



The Worshipful Company of Plumbers

Newsletter Number 66

APRIL 2012

OFFICE AND COURT NEWS

(By the Clerk
Air Commodore Paul Nash OBE)

A warm welcome from the Office team as Spring emerges and we (continue to) enjoy some warm and sunny weather as I write this article. Last year was a momentous one for the Company, as it celebrated the 400th Anniversary on the granting of its Royal Charter - particularly for those who attended the various functions.

There are many activities in the programme for this year. Please do come along and enjoy the fellowship of your colleagues. This includes our own River Cruise on 30th May 2012, to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

We also look forward to 2013, when Assistant Alderman Fiona Woolf is due to be elected Lord Mayor of London and 2015, when we shall celebrate the 650th Anniversary of the granting of our Ordinances. There will be much in which to participate and enjoy as well.

For those of you who use the internet, could I remind you all to make sure you keep your contact details up to date on the Company Website. If you do not, particularly your e-mail address, you may miss out on important information and the programme of events. Please continue to use the Website through your individual log-on to see what is happening. Development work is still progressing with the on-line booking section; we need to make sure it is right before we go live.

We have had some bookings for our Meeting Room. It is a very useful (and cheap) facility for meetings in the City for up to twelve (fourteen at a squeeze). Details are available on the Website.



From the left:

Upper Warden, Charles Yuill, Clerk, Air Commodore Paul Nash, OBE., Alderman Jeffrey Evans.
Mrs. Jean Yuill, Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir Michael Savory,
The Master, Lt. Col. Antony Paterson-Fox, General Sir Peter Wall, KCB, CBE, ADC, Gen.,
Mrs. Diana Paterson-Fox BSc, AIC., Mrs. Deborah Gale BSc.,
Renter Warden, Nick Gale BA, FCIPHE.

Picture by Freeman Michael O'Sullivan – www.michaelosullivan.co.uk

Also, the Store is maintaining its usual stock of items for sale and details can, once again, be found on the Website. I am sure we will add to the stock items for our 650th Anniversary!

New Admissions

The following Freemen of the Company were admitted to the Livery at the October 2011, and January 2012, Courts:

Charles Brooks
Solicitor.

Jane Palmer
Company Director.

Stephen Kay
Company Managing Director.

Christopher Saunders
Company Chairman.

Peter Cheesman
Plumbing Lecturer.

Richard Redman
Retired Design Engineer.

William McIntosh
Maintenance Engineer.

Martin Gratte, Past Master
Lightmonger, was also admitted as an
Honorary Liveryman.

Those Departed

It is with great regret that we announce the death of the following Liverymen since the last Newsletter:

Past Master Edward (Eddie) Scott Holbrook.

Past Master Lionel Robert Holbrook.

Past Master 'Eddie' was our longest serving Liveryman, having joined the Company in 1946, he served as Master in 1970/71. 'Eddie' was one hundred years old. His younger brother, Lionel, joined the Company in 1951 and served as Master in 1976/77. Together, they made an enormous contribution to the Company.

Liveryman Gerald Frank Mann, who had been a Liveryman since 1961.

Liveryman Michael John Smith, who had been a Liveryman since 1989.

Office Summer Break

The Office will close for its annual summer holiday on Thursday 9th August 2012, and reopen on Tuesday 28th August 2012, after the August Bank Holiday.

LIVERY NEWS TOPICS

Annual Banquet

(By the Upper Warden, Charles Yuill)

The most prestigious event in our Social Calendar, our Annual Banquet, again took place in the Mansion House on Monday, the 19th March, courtesy of the Lord Mayor.

The use every year of the Mansion House, the home of the Lord Mayor, and the most beautiful of dining venues in the City, is a privilege. As a result, the Banquet was extremely well attended by liverymen and many guests, almost matching in number the total who attended our

special 400th Anniversary Banquet last year.

Upon arrival and ascending the Mansion House's magnificent staircase, lined by the Richmond Sea Cadets, those attending were met by the Master and Wardens before proceeding to a Reception at which drinks were served and music was played by the musicians for the evening, The London Banqueting Ensemble.

