



The Master's Blogs 2017 - 18

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FUNERAL OF LIVERYMAN RICHARD MURDOCH: 23 JANUARY 2018

Although I don't think I ever met the late Richard Murdoch, his was a name that I have always associated with excellence in the use of lead sheet. Richard worked for the Lead Sheet Association and helped to form the Lead Contractors' Association in 1984. He had been a Liveryman of the Plumbers' Company since 1980 and was awarded the Company's St Michael Medallion in 1996. He was a very loyal and active demonstrator of leadwork at the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton. There were many references to the Company during the funeral service at Guildford Crematorium, with one of the tributes being paid by Liveryman Phil Mead (who worked with Richard over many years at Singleton).

PLUMBERS' COMPANY COURT MEETING AND LUNCH: 24 JANUARY 2018



As Master, I have to chair 4 Court meetings and today sees the first of these, which takes place in Furniture Makers' Hall, one of the more modern City Livery Halls. The Court meeting discusses a wide range of issues and approves the Annual Accounts for the year to 29 September 2017. It is a privilege to see six new Liverymen being clothed as of the Livery today. This is really encouraging and is a positive move in the Company's current recruitment drive.

After the lunch which follows the meeting, we hear from the Master Furniture Maker, Dr Tony Smart, MBE who outlines the history of his

Company and pays tribute to the support which he and his Company received from our Past Master, Geoff Marsh in relation to education, training and qualifications.

COACHMAKERS' AWARD TO INDUSTRY DINNER: 24 JANUARY 2018

As seems to be so often the case, lunch today is followed by an industry dinner and tonight sees me at Vintners' Hall for the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers' Award to Industry Dinner. Granted its Royal Charter in 1677, the Coachmakers was originally the sole governing body of the coach making trade. When the horse drawn coach

was replaced by the motor vehicle, enterprising artisans transferred their skills to fashion the curved ash wood frames for cars. When aircraft burst onto the transport scene, Coachmakers again transferred their skills to the fashioning of wood in well-defined curves for aircraft.

Tonight's award, which is presented by Master Coachmaker Tony Edwards, is given to British company Dowty Propellers Ltd which has a long and proud history and whose products are used in many aircraft today.

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CITY UNIVERSITY GRADUATION: 29 JANUARY 2018

It is some 40 years since my own graduation ceremonies (two in consecutive years) from Heriot Watt University. Apart from a couple of subsequent graduations of friends and family, today sees me at a graduation ceremony of the City University, London in the magnificent setting of the Barbican Centre.



After a delightful lunch in the Barbican's Garden Room (an oasis on the third floor of the centre), the Livery Masters in attendance are gowned and chained and lined up in order of precedence for the procession through the gathered company of students and their families onto the stage. After seeing the installation of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, as Rector and the conferment on him of an Honorary Degree, we witness the joy on the faces of almost 400 graduands as they cross the stage to receive their degrees from the newly- appointed Rector. Although I have to "shuffle" my position on the seat on the stage several times during the two-hour long ceremony to remain comfortable, I have to say that it was a huge honour to witness so many young (and not so young) people being recognised for the hard work they have undertaken during their period of study.

OFFICE CATCH-UP: 31 JANUARY 2018

After last week's Court meeting and Luncheon, the attention of the Plumbers' office now moves to the Annual Banquet- one of the premier events in the Livery year. This year's event will take place in the Mansion House (the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London) on Wednesday 21 March 2018 and today sees me in the Company offices with the Clerk discussing the details of that event in order that the invitations and flyers can be issued. During our discussions, we also review a number of other future events.