



The Worshipful Company of Plumbers

Newsletter Number 61

OCTOBER 2009

COURT NEWS

(By the Clerk)

On Thursday 19th November 2009, the Master will hold a Common Hall at Cutlers' Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm.

The Common Hall will be held prior to the Ladle Dinner, and it is hoped that as many liverymen as possible will take this opportunity to find out more about the running of the Company.

Working Groups are currently considering future sponsorship, increasing donations to the Company's Charity, young entry to the Company, Company Archives, future office staffing, Plumbers' Company 400 and 650 celebrations, support for World Skills 2011, Licence to Practise and the Communications of the Company.

The Job Specification for the appointment of Clerk has been approved and recruiting for the present Clerk's successor will take place before Christmas. It is planned that there should be a three-month handover, before the present Clerk retires on the 1st August, 2010.

The Company Lecture will take place at the Royal College of Physicians on Tuesday 12th January, 2010 at 5pm.. The Speaker will be Professor Philip Hutchinson from Cranfield University. His subject will be 'Energy Security and Climate Change' and is billed to be an overview of current received wisdom on climate change and especially global warming, from a



The Incoming Master of the Company, David Hamilton, with the Upper Warden, Christopher Sneath, on the left and the Renter Warden, Lt. Col. Antony Paterson-Fox, on the right

sceptical viewpoint. **Please book as soon as you can, if you are able to attend.**

A small group is drafting comments for the DEFRA paper on the changes to Water Fitting Regulations.

The Company has joined a recently formed group called 'Livery Schools Link,' which aims to assist inner city schools with practical 'hands-on' help.

At the July Court, the following Company Officers were elected to take Office from the Installation Court on the 15th October 2009:

Master

Liveryman David Hamilton

Upper Warden

Liveryman Christopher Sneath

Renter Warden

Lt. Col. Antony Paterson-Fox

Clerk (until 1st August 2010)

Lt. Col. Antony Paterson-Fox

Beadle

Mr Colin Smith, MBE, BEM.

On the retirement of Mrs. Ros Wilson from the position of Company Accountant, after eleven and a half years, the Court approved her appointment as an Honorary

Liveryman. Mrs Sue Leary has been appointed as the Financial Assistant.

Following the resignation of Liveryman Des Coates and Liveryman Robert Shanks from the Court, the Court has approved the appointment as Assistants to the Court, of Liveryman Charles Yuill and Liveryman Robert Burgon.

During the evening of the 1st July 2010, there will be a Joint Charity Banquet at the Guildhall with the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass. This will be preceded by a champagne reception and a performance of 'Sunset' in the Guildhall Yard by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. A joint working group has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Immediate Past Master, to organise this event. There will be thirty-six tables available, each sitting ten people.

The following Freeman of the Company were admitted to the Livery at the April and July Courts:

Richard Bienfait – Finance Director, Veolia Water UK.

Paul Fleury – Director of Oakwood, a multi service contractor.

Peter Griffin – Group Managing Director, EPS Plc.

Alan Ball – Managing Director, of parts of the BSS Group.

Keith Ewart – Director, Urbanwise Development Ltd.

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

Past Master Richard Dick-Larkam.

Liveryman Eric Gibbard.

Liveryman John Middleditch.

Liveryman Roy Pepper.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Lord Mayor's Show (By Assistant Stephen Hodkinson)

We are delighted again this year to be supporting the Lord Mayor's Show on 14th November, by entering a Float in the procession.

As Plumbers are very good at connecting things together our theme this year is 'Connecting Everyone.' It is meant to represent not just plumbers connecting pipe work, but the role the Worshipful Company plays in the City connecting people, the connections we have with Industry and particularly, with our charitable work supporting the Craft. It's all connected!

In fact, we'll have two vehicles this year; a classic Model T Ford truck and our main lorry, on which our Senior Officers will ride.

We're very grateful to EPS and AECOM for their sponsorship and also to Buildbase, who are providing the vehicles. We look forward to seeing as many liverymen and their families on the day. The sponsors are providing lunch afterwards at Founders' Hall.

The Float this year will again be decorated with 'water droplets' that have been decorated by the children of Columbia Primary School in Tower Hamlets.

Mailing

(Clerk's Note – I make no apology for repeating this request in each Newsletter)

We, in the Office, are trying to reduce the time that is spent sending out flyers by mail. There are still about 140 Liverymen who claim not to have an e mail address. If you are one of those and have an e mail address and would be happy to accept future correspondence by e mail, then PLEASE send a brief e mail to: clerk@plumberscompany.org.uk.

Every time we do a mail shot by e mail (approximately every two

months), a number are returned 'address unknown'. It is apparent that liverymen are not notifying the Office if and when they change their e mail address. Please therefore ensure that you tell us (preferably by e mail) as soon as you change your e mail address. You should normally expect to receive a mail shot (either by e mail or by post) by the end of January, March, May, August, September and November each year.

City of London Briefings

These Briefings are particularly aimed at new Freeman and Liverymen, but wives, husbands and partners are also very welcome. The Master is particularly keen that all liverymen (new or otherwise) should try to attend one of these Briefings.

The Briefings provide a short introduction to the work of the Corporation, especially the relationship between the Livery Companies. There is the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a light finger buffet providing the chance to mix with other Freeman and Liverymen.

The proceedings start at 5pm with registration, during which tea or coffee are available, and end at 8pm.

Applications for places should now be made as follows:

If you are on the Internet, open Google and type in 'City Livery Companies,' then click on 'Livery Committee Courses' and open 'City Briefings'. Then, follow the instructions to apply for a place.

Applications can also be made through the Office.

Dates and venues of the next two Briefings are:

Wednesday 11th November 2009.
The Innholders' Hall.

Wednesday 17th February 2010
The Innholders' Hall.

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Trustees made grants at their April meeting to the following:

A Bursary for the Jubilee Sailing Trust.

Mudchute Farm & Park.

A three-year grant to St. Paul's Cathedral School towards funding a choral scholar.

Plumbing Tutors' Development Programme.

EULOGIES

Past Master Richard Dick-Larkam (1915-2009)

(By The Master, Professor Rodney Cartwright)

Richard Dick-Larkam joined the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in 1945, following War service in the Royal Air Force as a Flight Lieutenant. The years prior to the War had been busy for him as in 1937, he obtained a degree in engineering and in 1939, married Hilda.

Dick worked for BOC for most of his working life and travelled extensively for them in the latter years.

An active member of the Company, Dick was elected in 1961, to the Court of Assistants and in 1967, was elected as Master. The 27th July 1986 was an important day for Dick. At the Guildhall, one hundred years of Plumbers' Registration was commemorated by the presentation of Centenary Certificates by the Institute of Plumbing.

At the same Ceremony, the Lord Mayor, Sir Allan Davis, presented an Illuminated Address to Past Master Richard Dick-Larkam, in recognition of his twenty-five years' service on the Court. At the Court Meeting held later on the same day, Past Master Dick-Larkam, in thanking the Court, referred to the fact that his father had also received an Address for his service. The Company further

recognised Dick in giving him the title of Father of the Company from 1991 to 2005.

When Dick retired, he and Hilda moved to Lindfield. They loved to travel and before Hilda died in 1997, they had visited America several times to see Margaret's family. They crossed Canada by train for their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary. They were married fifty-eight years.

