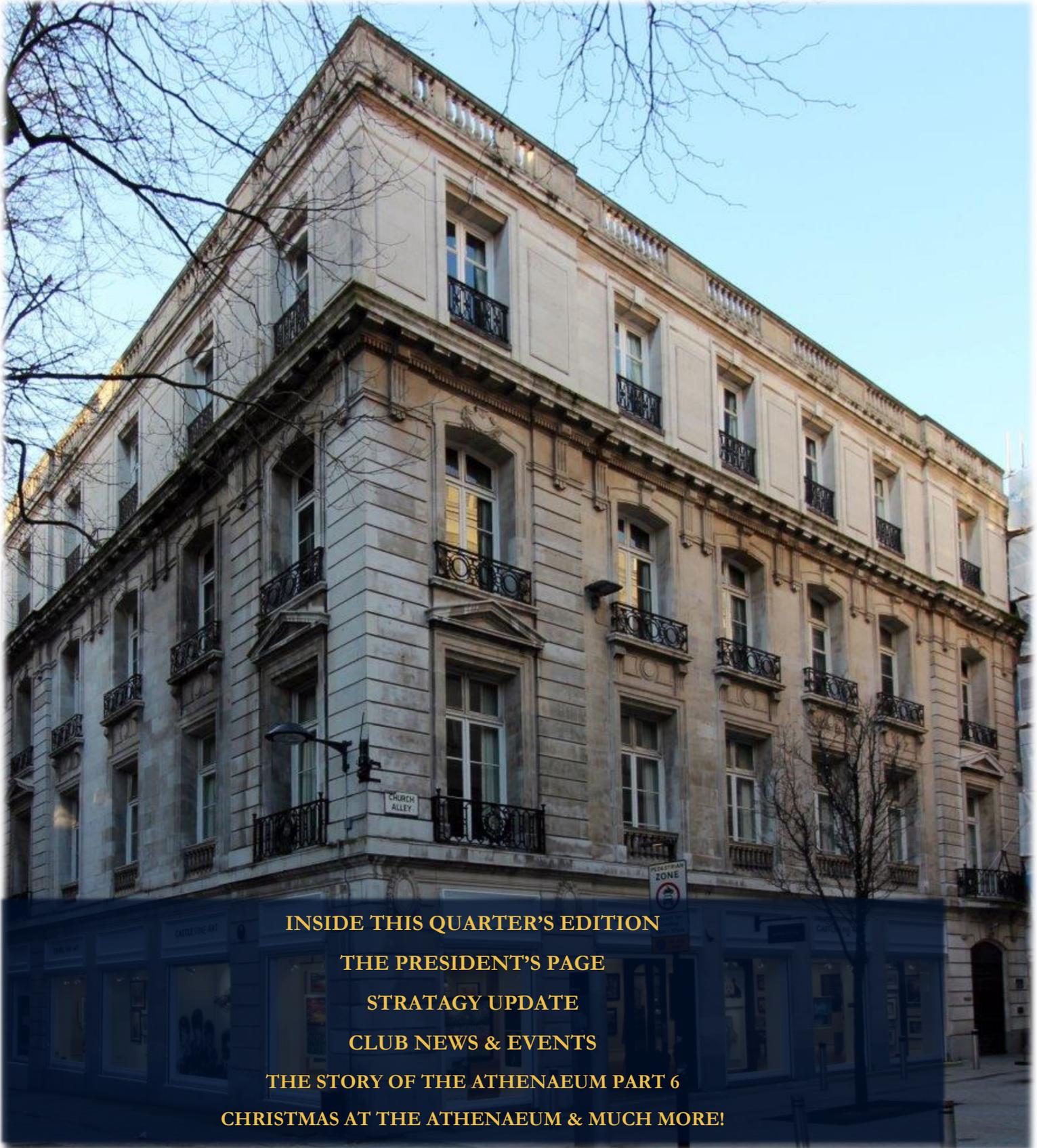

THE A·T·H·E·N·A·E·U·M



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CHRISTMAS AT THE ATHENAEUM & MUCH MORE!

The Bulletin Board



Remembering David

David Gee

29.03.1936 — 26.09.2019

At the end of September the sad and unexpected news of the passing of David Gee, was circulated to the Membership. David -a distinguished Past-President, hard-working former Honorary Secretary and friend to many of us- was a great supporter of the Athenaeum since joining in 1979, and his regular presence in the Newsroom and on the Club table in the Dining Room will be sorely missed.

Best of Luck Alex (Flash)!!!

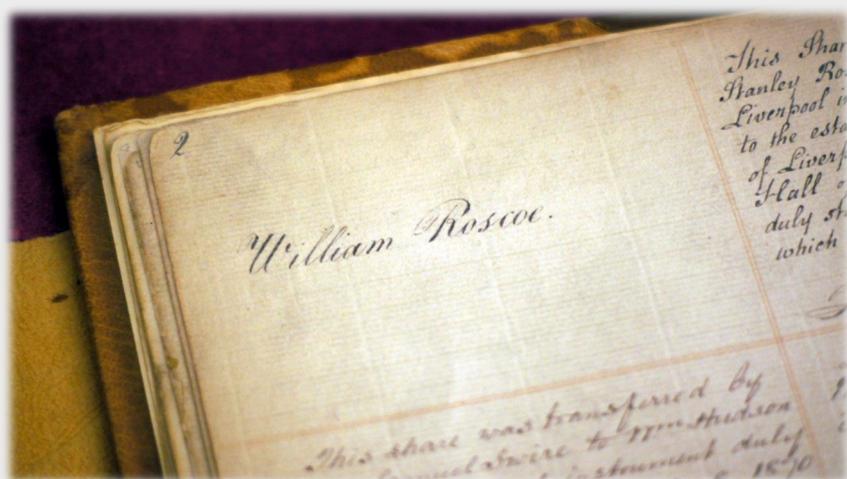
After seven years of loyal service to the Club, Sous Chef Alex Jones is leaving us to begin the next chapter in his career as he joins the brigade at Wreckfish Bistro located on Seel Street. 'Flash' as he is affectionately known has been an important part of our kitchen since joining us as an apprentice in July 2012. During his tenure, Alex progressed throughout the kitchen ranks and was promoted to Sous Chef at the end last year. We will miss his calm and caring way (not to mention his famous soups as well!) and wish him the very best for what is sure to be a bright future.



Saturday Opening's

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Club Merchandise

Silk Ties— £20.00
(Navy, Green or Maroon)

Silk Ties— £20.00
(Navy, Green, Maroon or Black)

Cufflinks —£15.99

Ladies Silk Scarf—£20.00
Available in Navy

Browse and purchase at reception!

2020 DIARIES

Your Athenaeum
Branded 2020

Diaries are being
delivered on
November 25th
2019. Order yours
now at reception for
just £4.50.

The President's Page

As I write this newsletter I realise that I am now nearly a third of the way through my year as President and as warned the time is going very quickly. Thank you to everyone for your encouragement and support of the various events we have had so far. It has been a busy time but I have thoroughly enjoyed it and particularly the opportunity to meet so many Proprietors.

One of the pleasures of being President is having the opportunity to attend external engagements that recently included the Judge's Service at Liverpool Cathedral, followed by lunch at The Athenaeum, as ever an excellent meal with excellent company.

No President can ever work alone and in addition to the superb support provided by all of the staff I want to give my thanks to a number of Proprietors who have worked very hard to make some of the events of the last few months a success. Firstly, I wish to thank Maria Checkland who has masterminded both the perfume evening in August and more recently the Givenchy make-up demonstration. Everyone who attended these events found them both informative and entertaining and we are intending to present some similar events in the New Year.

The calendar of suppers was launched in September with the unveiling of the Liverpool Royal Institution Charter and Seal, followed by an excellent talk by Marie Passey about the building itself.