Following the arrival of the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir Michael Savory, we were summoned by a trumpet fanfare to take our places for dinner in the Egyptian Room and to watch the grand procession of the Officers and the Company's principal guests, led by our Beadle, Peter Thompson.

Grace having been said by the Company's Honorary Chaplain, Liveryman the Reverend Philip Warner, the first course of dinner, a truly sumptuous baked Cornish crab soufflé, was then served.

We broke slightly from tradition so that the Master, Lieutenant Colonel Antony Paterson-Fox, and our principal guest, Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Peter Wall, could present Sapper Dean King, from the Royal School of Military Engineering, with the Army Apprentice Award, which was graciously received.

Dinner continued with a second course

of fillet of Highland beef, followed by dessert in the form of assiette of cranberry and coffee with handmade chocolates. All the food was to the highest standard and each course was accompanied by the most splendid of wines and a port.

The assembled company then, at the invitation of the Master and Wardens, sang Grace, which was followed by the Ceremony of The Loving Cup, the Loyal Toasts, proposed by the Master, and entertainment in the form of a performance of the Post Horn Gallop with encore, by The London Banqueting Ensemble.

Next, came the Master's main speech of the evening, toasting the Lord Mayor and the City of London. He started by welcoming the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir Michael Savory, the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Peter Wall, and the Chairman of the World Plumbing Council, Russ Chaney. The Master began by making reference to the work of the Armed Forces in Afghanistan and elsewhere, for which we all owe a debt of sincere gratitude. He went on to mention World Plumbing Day, held on the 11th March, and thanked the Immediate Past Master, Chris Sneath, for a very successful year celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Grant of our Charter, the highlight of which was the unveiling of The Plumber's Apprentice at Cannon Street Station. He then presented a cheque for the Lord Mayor's Charity and a copy of the Plumbers' Company History, to the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens.

In response, the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir Michael Savory, welcomed the Company to the Mansion House, thanked the Master for the generosity of the gifts received and emphasised the continuing importance of the contribution made by the City to the financial strength and well being of the United Kingdom.

It was then my turn, as Upper Warden, to propose the toast to all the guests. The Master had already



*Sapper Dean King receiving his Award
with
on the left: The Master, Antony Paterson-Fox
on the right: the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Peter Wall*

welcomed the three principal guests and so it was my pleasure to add a welcome to Alderman Jeffrey Evans, Alderman for the Ward of Cheap, William Fraser, OBE, Chairman of the City Livery Committee, Professor Paul Curran, Vice Chancellor of the City of London University, Martin Hudson, Master Ironmonger, John Older, Master Carman, our own Past Master, John Lockyer, now Master Actuary, and Barry Dennis, Master Water Conservator. I also welcomed from the Armed Services Captain Trevor Gulley, from HMS Sultan, Brigadier Stephen Hodder and Lieutenant Colonel Gareth Baker, from the Royal School of Military Engineering, accompanied by Andrew Brader from Mid Kent College, Group Captain Jamie Johnston, from RAF Cosford, and Lieutenant Commander John Porter from Richmond Sea Cadets. I went on to welcome from the professional bodies representing our Industry, Lee Davies, President of the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering, Preston Fleming, President of the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation, John Breakell, National President of the Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors, Andy Ford, President of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers, Frank Glover, Chairman of the British Plumbers' Employers' Council, and Martin Burton, Immediate Past President of the Heating and Ventilating Contractors Association (now known as the Building Services Engineering Association). Finally, I welcomed the personal guests of the Master, Commodore Malcolm and Lucilla Shirley, Thomas and Christine Seager Berry and William and Avril Charnock. I then asked all liverymen to raise their glasses and toast our guests.

The Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Peter Wall, responding on behalf of the guests, expressed thanks for the very warm hospitality received from the Plumbers' Company and described some of the issues facing our Armed Forces today, As an engineer, he made reference to the many technical challenges being overcome, and assured us all that despite reduced funding from

Government and less men in uniform, we still have one of the best Armed Forces in the world and one of which we can all be immensely proud. His speech and his toast to the Company were well received and warmly applauded.