Dick moved to his flat in Haywards Heath in April 2000, having been over twenty-five years in Lindfield. He was happy to see his grandchildren, Douglas and Andrew, marry in 2001 and Viki and Mandy in 2006 and 2008 respectively. He had five great grandchildren with another one due very soon.

He was a keen handyman, and a skilled carpenter, making a lot of his own furniture, for example, a dolls' house for his granddaughters and a Mah-jong set, and he also used his skill to make two chests for the Plumbers' Livery Company, to contain the valuables and memorabilia of the Company. In his early days, he was a keen tennis player and ballroom dancer. He made his own wine and was an enthusiastic gardener and stamp collector.

Dick made a major contribution to the life of our Livery Company and was always willing to offer sound advice to new liverymen and Court Assistants.

Richard Dick-Larkam

(By Mrs. Lynne Dick-Larkam – Daughter-in-Law)

Dick was born in 1915 and lived in Twickenham, Shepherd's Bush and then at Wembley. He was an only child. He got his driving licence when he was 17 and did not need to pass a driving test. Nevertheless, he drove a car until he was over 93 years old and had a faultless record.

He got his Degree in Engineering in 1937, and then got engaged to Hilda and they married in 1939.

He got his call-up papers at

Christmas 1939 to join the RAF. He moved around a lot during the War, including Iceland. Ken and Margaret were born during this time.

After the War Dick bought a house in Pinner and the family stayed there for about twenty-five years. He worked for BOC for most of his working life and travelled extensively for them in the latter years.

Dick joined the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in 1945, was Master of the Company in 1967 and Father of the Company from 1991-2005.

Sadly, his son, my husband, Liveryman Kenneth, died very suddenly in 2001 and since that time, Dick and I spent a lot of time together and I like to think that we helped one another through the worst of that period.

His daughter, Margaret, and her husband, Robert, visited often from America and Viki and Mandy remember their granddad's garden, where he pushed them on the swing and where they picked fresh raspberries to have with the ice-cream. which they knew he loved.

Douglas's memories are of going round to his grandfather's house in Lindfield after school with Andrew and playing Mah-jong for hours and drinking some of his granddad's home-made wine, but only if they were good!

Andrew remembers his granddad as a man who was always upbeat with a positive view on life, even in the difficult times. He was always interested in how the family were doing. He loved seeing Jo and the children, watching another generation growing up around him.

Dick was a loving husband, father, granddad and great granddad and will be greatly missed by us all.

Cindy Woollaston

(By Past Master Alec Moir)

Mrs Cynthia, Cindy, Woollaston, the wife of Past Master Alan Woollaston, died on 15th July, at Tenterden House

Nursing Home, following a long illness.

Cindy, born in 1933 in Finchley to Stan and Ada Berwick, was the elder child, followed by her brother, Roger. She attended Henrietta Barnett School, from which she joined the Bank of England as a 'washer woman,' so-called because she worked on the addressograph machines called 'mangles'.

Cindy and Alan met in 1959, and were married in July 1961. She left the Bank to become a mother to Nigel and Meryl, and much later to become a wonderful grandma.

As the centre of Woollaston family life, Cindy enthusiastically entered into all aspects of sporting and social activities. In addition she was actively involved with a number of charities.

The Livery much appreciated the great loyalty and support that Cindy brought to Past Master Alan's Year in 2001/02. Cindy thoughtfully postponed an ankle operation in order to attend the many City and Industry functions during that year.

Family and friends will fondly remember the fun and laughter she brought to all those who knew her.

Mrs Deborah Jeffery
(By Past Master Mike Swallow)

Mrs Deborah Jeffery, the wife of Past Master Jack Jeffery, had many friends, both within and outside the Plumbers' Company, who were deeply shocked to learn of her death on 4th April, after a sudden and very short illness.

Deborah brought enormous enthusiasm to everything she did and this included her support for Jack as a member of the Plumbers' Company, especially during his Year as Master. Those who were privileged to attend their Master's Weekend in County Durham, will remember with affection the evident trouble which she had taken to make sure that their visit was one which was specially enjoyed. Typical of her warmth and generosity, was the fact that she welcomed everyone for a

glass and a bite at their home, notwithstanding that they had only very recently moved into it.

On Jack's retirement, he and Deborah moved from Surrey to County Durham, his home county. Typically, Deborah lost no time in throwing herself into her new life in the North, acquiring a large number of new friends in the process. She gave her time and energy to a variety of organisations, ranging from charitable fundraising with the Lady Taverners to her local Leek Club, of which she became Chairman - a position of some prestige in County Durham circles!

Deborah also enjoyed a great love of music, something she shared with Jack. Her taste was wide and eclectic, spanning the classics, jazz and pop (some of which was very, very modern - perhaps influenced by the grandchildren!)

The mention of grandchildren leads to perhaps the most important fact about Deborah. For all her varied activities and interests, she was never happier than with Jack and the family, who were, as was evident to all who knew her, by far and away the most important part of her life.

COMPANY SPORTING ACTIVITIES

The Plumbers win the Lord Mayor's Cup (By Past Maser Mike Samuel)

Each year, since 1957, Livery Companies in the City Livery Yacht Club have competed at Cowes for the Lord Mayor's Cup. This is the sixth year that the Worshipful Company of



Past Master Mike Samuel holding the Cup with the Commodore on the left of the picture and Clifford Champion on the right

Plumbers have entered and we were delighted to win with a time of three hours thirty minutes, beating our nearest rival by three minutes.

The winning team were Past Masters Mike Samuel and David Alexander, Liverymen Dennis Southern and Bob Hill, together with Liveryman Andy Hunter of the Painter-Stainers' Livery Company and Messrs. Joe Sibthorpe, Roger Dunstone and Kit Bottomley.

Our thanks to Gratte Bros who sponsored the boat, 'Little Emily.'

The morning of the Lord Mayor's Cup Race, Saturday the 16th May, started bright and breezy, which caused the race officers to conclude that there should be two races, one for the smaller craft (from 23-29 feet) and a longer course for the larger yachts, ranging from a Nordship 32 to a Beneteau 47.7.

Of the thirteen yachts which started the race, six yachts finished, and first place in the Lord Mayor's Cup, went to Past Master Mike Samuel and his crew sailing in his yacht, 'Little Emily.'

The Commodore called on Clifford Champion to present the Cup to Mike Samuel. The Cup is to be displayed at the Wax Chandlers' Hall for the ensuing year.

Golf Society

(By Liveryman Don Munro, Secretary)

On the 21st of May, two hundred and sixteen liverymen representing fifty-four Livery Companies, competed at Walton Heath Golf Course for the Prince Arthur Cup. This magnificent trophy was donated by a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, to celebrate Prince Arthur of Connaught's acceptance of the Freedom and Livery of their Company. Prince Arthur was a grandson of Queen Victoria, and became Master of the Company in 1932.

Walton Heath is a challenging Course which has been a venue in the past for the Ryder Cup. The Plumbers were represented by Past Master Mike Samuel and Liverymen Chris Sneath, Peter McKnight and Don Munro. Conditions on the day were mostly sunny and bright but quite breezy. After eighteen holes in the morning on the Old Course, an excellent lunch was served in the Clubhouse.

In the afternoon we continued with eighteen holes on the New Course. Our partners during the day were the teams from the Framknitters' Company and the Marketors' Company. It was wonderful to be among so many fellow liverymen and there was a great feeling of camaraderie and friendship.