I am also very grateful to Michael Shankland for organising the Call my Bluff Wine tasting supper. These are always very entertaining events and as ever Mike and his two accomplices, Carol Madeley and Ian Cubbin, managed to pull the wool over my eyes if not those of everyone else present. We also had the pleasure of the company of four members of the St James's Club in Manchester at this evening. They had an excellent time and were especially pleased to have an opportunity to see the Library. We intend to strengthen links with the St James's Club and are looking forward to some of our Proprietors visiting them with a view to sharing experiences and thoughts for the future.

My final thanks to Proprietors go to David Cox. The Opera Evening on 11th October was another outstanding success. Everyone who was present will want to join me in thanking David for the magnificent job he does in enlisting the performers and selecting the programme. If you have yet to attend an Opera Evening you must look out for the next one and make it a date in your diary.

The same evening our Athenaeum also welcomed a party of guests from the Athenaeum Club, London. They were very impressed with their dining experience and have offered to host a visit for a group of our Proprietors which may open the way to them becoming one of our reciprocal clubs.

The final supper for October was a very interesting and insightful presentation by Jonathan Pepler, County Archivist for Cheshire, on the Diaries of William Lloyd Holden – a step back in time to hear the views and opinions of a young man involved in producing county maps in the 19th century.

This brings us to what is happening in the weeks up to Christmas.

On Friday 1st November we enjoyed the very entertaining Murder Mystery Evening – Murder at the Dig. This was presented by Kate Ellis-Bullock, a local writer of crime novels featuring archaeology graduate Detective Sergeant Wesley Peterson and member of the Crime Writers Association and Murder Squad. The scene was set in the 1920's and many guests dug deep into their wardrobes and came dressed to reflect the roaring 20's and were ready to solve the dastardly murder of the eminent archaeologist Professor Digson.

On Wednesday 6th November we have one of the very popular wine tasting events where proprietors will have the opportunity to taste a range of wines from South Africa. The time is 7.00 for 7.30 and the dress code is lounge suit.

We then have a New Members Reception on Friday 8th November at 6.30. These informal gatherings aim to introduce new members to existing Proprietors, providing an opportunity to meet and chat in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. I hope that we can develop these evenings and many of you will take up this opportunity to make our new members feel welcome.

Our chef, Russell is doing one of his very popular cooking demonstrations on Thursday 21st November. He will show how to produce a stuffed bird roast that can then be tasted at the supper that will follow. Time is 6.00 for 6.30 and dress is lounge suit.

We then move into the Christmas period. Wednesday 11th December there is the annual Christmas Carol Concert at which we will be able to join Liverpool Chamber Choir led by James Hawkins for an evening of Christmas music and carols. Again the time is 6.30 for 7.00 and dress code is lounge suit.

The main event of the season is the Christmas Ball on Saturday 14th December. This will be a special occasion to enjoy the Athenaeum in its Christmas splendour. A gourmet buffet will be accompanied by music provided by the Phil Shotton Swing Band. Time is 7.00 for 7.30pm and dress is lounge suit. I am looking forward to this being a spectacular end to the year.

For those who still have energy and enthusiasm for celebrating with friends, the Christmas Lunch is 12.00 noon on Monday 16th December and Roscoe Christmas Dining is Thursday 19th December from 6.30pm.

Please also keep your eyes and diaries open for the Theatre Group visits to the Playhouse which will run throughout the year and the Film nights – always an enjoyable informal evening.

This brings us to the New Year and what I hope will be an interesting and varied programme. Our starting event on Friday 17th January will be a 'Ferrari' Dinner with John Pogson for which I must thank David Cox. John is a six -

The President's Page

times Champion Ferrari racer who is the founder of the Ferrari independent specialist, Italia Autosport based in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. He will share his knowledge of classic cars and many anecdotes of international racing. The time is evening will include a champagne reception and two-course dinner. The time is 7.00 for 7.30 and dress code is lounge suit.

The Athenaeum celebrations for Burn's Night are on Friday 24th January – an evening always enjoyed by all who attend. A black-tie evening 7.00 for 7.30.

We are then presenting a short themed series of events with a visit to the Western Approaches at the end of January, a film night on Thursday 13th February, where the film *The Cruel Sea* will be shown and the Library Dinner on Thursday 27th February. Our guest speaker at the dinner will be Dean Paton, founder of Big Heritage, who will give a talk on Nicholas Monsarrat and his links to the Atlantic Convoy and the Western Approaches. The film night has a time of 6.15 for 6.45 and dress code is lounge suit. The Library Dinner is black tie, 7.00 for 7.30.

On Friday 21st February I am very pleased to present 'A Life at Altitude'. This talk will be presented by Mal Creasey, a British and International Mountain Guide who will give us an insight into some of his adventures at home and in far-flung mountain ranges. The time will be 7.00 for 7.30, dress code is lounge suit and guests will enjoy a two-course supper.

Thursday 5th March gives our Proprietors an opportunity to visit the LMI. This year the joint supper is being hosted by the LMI. Former BA Pilot Bill Cotterell will be giving the evening's talk before supper.

This section of the programme culminates with the Annual Dinner on Friday 20th March. I am very pleased that the Earl and Countess of Derby will be our guests of Honour. This event is black tie and the time is 7.00 for 7.30.

In addition I hope that there will be some dining evenings organised by the Catering Committee and more of the very informal early evening themed events which so far have largely been enjoyed by our lady Proprietors but are open to all. Keep your eyes open for details of these events.

Finally, I just want to say something about the progress of activity as a result of the strategic review. My thanks go to everyone who has been involved with this, in particular, Jim Bellew, and it is now incumbent on us all to continue to move forward and encourage and welcome new members. One of the first action points we are tackling is the website and my thanks go to our former President, David Roscoe, who is in the process of developing this important portal. I hope that we can all support him in this task. The Main Committee will take on board the recommendations made by the Review Group and will select action points for consideration at each meeting.

My thanks for your support.

Gaynor Bresnen

President president@theathenaeum.org.uk

Dates for your diaries

**Wednesday 6 November—Wine Tasting Evening
South African Wines & Cuisine**

**Friday 8 November—Members' Reception
Meet Old Friends and Make New Ones**

**Thursday 21 November—Cookery Demonstration
'A Bird Within A Bird'**

**Wednesday 11 December—Carol Concert
With The Liverpool Chamber Choir**

**Saturday 14 December—The Christmas Ball
Our Christmas Showcase**

**Monday 16 December—The Christmas Lunch
A Christmas Staple**

**Thursday 19 December—The Roscoe Christmas Dining
We End The Year In Fine Style**

Wednesday 8 January 2020—Ladies Evening

**Friday 10 January 2020—Cheap & Cheerful Supper
'Exactly What It Says On The Tin'**

**Friday 17 January 2020—'Ferrari'
Dinner with John Pogson**

**Friday 24 January 2020—Burns Night
Oidhche Bhlas Burns**



Strategy Review

Moving From Planning To Action

Introduction:

You will all be aware that a Strategic Review was initiated by the Club to understand the changes and adaptations required to ensure the future survival and success of the Athenaeum. The Strategic Sub Committee has been hard at work producing recommendations which were presented to the Main Committee on 13th September 2019. I'm writing now to update you, particularly focusing on the recommendations which were accepted and are now being implemented.

The Proposals:

The proposals fall into 3 broad categories which are as follows:

- a) Changes to Management organisation and roles and responsibilities at the Club. These require further work and discussion which is ongoing.
- b) The establishment of a new professional Marketing capability.
- c) The establishment of a new Club Services team to better support Club members.

What's happening next?

Marketing:

A clear marketing plan has been developed with the aim of increasing the number of proprietors and increasing the average spend per proprietor.

The key areas for action are

- ⇒ Define the ideal targets for recruitment
- ⇒ Better articulate the current offer
- ⇒ Develop the website and improve social media engagement
- ⇒ Proactively engage with current members
- ⇒ Implement a strategic outreach and ambassador programme
- ⇒ Review and develop event plans to support engagement with key sectors.

Work has already begun!

A new website is being managed by David Roscoe and social media planning and training with Jack and the team is underway.

Club Services Team:

A newly formed Club services team has clear objectives. It will develop the Club's service offering to both attract new members and support existing members, on an ongoing basis, and focus on member retention.