The Master then brought a most enjoyable evening to a close by presenting the Chief of the General Staff, whom he had known during his own service career, with a Plumber's Ladle. The Master invited all present to join him in a stirrup cup before leaving the Egyptian Room in a formal procession with the Officers and Principal Guests.

Company's Annual Lecture
(By Assistant Hodkinson)

Water Security: Challenges for the 21st Century

A highly successful twenty-eighth Annual Lecture took place at the Royal College of Physicians on 31st January 2012. We were privileged to welcome Professor Sir John Beddington, the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government, who addressed nearly two hundred liverymen and their guests, on the subject of 'Water Security: Challenges for the 21st Century'. This



*Sir John Beddington and the Master
At the Annual Lecture*

is a subject close to our hearts, as the demands on our water supplies increase with a growing population, not only in this country but globally.

Indeed, this is exactly how Sir John started to describe the challenges, highlighting the projected world population of eight billion by 2025, an increase of two billion from 1998. He also coupled this with increasing urbanisation, particularly in the developing countries, indicating that over 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050 - currently the figure is approximately 50%. Cities are getting bigger and their demand for resources is increasing accordingly.

People are also moving to coastal regions, many with low elevations. This now means over one billion people per year are exposed to the risk of flooding in coastal zones and river deltas.

Linked to this, are the challenges of providing resources; food, water and energy. As a result, eight hundred and eighty-four million people lack access to clean water, and it is also estimated that by 2030, over one billion people will still lack access to electricity.

Sir John also showed the effect of climate change, indicating that a two degree Centigrade average temperature rise would be problematic and four degree Centigrade rise disastrous, with around an extra one billion people experiencing water scarcity as a result of extensive flooding as sea levels rise, and up to a 70% reduction in water run-off.

Water and food security are closely linked with 70% of global water withdrawals consumed by agriculture. In the UK, imported food accounts for 62% of the total water footprint. As a result, around the world you can see how water scarcity creates conflicts between neighbouring countries.

Sir John did not pull any punches when he said that our present system is just not sustainable. It is not just in developing countries where problems of water scarcity exist. For example, in the USA, aquifers are already

depleted and others showing a significant decline in water levels.

All of this, will produce a large gap between water supply and demand, perhaps as much as 40% by 2030, and faced with these huge challenges, how will we ensure water security in the future?

Sir John highlighted several areas of innovation to help balance the supply and demand equation:

(a) Rainwater harvesting, innovative wastewater treatment and reuse technologies to enhance water supplies.

(b) Biotechnology to address water scarcity and quality challenges, especially in agriculture.

(c) Nanotechnology for desalination, water purification, wastewater treatment and monitoring.

(d) Irrigation technology for the storage, reuse, water lifting and precision application technologies, such as overhead sprinklers and localised irrigation.

In this country, the UK Water Research and Innovation Partnership brings together the research initiatives, policy, NGO's and business to focus our efforts in addressing this careful balance between supply and demand.

It was a great honour for the Worshipful Company of Plumbers to learn from such an esteemed scientist about how he and Government see the challenges ahead for water security, not only in this country but also around the globe.

As the challenges are indeed great, the Lecture did not always make for easy listening. However, we can take some comfort in the innovation and development of new ideas and that the demand for expertise in our profession will be sustained well into the future.

Following the Lecture, Sir John was inundated with excellent questions from the audience.

Everyone then retired to the library to carry on the discussion and to enjoy the renowned hospitality of

the Plumbers.

A splendid dinner followed to round off an excellent and informative evening.

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Health Aid for Africa (By Alan Croucher, Trustee)

Steward David Attwood and his Co-Trustee, Alan Croucher, have been invited by the Company's Charitable and Educational Trust to include another article in the Newsletter, to inform the Livery of the valuable work that HAFA are carrying out in Tanzania. The Charitable and Educational Trust are pleased to support the work of the Health Aid for Africa, on behalf of the Plumbers' Company.

