short weight or inferior quality could create the risk of the baker being consigned to the pillory or drawn on a hurdle through the streets, the offending loaf tied round his neck. So, maybe the origin of 'The Baker's Dozen' – i.e.13!

<u>1437</u>. In Edward I's reign the City's bakers were ordered to sell their wares in Bread Street and nowhere else, but clearly the bakers were not without competitors because in Henry VI's reign, John Mitchell, Mayor in 1437, ordained:

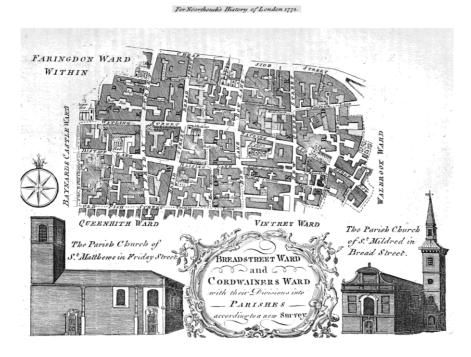
"That foreign bakers bringing foreign bread for sale shall stand at the following five places, and not elsewhere, viz., Billingesgate and Quenehithe with neighbouring vacant places, at Fletebridge between the gate of the common latrine and the outer gate of the prison of the Flete with intervening lane,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

<u>Livery</u>. The City Livery Companies were responsible for regulating their respective trades (the Worshipful Company of Bakers, for example, was concerned to ensure that the flour in the London loaf was not adulterated with sawdust, chalk or other contaminants), and this was, at least in theory, made easier by having all the practitioners of a particular trade operating in the same areas. In practice, however, this did not prevent all abuses.

<u>1773.</u> A New History of London Including Westminster and Southwark. Originally published by R Baldwin, London, 1773.

"that no bread shall be made for sale, but those distinguished by the names of white, wheaten, and household, or such other sorts as shall be publicly licensed and allowed by the before-mentioned magistrates of London and other places. All bakers were likewise to mark their loaves as the said magistrates should direct "

PS. It is a shame there is no evidence of the bread selling past in Bread Street today, or that one side of it is not even in Bread Street ward!



Bread Street ward in 1772

18th century - Bread Street Volunteers



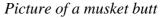
Bread Street Loyal Volunteer of London. Shoulder Arms (from advance 1st Motion.)

"At the word Arms the right hand flings the firelock a little upwards, & catches it by ye small of the Butt, the left hand the same instant siezes it a little under ye swell."

Reproduction Print from an aquatint drawn and etched by Thomas Rowlandson (1757-1827), for "LOYAL VOLUNTEERS, or London & Environs, Infantry & Cavalry, in their respective Uniforms. Representing the whole of the Manual, Platoon, & Funeral Exercise.." "This Illuminated School of Mars, or Review of the Loyal Volunteer Corps of London and its vicinity..", was originally published in London circa 1799 by Rudolf Ackermann.

In 18th and 19th centuries, The Volunteer Corps "in moments of alarm and of imminent dangers, readily and honourably stood forward, at their own expense, to assist the Civil Magistrates, and to preserve the tranquillity of the Great and commercial Emporium; and to defend the Property of their less qualified neighbours from the ruffian hands of interested depredators, and from the malicious schemes of disloyalty.

To guard those Laws from violation, that have so long withstood the test of time, the Genius of the Nation drew the Sword, and Justice gave her sanction: to follow the bold example was the first wish of the Associators.."





ORIGINAL BREAD STREET VOLUNTEERS in 13c

James Brown	1 Star Court Butchers Row	Shoemaker
William Summers	25 Fetter Lane	
Henry Prosser	25 Green Arbour Court Old Bailey	Shoemaker
George Taylor	Mrs. Browns Plough Street Whitechapel Sawyer	
Richard Hannet	205 Upper Thames Street	Labourer
Samuel Apps	9 Ellis Court Old Bailey	Shoemaker
Robert Wild	10 Grey Eagle Street Spitalfields	Cordwainer
James Ward	7 St.Peters Lane West Smithfield	
Anthony Bowson	22 Saffron Hill	Turner
Thomas Coram	15 Little Shire Lane Temple Bar I	Breeches Maker
William Leach	2 Cranborn Alley Leicester Fields	Cordwainer
George Rose	9 Vine Cour Spital Square	Cabinet Maker
Richard Griffin	6 Mile Bank Row Westminster	Hairdresser
John Edwards	16 Fashion Street Spitalfields	Tailor
Samuel Cantor	1 Corner of Featherstone Street Birdhill Cordwainer	
William Golding	3 Jolly Gardeners Upper Marsh Lambeth Sawyer	
Jonas Catchpole	22 or 24 Hollywell Mount	Labourer
William Borfo	22 Goswell Place Wa	tch Case Maker
William Dyer	21 Angel Alley Bishopsgate Street	Shoemaker
William Toffett	Coach and Horses Chelsea	Labourer
Zachariah Searle	12 St.George's Court White Street Borough Engraver	
Thomas Bocock	Artichoke Newington Causeway	Hairdresser
William Thissell	22 Stewards Rents Drury Lane	Stay Maker
Mark Brown	21 or 23 Hollywell Mount	Bedstead Maker

NB. Not one living in the ward!!!

A Who's Who of old Bread Street

1. John Milton

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 his christening in All Hallows, Bread Street in 1608.

His quadricentenary celebrations in 2008 saw a 'Blue Plaque' on Bread Street unveiled by the Lord Mayor, accompanied by Sir Michael Savory (see below). The passage from Bread Street into St Mary-le-Bow Churchyard is now named 'John Milton Passage'. There were many celebrations and lectures to mark this anniversary of a very special man. Under the 2013 boundary review, this area is all now in Cordwainer ward!

Milton was born in Bread Street on 9th December 1608 in his father's house at the sign of 'The Spread Eagle', the armorial ensign of the family. It stood on the east side at the corner of Bread Street and the north side of Watling Street. His father was a scrivener. As a child John 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. He became 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 many important churchmen and intellectuals including Galileo. His eyesight deteriorated from 1644 and he lost the sight in his left eye in 1648 and by 1652 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 during 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.

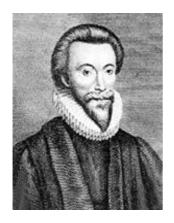






Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir David Lewis with Bread Street Alderman Sir Michael Savory and Beadle Angus Ross at the Milton plaque unveiling on 14th July 2008. Also, drawing of Milton's family house in Bread Street.