The Club Services Team will be coordinated by Jack Birley and will comprise 6 different, complementary roles (two of which you may already be familiar with) which are described below:

1) Athenaeum Ambassador

Key to promoting the club to the wider city, this role is externally facing - forging links across key sectors of influence in Liverpool – growth business sectors such as professional services, the public sector, the arts, and academia. Ambassadors will reach out to key contacts and groups in these sectors, raising awareness of the Athenaeum and inviting them to join and/or make use of the club.

Well-connected Proprietors with high levels of credibility and knowledge are required - promoting the Club's interests, organising visits, welcoming visitors and supporting recruitment and promotional events.

Strategy Review

Moving From Planning To Action

2) **Buddies**

The Buddy system is critical to ensuring new Proprietors stay in the club beyond the first one or two years and become Proprietors for life.

Established Club Proprietors with a willingness to support others, the Buddy role involves supporting new members, making them feel welcome and helping them integrate at the Club. Buddies will make regular contact with new members to ensure they are making best use of the club's facilities and events programme.

3) **Support Officer**

Compassionate, caring and an excellent communicator, the Support Officer stays in touch with members unable to visit the Athenaeum building for health reasons, providing contact and support, and keeping the member connected with the Club.

4) **Corporate Liaison Officer**

Commercially and organisationally aware, the Liaison Officer is charged with acquiring and supporting Corporate members. Activities (such as Seminars) and promotional campaigns can be developed for mutual benefit.

5) **Tour Guide**

Knowledgeable and very enthusiastic about the Club, working with Mike Shankland, the Tour Guides run entertaining and educational sessions for visitors to the Athenaeum.

6) **Library Steward**

An established team of over a dozen volunteers, the Library Stewards sterling work over the past year has ensured the Library is manned everyday between 10:00am and 4:00pm. The Club Secretary looks forward to working with the Stewards and their facilitator, Dr Janet Hollinshead, to assist in formalising and enhancing the role for the benefit of the Library and the wider membership. As well as providing coverage, the Stewards will be instrumental in introducing current and new members to the Library as well as undertaking key Library projects, such as assisting and promoting the concept of Proprietors researching their share.

Recruitment to the Club Services Team will take place in stages and I am delighted to announce that the first appointments have been made.

In addition to our Tour Guides and Library Stewards who have joined the Service Team, we are delighted to announce **Hilary Gatenby** will take on the role of Support Officer. Congratulations to all of them and thank you for their commitment to the Athenaeum.

The next phase will be the appointment of the **Buddies**, and we are now recruiting. For further information and a short role description, please contact Jack by 30th November at : secretary@theathenaeum.org.uk

Recruitment for the other roles will follow soon.

It's great to move from Strategy formulation to action. I will keep you updated on new developments as they arise.

Regards

Jim Bellew

We are delighted to welcome the following Members to The Service Team

Support Officer: Hilary Gatenby

Tour Guides: Michael Shankland (Facilitator), David Brazendale, Ken Orme, Marie Passey

Library Stewards: Janet Hollinshead (Facilitator), Jan Atkinson, David Brazendale, Paul Burns, Ann Hughes, Robert Huxley, Linda Iley, Tom Iley, Ron Jones, Maria McCann, David Rainbird, Jacqueline Ritson, Nancy Rudd, David Swift.

Your Club House

Is open

*Are you unsure what facilities are open in the Club when?
Here's a helpful overview.*

The Club's standard opening hours are as follows;

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00am-4:00pm

Wednesday-Friday: 9:00am-9:00pm

When events are taking place these hours may vary, for example when a Presidential dinner takes place the Club's closing time will be later than 9:00pm as a matter of course. The exact closing time of the Club on day's events take place are advertised with the event information.



The 'hub of the Club' is certainly the Newsroom. Almost 100% of the time, when the Club is open, the Newsroom is. One of the finest rooms in the city to meet friends, clients, fellow members, or to simply enjoy one's own company and relax or trawl away at some work. The day's papers and periodicals are available from 9:30am each day with the coffee station set up from 9:00am. The room is manned from 10:30am at which point the newly introduced revamped menu is on offer. The carefully designed menu offers a wide variety of options giving Members many choices to enjoy at brunch, lunch or in the evening. Food is served in the Newsroom between 10:30am and 2:30pm Monday/Tuesday. And 10:30am until 7:00pm Wednesday through Friday. The well-stocked bar serves until 3:00pm Monday & Tuesday and until 8:30pm Wednesday through Friday. The time of last orders will vary when functions take place. If you have not sampled the delectable new menu, set aside some time, bring a guest, and enjoy the uncompromised hospitality of the Newsroom. Struggling to choose? We recommend Jay's Spanish Meatballs!!!



The heart of the Club will always be the Library. The astonishing collection is of vast significance and there is something in there for everyone. We are thankful to the Library Stewards who ensure that the Library is available to the membership at anytime between 10:00am and 4:00pm Monday to Friday, this is in addition to our Librarian's hours which are 1:00pm-4:00pm Tuesday to Thursday. If you need access to the Library outside of these hours don't hesitate to contact the Library and this could be accommodated. Unless booked the Reading Room is always available to use and is the ideal space to enjoy some quiet work or research or meet with guests.

By arrangement, the Librarian can organise private displays of some of our treasures, perfect to show off the Club to friends, family or colleagues. Keep your ears to the ground for introductory sessions and tours of the Library and wider Club early in the new year!



The membership origin of all current Proprietors and Associates can be traced back to the Committee Room, where all applications are reviewed and subsequently elected (or on the rare occasion rejected). The ballot box still used to this day to adjudicate the process is housed on the cabinet next to the fireplace.

The grand surroundings of the Committee Room are available to all Members to book without charge and are the perfect space for business meetings, lunches, or for a more private space to work or research. If you would ever like to book the Committee Room (or any other room) simply discuss this with reception.



Every day, Monday to Friday, from 12:00pm until 2:00pm, the Dining Room provides first-class cuisine and service at unbelievable value! A sumptuous two-course lunch is available to you for the incredible price of £14.95, or £16.95 three-course lunch.

Do you have a special date in the diary upcoming? Birthday or celebration of some sort? Book a table in the Dining Room and enjoy the occasion in appropriate style!

The Dining Room does not open on an evening, however, the Newsroom menu is available until 7:00pm. If you wish to enjoy something more substantial with guests of an evening this can be organised by contacting reception.

Appetisers

...A flavour from Catering

Pricing Amendments

Such is the current climate that a change to catering's pricing structure has been implemented with immediate effect. Firstly a ten per cent increase has been applied to all wines and a small section of beverages. Secondly, in the Dining Room, a two-course lunch will now be available at £14.95 and a three-course at £16.95. This slight increase is necessary to continue to provide amazing quality food every day at incredible value.

Have you sampled the new Newsroom Menu????

Here's a selection of some of the fabulous items you can order within the Newsroom;

Classic dishes such as Jay's Spanish Meatballs, Welsh or Buck Rarebit, and The Athenaeum Club.

Brunch items served all day like The Athenaeum English Grill, Eggs Benedict, or a Sausage Barm made with Athenaeum bespoke pork sausages.

Baked Potatoes, Salad Bowls, Afternoon Tea and a wide range of cold sandwiches.

Or of an evening—Steak Frites or Indian Butter Chicken Curry.

Saturday Opening's, see page 10.

Wine Tasting Evenings

The next 'flight' in our sojourn into the wines of the world takes us to South Africa. On **Wednesday 6 November (7:00 for 7:30pm)** we feast on South African cuisine and sample some of the fine wines the rainbow nation has to offer. Tickets are £39.95 per person and include three courses and wines!

In addition to the above, the Club's wine merchants, Scatchards, are holding their annual Christmas Wine Tasting at The Athenaeum on **Wednesday 20 November.**

We have been provided with an allocation of **free** tickets to this event which are available on a first-come first serve basis. Don't forget, as an Athenaeum Member you receive 10% off wine purchases and 15% off selected wines when you purchase 12 or more bottles!



Both of these events can be booked now through the Members' Area of the website or through reception!

