

Pickle Night in London – 2016

Pickle Day was held in London on Monday 7th November at the National Liberal Club, conveniently only a few hundred yards away from where Lieutenant John Lapenotiere delivered Vice Admiral Sir Cuthbert Collingwood's despatches after the Battle of Trafalgar 211 years ago.

Those present included both descendants of Nelson's Band of Brothers and members of the Sons and Daughters of Trafalgar, among them several Collingwoods, Fremantles and Digbys and Isabel Hore-Fazan whose ancestor was a midshipman in the 74-gun line-of-battle-ship *Achille* under the command of Captain Richard King on 21st October 1805.

Peter Hore set the scene for the evening, reminding guests of the desperate fright the Britain was in in the autumn of 1805 and the fear of invasion, and that William Marsden, First Secretary of the Admiralty was just going to bed at 1 o'clock in the morning, when he was interrupted by the sudden appearance of Lieutenant Lapenotiere who announced "Sir!, we have won a great victory, but we have Lord Nelson!"

Once the news had been absorbed and once Judith Collingwood had read out part of her ancestor's despatches, sea shanties and patriotic songs were sung, including the Pickle's own version of "What shall we do with a drunken sailor?" and the recital of verse.

Some 55 guests, who included Kathryn Campbell from the USA, attended the evening. Kate was presented with a copy of the Trafalgar Chronicle by Admiral Lord West who is patron of the Sons and Daughters of Trafalgar.

Pickle Day next year will be celebrated on Monday 6th November in central London – save the date!