2. John Donne





Old print and the statue of Donne in a shroud in St Paul's

Born in Bread Street in 1572, Donne died in 1631 and was buried in the old St Paul's Cathedral. His monument, in a shroud, 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 was appointed Dean of St Paul's. He was an MP from 1601-14 for Brackley. An eloquent preacher, 160 of his sermons survive.

A new statue to John Donne was unveiled in the Jubilee Gardens next to St Paul's in 2012 and the Club's Committee were represented, the Club having contributed to the ongoing maintenance of this monument.



From press release in 15th June 2012

A statue of John Donne, one of England's foremost poets and priests, and a Dean of St Paul's, has been unveiled in the newly completed garden to the south of the cathedral. The bronze bust, by artist Nigel Boonham FRBS, points almost due west but shows Donne turning to face east towards his birthplace on Bread Street, just yards from the cathedral.

The directions of the compass were important to Donne in his metaphysical work: east is the Rising Sun, the Holy Land and Christ, while west is the place of decline and of death.

Underneath the bust is inscribed the Donne text: Hence is't, that I am carried towards the West, This day, when my Soul's form bends to the East

The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley, Treasurer of St Paul's, said: "Nigel Boonham's dignified bust of John Donne places the former Dean in the heart of the City that was so dear to him and very close to his places of birth, work and death. The memorial includes words from Donne's Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward, considered by some to be one of the finest devotional poems of the Renaissance period, and these poignantly interrogate the directions we take in life and the frightening tendency of human beings to end up living lives which conflict with their soul's understanding of what is true and good.

"To be challenged with these thoughts in an energetic, busy and too often anonymous City is timely. Our recent study event in St Paul's on Donne attracted over 1,600 people to attend and clearly showed how people continue to be drawn to his resonance as both poet and preacher. To have the pre-Fire statue of Donne in the cathedral and now a contemporary one outside displays his importance to both church and world in his own times and in ours today."

The new sculpture was commissioned by the City of London, led by Alderman Hall, who wanted to create the first fully public memorial to Donne. It was unveiled by the artist and Professor Peter McCullough, one of the cathedral's Lay Canons.

<u>3. Thomas Carpenter</u> lived in Friday Street and was a Haberdasher. On his death in 1731, he 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 were residents or employed in the ward of Bread Street.

The Trust from the Will of John Lane who died in 1690 and the Cordwainer and Bread Street Wards Foundation have now merged with the Thomas Carpenter Trust. It is now listed as 'The Thomas Carpenter Educational and Apprenticing Foundation'. The Trust's funds have grown considerably over the intervening years and the current Trustees continue to make educational grants to suitably qualified candidates each year. A number of the present Trustees come from the membership of the Bread Street Ward Club.

4. Justiciar Hugh Bygot 1258/9, "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 part of the punishment on the Ducking-Stool. Lord Warden of the cinque ports

5. 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 as his comptroller. He was an Alderman of the ward and Lord Mayor (1377 & 1383-86). He was seen by the citizens as one of the chief supporters among the citizens of Richard II. Although popular with his supporters, he was seen as a tyrant 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 overcome 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.

6. Thomas Wood was Sheriff of London and was responsible for the construction of Goldsmith's Row in Cheapside in the ward in 1491. A total of 10 houses and 14 shops four storeys high were built and Wood gave the shops to goldsmiths and silversmiths, helping start-ups for younger persons. The buildings' frontage included the Goldsmith's arms and the likeness of woodmen (in memory of his name!) cast in lead and gilded.

In 1594 <u>Sir Richard Martin</u>, also a Goldsmith had the frontage repainted and regilded when Lord Mayor; he later became the Bread Street Alderman from 1598 to 1602. The Row was destroyed in the 1666 Great Fire – see Pg58.

7. **Sir Walter Turke**, a Fishmonger was Lord Mayor in 1349 but not alderman for Bread Street ward. He had two shops in Old Fish Street by St Nicholas Cole Abbey Church where he was later buried.



8. Sir Richard Hoare, (1648 to 1719) founded C. Hoare & Co, the oldest extant bank in the UK, on 5 July 1672. This date also marks the foundation of C. Hoare & Co as a goldsmith's business at the sign of the Golden Bottle in Cheapside. He was Alderman for Bread Street Ward 1703-19, Sheriff in 1709 and Lord Mayor in 1712, being knighted by Queen Anne in 1702. He also became an MP from 1710-15. He married Susanna Austen and they had 17 children! One son was Henry Hoare who became a Partner in the bank in 1702. Together with his father, he became a commissioner for the building of 50 new churches in London in 1711. Following his father's death in 1719, he managed the bank through the South Sea Bubble of 1720, making a profit of over £28,000 from the crisis.

9. Percival Pott, 1714-88, lived in Watling Street and was a notable surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital. His name still has world-wide fame. The term 'Pott's Fracture' is commonly applied to a compound variety of a broken leg, something he suffered himself. "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."

<u>10. Percy Bysshe Shelley</u> (1792 to 1822) married Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin in St Mildred's Church in Bread Street on 30th December 1816.



Percy Bysshe Shelley

11. Arthur Phillip was born on the 11th of October 1738 in Bread Street and baptised in All Hallows, Bread Street Church one month later. He died near Bath in 1814 as Admiral Arthur Phillip, R.N. He was the Founder of Australia and first Governor of New South Wales 1788-1792, having led the First Fleet of convicts to Australia. The monument to him originally stood in the Church of All Hallows but is now set in Watling Street on the boundary wall of 25 Cannon Street, having from the 60's to 90's been on that site on Gateway House.

Originally a memorial to Phillip was to be found in St Mildred's Church. The parts that survived the Blitz were salvaged from the rubble and are now installed in St Mary-le-Bow church.

A fuller story of Arthur Phillip is available from the Club.





The responsibility for the Watling Street monument and the organisation of the annual commemorative service in St Mary-le-Bow lies with a charity, the 'Viscount Wakefield's Phillip Memorial Fund'. A number of the Club's members are Trustees.

The bust of Admiral Arthur Phillip, erected in its current location on 8th May 1968 has the Inscription below.

On the west side, beneath the relief depicting a scene with 5 people on a shore:

The discovery and fixing the site of Sydney on Wednesday, 23rd January, 1788.