The Plumbers' Team struggled in the morning but after lunch played well in the afternoon, with a combined team score of four over par. The Cutlers' were the overall winners and the only team better than par.

The date for next year for this event is the 20th May 2010.

Another golfing day was held on August 21st at New Zealand Golf Club. Fourteen golfers played this lovely course in excellent weather.

Liveryman Peter McKnight won the prize for the best score with a stableford total of thirty five points.

We were delighted that the Master and his wife joined us for lunch in the Club House.

We hope to repeat this event next year on July 16th 2010. The earlier date is outside the school holiday period and should enable those who could not take part this year to join in.

All members of the Livery are welcome to take part and bring guests.

Land's End to John O'Groats 2009

(By Steward Michael Horwood)

On Saturday 4th of July, accompanied by thirty-one other cyclists, including three tandems, I travelled this well worn route arriving sixteen days later with one rest day in between. Our support team consisted of two large vans to carry bags and equipment and one camper van to provide sustenance at stops during the day.

On departing from Land's End Hotel shortly after 9am, the sun shone and a favourable wind was at our backs. However, by midday heavy rain storms had arrived and this was to be the general pattern for the rest of our trip.

The first two days were the hardest and on reaching Hereford on Tuesday, we were pleased to have the next day 'off the bikes.' Friday and Saturday were not very enjoyable, as we were in Cheshire and Lancashire on extremely busy roads. However, on reaching Cumbria on Saturday, the wonderful scenery and less traffic made up for this. Our ride from near Locherbie to Motherwell on Monday was very wet and near our destination, torrential rain forced us to seek refuge in a bus shelter for an hour or so. Luckily for us, no one was waiting for a bus!

On arrival at our destination, some of the campers, whilst waiting for their tents to turn up and being very wet and cold, decided to stay overnight at a Holiday Inn Express.

Thursday, we experienced the best of weather and scenery by far. Leaving Glencoe for Fort William, we enjoyed sunshine all day and even saw the summit of Ben Nevis. The following two days from south of Inverness, over quite hilly terrain, were cold and wet with a

head wind and occasional hail. It was strange how the weather could change so rapidly.

Sunday morning after a short thirty-one mile easy ride we arrived at our destination at 11.20 and, surprise, surprise, in the dry and not cold! Everyone had the obligatory photographs taken, before leaving by coach for the overnight stay at Inverness and the flight to Bristol on Monday.

My total distance was nine hundred and ninety miles and the time riding approx. seventy-five hours. The money raised for the Company Charity to date amounts to £1190.00. I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me.

COMPANY AWARDS

Master Plumber Certificate

The Master was delighted to present Liveryman Steward Peter Brown, Eng.Tech. MCIPHE., RP., with his Master Plumber Certificate.

Liveryman Peter Brown was the 150th recipient of the Master Plumber Award. Peter commenced his apprenticeship in 1960, and gained his City & Guilds qualifications in 1964, at which time he became a Registered Plumber. Peter became self-employed in 1970 and his Company has grown in size and reputation.

In 2004, Peter became a Steward of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers.



The Master presenting Steward Peter Brown with his Master Plumber Certificate

Awards presented during the Court Lunch on the 28th. April 2009

(By Steward Peter Brown)

As I approached Wax Chandlers' Hall, I noted that the Plumbers' Flag was flying, to indicate that the Court was in session.

The Master, the Court and guests, made a total of forty-four for lunch.

Before lunch, drinks were served at the reception on the ground floor. This gave everyone a chance to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones.

Lunch was served in the Main Hall and the atmosphere in the Hall was very friendly and relaxed with good food and wine.

The Master welcomed his guests and explained that he had a few enjoyable tasks to carry out.

The first task was to present an Award to the Army Plumber of the Year, Lance Corporal Dipesh Gurung. He had worked extremely hard to achieve this Award and the Master warmly congratulated him on his achievement and wished him the best in his plumbing career.



The Master presenting Lance Corporal Dipesh Gurung with his Award

The second task was to welcome the two new liverymen who had joined the Company that morning, Liverymen Richard Bienfait and Paul Fleury. We all joined the Master in welcoming them.

The final task was to present Past Master Edward Hopkinson with the

St. Michael Medallion, the highest honour in the Plumbers' Company,

The Master explained that this Award was for all the work that Past Master Edward had undertaken over the years. He has given so much time and effort to the Company and to the Plumbing Museum at Singleton.

Past Master Edward is a very popular member of the Company and I know that all the Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers will be delighted for him. WELL DONE, EDWARD.

INFORMATION ON THE PLUMBERS' COMPANY

The Origins of the Ladle Dinner

(By the Company Historian, Past Master Peter Brunner)

The Ladle Dinner is a Ceremony unique to the Plumbers' Company. How did it start?

The initiative came from Liveryman Herbert Thompson. After obtaining the agreement of the Court that its members would be pleased to accept an invitation to dinner from the Livery, he wrote to his fellow liverymen on 9th June 1938:

“All tradition starts somewhere: now we have the opportunity of establishing a Traditional Day, our First Inaugural dinner. Shall we make it an Occasion, as it gives to us what so many of us have wanted, a Day of private domestic importance, in contrast to the Banquet, which is a day of public ceremonial importance?”

This initiative was greeted with much enthusiasm. As Liveryman Thompson wrote to liverymen on 3rd October 1938: “this departure from the rigidity and fridity of Election



The Master presenting Past Master Edward Hopkinson with the St. Michael Medallion

Day has only met with one disapproval from over 100 letters received.”

On 12th October 1938, a group of about forty liverymen held an informal conference whilst the Court was in session on Election Day. The object was to discuss ways in which the Livery's interest in the work of the Company could be awakened and sustained. One of the proposals was that the Day of Inauguration Dinner, the first of which was to take place that evening, should be held annually on the Election Day of the Master. Another was that each year the Master be given a replica of the plumbers' silver ladle (on his election, and not, as now, after his year is over).

Members of the Livery had together contributed to the purchase of a silver ladle, the handle on which was the inscription “I was wrought by the command of the Liverymen to commemorate the First “Day of Inauguration” Dinner”. The Arms of the Company were inscribed in the bowl, and round the bowl “W.E.Fretwell Master. Election Day. October 12th 1938”.

It was agreed that the Master should be asked to serve the soup with the ladle to each liveryman, and that this should be observed at each Inauguration Dinner.

The Ladle was presented to the Master at a reception before dinner, which was held at the City Livery Club, St. Paul's Churchyard. In due course, he used it with these words: “I dedicate the Ladle to the service of the Company, by ministering to the

needs of the company present in serving the soup to you all”.

It is recorded that the Dinner was pleasantly punctuated by the drinking of many healths.

At a further dinner on 13 June 1939, the Master, WE Fretwell, was presented with a replica silver ladle, and in turn he presented a suitably inscribed ladle to his predecessor.

The outbreak of War prevented the second Day of Inauguration Dinner from taking place, but Liveryman Thompson wrote on 9th October 1939 to his fellow liverymen:

“However, I am not going to allow Hitler to prevent me, as a Liveryman, having my annual time of prayer and praise for my Company and shall attend the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr from 12.15 to 12.45 on my own, seeing that we cannot have our official session on the 12th October, as arranged, “and so to lunch”.”

