

## THE MASTER'S BLOG 38

### LUNCH WITH THE JUDGES AT THE OLD BAILEY- MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2018

At the invitation of Sheriff Neil Redcliffe, I enter The Old Bailey through the Lord Mayor's entrance today to attend lunch with Her Majesty's Judges. I am one of 5 invited guests (one of whom is the Uruguayan Ambassador) and it is very interesting to chat with each of them before we make our way to the Judges' Dining Room where I am seated beside 4 of the judges on duty that day at the Central Criminal Court. It is a very enjoyable lunch (which is strictly timed to conclude at 1355 to enable the Judges to return to their Courts).



After lunch we have the opportunity to sit in one of the Courts and we have the opportunity to see the end of the introductory statement by the lead prosecutor. Sadly, but not unusually for The Old Bailey, it is a murder trial and it is difficult not to reflect, with sadness, on the family of the young man who was murdered and on the five young men in the dock who are being tried for his murder.

### LIVERY MEETINGS- WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

After the August break, the Plumbers' Company is now back in full swing and I meet a Liveryman today to discuss the possibility of him becoming one of the Company's Stewards (he says "Yes") and then a teleconference with two of our Committee Chairmen to discuss Committee membership in the coming year.

### CITY CONSORTS' SOCIETY AGM AND LUNCH- WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

It is one year since a new organisation for Consorts of Livery Masters (past, present and future) was established and today the Mistress attends the organisation's AGM and lunch at Bakers' Hall (which she did manage to find easier today than on her previous visits there). The formal meeting is followed by lunch, a talk by the Lady Mayoress, Samantha Bowman, about her year in office so far and a recital by a mezzo soprano.



### GALA CHARITY CONCERT- 100 DAYS TO PEACE- THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

Our attention to tonight's event at Central Hall, Westminster, was drawn through a communication from the Royal Armouries to the Plumbers' Company and it was also promoted by General The Lord Dannett when he spoke at the Brigantes' Breakfast at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. Organised by the Royal Armouries to raise funds for three worthwhile military charities- Combat Stress, Help for Heroes and Heads Together- the concert contains music and reflections on the final 100 days of the Great War, exactly 100 years ago.

Attended by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex (the Duke is involved in Heads Together), the concert is compered by soprano Lesley Garrett, CBE (who also sings) and the music is performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Royal Choral Society. Sir Andrew Parmley (former Lord Mayor of the City of London) accompanies the choir in a beautiful new piece by Samuel Bordoli called "The Great Silence".

The highlight for us of the evening is a performance of "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" which is conducted by its composer, Sir Karl Jenkins, CBE. We both know and like this

monumental work but there is something very special about hearing it being conducted by its creator with the film “The Armed Man” by Hefin Owen projected in the background.

### **VISIT TO CLASSIC BOAT FESTIVAL- SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Court Assistant Janet Rivers and her husband Tony have sailed their 87-year-old boat, St Joan, around the coast of Great Britain over the last three months and today, almost at the end of their epic journey, we visit them in St Katherine’s Dock, London where they are part of a Classic Boat Festival. It is good to join them on board and to hear about their journey on this beautiful boat. The Master could well join them as they sail the final 20 miles of their trip on Monday- look out for next week’s Master’s Blog to see whether this happens!