Reading from left to right:

Surg. J. White, R.N.,

Capt. Arthur Phillip, R.N., founder,

Lieut. George Johnston, Marines A.D.C.,

Capt. John Hunter, R.N.,

and Capt. David Collins, Marines.

On the east side, beneath the relief depicting a ship and rowing boat:

The founding of Australia at Sydney on Saturday, 26th January, 1788.

Figures in rowing boat leaving H.M.S. Supply are:

Capt. Arthur Phillip, R.N.,

Lieut. P. Gidley King, R.N.,

and Lieut. George Johnston, Marines A.D.C.

On the stone below the bust:

In honour of Admiral Arthur Phillip R.N., Citizen of London, founder and first governor of Australia. Born in the ward of Bread Street 11th October 1738. Entered the Royal Navy 1753 and died 31st August 1814.

To his indomitable courage, prophetic vision, forbearance, faith, inspiration and wisdom was due the success of the first settlement in Australia at Sydney on Saturday 26th January 1788.

This memorial, originally erected at St Mildred's Church Bread Street, and unveiled by his late Royal Highness Prince George, KG, GCVO, RN on 7th December 1932, was presented by the late Charles Cheers, Baron Wakefield of Hythe CGE, LLD, Alderman of the ward of Bread Street, Lord Mayor of London 1915/16 to the citizens of London and the people of Australia as an enduring link between the motherland and the great island continent of Australia.

The church was destroyed by enemy action in 1941 but the bronze bust and plates were salvaged from its ruins.

This re-erected memorial was unveiled on May 8th 1968 by His Excellency the Honourable Sir Alexander Downer, KBE, High Commissioner for Australia and re-dedicated by the Right Reverend Francis Evered Junt, Bishop of Stepney.

Alderman of Bread Street ward: H Murray Fox, MA Common Councilmen: S.R. Walker, CBE, Deputy,

R.M. Simon MA, LLB,

G.D. Trentham,

R.N. Steiner, MA

C. McAuley,

O.S.R. Rawson

Ward Clerk: S.D. Plummer, OFC

12. William Lawrence (1789-1855) was born in Cornwall in 1789. In London, he became a builder in Lambeth, Hoxton and at 30 Bread Street from 1823. He became Chairman of the Legal and Commercial Fire and Life Assurance Company and from 1832 a Bread Street ward Common Councillor. Later he became the ward's Alderman from 1848 to his death.

He was Sheriff from 1849-50. He was on the Tower Hamlets Commission of Sewers and Holborn and Finsbury Commission of Sewers, the Executive of the Commons Preservation Society 1869-1886 and a Council member of the London Chamber of Commerce.

Of his sons, the first was **Sir William Lawrence** (1818-1897) (see below) and the second **Sir James Clarke Lawrence** (1821-1897), both became Lord Mayors. The seventh son became **Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence** (1837-1914), a British lawyer and Member of Parliament. Quite a dynasty!

13. Sir William Lawrence (1818-1897) was City born and bred. He grew up with the family building business in Bread Street. He was elected as Alderman for the ward on his father's death in 1855 and served until 1895. He was Sheriff 1857-58, Lord Mayor 1863-64 and was knighted in 1887.

He served as a Magistrate for Middlesex and the City of Westminster, and a Commissioner of Lieutenancy for London. He was also a Governor of the Royal Hospitals, Master of the Carpenters' 1856-57 and Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' in 1874-75. As a Liberal MP, he sat for the City between 1865 and 1874, returning from 1880 to 1885.



Bread Street Ward Mace.

The names of William and Sir William are inscribed, with dates, on the mace as those who last refurbished it. The mace today is how they had it regilded!

See Pgs 8/9.

Sir William Lawrence

14. Sir Sydney Waterlow (1822-1906) was a businessman and philanthropist. After he was apprenticed at the age of 21 to his uncle Thomas Harrison, a government printer, and he went to Paris to extend his knowledge of printing under the charge of the publishers Messieurs Galignani's. The Waterlow family, of French descent, had started a stationer's business in Birchin Lane in 1811, and on his return to London in 1844, Sydney moved the firm to London Wall where the company employed around 2,000 people. The firm has grown rapidly and, specialising in the printing of confidential government papers, had become highly profitable. It was the first to print the Banker's Magazine. He was Vice-Chairman of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway from 1874-99 and a Director of the Union Bank of London and a member of the London Chamber of Commerce.

He was a Common Councilman for Bread Street ward from 1857 (he was particularly noted for the introduction of overhead telegraphic communications between police stations). In 1863, he was asked to stand as the Alderman for the Langbourn ward. He became Sheriff in 1866 and Lord Mayor in 1872.





Portrait of Sydney Waterlow and caricature

15. Charles Cheers Wakefield CVO, CBE, 1st Viscount Wakefield (1859-1941). He patented the Wakefield lubricator for steam engines in the 1890s and in 1899 founded the Wakefield Oil Company, later named Castrol. Castrol was so named because castor oil was added to their lubricating oils. The Castrol lubricants were used in motor cars, motorcycles and aircraft.

Wakefield was a Bread Street Common Councilman from 1904 to 1908 and the ward Alderman from 1908 to 1941. He was a Sheriff in 1907 and Lord Mayor in 1915. He had received a Knighthood in 1908 for services to the City of London. He was involved with a huge number of City institutions and charities, serving at various times as Master of four Companies. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Wakefield, of Hythe in the County of Kent, in 1930, and then in 1934 became Viscount Wakefield, of Hythe.

He was President of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, and a governor of St Thomas's and Bart's Hospitals. He was a co-founder of the Wakefield Trust, along with his friend the Rev'd "Tubby" Clayton, the Trust better known as the 'Toc H' charity. The HQ of this is at 41 Trinity Square. Two plaques mounted on the wall feature the bust of Viscount Wakefield with what looks to be an oil lamp above his head and the second containing an inscription "Viscount Wakefield of Hythe who with his wife led Tower Hill restoration and gave this house for good to Church and people MCMXXXVII".





16. Sir Henry Murray Fox GBE,MA, DLitt, FRICS (1912-1999), always referred to as Murray, was the founder of the modern Bread Street Ward Club in 1967. He was a Common Councilman for Cripplegate Within from 1961-66, Alderman for Bread Street from 1966 to 1982, Sheriff 1971 and Lord Mayor in 1974 after which he was made a GBE.