The Livery did entertain the Court to dinner on 28th July 1943, but no presentation took place, probably because silver was unobtainable during the War. The second dinner was held on 21st September 1945, by which time it had been renamed as the Ladle Dinner. Liveryman Herbert Thompson presented Sir William Champness, the reigning Master, with a replica silver ladle.

At the Sixth Ladle Dinner on the 3rd November 1950, soup was, surprisingly, not on the menu, with the consequence that the 1938 ladle could not be used.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Liveryman Herbert Thompson.

The Company’s Treasures.

(By the Company Curator, Liveryman Andrew Hunter Blair)

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines a treasure as something valued for its rarity, workmanship and association. Amongst our treasures, one item falls exactly into that definition, namely the Company Seal.

In late 1971, a Seal, purporting to be the Company Seal, was offered at a price of £75.00. Advice was sought and the Victoria and Albert Museum confirmed that it was “undoubtedly genuine and is an unusually fine example of such work.” It was the genuine ‘matrix’ of the Company’s Common Seal which had been used up to the middle of the 19th century and was a rediscovery of major importance.

The advice went on to say that “the quoted price of £75.00 is a knock-down bargain and the Company should accept it at once.” Past Master A.D.R. Caroe advised purchase forthwith and by January 1972, our Seal had returned.

Charters of Incorporation granted to City Guilds, are, like all other Royal Charters, or letters patent, exemplified, or engrossed, over the



The Company Seal

Great Seal of England.

Exemplifications of Ordinances made under these Charters were issued over the signatures and the office seals of the four Officers of State to whom they were submitted for ratification, namely the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer and the two Lords Chief Justices. None of them is countersealed with the Common Seal of the Company

concerned and the documents like Charters and Ordinances do not therefore, by their very nature, afford an opportunity for the comparisons of impressions of the Companies’ Seals with the original matrix.

A number of documents, however, such as property deeds, leases or releases have a red wax impression of the Company’s Seal, and it is safe to say that our Company did seal documents with a silver matrix up to the middle of the 19th century.

There is no doubt that we now hold that matrix. In the Company’s Master and Wardens’ Accounts for 1662, (Guildhall Library Ms 2210/1), an entry reads: “paid for the seale of the Hall — xxxvs vid”.

This would imply that the matrix was engraved in 1662 at a cost of £1 15s 6d. However, the minutes do not disclose how it was procured, nor the artist commissioned with the engraving.

The solid silver Seal, oval and measuring about 4.5cm by 3.7cm, is engraved on its obverse with “THE SEAL OF THE MYSTERY OF PLUMBERS”, the Company’s Coat of Arms and motto “JUSTICA ET PAX”, all quite deeply and superbly incised.

On the reverse are the engraved date of 1622 and a hinged semicircular thumb plate. The fact that there is no hall mark, is not unusual for such an item of this date.

The Plumbers’ Hall and the Congregational Church USA (By Steward John Carnaby)

How and why is a depiction of the Plumbers’ Hall, as painted by Thomas Shepherd in 1851, included within a stained glass window in the First Congregational Church of Greenwich in Connecticut, USA?

By chance, I recently came across the web site of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich in Connecticut, USA, and discovered that the Church

has a stained glass window in which is a depiction of the Plumbers' Hall. This was such an interesting and unexpected connection between the Worshipful Company of Plumbers and a Church in the USA, that I thought that it merited some research.

In the 1530's the Plumbers' Company had a Hall in Palmers Lane, in the City of London, a long and narrow winding lane, running down to the River Thames from Thames Street. The Plumbers' Company were tenants of the Vintners' Company, who had their Hall close by and a short distance from Fruiterers' and Parish Clerks' Halls. At that time, very many tradesmen, the Plumbers amongst them, inhabited the area. The historian, John Stow, later recorded the existence of this Hall in his 'Survey of London'.

Around 1550, various small and secret religious groups of Separatists sprang up around London, and Pastor Richard Fitz led one of these groups. Their meetings were later to play a key role in the Pilgrim Fathers sailing to New England on the Mayflower. Once in New England, the Fathers established a Congregational Church that grew with the emigration of Puritans from this country.

Queen Mary (1553-1558) was on the throne at this time and was known as 'Bloody Mary' because of the number of people who were executed during her reign for being Protestants. She had nearly three hundred Protestants burnt at the stake when they refused to give up their religion. It was during the latter period in Queen Mary's life, that many English men and women were unhappy with the Church of England. According to some; it went too far in reform, and according to others, not far enough. Some of this latter group called for the purifying of the Church. They were called Puritans or 'Unspottyd Lambs'. Others wished to separate themselves entirely from the Church of England and they became known as Separatists. They established a 'Privye' or Private Church that was governed by its own pastor, Richard Fitz. They had no fixed meeting



*The stained glass window in the First Congregational Church, Greenwich, Connecticut USA
Showing the 'Plumbers' Hall' included in the design*

places, for obvious reasons, so members met in private houses, both north and south of the River Thames.

On June 19th 1567, this group of Nonconformists, reported as a hundred strong, rented **Plumbers' Hall**, allegedly to celebrate a wedding, but in fact it was to hold illegal religious worship. The City of London Sheriffs were alerted and burst in and arrested twenty-four men and seven women. Those arrested were brought to Court next day, before the Lord Mayor, Bishop Grindal, and dignitaries. The Bishop charged them with absenting from their parish churches and with setting up separate assemblies for prayer, teaching and administering the sacrament. The twenty-four men were kept in Bridewell Prison for a year because they had dared to forsake the Church of the Bishops, and to set up a separate assembly for divine worship.

The Pastor, Richard Fitz, was the group's minister, who afterwards died in Bridewell prison of 'jail fever' as did his Deacon, Thomas Bowland. Another, John Bolton, returned to

England from Geneva, after Queen Mary's death in 1558, but was excommunicated by the **Plumbers' Hall Congregation** and subsequently hanged himself. Later, in 1593, John Penry, Henry Barrow and John Greenwood were also hanged for their dissent from the Church of England. How long the **Plumbers' Hall Congregation** existed before and after June 20th 1567, is not definitely known, but one thing is certain, it put them on a collision course with the Queen (Mary) who was Head of the Church of England and liked the colour, splendour and ritual of worship that the Puritans and Separatists so detested. Later, in 1558, seventy-two men and women were found and arrested in the house of James Tynne, a goldsmith, in the Parish of St. Martins-in-the-Fields. Among those taken were six of the first seven **Plumbers' Hall** leaders.

So this is why these legendary meetings held in **Plumbers' Hall** all that time ago (complete with some gruesome details) had such a great impact on the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed to New England, and our

connection with the wonderful stained glass window in Greenwich, USA.

It wasn't until 1638 that the Plumbers' Company were able to purchase the land to build their own Hall in Chequer Yard. Another Hall in Bush Lane subsequently replaced this, after the Great Fire of London in 1666, but was demolished in 1865, to make way for Cannon Street Station.

Miles Coverdale, also a Puritan and one time Bishop of Exeter, would certainly have known of the **Plumbers' Hall Congregation**. He too fell foul of Queen Mary, who imprisoned him for two years. This was the reason that Coverdale, later in his life, resigned his living with the Church. Coverdale would probably have been executed for heresy had not the King of Denmark successfully pleaded with Mary to allow him to depart for Copenhagen in 1555. Coverdale was the first to translate the Complete Bible into English and at one time, was also the Rector of St. Magnus (1564-1566). He died in 1569 and was buried in St. Bartholomew-by-the-Exchange.