Afternoon Tea Bookings Saturday 7 December

Put the date on your diaries, Saturday 7 December, less than three weeks until Christmas and the perfect timing to get some Christmas shopping done and then relax and treat yourself at your Club. As well as the Newsroom being open throughout and the Theatre Group going to see *Miracle on 34th Street* at the Playhouse in the evening, we will be hosting a session of festive Afternoon Teas throughout the afternoon! These Afternoon Teas will be available to the wider public to book as part of an initiative by Catering, but it goes without saying Members and their guests will receive a significant discount on the ticket price (Members price: £16.99, External; Price: £24.99). Book your places now to choose your preferred time slot. This could be a great pre-Christmas gift to yourself or a loved one!

Saturday Opening's

Weekends and Theatre Visits

Saturday Opening's

Put these in your diary!

We're delighted to announce the Club will be open on the following Saturday's between now and the end of the year. For each of the four Saturday's that the Club is opening for it is in association with another event but that does not mean you can't use the Club if you are not attending the event! Timings for each of the opening's as well as some additional detail can be found below.

Saturday 9 November— 10:00am-7:00pm

(last orders for food—6:00pm, last orders for beverages 6:30pm)

The Club will be open from 10:00am for the Library Study day—Find My Shareholder.

The Newsroom services are available throughout the day.

Saturday 16 November—12:00pm-7:30pm

(last orders for food—6:00pm, last orders for beverages 7:00pm)

The Club will be open from 12:00pm for Members, including those enjoying the visit to watch Mary Shelley's Frankenstein at the Playhouse Theatre in the evening (see page 21).

The Newsroom services are available throughout the day.

Saturday 7 December—12:00pm-9:00pm

(last orders for food—7:30pm, last orders for beverages 8:30pm)

The Club will be open from 12:00pm for Members, including those enjoying the visit to watch Miracle on 34th Street at the Playhouse Theatre in the evening (see page 21). The Newsroom services are available throughout the day, as well as festive Afternoon Teas in the Afternoon (see page 9)!

Saturday 14 December—12:00pm

(Last orders for food— 4:30pm, The Xmas ball takes place in the evening)

The Club will be open from 12:00pm for Members, with the Club's Christmas Ball taking place in the evening. Food will be available in the Newsroom until 4:30pm with the Ball commencing at 7:00pm that evening. Full details can be found on page 13!

Full details of all the Theatre Group Visits can be found on
page 14.

Social Media

Connecting The Club to the wider world!

Further to the marketing section of the Strategy Update (see page 6), The Athenaeum is looking to build an active online presence over social media to help raise the Athenaeum's profile by introducing people to the Club. In increasing our online activity this will also benefit our current Members who are active on social media as we improve communication to the membership via these mediums. To assist us in our goal of improving social media engagement we would like the Membership to help by connecting to the Club on any of the platforms you may use. Below you will find three social media sites, Linked In, Twitter and Instagram, all of which will begin to receive regular posts during the next fortnight. Further details will follow, however, if you are on any of the below platforms, please do follow The Athenaeum and share the respective handle with your followers!

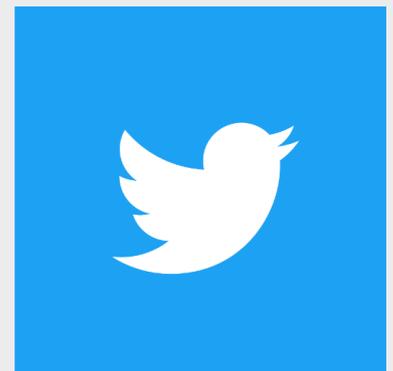
Join The Athenaeum Group on Linked In

www.linkedin.com/groups/4962438



Follow us on Twitter

www.twitter.com/theathenaeum1



Follow us on Instagram

www.instagram.com/athenaeumliverpool



Christmas

At The Athenaeum

The Tunnel Of Light

Our friends at Liverpool BID (Business Improvement District) have been in touch with us recently to discuss their grand plans for Church Alley this Christmas. In mid-November, you will begin to see the construction of what will be known as the tunnel of light. The impressive structure which has been featured in the likes of Moscow, Malaga and cities across the world, will run the length of Church Alley and will provide a literal tunnel of light to walk through. A brief light and sound show will feature 4 times a day and will no doubt be quite a spectacle, particularly from our exclusive viewing platforms (e.g any window in the building!). Of course, should we be feeling rather scrooge-like at any point we can close off the world with our grand curtains, bah humbug!



The Christmas Ball with the Phil Shotton Big Swing Band!!

The **main event** of the Christmas season is The Christmas Ball on **Saturday 14th December** 2019. This will be a special occasion to enjoy The Athenaeum in its Christmas splendour. A gourmet Christmas carvery buffet will be accompanied by music provided by the Phil Shotton Big Swing Band. Time is **7:00 for 7:30pm** and the **dress is lounge suits**.

Enjoy the hits of Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra and music from the swing era at our premier Christmas event! Vocalist Corinne Andrew will be singing some of the finest songs from the great jazz diva. Expect songs from the great American songbook and a few surprises along the way!

Phil Shotton is a Saxophonist, Clarinetist, Flautist, Conductor, Band Leader and Educator. He regularly performs alongside many national and international jazz artists and has appeared at major jazz festivals, venues and music festivals throughout the UK and abroad. Phil performs a wide and varied repertoire of jazz standards from The Great American Songbook and beyond. **Tickets available at £50.00 per person, we'll see you there!!!**



Christmas

At The Athenaeum

Celebrate Xmas at The Athenaeum



The Staff Fund

Details of all the Christmas events all
in one place

Thursday 5 December—6:15 for 6:30pm.
The Christmas Film Night - *The Bishop's Wife* (1947)
£12.50 per person including Supper

Saturday 7 December—7:30pm At The Playhouse.
Theatre Group: *Miracle On 34th Street*
£22.00 per person.

The Club is open that Saturday from 12:00pm,
why not enjoy the facilities before the theatre?

Wednesday 11 December—6:30 for 7:00pm.
The Christmas Carol Concert with the
Liverpool Chamber Choir.
£25.00 per person including Supper

Saturday 14 December—7:00 for 7:30pm.
The Christmas Ball with The Phil Shotton Big Swing
Band. £50.00pp including Gourmet Carvery Buffet

Monday 16 December—12:00 for 12:30pm.
The Athenaeum Christmas Lunch
£25.00 per person

Thursday 19 December—Service from 6:30pm.
The Roscoe Christmas Dining Evening
£25.00 per person including Supper

Book via the Members' Area or
through reception

We are all very fortunate that the staff employed at the Athenaeum carry out their duties with such industry efficiency, cheerfulness and charm. The laws of the Institution preclude tipping, but for which I am sure that the staff would be generously rewarded in this way. Instead, the Athenaeum maintains a fund for their benefit. The Staff fund is distributed equitably between the members of staff, who may spend it as they wish.

Members of the Athenaeum may contribute to the fund at any time of the year via the Athenaeum website. However, it is traditional to make a particular appeal for donations as the festive season approaches. I would be very grateful if you would support the fund as generously as you can. Contributions can be made via the website, by cheque payable to 'The Athenaeum' either posted to the Institution or placed in the donation box, or by cash placed in the donations box. The donation box will be displayed at reception from mid November.

With best wishes and thanks in anticipation of your generosity.

Dr Gaynor Bresnen

President

Athenaeum Interests

The Literature Group

Facilitator: Dr Paul Burns

All meetings will take place at 3:00pm in the
Library unless stated otherwise

Wednesday 4 December

January—no meeting

Wednesday 5 February

Malcolm Lowry's 'Under the volcano', with
Diana Lane

Wednesday 4 March—Robert Burns' 'Tam
O' Shanter' with Willie Williams

Library & Archives Group

Facilitator: Dr Janet Hollinshead and Mr Stephen Lyus

Saturday 9 November: 'Find My Shareholder'
10:am-4pm - Study Day **SOLD OUT**

Thursday 23 January: 11:00am

Meeting & Lunch—£12.50 per person

Thursday 26 March: 5:30pm

Meeting & Supper—£12.50 per person

The History Group

Facilitator: HH Nigel Gilmour

Upcoming History Group Meetings

All meetings to take place at
2:00pm in the Library

Wednesday 27 November

Wednesday 22 January 2020

The Film Group

Facilitators: Ms Elaine Donnelly, &
HH Richard Hamilton

All showings take place at 2:00pm in
the Wine Servery.