He had been Master of the Wheelright's Company in 1964 and a Liveryman of the Chartered Surveyors, a new company that he helped form, being a Surveyor himself. He was a very enthusiastic and a much-loved supporter of the ward club. In the Pickwick Club, he was Mr Pickwick himself!

His father Sydney Fox was a Bread Street Common Councilman from 1941 to 1962, Sheriff in 1952 and knighted in 1953.





Sir Murray Fox

17. Sir Michael Savory Kt, DSc was born in 1943 in Ayr and grew up in Norfolk and Africa. He was educated at Harrow. He joined Foster & Brathwaite, stockbrokers and became joint senior partner in 1975. When the firm was bought out, he joined Midland Bank, ending as chairman of HSBC Stockbroker Services and retiring in 2005.

He was elected a Common Councilman for Broad Street ward in 1980 and Alderman for Bread Street ward in 1996. He became a Sheriff in 2001 and Lord Mayor in 2004 after which he was knighted in 2006. He was Master of the Poulters' Company in 1996 and the Clockmakers' Company in 1997. In 2006 he became Chief Exec of Young Enterprise UK. He served on the Executive Council of SSAFA for over 30 years and was involved in many charitable causes. Since 1988 he has run his collection of military vehicles and other military items which comprise the Muckleburgh Collection on the north Norfolk coast, a site including Weybourne airfield and where many offshore wind farms' cables come ashore.

His great great uncle was Sir Joseph Savory, born 100 years before Sir Michael and who was Lord Mayor in 1891.



Sir Michael Savory

18. Sir William Russell Kt was born in 1965. After Eton College and Durham University he worked at First Boston Corporation before joining Merrill Lynch from 1992 to 2006, rising to be MD of US sales to Europe. Four of his ancestors have been Lord Mayor, most recently his grandfather Sir Ian Bowater in 1969/70. He was elected Alderman for Bread Street ward in 2013 and served as Sheriff in 2016/7 before being elected as the 692nd Lord Mayor in 2019. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, he had to conduct his 'visits' on video online calls, so arguably reaching more people than in a conventional year. He served for a second year to provide continuity of leadership in that difficult time. The last Lord Mayor to serve two terms was William Cubitt in 1861. His main Livery Company is the Haberdashers, but he is also a Feltmaker and an honorary Pavior. He is a currently on the Advisory Board of Innovate Finance which is an independent not-for-profit membership organisation serving the global FinTech community.



Sir William Russell at the Mansion House

19. Sir Frederick Prat Alliston (1832-1912) was a Cordwainer and member of the Masons' Company. He represented Bread Street as a Common Councilman from 1878 to 1895, and as Alderman from 1895 to 1908 and a Sheriff in 1998. His main interests were the fate of the City's markets. He was a member of St. John's Evangelist and Chairman of the Central Unemployed Body of London. He was also a poor law Guardian. In 1887 he was Deputy Governor of the Irish Society, a member of the London County Council for the City from 1901 and Deputy Chairman in 1904. He was discharged from the Aldermanic Court in 1908 suffering from poor health and increasing deafness. He awarded a Knighthood in that year!

20. Joseph Henry White (1876-1941) was a Common Councilman for Bread Street ward from 1912-41. He was elected Alderman for the ward that year but sadly died shortly after.

21. Sir Frederick Michael Wells Bt (1884-1966) was a Common Councilman for the ward from 1939 to 1941 and elected as the ward Alderman on the death of Joseph White. He served as Sheriff in 1945 and Lord Mayor in 1947, attending the London Olympic Games that year, after which he was knighted (First Baronet of Hove).







Portrait

22. Neil Young MA, FCA (1933-2021) was elected as the ward's Alderman in 1982, serving as Sheriff in 1991. He stood down in 1994 after not receiving full support of the Court of Aldermen to be put forward as Lord Mayor.

The buildings, ancient and modern – First, the churches

Bread Street Ward once included the parishes of St. John the Evangelist, All Hallows Bread Street, St. Margaret Moses and parts of the parishes of St. Mildred, St. Matthew Friday Street, St. Augustine Old Change and St. Nicholas Cole Abbey. The principal building was the church of St. Mildred Bread Street and by the Second World War, only St Mildred's remained.

1. All Hallows, Bread Street once stood on the east side of Bread Street. It was burned down in the Great Fire in 1666 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 from which one of them was wounded. Both were imprisoned and made to walk barefoot in penance from St Paul's through the City. It had a rectory and a 'peculiar' belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, conveyed to him in 1365 by the prior and chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, in return for favours conferred on them. It was an ancient foundation which gave Walter de Sonnebres the rectory of this church in 1284, presented by the prior and chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury.

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

It once contained many monuments including to Aldermen Thomas Beamont and Richard Reade, Sheriffs Henry Sucley 1541 and Robert House 1589 and three Salters who became Lord Mayor, Robert Basset 1476, Sir Richard Chaury 1509 and Sir Thomas Pargitar 1530.

2. St Margaret Moyses was situated on the east side of Friday Street on corner with Cannon Street. Robert Fitzwalter gave the patronage of the church to the Priory of St Faith in Norfolk in 1105. It weas not rebuilt after 1666 adb the apprish united with St Mildred. Part of the site was sold to the City fro the widening of Pissing Alley – later Little Friday Street. Eventually the rest of the site was lost to widening of Cannon Street in 1830.



3. St Matthew was situated on Friday Street and first mentioned in 1261. Its rector in 1636, Henry Burton, was placed in a pillory and had his ears cut off for preaching that William Laud's church ritual changes brought the Church of England closer to popery, accusing the bishops of being 'caterpillars not pillars of the church. It was destroyed in 1666 and rebuilt by Wren between 1682-5 at a cost of £2,309. Wren received a gratuity of £3s 8p. It was alleged to be the smallest and cheapest of the Wren churches. Its parish after the fire was combined with St Peter, Westcheap and had one of the highest densities in the City as evidenced by the Hearth Tax returns of 1692.

In Victorian times with the population move out of London, it became redundant and was demolished in 1885. The parish was joined onto St Vedast, the site sold for £22,005 which was used to build St Thomas Finsbury Park. The reredos is now in the hall of Polesden Lacey in Surrey. The site of the church was in the courtyard of the 1950's New Change building.