Since the last article in the Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, Health Aid for Africa's School Project at Kitwechembogo in the district of Kagera has been completed. New class rooms for one hundred and twenty children, together with new desks, are now in use, which means that the original wattle and daub classroom structure can now be used for other activities. The toilets have also been completed, and are reputed to be the best in the district, a fact of which the teaching staff are very proud.

Supplying fresh water was going to be the most challenging part of the Project. Many ideas on how this could be achieved were discussed. The obvious solution was to harvest the rainwater from the roofs of the classrooms. This would have meant installing a plastic tank, or having a 46,000 litre ferrocrete tank built. This idea, although worthy of consideration, was going to stretch our financial resources, as well as being reliant on plentiful rainfall. The current drawing of water from a contaminated stream, shared by livestock, had to be eliminated. The one good thing in our favour was that word of our need to obtain fresh water, had reached the District Water Engineer. He contacted us with the exciting news that the source of fresh running water could be

found some 750 km from the school. David and I arranged to visit the spring, which was situated some 75 metres up an escarpment. Working with the District Authority and funded by HAFA, pipework was installed to bring this sparkling fresh water not only to the school, but to the village community. This brought the Kitwechembogo Project to fulfilment.

Our final input was to fund privately ten children unable to attend secondary school for financial reasons.

Our next proposed Project lies west of Lake Victoria at a small community in Muhutwe, a village some 40km from Bukoba. Here, we found children in a really desperate state. At the primary school of Nyailigamba, the children are taught in classrooms resembling mud brick cattle stalls. There are floors of earth and stones, walls with gaping holes and rusted corrugated iron roofs, which let through the rain, and the most unsanitary and primitive of toilets.

Together with the Regional Education Officials, the teaching staff and village Elders, we have put together a Project to build a new school. The contractor has been appointed. Bills of Quantity have been presented and verified. The crucial factor still to be achieved, is the funding of the Project. HAFA has sufficient funds to progress the work but its policy of having the total cost available before proceeding, is felt to be a more sound policy. We do hope, very shortly, to be reporting that work has commenced.

HAFA wishes to thank the Worshipful Company for its support and hopes that HAFA will benefit from the Company's care and generosity for its Projects.

INFORMATION ON THE PLUMBERS' COMPANY

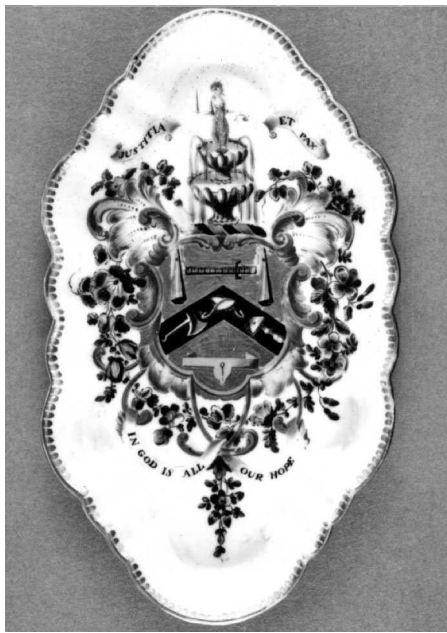
Museums and the Plumbers' Company.

(By Liveryman Andrew Hunter Blair, Company Curator.)

Following Past Steward John Carnaby's discovery of a Worcester porcelain spoon tray, bearing the

Company's Coat of Arms, and held by the British Museum, further investigations revealed that the Museum actually holds three Worcester porcelain items relevant to the Company. Held in the Department of Prehistory and Europe, they date from the Wall Period or First Period of Worcester porcelain and as such, are relatively early, say between 1751 and 1783. They are respectively:

A Spoon Tray: Painted in colours and gilt with the Arms of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, with motto, measuring 8.5cm by 15.4cm and c1730, (see photo), and part of a collection of Worcester porcelain previously owned by H. Harrow Bunn, and presented to the Museum in 1942 by the Reverend Gustav Adolphus Schneider. They were not members of the Plumbers' Company, merely collectors of this type of porcelain.



A Tea Pot Stand: Hexagonal with fluted sides and gilt rim with the Arms of the Plumbers' Company, 14.5cm diameter and c1770. It was presented to the Museum in 1921, by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lloyd, who were also collectors of this type of porcelain and who were again not members of the Plumbers' Company.