Wednesday 20 November—HMS Defiant

Wed 18 Dec—Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Wednesday 15 January—Argo

Wednesday 19 Feb—Arsenic and Old Lace

Wednesday 18 March—An American in Paris

Wednesday 15 April—The Bicycle Thieves

Wednesday 20 May—The Miracle Worker

Wednesday 17 June—Anna Karenina

Full descriptions of all of these films can be
found at www.theathenaeum.org.uk/events

Details of the following Groups programmes
will be distributed very shortly, watch this
space!

Architecture | Arts | Debates | Music

Theatre Group

Winter Programme

The Club will be open on a series of Saturday's at certain times in tandem with the below Theatre Visits and additional events. Full details of this can be found both below and on page 10.

Saturday 16 November—Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

7:30pm at the Playhouse-£27.00 per person

An eighteen-year-old girl, Mary Shelley, dreams up a monster whose tragic story will capture the imaginations of generations to come. A young scientist by the name of Frankenstein breathes life into a gruesome body. Banished into an indifferent world, Frankenstein's creature desperately seeks out his true identity, but the agony of rejection and a broken promise push him into darkness. Dangerous and vengeful, the creature threatens to obliterate Frankenstein and everyone he loves, in a ferocious and blood-thirsty hunt for his maker.

Rona Munro's brilliant new adaptation of Mary Shelley's Gothic masterpiece places the writer herself amongst the action as she wrestles with her creation and with the stark realities facing revolutionary young women, then and now.

Tickets to be collected from the Athenaeum

**£27.00 per person—booking deadline Friday 9
November 2019**

Saturday 7 December—Miracle on 34th Street

7:30pm at the Playhouse-£27.00 per person

Conjure up the perfect Christmas. Think of tinsel and tinges, whispers and wishes, those thrilling hours when childhood dreams take flight. Now imagine if Christmas was all common sense. No whispers, no secrets. Just cold hard facts wrapped in paper destined for the bin.

That's Christmas for sensible six-year-old Susan and her mother. But as New York's cash tills ring out their money-making chimes and shoppers join a race that lasts from Thanksgiving until New Year, an old bearded gentleman turns their rational world – and the city's cut-throat commercial spirit – upside down.

Tickets to be collected from the Athenaeum

**£27.00 per person—booking deadline
Wednesday 27 November 2019**

Saturday 1 February—The Woman in Black

7:30pm at the Playhouse-£27.00 per person

A lawyer obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by the spectre of a Woman in Black engages a sceptical young actor to help him tell his terrifying story and exorcise the fear that grips his soul.

It all begins innocently enough, but then, as they reach further into his darkest memories, they find themselves caught up in a world of eerie marshes and moaning winds. Join the millions of theatregoers worldwide who have experienced "The most brilliantly effective spine-chiller you will ever encounter" (Daily Telegraph)

Tickets to be collected from the Athenaeum

**£27.00 per person—booking deadline
Wednesday 29 January 2019**

The Club will be open from 12:00pm until 7:30pm on each of the Saturday's listed, with Newsroom services available throughout. Whether you are attending the matinee or an evening show, guests are encouraged to take part in lively discussion at the Athenaeum.

***Following the final booking date tickets will not be refundable, although it may be possible for you to transfer your ticket to a member who had not yet booked. Bookings may be able to be made following the booking date, however, this is not guaranteed and if successful you may not be sat with the rest of the group.**

This & That

Events & Other News

Amendments to the Film Night Calendar

May we draw your attention to the extra treat for the Christmas Film Night which will now take place on Friday 6 December. We have never held a Film night on a Friday evening, and in addition to the usual camaraderie associated with these popular evenings there will be an additional element of Festive cheer on the basis that the weekend has started and even the majority of the working Proprietors and their guests will have the following day off! If you've not yet been to one of these evenings this could be the time to try it out.

The President is organising a number of events celebrating the life of Nicholas Monsarrat (1910-1979) who was born in Rodney Street and whose writings were gifted to the Club by his widow, and are now housed in the specially commissioned bookcase in the Monsarrat Room. Consequently, there has been an alteration to our programme and the February Film Night will now be showing 'The Cruel Sea', the revised programme is summarised below and we trust that many of you will come along and enjoy a convivial evening. The Library Dinner this season, on Thursday 27 February will also focus on Monsarrat who will be the subject of an after-dinner talk by Proprietor Dean Paton. Mr Paton is the founder of Big Heritage, who manage Western Approaches and as part of this series is organising a visit for Members.

Wednesday 13 November—Whiskey Galore

Thursday 5 December – The Bishop's Wife

Wednesday 15 January—Pygmalion

Thursday 13 February—The Cruel Sea

Thursday 12 March—Irish Night

Wednesday 22 April—The African Queen

All Film Nights begin at about 6:45pm (gathering from 6:15pm in the Newsroom) with a one course supper and guests enter the 'cinema' by about quarter to eight. All films have a suitable intermission (where sweets and refreshments will be served).

Wirral Archaeology Press Release

The below text is an extract from a press release by Wirral Archaeology, who are affiliated to the Athenaeum via Proprietor Graham Burgess. A link to the full press release for those who are interested can be found at the foot of this page.

For centuries it was known as "the Great Battle". It was the event that brought England into existence. For centuries the location of Brunanburh was lost. "Now the search for Brunanburh is over", according to the author Bernard Cornwell.

Wirral Archaeology is responding to the growing interest and requests for a public statement on its project called "The search for the Battle of Brunanburh". The site of the battle has been lost for hundreds of years. There are several claims for the location of the battle site in various parts of England and in Scotland.

Wirral Archaeology has been carrying out planned search activities over several years to investigate the strong widespread theory that the Battle of Brunanburh, fought in 937AD, may have taken place somewhere in Wirral.

These investigations have included researching medieval manuscripts, later records and publications; and carrying out landscape surveys using techniques such as LiDAR, geophysics, metal detecting, and targeted small excavations.

A considerable amount of information has been collected, and a very considerable collection of relevant artefacts – which may be indicative of an early medieval battle having taken place has been recovered and is being catalogued and examined.

Recently, Wirral Archaeology held a day-long "mini-conference" attended by a group of very eminent international medieval historians and archaeologists, including Professor Michael Livingston, a key expert on the battle, to present the information that has been collected, to display many of the artefacts that have been discovered, and to discuss their relevance in detail. Several of those attending this discussion are international experts in the identification of ancient battlefields.

The outcome of those discussions was that the experts unanimously concluded that Wirral Archaeology has identified an extensive range of corroborating information, and recovered many early medieval battle artefacts, which indicate that the site of the Battle of Brunanburh may have been identified in Wirral. For security reasons, the actual battle site needs to be kept confidential at present.

However, more detailed and increasingly intensive research is still needed.

To support this Wirral Archaeology is in the process of preparing a funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We need public support for this funding bid. On 13th October Professor Michael Livingston published an initial article on the progress of the Wirral Archaeology research on the Medievalists.net site.

Wirral Archaeology is now working increasingly with several eminent historians and scientists on the validation of the artefacts and other information discovered during the research. This work is ongoing, expanding and will last for several years. A Spokesperson for Wirral Archaeology said: "Several eminent historians and academics have examined a range of evidence we have collected, including physical artefacts, and they have concluded that the lost site of the Battle of Brunanburh may have been identified by Wirral Archaeology. There is still a great deal of investigative work that needs to be done, and we are grateful to the group of professional archaeologists, medieval historians and scientists who are now actively assisting us". The Spokesperson went on to say that "Wirral Archaeology will make further statements when appropriate on the progress of this search. Local meetings to inform Wirral residents and the appropriate authorities are now taking place."