Much later, ironically, his ashes were removed to St. Magnus, the Plumbers' Church, after his original burial place was demolished in 1840.

LIVERY NEWS TOPICS

Health Aid for Africa

(By Alan Croucher, Trustee of Health Aid for Africa)

On Tuesday 9th June, I had the pleasure of listening to the Master give his address at a meeting of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers at the Wax Chandlers' Hall. A frequent guest of Liveryman David Attwood, I was most interested to learn of the many Livery Companies which are involved with charities and that the Plumbers' Company has supported plumbing projects through 'Voluntary Services Overseas'.

David and I are both Trustees of 'Health Aid for Africa', a small but highly effective Registered Charity.

Over the past few years, the Charity

has been involved in several important projects. The first, was the construction of an antenatal clinic and pharmacy in Rukaragarta, a small town just south of Lake Victoria. This clinic is operated by the government and on a daily basis, up to sixty women attend the clinic for advice and treatment. Screening for Aids is essential for these mothers, some of whom are very young.

Having completed this project, we then directed our efforts to a remote primary school situated six kilometres from the nearest town of Biharamulo. Access to this school, which caters for over five hundred children, is very difficult. The school lacks toilets, fresh water, desks and many other facilities which we, in this country, would accept as normal. Seven teachers educate and care for the children, many of whom are orphans of Aids' victims. They all live on or below the poverty line. So far we have supplied one hundred desks, plus several thousand pens and exercise books. The Toilet Blocks, for both girls and boys, are now nearing completion and we are optimistic of having a fresh water supply connected next month.

The water supply came about as a result of our early intention to harvest the rain water from the school roof. When the district water engineer learned of our intentions, he informed us that there was a natural water source within seven hundred and fifty metres of the school. David and I climbed an escarpment to where a spring was emitting clear fresh water from a limestone stratum at the summit of the hill.

Having satisfied ourselves that this was a continuous source of water, it was agreed that the local water authority would cap the spring and install a 50mm galvanised pipeline to supply the local community. This has now been completed. We advised the water engineer to continue the water supply, at our expense, to two large holding tanks in the school grounds. These will provide outlets to areas where children will have access to fresh drinking water, for the first time in their lives.

This project is funded entirely by our Charity, as are the two new

classrooms and small Infirmary, work on which started in mid June. With these new facilities, the lives of hundreds of children will change and hopefully an improvement in their health and life expectancy will follow.

David and I are already thinking about our next project, and whilst our visit in June was to view the current works, we visited other schools to assess their needs.

One very important fact that liverymen should know is that our Charity does not have any administration cost. Every trip to Tanzania and all expenses involved to support the work, are paid personally.

Matthew Hall's 160th Anniversary (By Steward John Carnaby)

In 1848, at the age of thirty-five, Matthew Hall, a plumber and lead worker, came to London from his home town of Newcastle upon Tyne and set up his business in a small workshop in Lambeth.

After a short period there, he moved into the more upper class area of London, north of the Thames, to Marylebone.

By 1868, he was employing nine plumbers and five boys and decided to bring his nephew, Dr. Andrew Common, into the Company. Dr. Common was well known in the scientific field at that time, specialising in the design and construction of telescopes. On Matthew Hall's death in 1878, his nephew continued with the business.

In 1890, Mr. H. E. Baden joined the Company as Inside Manager and so began an association between the Baden family and Matthew Hall, which was to last for well over sixty years.

In 1897, Mr T.A. Common, son of Dr. Common, joined the Company and on his father's death in 1903, became the senior partner in the firm.

In 1927, the firm became a private Limited Company with Mr T.A.

Common as Managing Director. He remained with the Company until his retirement in 1936, and on his death in 1940, the firm lost its last family link with the man who founded it so long ago.

In 1936, Bertram Baden and Edwin Baden became Chairman and Managing Director and Director respectively. In 1937, P.D. Doulton was appointed to the Board. Although the Doulton family has been connected with the Pottery Industry for generations, Mr. Doulton soon showed an aptitude for engineering, his special field being within the Sales Department.

He eventually retired at the end of 1970, holding the post of Chairman of the Matthew Hall Group of Companies.

In 1938, two very important events occurred in the history of Matthew Hall. Firstly, it became a Public Limited Company and secondly, the first female employee in ninety years, joined the Company. It had been the strict policy of the Company to employ men only. By 1939, the firm's turnover had reached the £1,000,000.00 mark, employing 2,760 outside staff. It became apparent that it would soon be necessary to open branch offices to handle the various contracts throughout the country.

Over the next forty years, the Company's progress and its expansion was vast. Numerous offices opened in a number of countries and work on Nuclear Power Stations, North Sea Gas/Oil and shore-based terminals were in hand, along with demands for housing, office developments and industrial and public authorities' needs requiring plumbing, electrical and fire engineering installations. In 1960, the Company had to establish a much larger new Headquarters Office building in Tottenham Court Road.

By 1980, the Matthew Hall Group consisted of 22 companies with a turnover of £253,664,000.00 and by 1987, the Company had achieved worldwide recognition.

In 1988, the Matthew Hall Group of Companies, with a turnover of £470,000,000.00 and some 8,000

employees, was acquired by AMEC.

In 2007, SPI, a company previously owned by AMEC, paid AMEC around £117million for Matthew Hall, who were their Building and Facilities' Services.

The Matthew Hall name was finally revived to **SPIE Matthew Hall**.

The 160th Anniversary of Matthew Hall was celebrated at a large reception at Claridge's Hotel, Mayfair on 19th November, 2008.

A Tale of Milled Lead

(By Liveryman Dr. Peter Rumley)

Browsing through my modest library of rare books, I rediscovered Richard Neve's, 'The City and Country Purchaser's and Builder's Dictionary: Or The Complete Builder's Guide', published in 1736. Under 'Lead', I discovered a fascinating section relating to milled lead. I quote the entry in full as it shows the Company's status within our Craft at the time and the anxiety prevalent in the use of milled lead:-

"One Mr. Roberts, then Master of the Company of Plumbers in London, tells me, that Mill'd-lead is of but little use; not only because 'tis very thin; but also because by the way of milling it, 'tis stretched to that Degree, that when it comes to lie in the hot sun it shrinks, and cracks, and consequently, will not keep out the water. For 'tis, says he, like Cloth stretched on the Clothiers Tenters, which when taken off, naturally inclines to return to its former State". He further added, "That there was sufficient Proof for what he said; and if any one desir'd to be satisfy'd about it, he might repair to Greenwich-hospital which was covered with Mill'd-lead, and had not then been done above 4 or 5 years, and yet it rain'd in, almost all over the Hospital; upon which Account the Master and Wardens of the Company of Plumbers were sent for to the Parliament, who order'd them to go and view this Mill'd-lead-work at Greenwich-Hospital, which they did; and when they returned to the Parliament, they all unanimously declar'd, That Mill'd-lead was not fit

to be us'd: Whereupon the Parliament had at the that Time Thoughts of putting down the Milling of Lead."

Interestingly, there was no Master by the name of Roberts in 1736, for this book is the 3rd edition, revised and corrected by John Ozell. The original compiler of the Dictionary, Richard Neve, died some time before 1726, when the 2nd Edition was published.