4. St John the Evangelist stood on the east side of Friday Street next to Watling Street. In 1349 it was referred to as St John the Evangelist and St Wereburga (otherwise Werburge, Werbridge and Ethelburga which possibly was the original name but then dedicated to St John in 13th century).

It was the only City parish that did not register a single death during the 1665/6 Great Plague. It was burnt down in 1666, (the parish afterwards united to All Hallows). The rectory was founded about the same time as Allhallows and was in the gift of the prior and chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, until they conveyed it, with the church, to the Archbishop of Canterbury (becoming a 'peculiar').

5. St Mildred's, Bread Street, was destroyed by bombing in 1941.



In 1941

It was named after Mildred, the 7th century Saxon 'Saint Mildred the Virgin', abbess of a monastery on the Isle of Thanet and daughter to Merewald, subking of the West Mercians. Founded about 1300 by Lord Trenchant of St Albans, it was an aisled building with a clerestory. It had neither vestry room nor church yard till 1428, when Sir John Shadworth (Lord Mayor 1401??), bequeathed a vestry and churchyard to the parishioners and a parsonage house to the rector. Sir John Hawlen rebuilt the parsonage after it burned down in 1485.

It was destroyed in the Great Fire and rebuilt to Wren's designs in 1683 at a cost of £3,705 13s 6d. It was united with the parish of St. Margaret Moses. The front was built of stone and the other parts of brick. The roof was covered with lead, and the floor paved with Purbeck stone. Inside was a wainscot gallery at the west end, and the pulpit was enriched and the altarpiece handsomely adorned. The communion table stood upon a foot-piece of black and white marble. Shelley the poet was married there (see Pg 30).

The ruins of St Mildred's Church was one of the last remaining bombsites of the City surviving into the 1960'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. The bell is now in St Mary-le-Bow church.

The memorial to Admiral Arthur Phillip (see Pgs 31-33) was rescued from the church after the Second World War. It is now installed in St Mary-le-Bow church where an annual service of remembrance to Phillip is held.



St Mildred's Church in 1825



In earlier days!

5. St Augustine, Watling Street

First recorded around 1148, the church was later donated land for its enlargement by Alexander le Cordwainer in around 1253. It was destroyed in the 1666 and rebuilt to Wren's design and opened in 1683 with the steeple completed in 1695 and the parish then being united with St Faith's.

It was then destroyed by bombing in 1941 but not rebuilt However, the tower was restored in 1954 and incorporated into the new St Paul's Cathedral choir school whose buildings were completed in 1967 (Picture Pg 52). In 1950 the site was designated a Grade 1 listed building. More recently the area came into the ward from Farringdon Within.

6. St Nicholas Cole Abbey



St Nicholas Cole Abbey

The church is in Queen Victoria Street in the current ward and was first mentioned by Pope Lucius II 1144. It was probably originally built around 1130, repaired and extended in 1377, when the tower was added, and further modified in 1628, when battlements were added to the tower. The church was destroyed in the Great Fire and then rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren 1671-81 at a cost of £5,042 6s 11d, being the first church of the fifty-one to be rebuilt. It was modified in 1873, and again in 1928-31, but then gutted by bombing in 1941 only to be rebuilt yet again in 1961-62 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 children and fishermen and of those wrongly condemned. "Cole Abbey" is derived from "coldharbour" a medieval word for a traveler's shelter or shelter from the cold. It is a Grade 1 Listed Building.

In 2014 the building re-opened as the home of the St Nicholas Cole Abbey Centre for Workplace Ministry and a supporting cafe known as The Wren.

From the 1873 Ordnance Survey map of the St Paul's area

The building or site of ruin of seven churches were shown.

- 1. St Augustine's Church Corner 'Old Change' & 'Watling Street' plus Rectory, Church 'Sittings' for 500.
- <u>2. St Matthew's Church</u> Corner 'Friday Street' & 'Church Court' plus Rectory, Church 'Sittings' for 250.
- 3. Allhallows's Church SE Corner 'Bread Street' & 'Watling Street' plus Rectory, Church 'Sittings' for 350.
- <u>4. St Mildred's Church</u> Corner Bread Street and Cannon Street plus Rectory, Church 'Sittings' for 150.
- <u>5. St Nicholas's Church</u> Between Old Fish Street and Queen Victoria Street plus Rectory, Church 'Sittings' for 350
- 6. Site of <u>St John's Evangelist's Church</u> SE Corner 'Watling Street' & 'Friday Street'
- 7. Site of <u>St Margaret Moses Church</u> SE Corner 'Friday Street' & 'Cannon Street'

It is interesting to note the seating available in a church for 1,350 people in one small ward! Also, that other than the surviving St Nicholas Cole Abbey, the last to survive was St Mildred's which could seat the smallest congregation!

And now other buildings in the ward

1. Temple Bar was the historic entry to the City of London from Westminster. Badly damaged in 1666 by the Great Fire, it was rebuilt. 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 reerected the arch as a gateway at his house, Theobalds Park in Hertfordshire. It remained there until 2003.

In 1984, it was purchased by the Temple Bar Trust from the Meux Trust. 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. 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, the ward is fortunate to have this one.

The official opening of Temple Bar in its current position was on 10th November 2004, the ceremony being conducted by the then Lord Mayor, Sir Robert Finch. Sir Michael Savory was present, having been very involved with the Temple Bar Trust initiative to bring the Bar back to the City.

Within the building there is what must be the smallest city Livery Hall, occupied by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects. This is now the only Livery Hall in the Ward, but a welcome addition. The Club is liasing with the Architects' Company to find ways to work together.



Pre-1878 the Temple Bar in Fleet Street

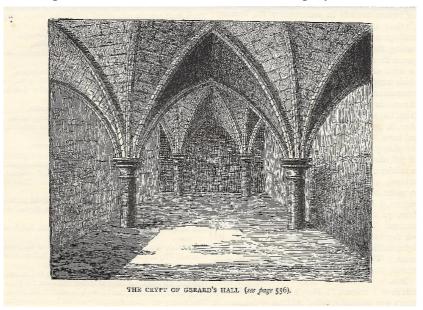


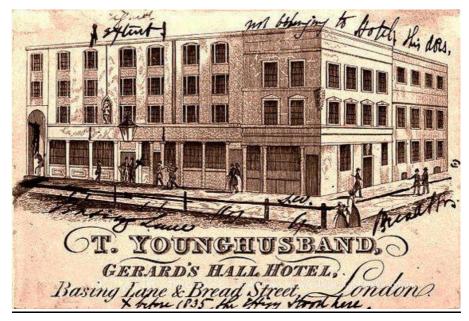
New position next to St Paul's

2. Gerard's Hall Inn stood in Basing Lane. In 1850 it was reported in Peter Cunninghams's 'Hand-Book of London' as having a 'good coffee-room, a ball-room, good wines, beds for seventy-eight, and a Norman crypt. The landlord and landlady are proud of the antiquity of their hall and are very liberal in allowing it to be seen.'