<https://liverpooluniversitypress.blog/2019/10/22/the-search-for-the-battle-of-brunanburh-is-over/>

Events

Diaries at the ready—Your social calendar is here

How to book

Booking Online

The easiest and quickest way to book an event is via the Members' Area of the club website. Simply log on and visit the book events tab.

Email

Alternatively, you can email; reception@theathenaeum.org.uk

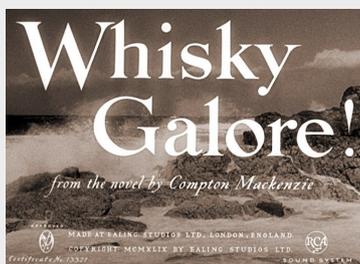
Through the office

Alternatively, You can also book events at reception, either when you are in the Club or by calling 0151 709 7770 between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm.

November

Film Night: Whiskey Galore (1949)

Wed 13 November, 6:15 for 6:45pm
Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £12.50



The next of our classic film showings accompanied by supper and interval refreshments is Whisky Galore! Based on a true event. Islanders off the coast of Scotland compete with a stuffy English commander to recover 50,000 cases of whiskey from a wrecked cargo vessel.

Younger Members' Winter Ball

Friday 15 November, 6:30 for 7:00pm
Dress: Black Tie Ticket Price: £35.00



Our Younger Members' signature social event, featuring a three-course dinner, table wine and arrival drink and entertainment into the night!

Theatre Visit: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Saturday 16 November, 7:30pm
at the Playhouse Ticket Price: £27.50

The Club will be open from 12:00pm until 7:30pm that Saturday for Members' and guests to use the facilities.

Rona Munro's brilliant new adaptation of Mary Shelley's Gothic masterpiece places the writer herself amongst the action as she wrestles with her creation and with the stark realities facing revolutionary young women, then and now.

Scatchard's Christmas Wine Tasting

Wednesday 20 November, from 6:00pm
Dress: No Dress code

The Club's wine merchants, Scatchards, are holding their annual Christmas Wine Tasting at The Athenaeum later this month and we have been provided with an allocation of free tickets to this event which are available on a first come first serve basis. Don't forget, as an Athenaeum Member you receive 10% off wine purchases and 15% off selected wines when you purchase 12 or more bottles!



Cookery Demo: 'Bird within a bird'

Thursday 21 November, 6:00 for 6:30pm
Dress: Smart Casual Ticket Price: £20.00

Our chef, Russell is doing one of his very popular cooking demonstrations and this time he will show how to produce a stuffed bird roast that can then be tasted at the supper that will follow.



December

Film Night: The Bishop's Wife (1947)

Friday 6 December, 6:15 for 6:45pm
Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £12.50

The next of our classic film showings accompanied by supper and interval refreshments is The Bishop's Wife!

Dejected by his efforts to raise money to build a cathedral, Bishop Henry Brougham beseeches heaven for guidance, and is visited immediately by Dudley, who claims to be an angel. Henry is skeptical, then annoyed when Dudley ingratiates himself into the

household as his assistant -- and worse, wins the attentions of Henry's long-suffering and kindly wife. When Dudley continues to intervene in Henry's struggles, the bishop decides to challenge heaven.



Festive Afternoon Tea

Saturday 7 December, slots between 12:30 and 4:30pm

Dress: No dress code Ticket Price: £16.99
With less than three weeks until Christmas this is the perfect timing to get some Christmas shopping done and then relax and treat yourself at your Club with a festive afternoon tea. This could be a great pre-Christmas gift to yourself or a loved one!

The Club will be open from 12:00pm until 7:30pm that Saturday for Members' and guests to use the facilities, even those not joining us for afternoon tea!

Theatre Visit: Miracle on 34th Street

Saturday 7 December, 7:30pm
at the Playhouse Ticket Price: £27.50

As New York's cash tills ring out their money-making chimes and shoppers join a race that lasts from Thanksgiving until New Year, an old bearded gentleman turns Susan and her mother's rational world – and the city's cut-throat commercial spirit – upside down.

The Club will be open from 12:00pm until 7:30pm that Saturday for Members' and guests to use the facilities.

Christmas Carol Concert

Wednesday 11 December, 6:30 for 7:00pm
Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £25.00

We are joined again by the Liverpool Chamber Choir led by James Hawkins for an evening of Christmas music and carols preceded by a two-course supper.



Events

Diaries at the ready—Your social calendar is here

The Christmas Ball with the Phil Shotton Swing Band

Saturday 14 December, 7:00 for 7:30pm
Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £50.00

The **main event** of the Christmas season is The Christmas Ball. This will be a special occasion to enjoy The Athenaeum in its Christmas splendour. A gourmet Christmas carvery buffet will be accompanied by music provided by the Phil Shotton Big Swing Band. Time



The Christmas Lunch

Monday 16 December, 12:00 for 12:30pm
Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £25.00

The Annual Christmas Lunch. Members and guests are advised to have a light breakfast to save room for this filling festive three-course Christmas lunch!

The Roscoe Christmas Dining Evening

Friday 19 December, service from 6:30pm

Dress: Lounge Suits
Ticket Price: £25.00

We finish 2019 in relaxing fashion with an ever popular informal Christmas Dining Evening. You may wish to bring along family and friends or to join one of our larger Club tables. Please specify this upon booking.



January

Ladies Evening

Wednesday 8 January, 5:30 for 6:00pm

Dress: Smart Casual Ticket Price: £15.00

The next in a series which previously featured the Fragrance Evening and Givenchy Evening. We are still finalising the details for this special evening which will be sent around shortly! Gentlemen, you are also welcome to attend!



Cheap & Cheerful Supper

Friday 10 January, 6:30 for 7:00pm

Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £14.00

The brainchild of the Athenaeum stalwart, the late Frank Moran, this Club favourite begins the year in convivial fashion with a two-course supper that does exactly what it says on the tin!

Film Night: Pygmalion (1938)

Wednesday 15 January, 6:15 for 6:45pm
Dress: Lounge Suits. Ticket Price £12.50

The next of our classic film showings accompanied by supper and interval refreshments is Pygmalion.

A phonetics and diction expert makes a bet that he can teach a cockney flower girl to speak proper English and pass as a lady in high society.



'Ferrari', Dinner w. John Pogson

Friday 17 January, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Dress: Lounge Suits. Ticket Price £28.00

Six times Champion Ferrari racer and founder of the Ferrari independent specialist, Italia Autosports, John Pogson, shares his knowledge of classic cars and anecdotes of international racing, accompanied by a two-course dinner and champagne reception.



Burns Night

Friday 24 January, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Dress: Black Tie Ticket Price: £37.50

We celebrate the life of Robbie Burns, with all his associations to The Athenaeum, at our black-tie event. A piper, the haggis, the Immortal Memory and whisky galore!



February

Theatre Visit: The Woman In Black

Saturday 1 February, 7:30pm

Dress: Smart Casual Ticket Price: £27.00

The Club will be open from 12:00pm until 7:30pm that Saturday for Members' and guests to use the facilities.

A lawyer obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by the spectre of a Woman in Black engages a sceptical young actor to help him tell his terrifying story and exorcise the fear that grips his soul.. Join the millions of theatre goers worldwide who have experienced "The most brilliantly effective spine-chiller you will ever encounter"



Film Night: The Cruel Sea (1953)

Thursday 13 February, 6:15 for 6:45pm
Dress: Lounge Suits. Ticket Price £12.50

The next of our classic film showings accompanied by supper and interval refreshments is The Cruel Sea.

Despite his guilt over a recent harrowing sea battle in which many of his men were lost, Lt. Cmdr. George Ericson is assigned to helm the new H.M.S. Compass Rose with the help of steadfast seaman Lt. Lockhart. When the small vessel is sent to escort convoys of ships fighting German U-boats in the North Atlantic, the mettle of the novice crew is tested by the weather, the turbulent sea and enemy attacks -- one of which nearly destroys the Compass Rose.