By deduction, the said Mr Roberts, Master, was one Joseph Roberts (Master 1711), Serjaunt Plumber, who had been charged with the on-site casting of lead sheet for Sir Christopher Wren's St. Paul's Cathedral, using the best Derbyshire lead. The Upper Warden, John Partridge, and the Renter Warden, Daniel Shepherd, had also been summoned to Parliament.

Sir Christopher Wren's Greenwich Hospital was built between 1696 and 1712.

A patent was granted to Sir Philip Howard and Francis Watson in 1670, for milling lead, primarily for supplying lead sheets for sheathing the hulls of Royal Navy ships. The sheets were to be fastened with copper nails. This practice continued moderately until the 1750's, when the technique was superseded by copper, as the lead was deemed to be too soft.

Women want to date Plumbers

Past Master John Rae spotted the following article in a daily Newspaper: "Women would rather date plumbers, electricians and carpenters instead of City traders and bankers, a poll has found."

The London Bridge Anniversary Fayre

(By Steward John Carnaby)

King John opened the first London Bridge in 1209. In order to commemorate the eight hundredth Anniversary of the first Bridge, the present London Bridge was closed to traffic on Saturday 11th July, to celebrate this event.

Many Livery Companies and other organisations had stalls and displays on the Bridge, including Norman and Underwood, lead specialists, who have been trading for some one hundred and eighty years.

Liveryman Jonathan (Jon) Castleman Managing Director of Norman and Underwood, was in charge of their stall.



Liveryman Jonathan Castleman on the left at the Norman and Underwood Stall

PLUMBING MUSEUM AND WORKSHOP TRUST
(By Past Master Edward Hopkinson)

On Sunday the 19th July, the Master, Professor Rodney Cartwright, and his wife, Anna, together with seventy liverymen, spouses and guests, attended the biennial ‘Master’s Day’ at the Plumbing Museum. The Visit was arranged to coincide with the Rare Breeds Show being held at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, exhibiting rare and traditional breeds of farm animals and traditional craft and trade stands.

At midday, everyone congregated in the Court Barn, where they were warmly welcomed by the Regional Chairman, Liveryman Phil Mead, who gave a brief summary of the events at the Plumbing Museum over the past year, and outlined the proposed programme for the coming year. The Master then spoke of the work of the Museum and of its valuable contribution to public relations and to maintaining and encouraging knowledge of traditional Craft Skills.

The Master also welcomed a new team of demonstrators from Brighton College and their leader, Jenni Woods, who had come specially for the ‘Master’s Day’. Jenni and her

team carried out Craft demonstrations throughout the day.

Following the success of the Craft Courses, held at the Museum during the past year, a further Pattern Making Course for Sand Lead Casting was held at the Museum on Saturday the 12th September. Twenty delegates from across the country took advantage of the opportunity to learn the particular skills required, as demonstrated by the Master Craftsman, Liveryman Terry Fillary.

The Master, Professor Rodney Cartwright, supported the event and welcomed the delegates.

The Directors and Trustees of the Plumbing Museum are most grateful for the support that these Courses receive from the Worshipful Company of Plumbers’ Charitable and Educational Trust, the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineers and the Lead Sheet Association.

On Wednesday the 21st October, West Hertfordshire College has booked a visit to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. There are expected to be some thirty-six students, who are on the Level One Plumbing Course, and the Plumbing Museum has been asked to arrange Craft demonstrations for them during their visit.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

The National Gallery
(By Senior Steward Tom Thackeray)

On the 18th February 2009, a group of twenty-eight including the Master, Professor Rodney Cartwright, and his wife, Anna, together with liverymen and guests, visited the National Gallery, Sainsbury Wing.

Through the good offices of Steward David Attwood, an excellent tour took place, conducted by a Mr. Jeff Page. The theme was ‘Renaissance Art,’



Jenni Woods with members of the Demonstration Team from Brighton College



Members of the Pattern Making Course

and of the twelve or so paintings viewed, the detailed descriptions gave many of us a wonderful insight into the Renaissance Period and its artists.

The Sainsbury Wing was opened by Her Majesty The Queen, in 1991. The galleries, which provide a setting for some two hundred and fifty of the Nation’s paintings, are lit by natural light supplemented by subtle low-voltage lamps which, along with the humidity and temperature, are carefully controlled by a computer system.

After a short walk, a carvery lunch was enjoyed at the Strand Palace Hotel.

Neasdon Temple
(By Karen Williams)

On 22nd April, a group of nineteen, including the Master and Mistress Plumber, visited the Neasden Temple in North West London. Sometimes described as the Eighth Wonder of the World, this Hindu place of worship throws its doors open to thousands of visitors every year.

After removing our shoes, the tour started with an informative talk by our Guide, which included a lively and indeed humorous question and answer session that strayed into many areas of religion!

Following this, we visited the exhibition which covers the history of Hinduism, and then proceeded upstairs to the Rajbhog Arti (the daily ritual of waving lights at the Sacred Deities). For this, the men and women in our group were separated, with some of us enjoying the spectacle, sitting cross-legged on the floor of the beautiful Temple. There was lots of music, chanting, smiling and a genuine feeling of serenity throughout the ceremony.

After the service, it was time for a well earned lunch of authentic Indian vegetarian food at the Temple's Shayona Restaurant, which had brought forward its opening date just for our benefit.

Finally, the ladies were presented with Hindu necklaces, before we departed back to the rigours of the North Circular and the outside world!

A Visit to Walker's Quay

(By Senior Steward Tom Thackeray)

On the 14th of May, our Master, Professor Rodney Cartwright, and his wife, Anna, nineteen liverymen and their guests, met at Walker's Quay, Camden Lock, for our Regent's Canal Cruise to Little Venice.

We boarded the traditionally decorated narrow boat, 'Jenny Wren'. Starting at Walker's Quay, the boat is raised in the lock at Camden by two and a half metres.

Unique to this Cruise, is the experience of sailing along the Canal, through London Zoo and Regent's Park, past grand houses, wild vegetation and gaily decorated canal boats used for permanent accommodation.

We passed through the tunnel under the Edgware Road, which brought us



The Master, Liverymen and Guests on their visit to Walker's Quay

to Robert Browning Island at Little Venice, our destination for lunch.

Plougman's lunches had been pre-ordered at the 'Warwick Castle' Pub. Drinks were duly ordered and we sat down to our lunch, which was appreciated by all.

It was then time for the return journey to Walker's Quay. We were very lucky with the weather as it was fine all day, thus making this a most enjoyable day out.

Beating the Retreat

(By Senior Steward Tom Thackeray)

On the 3rd June, thirty liverymen and guests accompanied the Master, Rodney Cartwright, and his wife, Anna, the Upper Warden, David Hamilton and his wife, Wendy, Senior Assistant, Chris Sneath, and his wife, Liz, the Clerk, Antony Paterson-Fox, and his wife, Diana, on a visit to see Beating the Retreat.

We met at the Silver Cross Public House and Restaurant in Whitehall for a meal, before going to this important event.

After a leisurely meal and a drink, to fortify us for the evening at Horse Guards Parade, we arrived at 8.30pm to take our seats which were pre-booked so that we were seated together.

In the presence of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, the Ceremony started at 9 o'clock with a fanfare, the National Anthem and a gun salute. It was a wonderful spectacular with mounted bands, trumpeters, massed bands, a corps of drums, and pipes and drums of the Household Division. The precision marching, coupled with bandmen playing on the march, created a truly great display.



