

THE MASTER'S BLOG 35

SWAN UPPING- MONDAY 16 JULY 2018

Although today's visit is as tourists, it is included here as the ancient tradition of



Swan Upping is very much part of the history of the City of London. Each year, for a week in July, swan barges and other vessels with the Queen's Swan Warden, the Royal Swan Uppers and Swan Uppers representing the Vintners' and Dyers'

Companies make their way along parts of the River Thames undertaking a census and marking of cygnets. One of my sisters (who is visiting from Scotland) and I make our way by train to Staines from where we walk to the Penton Hook Lock to observe the flotilla making its way on its journey along the river. It is a colourful spectacle and we are pleased to add this to our list of London experiences.



LUNCH WITH THE LADY MAYORESS- MONDAY 16 JULY 2018

The Mistress is at Mansion House today with a group of other Livery Consorts for lunch with the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Samantha Bowman. This is an excellent occasion and concludes with a visit to the Treasure Room (something which the Master has not visited).

LONDON NIGHTS AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON- WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2018

Another breakfast invitation today at the Museum of London- this time at their main location on London Wall. We hear from the curator of the "London Nights" exhibition, a fascinating collection of photographs of London at night taken over a period of more than 100 years. There are some familiar and iconic images (such as St Paul's during the Blitz) and much more modern images (such as the photo of the city taken by Tim Peake from space). It is a well-constructed exhibition which shows many aspects of this amazing city after dark.

CART MARKING- WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2018

As it is a short walk from the Museum of London to Guildhall, we proceed there after the breakfast event in time to catch the annual cart marking spectacle where the Lord Mayor, Master Carman, other Masters and City officials conducting the historic procedure of licensing vehicles to allow them to operate in the City. We had seen this event once before but during heavy rain, so it is good to spectate today in glorious sunshine.

IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF KNIGHTS BACHELOR- THURSDAY 19 JULY 2018



We have been invited today to the Annual Service organised by the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor in St Faith's Chapel in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. Along with Knights, resplendent in their scarlet robes, a group of Chelsea Pensioners and a large number of Masters, Clerks and Consorts, we participate in hearty singing, hear beautiful

choir anthems and listen to an inspiring address by the Dean of the Imperial Society (and Dean of St Paul's) The Very Rev Dr David Ison. The Bishop of London, The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally also participates in the service and we see the dedication of a painting by Hughie O'Donoghue ("St Martin Divides His Cloak"). The service is followed by a walk to Apothecaries' Hall for a reception.