Valentines Day Dinner

Friday 14 February, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Dress: Smart Casual Ticket Price: £TBC



'A Life At Altitude', Supper with Mal Creasey

Friday 21 February, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Dress: Smart Casual
Ticket Price: £22.00

Mal Creasey, a British and International Mountain Guide, will give us an insight into some of his adventures at home and in far-flung mountain ranges. Guests will also enjoy a two-course supper.

The Library Dinner

Thursday 27 February, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Dress: Black Tie Ticket Price: £35.00

Our guest speaker will be Proprietor, Dean Paton, founder of Big Heritage, who will give a talk on Nicholas Monsarrat and his links to the Atlantic Convoy and the Western Approaches. Monsarrat's collection is now held in the aforementioned room by reception along with a model of the corvette HMS Campanula, which he served on and the Compass Rose based on.

Events

Diaries at the ready—Your social calendar is here

How to book

Booking Online

The easiest and quickest way to book an event is via the Members' Area of the club website. Simply log on and visit the book events tab.

Email

Alternatively, you can email; reception@theathenaeum.org.uk

Through the office

Alternatively, You can also book events at reception, either when you are in the Club or by calling 0151 709 7770 between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm.

March

Joint Supper at The LMI

Thursday 5 March, 6:00pm

Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £TBC
'Forty Years In The Air', by Bill Cotterell, Senior Pilot, British Airways.

A welcome drink will be served upon arrival followed by the talk and supper.



Film Night: Irish Night

Thursday 12 March, 6:15 for 6:45pm

Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £12.50
The next of our classic film showings accompanied by supper and interval refreshments is the Irish Night where the audience will select from a choice of films with an Irish connection.



The Annual Dinner

Friday 20 March, 7:00 for 7:30pm

Dress: Black Tie Ticket Price: £40.00

We are delighted to welcome the Earl and Countess of Derby as our guests of honour for The Annual Dinner, the most prestigious event in our calendar. This event last year sold out in January so please do book early to avoid disappointment!



April

The Athenaeum Quiz Night

Wednesday 15 April—6:00 for 6:30pm

The full details of the evening are still being conspired by the quiz master!

Film Night: The African Queen (1951)

Wednesday 22 April, 6:15 for 6:45pm

Dress: Lounge Suits Ticket Price: £12.50



The next of our classic film showings accompanied by supper and interval refreshments is The African Queen!

After religious spinster's (missionary brother is killed in WWI Africa, dissolute steamer captain offers her safe passage. She's not satisfied so she persuades him to destroy a German gunboat. The two spend most of their time fighting with each other rather than the Germans. Time alone on the river leads to love.

St George's Day Dinner

Thursday 23 April—
7:00 for 7:30pm

Dress: Lounge suits
Ticket Price: £28.50

An Athenaeum St George's Day celebration!
Further details to follow.



May

VE Day Lunch

Thursday 7 May—12:30 for 1:00pm

Dress: Lounge suits Ticket Price: £25.00
We commemorate Victory in Europe Day one day early due a bank holiday. Further details to follow.



June

The Sir David Maddison Opera Prize

Friday 12 June—7:00-7:30pm

Dress: Lounge suits Ticket Price: £TBC
The second annual Opera Prize held by the Club in conjunction with the Royal Northern College of Music, named after of our friend and Past President who passed away earlier this year. The winner of the 2019 prize, Molly Barker (pictured), has since played at St James's Palace and, of course, at The Opera at The Athenaeum concert in October. Our thanks to David Cox for producing this event on behalf of the Club.

Library News

November 2019

Since I last wrote to you I am delighted to report of the tremendous progress that has been made in re-ordering our Library. In early May we cleared the far end of the upper floor of the stacks in preparation for the new roller shelving. We were pleased to find that we were able to accommodate even more shelving that had been originally envisaged, and although this supplementary order caused a slight delay it has enabled us to see clearly how we can care for the considerable number of oversize folios (often referred to as Elephant) that are in the collection.

At present, the upper floor of the stacks is still not accessible to Proprietors, but by the end of November that will have been remedied and the upper areas will be available again. However, access to the folio section will be by request since one of the further advantages of the enhanced footage of shelving is that security has been enhanced by making them lockable.

Visitors to the Library cannot have failed to notice that there have been further volumes of the Illustrated London News appearing in the corridor as we continue to rebind the set, further financial support is still needed to ensure that we meet our target of completing the work by the end of 2020.

Thanks to the support of the Library Stewards-who are Proprietors like the rest of us who volunteer to take a turn on the rota we are able to ensure that the Library is open and accessible 5 days week, even in the absence of our Librarians. There are a number of interesting and fulfilling tasks that people can undertake if they can give a few hours of their time once a fortnight- and anyone who is able to volunteer should contact Dr Janet Hollinshead in the first instance.

Finally, I would like to report on an initiative that we undertook following the talk to the Library and Archive group by David Brazendale on the 1801 census of Liverpool-the only known copy of which is in the Library. Mr Stephen Lyus has worked tirelessly with FindmyPast.com to oversee the digitalisation of the census. Happily, this now been transcribed into a full database and is available on their website. We were able to agree with the company that in exchange for making this valuable resource available we would have free access to their entire site within the building . This will be a welcome addition to those engaged in family history research and went live on 1st November; should you require assistance with the site please contact the Library staff.

Dr Ian J. Cubbin

Chairman of the Library Sub-Committee

Library & Archives Group Programme

Saturday 9 November: 'Find My Shareholder'
10am-4pm - Study Day

Sold Out

Thursday 23 January: Speaker TBC
11:00am Meeting followed by Lunch

£12.50 per person

The Story of The Athenaeum

Part Six of Seven

“Beyond The Green Baize Doors”

A good deal of attention has been given to the “Big Names” of the Athenaeum and some work has been done on the social and economic status of the Proprietors. Always lurking in the background are the shadowy figures of the staff but the Minutes do give us occasional glimpses of them.

We know that the first Master of the Coffee Room, John Hughes, was appointed in December 1798 at a salary of £50 guineas and that in addition he was provided with residential accommodation in the cellars. This does not sound very congenial, especially as it was declared that no man with a family could be appointed. I think we can assume that the rooms would have been damp, ill-ventilated and with little daylight. In 1844 this unsatisfactory cellar-dwelling was replaced by rooms in an annexe at the rear of the building. The furnishing of the accommodation was the responsibility of the Institution and it was agreed by the Committee that they “would provide the necessary household furniture and all kitchen utensils”. The President took the responsibility for ensuring that this was done.

Hughes found that he was the general factotum of the Athenaeum. It had been decided that the staff were to comprise a Librarian, a waiter and a “female servant”. The intention seems to have been that the Librarian would be the senior member of staff but soon the duties and responsibilities of the Master became more defined. Not only was he responsible for making and serving the coffee, with the help of the waiter but he also undertook a multiplicity of duties. He was responsible for organising and ordering the newspapers, for ensuring that the subscribers comported themselves in a proper manner, that no outsiders usurped the facilities and the conduct of youngsters who were admitted to use the library. Hughes was also made responsible for the collection of arrears of subscriptions. No wonder that when Hughes was forced to retire through ill-health, possibly brought on by poor living conditions and long hours of overwork, the advertisement for his replacement in 1804 specified that “Each applicant is expected to bring written testimonials as to integrity and sobriety.” The successful applicant for the post was Thomas Steele, who served until 1808 when Mr Thomas Williams replaced him on Steele’s appointment as Master of the Coffee Room in the new Exchange Buildings. Evidently, Hughes gave satisfaction, as when thirteen unclaimed bottles of wine were found in the cellar, they were given to him. One thing can be gleaned about Williams is that he was married and when in 1809 he was subpoenaed to appear at the courts in London his wife was appointed to take his place on a temporary basis.