Beating the Retreat

His Majesty The King's Guard from Norway, a renowned Band and Drill Platoon, are well known for the music and drill routine. They were very impressive and enjoyed by the spectators.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh took the final salute at the end of a very enjoyable evening.

(Tom's note. The Beating of the Retreat Ceremony originated in the 16th century, when it was used as a signal to recall troops back to the garrison at the end of the day. Drummers were sent out into the town at 9.30 pm to inform the soldiers to return to their barracks.)

Election of Sheriffs 24th June 2009

(Steward John Carnaby)

A larger gathering of liverymen than usual, assembled in the Guildhall on 24th June, to witness and vote in a possible contested election of the Sheriffs. It has been some ten years since the election of Sheriffs has been contested.

The Office of Sheriff is one of the oldest in existence and dates back to the Middle Ages, and is a prerequisite to becoming Lord Mayor.

Three candidates were standing this year, namely, Alderman David Wootton, Liveryman Peter Cook and Liveryman Tim Oliver. All members of the Livery on the 2009 Common Hall Register, were entitled to vote at this Election. After the usual show of hands, a result was declared (without disclosing numbers). Two liverymen then addressed the Livery and demanded a poll on behalf of the unsuccessful candidate, Tim Oliver.

After the Election, the Master and liverymen from the Plumbers' Company were invited back to Pewterers' Hall for a most enjoyable lunch.

The demanded poll took place on 8th July 2009, at the Guildhall, with the following votes;

Alderman David Wootton	1711
Liveryman Peter Cook	1119
Liveryman Tim Oliver	689

Master's Weekend 26th – 28th June 2009. Lifton, Devon.

(By Liveryman Steven Schrier)

This year's Master's Weekend was a great success, mainly due to the unique events organised by the Master and his wife, Anna. Fishing is one of Rodney and Anna's passions and the Arundell Arms, owned and run since 1961, by Anne Voss-Bark, has a national reputation for its fishing and shooting.



The Master's Weekend

Friday afternoon found liverymen and guests of the Plumbers' Company arriving from all over the country. Some had arrived in Devon earlier in the week to make a whole holiday out of the event. Four o'clock found us all on the terrace of the hotel, enjoying the beautiful sunshine and a Devon Cream Tea. From that point on, the programme went into overdrive and we had the choice of croquet, traditional skittles, or both. The croquet revealed the best and the worst in some, as opponents' balls were knocked off the green, set in the hotel's beautiful garden. Our wily Clerk, Antony, won the men's competition, while the much more demure Judy Moir won the ladies' match.

After a short break to change into some smart gear, with men in their brightest of ties, it was down to pre dinner drinks on the terrace and then to dinner. The speaker was the hotel's head gillie, David Pilkington. He demonstrated his excellent knowledge of water wild life, with a very illuminating description of the

life of the mayfly. It is a long and complicated process, by which the egg becomes a larvae and then a mayfly fights its way to the surface, only to end up as a mouthful for a passing swallow. The Master announced the winner of the Brightest Tie Competition and Antony Paterson-Fox proudly displayed his blindingly colourful article to the gathered company.

Saturday morning, after a bracing breakfast, we boarded coaches for the ten-minute journey to Dingle's Fairground Heritage Park. This wonderful collection turns grown men into ten year olds! One is transported to the funfairs of one's youth. The first 'must do' was the Dodgem Cars. Some of us completely forgot to dodge and bumped instead! Then we headed for a lovely switchback called erroneously the Chariot Racer. In fact, we climbed onto model animals and motorbikes. It seemed easy enough until the speed was increased and we found ourselves hanging on for grim death!

We boarded the coaches again for the drive over beautiful Bodmin Moor, for the stately home of Lanhydrock. On the way, we stopped at the



The Master's Weekend – Fly Fishing Class

Jamaica Inn, made famous by Daphne du Maurier's novel.

Lanhydrock is one of the best furnished National Trust Homes one can see. Before starting the tour, we all sat down together for a good lunch in a reserved room of the restaurant. Although the house was originally built in the 17th century, the main house had to be rebuilt in Victorian times owing to a fire. The owners decided to have every 'mod con' available and the kitchens are very

special, with preparation rooms for each branch of cooking. Icy cold water circulates round marble worktops to keep them cool. The open fire roasting is large enough to cook a whole ox! All the rooms are fully furnished, and together with the information that the voluntary attendants in each room freely gave, we formed a perfect picture of the life, both 'upstairs and downstairs', of those times.

The journey back to the Arundell Arms seemed to take no time at all and on arrival, after a short rest, we prepared for the evening's entertainment. Donning black tie outfits, we assembled for the reception on the terrace. The weather continued to favour us and the evening started with a swing. The jazz band of the local Callington Community College had us all toe tapping. We then went into the dining room, where a woodwind ensemble, including a fourteen-year old from the college, played relaxing classical music, while we enjoyed an excellent dinner.

The kitchen is headed by Master Chef of Great Britain, Steven Pidgeon. The Arundell Arms has to be complimented on both the quality of its food and the friendly and efficient way the staff looked after us.

Sunday morning came and after a good breakfast, it was time to say good bye and leave for home. A few stayed behind for some fly fishing, a speciality of the hotel. While the Master and Anna are real experts, most of us needed the two gillies to teach us how to do it. Sharp hooks were soon flying through the air, occasionally catching on things they were not supposed to, as we fished Tinhay Lake. We could all see the magnificent trout, but only a few could catch them. The experts allowed the amateurs the pleasure of landing their catches. The ideal way to complete our weekend.

The Master and Anna are to be highly thanked for all the thoughtful planning they put in, including reserving the whole hotel, to give us so much pleasure.

The Master's Lunch at Butchers' Hall (By Steward John Carnaby)

On Wednesday the 1st July, the Stewards of the Plumbers' Company invited the Master and Mistress Plumber to Butchers' Hall for lunch.

The Master thanked the Stewards on behalf of himself and Anna for their hospitality and a most enjoyable lunch.



Left: Senior Steward, Tom Thackeray, Steward Michael Horwood, the Master's wife, Anna, the Master, Prof. Rodney Cartwright, Stewards Peter Brown, Michael Cooper and John Carnaby.

Royal Horticultural Garden - Wisley (By Steward Richard Harvey)

On the 8th July, the Master, Mistress Plumber, liverymen and friends were treated to a guided tour around the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship Garden at Wisley, in Surrey.

The Estate, which was gifted to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1903, was displayed in unexpected sunshine during our informative tour.

We were guided by a very knowledgeable RHS volunteer, who made us aware, not only of the huge variety of flora, so beautifully kept, but also of the extensive world-class research which takes place into the protection and conservation of our indigenous and imported natural world.

Of particular interest, was the recently opened award winning Glasshouse, which was packed with tropical plant species and a

fascinating exhibition of what goes on beneath the soil, from roots to bugs!

After a most satisfying lunch, visitors were free to tour the garden again, avoiding that typical experience of an English country garden – sunshine and showers!

A Walk through the City (By Steward John Carnaby)

On Tuesday 4th August, our group were met by Steward John Carnaby at Moorgate Station and were introduced to City of London Guide, Ann-Marie Craven. The Walk commenced at London Wall (AD 200) with Ann-Marie's commentary on the following: -

Armourers' Hall in Coleman Street, Girdlers' Hall, in Basinghall Street, and the former Ocean Accident Building by Aston Webb, built in 1928, and later taken over by Commercial Union.