A Sugar Bowl and Cover: Round, 13.2cm high with the Arms of the

Plumbers' Company, a gilt flower knob and c1770,(see photo). It was also presented to the Museum in 1921, by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lloyd.



Additionally, the Museum holds four lead weights and one bronze weight, the earliest lead weight dating from 1558 – 1603, stamped with the Royal Cipher and Sword of St. Paul and the mark of the Plumbers' Company of London, (see photo). It predates our 1611 Charter and the weight held by the Museum of London. The three other lead weights date respectively 1603 – 1625 (two) and 1714 – 1727. The bronze weight dates from 1625 – 1649. They are described as having



the mark of the Plumbers' Company of London, and most have a depiction of St. Michael and the Sword of St. Paul.

The British Museum can make these items available for viewing,

subject to arranging an appointment with the Curator.

The Museum of London currently holds two items pertaining to the Company. They are respectively:

A Banner: Although referred to in the past as a 'Barge Banner', a better description would be a 'Flag'. Measuring some 1.5m by 2m on a 2.3m pole, it is made of a red/maroon silk and bears a hand-painted copy of the Company Coat of Arms (see photo). The silk is in a poor condition and needs quite extensive and costly repair. For the present, it remains stored in the Museum of London. Enquiries about possible repair have been made to NADFAS and to The Royal School of Needlework. An indication of cost is currently awaited. Perhaps a sponsor could be found and the restored Flag hung in St. Magnus?



A Lead Weight: A lead weight dated 1611 and stamped with the Company's Arms. It is on permanent loan to the Museum of London, where it is on display.

The Museum of London can make these items available for viewing, again subject to arranging an appointment with the Curator.

COMMUNICATIONS

Liveryman Kevin Wellman Appointed the New Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineers

The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering announced the appointment of Liveryman Kevin Wellman as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Past Master Professor Rodney Cartwright, Chairman of the CIPHE Board of Trustees, commented: "Out of all of the candidates who had applied, Kevin was clearly the best man for the role. He has done an excellent job over the past few months as acting CEO and the Board is confident that he is the right person to provide strong leadership for the Institute in the future. His in-depth understanding of the CIPHE and the Plumbing and Heating Industry, along with his business acumen, will ensure that the Institute and its members are in safe hands."

Kevin said: "I am delighted to formally accept the position of Chief Executive Officer. By working closely with the Head Office team, Board of Trustees, Industry colleagues and hardworking volunteers throughout our Institute, I know we can build on the strategies already in place to develop the role of the CIPHE. As the world looks increasingly to issues of sustainability and emerging technologies, our members have an important part to play in advising consumers and helping to build their confidence in new technology. It is important for us as the Chartered Body responsible for our Industry, to show leadership and to collaborate closely with other organisations and the Government on a wide range of important plumbing and heating engineering issues."

Kevin began his plumbing career as an apprentice and worked as a Registered Plumber, before joining the Institute's staff in 1985 as Technical Officer. He supported and developed a number of technical initiatives and activities, including seminars, publications and technical enquiries. In his role of Operations Director, Kevin was responsible for developing policy; formulation of direction and strategy; corporate social responsibility; negotiating and securing funding streams; line managing and developing staff.



*Liveryman Kevin Wellman
On his appointment as Chief Executive
of the
Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineers*

In 2006, Kevin arranged the centenary conference and exhibition, which was the largest event in the Institute's history, attracting visitors worldwide. He has secured funding for a number of European projects that have seen the development of sustainable technologies and, more recently, a safety-related product to aid the detection of asbestos fibres.

Kevin is an active participant in the WaterSafe Installer Scheme discussions, sits on the Technical Committee of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers and represents the Institute on numerous committees and working groups.

Since 2001, he has worked as a business mentor for the Prince's Trust, to support young people establishing new companies.

