

THE MASTER'S BLOG WEEK 2

This seems to have been a quiet week by City and Livery standards (which is probably just as well when I look at next week's jam-packed diary).

MEETING AT THE PLUMBERS' OFFICES: 31 OCTOBER

Although many people on the Tube and in the streets of London seemed to have taken Hallowe'en seriously (with some rather interesting outfits and make-up in evidence), fancy dress was not required for my visit to the Company's offices in Carpenters' Hall today. The office is generally manned between Monday and Wednesday and I spend a useful time with Pieter the Clerk and Sharon, his Assistant in reviewing my diary for the next month or so, discussing issues arising out of last week's Court meeting and planning future events.

MEETING THE SENIOR STEWARD: 1 NOVEMBER

Liverymen appointed as Stewards of our Company generally serve for 7 years, during the last of which they have the title "Senior Steward". This year's Senior Steward is Ian Smith (yes- his Christian name does suggest that he has Scottish ancestors). Today the Mistress and I (I am getting into the habit of describing Sheila in this way) travel to leafy Surrey to meet Ian and his wife Patience to discuss upcoming events, notably the Plumbers' Carol Service which will take place on Tuesday 12 December in St Magnus the Martyr Church. We meet at RHS Wisley (which I had often seen on Gardeners' World, but never visited). The weather is so good that we were able to have our snack lunch outside. We were impressed by Wisley and plan a return visit.

SoPHE ANNUAL DINNER: 2 NOVEMBER

The last time I was able to attend the Annual Celebration Dinner of the Society of Public Health Engineers was in 2011 when I was surprised and pleased to receive the Society's Honorary Fellowship. Although I have been invited back each year since then, the date has always clashed with business commitments in Scotland. I am therefore delighted to be able to accept the invitation which was issued to me in my capacity as Master of the Plumbers' Company. Over 300 people attend this dinner- most with an involvement in some aspect of public health engineering- and it is good to see the Society continuing to award its "Young Engineer of the Year" Award, this year in conjunction with Engineers Without Borders. The evening offered the opportunity to meet some people for the first time and others- including several Plumbers' Liverymen- whom I have known for some years.