Tradition has handed down a story that this was the residence of one Gerard a giant. They used to be a ceiling high fir pole in the hall allegedly the staff he used in the wars.

Stow furnishes the most probable history of this old building. According to him it is erected on the remains of a mansion house of the ancient family of Gisors, some of whom for several generations served the chief offices in the magistracy of this city: it was in those days called Gisor's Hall. John Gisor, Lord Mayor of London in 1245, was owner of it in then, and by descent it came to another John Gisor, also Lord Mayor in 1386. So, Gerard's Hall can be seen as a corruption of Gisor's hall. The old arched vault under this house supported by sixteen pillars were curious remains of its antiquity.





A later use of the site in the early 19c

3. St Paul's Choir School site is now all in the ward, ensuring our link with 'The Children of Bread Street Ward' which is the school's junior choir who add colour to the Ward Club's annual carol service each year.

There has been a song school associated with St Paul's Cathedral since its foundation in 604. The Choir School for boy choristers dates from about 1123, when 8 boys in need of alms were provided with a home and education in return for singing the Cathedral Offices. Gradually two schools emerged, the Choir School and the Grammar School. For many years they co-existed, the choristers graduating to the grammar school, until the latter was refounded by Dean Colet in 1511 and became St Paul's School, since 1884 moved to Barnes with only a tenuous connection with the Cathedral. The excellence of the choir is clear from 54 records released since the 50's.

In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries the school was more famous for its acting than its singing. The Children of St Paul's had their own

resident playwrights, performed regularly at Greenwich Palace before Queen Elizabeth I and incurred the wrath of Shakespeare and his professional company just over the river. (In Hamlet he rails against the company of 'little eyases' who are roundly applauded for their histrionic efforts). After the Restoration, the choristers enjoyed a somewhat chequered history, but a vigorous campaign by the redoubtable Maria Hackett lasting some sixty years led to the re-establishment of a purpose-built school in Carter Lane to the south-west of the Cathedral in 1874. There it remained until the 1968, when, under threat of demolition due to a road-widening scheme, it moved to its present site in New Change.

Recent excavations for new build within the school has discovered historic remnants which included 27 full skeletons, most of which post-dated the rebuilding of the church after the Great Fire. It sadly included a family group of mother, baby and young child. Underneath traces of the layout of the medieval church were found and under that again were found some Roman Floor tiles. In one of the pits 3 strata of identifiable burning were found, one the Great Fire but then one before which was an earlier great fire (maybe 11th or 12th century) and a further earlier fire even before that.

Sadly, although our ward encircles St Paul's Churchyard, neither the Cathedral nor its Churchyard is in our ward, despite many strenuous efforts!







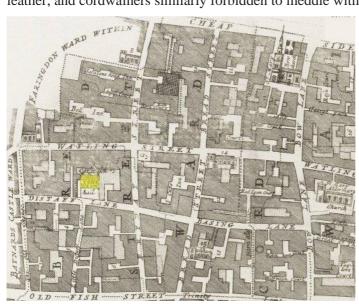
St Paul's & the St Augustine Church tower next to the choir school

4. Five Livery Companies had halls or land or involvement in the Ward.

a. Sadly, no halls remain other than the recent very welcome development to have the room above Temple Bar as the Livery Hall for the **Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects**, founded in 1985 (see Pg 47).

b. The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, shoemakers by trade, are so called because of their use of the leather of Cordoba. They are commemorated by a blue plaque in the St Paul's Cathedral gardens. The 6th and last hall was built in 1909/10 but gutted in the blitz on 10th May 1941. Cordwainer Hall stood on the north side of Great Distaff Lane. This was a handsome brick building. In the principal room hung two good pictures of King William III and Queen Mary.

Historically, cobblers and cordwainers formed separate guilds, and the cobblers were forbidden by the Mayor in 1395 from working in new leather, and cordwainers similarly forbidden to meddle with old shoes.



A map of part of part of the Bread Street Ward of London (c.1720) showing the location of the Cordwainer's Hall (indicated in yellow).





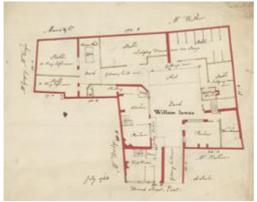


The last Cordwainer Hall in the ward

An the earlier Cordwainer Hall

c. <u>The Worshipful Company of Salters.</u> Salt was in demand by the nearby fishmongers who used the Church of All Hallows in Bread Street as their place of worship and central meeting place for business and entertainment. In 1454 they were bequeathed a plot of land by Alderman Thomas Beamond on which was constructed a building named 'Saltershalle'. This hall burnt down twice in the 16th century and finally in 1641 a new site was found. The site ownership was retained to this day by the Salters on the junction of Bread Street and Watling Street, more recently the site of Fidelity where for a few years Bread Street Wardmotes were held until they moved across the road.

d. The Worshipful Company of Mercers amassed great wealth and in the 18th century began to buy property in the City which was then leased to tenants. Records of 1766 show the plans of their site in Bread Street.



Mercer's lettings

e. The Worshipful Company of Bakers. See pages 19/20.

<u>5. The Mermaid Tavern</u> in Cheapside was frequented by Ben Jonson and just possibly by Shakespeare. It had a side entrance in Bread Street. 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 more probably a maypole, but just possibly associated with Gisors Hall (see Pg 49).

6. Goldsmith's Row was on the south side of Cheapside, by Cheapside Cross and between Bread Street and Friday Street, 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".

The shops and homes of other wealthy merchants made the street an elite and attractive one. Stow claims that there were ten houses and fourteen shops in Goldsmith's Row, and that they were easily the most beautiful in London.