PLUMBING MUSEUM AND WORKSHOP TRUST

Plumbing Museum Report
(By Past Master Edward Hopkinson)

**Master's Day Visit,
Sunday the 22nd July 2012.**

The Master, Antony Paterson-Fox, has particularly requested that the biennial 'Master's Day' Visit by the Livery, in support of their Museum, should take place to coincide with the 'Rare Breeds Show', to be held on Sunday the 22nd July. The Master wishes this event to provide a day out that can be enjoyed by all the family and guests.

Please make a date in your diary now and look out for the flyer from the Office for this important event.

Diamond Jubilee

The Plumbers' Company is presenting Her Majesty the Queen with a gift, reflecting the tradition and ethos of the Company, to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Liveryman and Master

Craftsman, Terry Fillary, has been hard at work throughout the winter months making a bespoke gift of a lead planting trough with two small lead planters located at each end, using the traditional material and Craft Skills that are demonstrated at the Plumbing Museum.

Visual and Audio Display

Thanks to the efforts of Wendy Hamilton and the generosity of the Livery, enough funding has been raised to install an up-to-the-minute visual and audio display in the Court Barn. It is intended to be used during an actual demonstration of Craft Skills, to ensure that everyone can see and hear what is going on. It can also be used as a visual and audio display to provide interest and information when demonstrations are not taking place, running on a continuous loop.

Images of the Museum Exhibition

The Plumbing Museum and Workshop Trust is supporting the Weald and Downland Museum by providing exhibits and seeking exhibits from our demonstrators, for inclusion in their 'Images of the Museum Exhibition', which is to be held throughout the week commencing the 29th October to the 4th November 2012.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

St. Bride's Church

(By Steward David Attwood)

On Wednesday the 26th October 2011, the new Master of the Company, Antony Paterson-Fox, accompanied by his wife, Diana, along with eleven other members and guests, were treated to a fascinating guided tour by Eric Davies and his fellow guide Helen Blackwell.

During the early 1960's, restoration of St. Bride's Church, which was badly damaged by a wartime bomb, uncovered more than a thousand years of history.

This extensive history could have remained uncovered for many more years, but for the German bombs. The extensive restoration and excavations exposed seven previous churches, from the first Roman remains, to the existing Church.

The two-hour visit gave our party the opportunity of viewing parts of the Church which are not usually accessible to the public; for this, we can only thank our tour guides.

The thirteen members and guests then made their way to the Press House Wine Bar for lunch and drinks.

Trinity House

(By Steward David Attwood)

Thanks to Edgar King, our guide during the visit to Trinity House on 9th November, it proved to be a most enjoyable and entertaining tour. Twenty members and guests, including our



*Visit to St. Bride's Church
The Master of the Company, Antony Paterson-Fox, his wife, Diana,
with eleven other members of the Livery and their guests,
and Eric Davies, the tour guide*

Master, Antony Paterson-Fox, and his wife, Diana, were treated to a one and a half hour tour through this magnificent building.

Edgar gave us a comprehensive explanation of this historic charitable guild, which was granted its Royal Charter in 1514. He pointed out many architectural features, along with its many treasures.

The superb Entrance Hall and Staircase leads to the Quarterdeck, with its access to a number of other rooms, including the Library, where many official functions and receptions are held. This room also houses a collection of silverware and books which are protected behind wooden panels,

On behalf of the Company, the Master thanked Edgar, and presented him with a gift to mark our visit. The members and guests then had lunch and drinks in the Grange City Hotel, which was a short walk away.

A Visit to the Benjamin Franklin House

(By Steward Richard Harvey)

In January 2012, the first visit of the

year took place. The Master, Antony Paterson-Fox, the Mistress Plumber, Diana Paterson-Fox, the Upper Warden, Charles Yuill, and some thirty liverymen, partners and guests attended a visit to the London home of Benjamin Franklin. The trip was organised by Steward Richard Harvey and his partner, Karen.

Franklin started his working career as a printer, apprenticed to his father, and went on to be a prolific inventor, pioneer in electricity, political activist and, in America, a newspaper proprietor and politician. Along with his many varied achievements, he completed his working life drawing up anti-slavery legislation, and he is classed as one of the founding figures of modern America.