We know little or nothing of the other domestic staff, but one or two ghostly figures flit through the pages of the records. There is “The Boy”, he sounds a rather Dickensian figure, who was initially promised for the Librarian at a wage £10 a year but of whom no more is ever heard. We only know the names of two cleaners, Catherine Foster, possibly a member of the architects extended

family who was employed to clean the library at the conclusion of the building work and in 1802 a Catherine Caton who was paid for several years for cleaning the Library, and the Librarians apartments at an annual wage of £10.4s.6. The accounts also mention that her duties included lighting fires, presumably both in the Coffee Room and the Library. The waiter only makes very fleeting and impersonal appearances. Apart from being listed in the staff, the only other references are when Subscribers are invited to give any interesting intelligence, either political or commercial, written on slips of paper to the waiter for delivery to the Master of the Room. The only other mention of this servant is when in 1809 it is ordered that spare pieces of timber are to be used to build a cubby hole for the waiter in the cellar. Presumably, the waiter received some payment but there is no mention of wages for him in the various annual accounts, perhaps he got nothing more than his tips from members.



The Newsroom in 1928, several pieces of furniture in the building are recognisable.

Calendar

November-December 2019

November

Wednesday 13 November

Film Night—Whiskey Galore
6:15 for 6:45pm in the Newsroom

Friday 15 November

Younger Members' Winter Ball
6:30 for 7:00pm

Saturday 16 November

Theatre Group—Mary Shelley's
Frankenstein
7:30pm in the Playhouse
(Saturday Opening—see page 10)

Wednesday 20 November

Scatchards Christmas Wine Tasting
6:00pm in the Dining Room

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The Film Group—HMS Defiant
2:00pm in the Wine Servery

Thursday 21 November

Cookery Demo: 'Bird within a bird'
6:00 for 6:30pm in the Dining Room

Thursday 27 November

The History Group
2:00pm in the Library Reading Room

December

Wednesday 4 December

The Literature Group
3:00pm in the Library Reading Room

Friday 6 December

The Bishop's Wife
6:15 for 6:45pm in the Newsroom

Saturday 7 December

Festive Afternoon Tea
Slots available between 12:30pm and
4:30pm.

—

Theatre Group—Miracle on 34th Street.
7:30pm at the Playhouse
(Saturday Opening—see page 10)

Wednesday 11 December

Christmas Carol Concert
6:30 for 7:00pm in the Newsroom

Saturday 14 December

The Christmas Ball with the
Phil Shotton Swing Band
7:00 for 7:30pm in the Newsroom
(Saturday Opening—see page 10)

Monday 16 December

The Christmas Lunch
12:00 for 12:30pm

Wednesday 18 December

The Film Group—HMS Defiant 2:00pm
in the Wine Servery

Thursday 19 December

The Roscoe Christmas Dining Evening
Service from 6:30pm

Christmas Closedown

The Club will close for the Christmas period on Friday 20 December at 4:00pm. The Club will reopen in the new year on Thursday 2 January 2020 at 9:00am. The Newsroom will be open as standard but the Dining Room will not reopen until Monday 6 January.

Facility Closures

Wednesday 13 November—The Dining Room will be closed, however, the Club table will be in operation in the Newsroom.



A·T·H·E·N·A·E·U·M

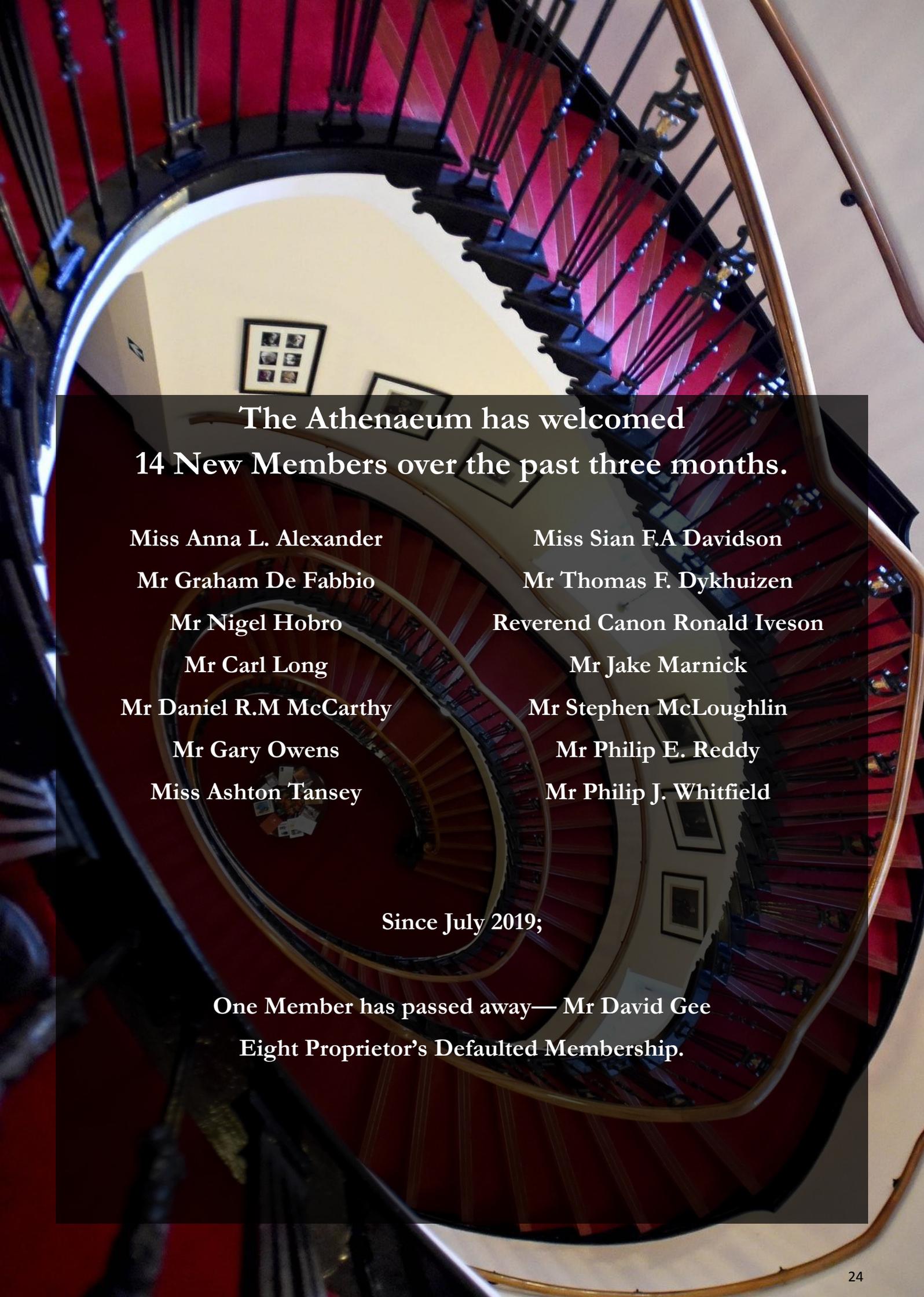
Introducing the Courtesy Rule

A few months ago the Main Committee announced the introduction of ‘The Courtesy Rule’, a new by-law to enhance inclusiveness and fellowship within our great Institution, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere to visitors and guests assisting the Club in its goal of increasing Membership to above 600. For anyone who has not yet seen the by-law it can be found below in its entirety.

“As Athenaeum Proprietors, we endeavour to be warm and welcoming hosts at all times, and will not under any circumstances, reproach our fellow Proprietors or their guests, for failure to meet our dress code or any other club rule. The Club Secretary, if informed of any rule violation, will have total discretion as to the action to take. The Club Secretary is the only person allowed to approach any Proprietor or their guests to discuss rule violations.”

If you see someone in the Club you may not have met, why not introduce yourself?

“It’s the friends we meet along the way that help us appreciate the journey”



The Athenaeum has welcomed
14 New Members over the past three months.

Miss Anna L. Alexander

Mr Graham De Fabbio

Mr Nigel Hobro

Mr Carl Long

Mr Daniel R.M McCarthy

Mr Gary Owens

Miss Ashton Tansey

Miss Sian F.A Davidson

Mr Thomas F. Dykhuizen

Reverend Canon Ronald Iveson

Mr Jake Marnick

Mr Stephen McLoughlin

Mr Philip E. Reddy

Mr Philip J. Whitfield

Since July 2019;

One Member has passed away— Mr David Gee

Eight Proprietor's Defaulted Membership.