- 7. The Three Cups Inn was in Bread Street. As well as providing food, drink and accommodation, it was a hub for transport and goods into and out of the City (also see Pg 74). It was on the south-west part of the Bread Street and Watling Street junction, north of what is recorded as Pissing Alley. It is mentioned from the 14th to 19th century and was rebuilt after a fire destroyed it in 1791. The metropolitan Improvement Act of 1861 funded the creation of Queen Victoria Street which ran through the pub site. At the same period, inns that supported carriers became less necessary as the railways took over as the main means to transport people and goods.
- **8. Friday Street** was part of the domain of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, responsible for ensuring that all the fish on sale here was either fresh, or properly salted or smoked. Fish in those days, as now, was much in demand on Fridays. Whilst Cheapside itself was clearly a thoroughfare, streets such as Bread Street and Friday Street are unlikely to have been navigable by horses or wheeled transport during market hours, being filled with market stalls together with their owners and customers.
- **9. 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 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 later reference, so it was presumably demolished.
- 10. The Bank of England's elegant post-war 1950's annex 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 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. Latterly it was occupied by the law firm Allen & Overy

before they moved to Spitalfields and the building was demolished in 2007, dramatically changing the landscape of Bread Street itself.

11. Number 1 New Change replaced the above Bank of England annex building. Definitely more controversial, this Jean Nouvel designed 8-story building comprises 52k sq m of space with 40% as retail and 60% offices. It was opened in October 2010 and added significantly to the already increasing retail offering around the City, which only really became widespread in the 1990s. The retail part has around 60 shops and restaurants, including the roof terrace restaurant with views over St Pauls.

From the Prince of Wales' alleged view that the Luftwaffe did less damage to London than modern architects, to views the building looks like a 'stealth bomber', it is a startling building when first seen, sheathed in 4,300 panels of opaque brown glass. To some it represents the future, to others an uncomfortable neighbour to St Pauls. Everyone must decide for themselves!



Side of No 1 New Change

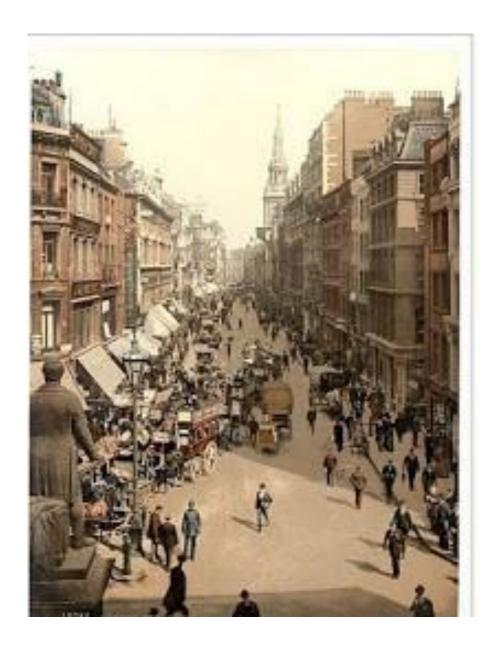


The now demolished New Change



Bank of England Court of Directors 1903

12. Cheapside or Westcheap as it was known in earlier days, is the former site of one of the principal produce markets in London, 'cheap' broadly meaning 'market' in medieval English. Many of the streets feeding into the main thoroughfare are named after the produce that was once sold in those including Honey Lane, Milk Street, Bread the market, Street and Poultry. It has been a medieval procession route and one of the main thorough fares through the City since the Roman period which has been confirmed from various archaeological excavations in recent years. The western end, partially in the ward, between Old Change and Bread Street was a main trading area including Goldsmiths' Row built in 1491 with a fourstorey timber-framed structure of 10 dwellings and 14 shops. This existed until the 1620s when rising rents and other market factors caused the move. However, the Goldsmiths' Company retained ownership of the land. After 1666, reconstruction led to the area becoming one of the most densely populated areas of the City.



Cheapside in the earlier 20th Century - St Mary-le-Bow on the right



Cheapside before the Second World War with Bread Street seen on right

13. Paternoster Square is an area redeveloped twice since the 1940'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 which was then demolished in 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 city street lines and more to complement St Paul's.

The London Stock Exchange building is at No 10. It started as the Royal Exchange, built on the model of the Antwerp Bourse, and opened by Elizabeth I in 1571. It is alleged that during the 17th century, stockbrokers were not allowed in the Royal Exchange due to their rude manners and operated from other establishments in the vicinity in various coffee houses. At that time, public auctions were timed to the burn of a length of tallow candle - "by inch of candle" auctions.

After Gresham's Royal Exchange building was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, it was rebuilt and re-established in 1669 as a more modern model of a stock exchange. Then, by an Act in 1697 heavy penalties, both financial and physical, could be levied on those brokering (initially only 100) without a licence. This limit led to some traders leaving the Royal Exchange to deal in City streets - 'Exchange Alley', or 'Change Alley' close to the Bank of England. From the 1760's, around 150 brokers formed a club and opened a new and more formal "Stock Exchange" in Sweeting's Alley.

The biggest event of the 1980s was the sudden de-regulation of the financial markets in the UK in 1986. The phrase "Big Bang" was coined to describe measures, including abolition of fixed commission charges and of the distinction between stockjobbers and stockbrokers on the London Stock Exchange, as well as the change from an open outcry to electronic, screen-based trading. This caused the old Stock Exchange Tower to become largely redundant. Stock Exchange's use of computerised systems and dealing rooms replaced face-to-face trading and in 2004, London Stock Exchange moved to its brand-new headquarters at No 10 Paternoster Square.



"Which way to London Bridge?"



The Stock Exchange building seen on the right



Looking in from by Stock Exchange

14. The Firefighters' Memorial lies on the edge of the Ward just south of St Paul's at the junction of Carter Street and is visible from the new Millennium Bridge. It is 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.



The Firefighters' Memorial

15. City Information Centre opposite St Pauls was rebuilt a few years ago and was winner of a 2009 RIBA 'Award for Architectural Excellence'. It provides an up-to-date centre currently only open Fridays and Saturdays. It has information on places of interest and events, as well as providing services selling Oyster cards, event tickets and money exchange.