Our visit included a tour of his house in Craven Street and an audio visual biography of this fascinating public (although sometimes controversial) figure. Our tour concluded with a demonstration of the Glass Armonica – a musical instrument invented by Franklin. Several of us were invited to try to play it.

The group was also treated to a visit to the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, and an

extremely enthusiastic guide showed us some of her favourite paintings, pointing out many things that may have escaped our notice.

Finally, we made our way to the Sherlock Holmes pub nearby, where a hearty meal was enjoyed by all.

The National Theatre

(By Senior Steward Mike Horwood)

On Wednesday the 18th February, eighteen liverymen, together with their wives and guests, attended a tour backstage of the South Bank National Theatre.

Our tour guide, Rob, gave an excellent presentation and the first visit was to the Olivier Theatre, which has seating for one thousand one hundred and twenty, to view the set of 'She Stoops to Conquer'.

The Lyttleton Theatre was viewed next, seating eight hundred and ninety, from which live performances are broadcast digitally in high definition in over seventy cinemas and Performing Arts Centres in the UK and two hundred more around the world.

All set building, prop and costume-making happen on site and a total of eight hundred and fifty people are employed at the South Bank National Theatre.

One of the original 'War Horse' puppets was on view and Rob brought the horse to life by pulling a few strings, to everyone's amusement.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Olivier Café afterwards, where we were made very welcome as a group.

All enjoyed a most interesting visit, with helpful and friendly staff.

United Guilds Service

(By Upper Warden, Charles Yuill)

The seventieth Service of the United Guilds of the City of London, the 'Diamond Jubilee and Public Service', took place at St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday, the 23rd March.

The idea behind the first Service, which took place on the 25th March, 1943, was to help lift spirits in the City, following the Blitz during the Second World War and, as far as records show, that was the first occasion upon which all the Livery Companies of the City combined to hold a religious service.

This year, St. Paul's was absolutely full, following the now well established tradition of an annual service. Tickets are very much sought after each year, and it was good to see the Plumbers well represented in the Company Pew by the Master, me as Upper Warden, Past Masters, liverymen and their guests.

One of the highlights of the Service itself comes at the start with the Procession which includes St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, the Beadles of the Grocers' and Mercers' Companies, Masters of selected Livery Companies, Officers of the City, Members of the Clergy, including the College of Canons and the Bishop of London, and the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Alderman David Wootton.

There then followed a very dignified Service in the most wonderful surroundings and majesty of St. Paul's, and a very thought-provoking sermon, preached by the Bishop of London, the Right Reverend Richard Chartres.

As somebody who has attended the United Guilds Service regularly for several years, I cannot help feeling that those liverymen who have not been able to participate, should really make an effort to do so. It is difficult to describe in just a few words the magnificence of the occasion and sense of grandeur that comes with it and, whether a regular attendee at church or not, I urge you to experience it for yourselves.

After the conclusion of the Service, those Plumbers present and their guests, made their way to Plaisterers' Hall at One London Wall to enjoy a magnificent luncheon provided by the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers after which our Master, Lieutenant Colonel Antony Paterson-Fox, as the senior Master amongst the assembled guests, made an entertaining and humorous speech in response to the toast of 'The Guests', proposed by the Master Plaisterer.

EILEEN'S CORNER

(By Honorary Liveryman, Eileen Lilley)

Our congratulations to Liveryman Donald Munro and his wife, Maggie, on their marriage on November 16th 2011, in Tallahassee, Florida.

The wedding was held in Florida to enable the ceremony to be conducted by Maggie's American cousin who is a retired judge living in Tallahassee.

Donald and Maggie held a party for their families when they returned to the United Kingdom in December. Maggie's granddaughter commented that it is unusual for grandparents to run away to get married!



Liveryman Donald Munro and his wife, Maggie, on their marriage

It was very nice to read about the continuing success of the John Guest family business in an article in the February 2012 issue of the Heating Ventilating and Plumbing magazine.

John Guest is such a stalwart supporter of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, I was pleased to see how well they are succeeding as a major UK manufacturer in the Plumbing Industry, and read about their positive plans for growth in the future.