We then carried on to the Institute of Chartered Accountants' Building built in 1890-93 and designed by John Belcher, before moving on to Tokenhouse Yard, the office for the delivery of farthing tokens issued for several centuries by London Tradesmen.

Traders in Cheapside and Poultry nearby made a fortune when copper coins were made official in 1672.

We then crossed over to Lothbury, where at number seven, a one-bed apartment recently sold for £850,000!

Next, was the Church of St. Margaret Lothbury, by Christopher Wren 1686-1690, dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch, also known as Marin. She spurned the advances of a Roman Prefect, who threatened her with death. He bound and gagged her before throwing her into a cauldron of boiling water. Her prayers were answered and she escaped this death, but the Roman Prefect was so furious he beheaded her instead!

We then visited Throgmorton Avenue, and Drapers' Hall.

Thomas Cromwell had a house in Throgmorton until he was executed in 1540. In 1543, the Drapers bought Cromwell's house from Henry VIII.

Throgmorton was named after Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, who is buried in St Katherine Cree Church, and was Ambassador to Elizabeth I.

Sir Nicholas Throckmorton's daughter was married to Sir Walter Raleigh.

We then continued on to Austin Friars, the Augustinian Monastery given to Sir William Paulet, Marquess of Winchester, after the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530's. Edward VI later gave it to Dutch protestant refugees. It was bombed and rebuilt after WWII.

We continued to Adams Court to look at Tower Forty-Two (the ex National Westminster Bank Building) and Gibson Hall, and then crossed over to Gracechurch Street, Leadenhall Street and Leadenhall Market. The present Market Building is by Horace Jones, and was built in 1881. The Market goes back to 1400 when the City bought a house with a lead roof – hence Leadenhall Market.

The Market started as a poultry and dairy market, and branched out into meat later on. The meat hooks are still retained.

We progressed up Lime Street to Lloyd's Building, built in 1986, and known as the 'inside out building'. All plumbing services etc., are on the outside.

We visited Fen Court, which is an open space recently restored and rebuilt by the City with a sculpture called 'Guilt of Cain' by Michael Visocchi, and words by Lemn Sissay.

We walked through Plantation House and into Plantation Lane to look at the pavement and moon wall by Simon Patterson and visited St. Margaret Pattens, (rebuilt by Wren) to see special box pews for the churchwardens. Then it was a short walk down to St. Mary-at-Hill, past

Watermans' Hall to the Carpenter and Walrus for a well deserved three-course lunch with the necessary liquid refreshment.

The Master thanked both John and Ann-Marie for an enjoyable City Walk.

WELFARE REPORT

(By Honorary Liveryman Eileen Lilley)

I attended the funeral of Liveryman Douglas Kennett, where the Master was represented by Past Master Peter Brunner. It was a special occasion and three of his granddaughters took part in the Service. I had known Douglas for many years.

He once told me that when he was a young soldier of nineteen years of age, he was among the first group of soldiers to enter Belsen and that he remembered the smell all his life.

I have always admired him greatly.

Liveryman Richard Tully and his wife, Pauline, had their sixtieth Wedding Anniversary on the 9th July 2009. A celebration of this very special occasion was held on Saturday 11th July, and the picture shows Richard and Pauline cutting their Anniversary Cake.



Congratulations

Firstly, to Past Master Mike Samuel and his wife Sheila, on the birth of their grandchildren.



On the 8th March, twins, Owen and Dylan, were born to their son, Liveryman James Samuel, and his wife, Sian.



On the 6th July, a grandson, Harrison, was born to their middle son, Tom, and his wife, Georgie. Harrison weighed in at a whopping 10lb 4oz, and is a brother for two-year old Robert.

Next, to Assistant Christopher Sneath. Christopher was nominated by the Council of the City and Guilds of London Institute to receive their Highest Award of Fellowship of the Institute. This Award is in recognition of his outstanding achievements in Engineering Services and his commitment to vocational and educational training.

The photograph shows Christopher receiving the Award from Michael Howell, Chairman of the City and Guilds Council.



excess, determination and greed, power and folly, love and loss, amidst the beauty of Dartmoor, the squalor of the battlefield and the elegance and excitement of London. It is a tale of an extraordinary man and his family. The book is available in hardback and Nick is currently writing the sequel.

third operation, having never previously participated in sport of any kind. If you ask her 'why', she will be hard pressed to answer, but her husband, Malcolm, is in no doubt. He says, "She would simply not accept her fate. She wanted to fight: to show that she would not give in to this hideous disease."

Jen has, between operations, run a Gloucester Twenty Miles, three Great North Runs, numerous Half Marathons, Tough Ten Miles and Ten Kilometres.

Then to Liveryman Dr. Peter Rumley, who, on the 2nd July, 2009, was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, by secret ballot.

Fellowship is regarded as recognition of significant achievement in the heritage field.

The Society's records date back to 1707. It is one of the oldest learned societies in Britain and is the world's premier society for heritage. A Royal Charter was granted in 1751.

The Society's Fellows include many distinguished archaeologists and art and architectural historians holding positions of responsibility across the cultural heritage. The Fellowship is international in its reach and its interests are inclusive of all aspects of the material past.

The Society's Rooms, Library and Collections are located at Burlington House, Piccadilly.

Congratulations also to Liveryman Nick Jones on the publication of his first book, 'No. 1, Chesterfield Square', which was published on the 28th May 2009.

Nick's book is a combination of Gosford Park meets Upstairs Downstairs with a touch of The Mallen Streak, and it is a saga set in Devon.

It is a combination of hardship and

Grandmother's First Marathon Fifteen Years into her Fight against Cancer

In 1994, Liveryman Malcolm Price's wife, Jennifer, of Edge, near Painswick, Gloucestershire, was diagnosed with a form of cancer known as retroperitoneal liposarcoma. The disease is incurable and it is almost unheard of for sufferers to survive for more than ten years. The only effective palliative treatment is radical surgery.

Jen has had ten major abdominal operations. Yet, on the 26th April 2009, four days prior to her 60th birthday, Jen ran the London Marathon, aiming for a time of under five hours.

Jen only took up running after her



Her last operation saw her hospitalised for some six weeks in the summer of 2008. Jen says, "I suspect that my running has had little or no effect on the progress of the disease. What it has done is to ensure that I go into theatre supremely fit. I know that each such visit may be fatal and it has been close to that on more than one occasion, but I'm still here."

Jen pays tribute to the medical care she has received. Although maximum doses of radiotherapy and chemotherapy proved ineffective, she has nothing but praise for the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham and its wonderfully dedicated staff.

If there are benefits to be gained from Jen's struggle, they are, perhaps, twofold. The most important is the encouragement that her story can give to others suffering incurable or life threatening illness, and the greater the publicity for her achievements, the greater that benefit.

There is also the opportunity for charitable fundraising. Jen has raised in excess of £6,500.00 this time around; approximately £2000.00 for RNID, who provided her Marathon place, and more than that sum for the trust funds set up by the surgeons of the Cobalt Unit.

She continues to collect for them and for Macmillan Cancer Care to which people can donate via www.justgiving.co.uk/jenniferprice5

The formal Company photographs included in each Newsletter are provided by the Company Professional Photographer, Honorary Liveryman Michael O'Sullivan. All formal Company photographs can be viewed/purchased using www.michaelosullivan.co.uk then clicking online gallery