

## **THE MASTER'S BLOG 32**

### **SHRIEVAL ELECTION- MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018**

It has been some years since there was a contested election for the position of Sheriff of the City of London and today marks the conclusion of a campaign which has been running for months. There are 4 candidates for two positions- and it is encouraging to see that there is so much interest in a position which will demand much of those elected during their year in office.

Guildhall is packed- as is the overspill accommodation which has been arranged for the event. I process with the other Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff in full robes and chain (one of the few occasions when these are worn). The election process is managed extremely well, and the results are clear. Congratulations go to Aldermanic Sheriff-Elect Vincent Keaveny and Non-Aldermanic Sheriff- Elect, The Hon Liz Green. I am sure that both will serve the City of London well.

### **CONSORTS' COFFEE MORNING- MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018**

While we were packed into Guildhall (in extremely hot conditions), the Mistress was enjoying a cup of tea with other Consorts at an event arranged in another part of Guildhall.

### **POST SHRIEVAL-ELECTION LUNCH- MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018**

One of the advantages of being a Company Without Hall is that we get to visit, and dine in, a range of other Livery Halls in the City. Today, lunch has been arranged at Pewterers' Hall where representatives of the Plumbers meet with Liverymen and guests of 6 other Companies for lunch following Common Hall at Guildhall. For the second time at such an occasion, I am asked to respond to the Toast to the Guests as I am the Master of the senior visiting Livery Company today.

### **ARMED FORCES' FLAG RAISING- MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018**

It is Armed Forces Day and I make a quick dash along Gresham Street back to the Guildhall Yard for a Flag Raising Ceremony and address by the Lord Mayor and senior officer of the RAF.

### **VISIT TO TEMPLE CHURCH AND MIDDLE TEMPLE- TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2018**

The Mistress is on a Consorts' tour this afternoon at the invitation of the Mistress Arbitrator. The visit starts in the Temple Church and tea follows in the Middle Temple. It is a very interesting visit and we plan to return so that I can view the Church. The Plumbers' Company celebrated its 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary here but work commitments in Edinburgh meant that I was unable to attend.

### **ROMAN DEAD AT MUSEUM OF LONDON- WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2018**

We have an early start this morning as we must be at the Museum of London in Docklands (near Canary Wharf Station) for a breakfast reception based on their current Roman Dead exhibition. We join a group of others (including Alderman Alison Gowman and the Chief Commoner, John Scott) for a short talk followed by a private viewing of this amazing exhibition. A rare stone sarcophagus was discovered in Southwark in 2017. This exhibition is built around that amazing find and its contents and it explains the Romans' approach to death. One of the most amazing aspects of this visit is to learn that because of the science of Osteology (in the words of one curator, "bones"), we are now able to know not only the sex, hair and skin colour of the deceased but also where they have travelled to in their lives. Roman Dead is an excellent exhibition and well worth a visit.

## **BUILDING CRAFTS COLLEGE END OF YEAR SHOW- THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2018**

An early evening reception tonight in Carpenters' Hall allows me to see some beautiful work which has been produced by students of the Building Crafts College based at Stratford. The work includes woodwork, stonemasonry and even some familiar-looking candelabra made of copper piping. It is good to chat to some of the students about their training and future plans. I particularly like the three-legged chair and desk which has been designed and built by Ben Smith (who is a Philosophy graduate but has just completed a two-year course at the College).