

# BRIDGE WARD CLUB

*founded 1930*

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## **Tower of London: Ceremony of the Keys Preceded by a Guided Tour led by Mr Keith Hanson, Chief Exhibitor at the Tower Thursday 27 May 2010 from 7.15 pm**

The Ceremony of the Keys is the traditional locking up of the Tower of London and has taken place on each and every night, without fail, for at least 700 years. The importance of securing this fortress for the night is still very relevant because, although the Monarch no longer resides at this royal palace, the Crown Jewels and many other valuables are still kept there.

The security of the Tower of London as a whole is entrusted to the Tower Guard, which is provided by whichever unit is charged with providing the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace at the time. The Guard has been based in Waterloo Barracks since 1845, and is 22 strong, under an officer. The Tower Guard mounts sentries throughout the Tower of London.

The Club is privileged that Keith Hanson, the Chief Exhibitor, has agreed to lead a personal guided tour of the Tower for members of the Club. Mr Hanson is responsible for the security of the Crown Jewels in the Jewel House and he is also in charge of personnel for the Martin Tower and the White Tower. He served in the Army for 30 years retiring as a Warrant Officer and was for a time a Yeoman Warder before taking up his current position nearly 10 years ago. He lives with his wife in the Tower.

He has also arranged for members to be admitted to the Warders' Mess to enjoy a buffet and to buy drinks after the Tour and before the Ceremony.

The timetable will be to assemble at the West Gate at 7.15 pm. Keith Hanson will give his Guided Tour until 8.15 pm followed by the Buffet in the Mess. Members will gather for the Ceremony of the Keys from 9.30 pm and will leave (by a side-door) at 10.05 pm. No photography is allowed during the Ceremony.

There is a limit of 45 for this visit and places will be allocated on a first-come basis. Applications with a cheque for £15 per person should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 19 May. Dress code for men is a jacket and tie (no jeans or trainers) and attendees must be aged 18 and over.

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Bridge Ward Club: Tour of the Tower of London and Ceremony of the Keys - Thursday 27 May 2010

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ places for the visit to the Tower of London (cheque for £15 per person payable to Bridge Ward Club).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests: \_\_\_\_\_  
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