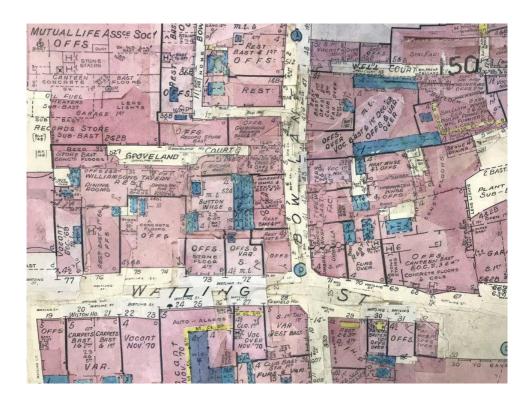
City Information Centre

16. The new <u>Jubilee Gardens</u> have been formed on the old coach park site next to St Paul's. The fountain was found hidden and sited opposite the gardens.

The bust to John Donne (see pages 26/7) was erected in these Gardens.

The remains of St Augustine Watling Street (see Page 44) and the St Paul's Cathedral School (see pages 50-52) adjoin the gardens.

17. Local Traders. An example of who was trading in and around Watling Street and Bow Lane in 1940. (see also Pages 67-71).



18. Resident Shops and Offices in 1873

In 1873, on Cheapside, just between Friday Street and St Mary-le-Bow Church, was a Jeweller, Hosier, Cutler, Tailor, Goldsmith, Glove Maker, Hat Maker, Winer Merchant, Actuary, India Rubber Manufacturer, Hosier, Musical Instrument Maker, Dining Rooms, Warehousemen, Pastrycook, Engraver, Solicitor, Sewed Muslin Manufacturer, Goldsmith, Jeweller, Silversmith, Dining Rooms and the London Stereoscopic Company.

Some of the earlier traders in or close to the ward













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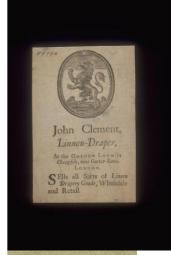
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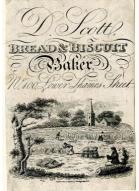
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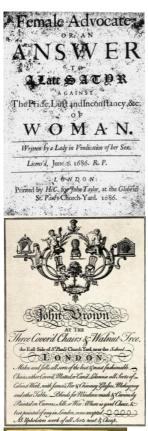
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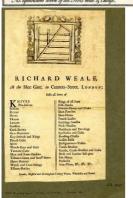
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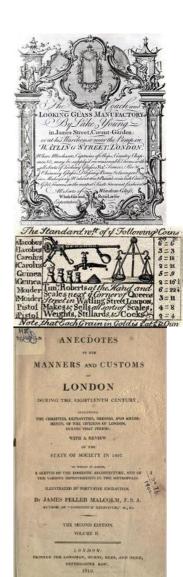


























A variety of trade cards for companies in or close to the ward



A mid-17th century token issued by a tradesman operating from the sign of the Death's Head in Distaff Lane, London.

The above copper farthing token measures 16.2 mm and weighs 1.02 grams. It was issued by a tradesman from the Bread Street Ward of London in the mid-17th century. Its design may be formally described as;

 $\mbox{\bf Obverse:}$ (mullet) AT . THE . DEATHES . HEAD , around the depiction of a human skull.

Reverse: (mullet) IN . DISTAF . LANE . 1652 , around a twisted wire inner circle. A triad of initials within reads, R|.M.|(rosette)D .

The token's issue date of 1652 is clearly stated in its reverse along with a triad of initials which belong to its issuer and his wife. In this case a Mr. R.M. and a Mrs. D.M. What is also clear is that the token issuer's business premises were located on Distaff Lane in Bread Street Ward. This street crossed the parishes of St. Mildred's, Bread Street and St. Margaret Moses, Friday Street and was home, on its north side, to the hall of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers.

One of the old businesses of Bread Street



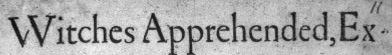
In the mid-19th century, much of the Bread Street area was occupied by companies involved in textiles and allied trades.

One such company, <u>W Williams & Son (Bread Street) Ltd</u>, 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 there remained until the 2nd 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 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 northwest London, returning before the end of the war to Aldersgate Street.

Travel in times past!

Cheap, Safe, and Expeditious Travelling,
From Gerrard's Hall, Basing-Lane, Bread-Street, Cheapside.
SINGLE-BODIED COACH, (On a patent Construction, peculiarly calculated for the Security of Travellers) To Bath, through Marlborough, Devizes, and Metkshem, Every Afternoon (except Sunday) at One o'Clock, and arrives at the Christopher-Inn, Market-Place, Bath, next Moraing at Nine o'Clock: Inside Fare to Bath £1 6 0 Outside Ditto £0 16 0 A SINGLE-BODIED COACH (On the same Construction) To Exeter and Plymonth-Dock, through Cross, Bridgewater, Taunton, Wellington, Sampford-Peverell, and Tiverton, Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Aftensions, at One o'Clock: FARE INSIDE To Bridgewater 2 2 0 To Taunton 2 5 0 To Wellington 2 7 0 To Sampford-Peverell, 2 10 0 To Sampford-Peverell, 2 10 0 To Sampford-Peverell, 2 10 0
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To Plymouth and Dock 3 8 0 To Plymouth and Dock 2 0 6
A SINGLE BODIED COACH
(On the same Construction) Exeter and Plymouth-Dock, through Bridgewater, Taunton, Wellington and Collumpton,
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[GYE & SON, PRINTERS, RATH.] Performed by E. FROMONI.



amined and Executed, for notable villanies by them committed both by Land and Water.

With a strange and most true triall how to know whether a woman be a Witch or not.



Printed at London for Edward Marchant, and are too be fold at his shop ouer against the Crosse in Pauls Church-yard 1613.

Wellcome Images

Lastly a more bizarre activity near St Pauls in 1613!

World War Two effects

It is a sad fact that the whole of the ward's area was virtually flattened by the bombing during the Second World War. Many of the post-war buildings have themselves been, or are planned to be, demolished and new buildings erected such as No 1 New Change and Bow Bells House.





St Paul's area in 1945





Watling Street 1940 and Fire HQ



Post WW2 - St Pauls in blitz from east



Compilers

This article was originally researched and compiled in 1982 by J Derriman and C M G Durston, both past Chairmen of the Ward Club. It has been frequently revised and updated since 2001 by Angus Ross and Michael Evans, also both past Chairmen of the Ward Club and respectively the past Ward Beadle and the current Honorary Ward Clerk. Research on Milton was undertaken in 2006 by ward club 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".

Also, various pictures and quotes taken from the Internet, Wikipedia and Pinterest which should not be copied.

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