

THE MASTER'S BLOG 41

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

Membership recruitment and retention is critical for any organisation such as the Plumbers' Company and our Membership Committee meets this afternoon to discuss the current state of play- which includes a healthy pipeline of new Liverymen. Details of an induction meeting for new Liverymen are also developed.

TRELOAR'S GALA DINNER: MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2018



Whenever we are asked to list the highlights of our year (so far), our visit to Treloar's School at Alton in Hampshire is usually mentioned. We were so impressed by the excellent work which is carried out there with physically handicapped young people between the ages of 2 and 25. We are therefore delighted to have the opportunity tonight to join friends from the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors at their table at the Gala Dinner in aid of the school in Mansion House, in the presence of the Lord and Lady Mayoress. The evening starts with a musical performance by 5 students from the school who perform extracts from their recent production of "Beauty and the Beast"- it is excellent. The fundraising target for the evening is £80,000 to purchase a new minibus and everyone present is delighted when it is announced that the target has been met.

PLUMBERS' COMMITTEE MEETINGS: TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

Two more Company Committee meetings today with the combined Technical and Education Committee in the morning and the Social Committee in the afternoon. Good progress is noted at both meetings.

CITY GIVING DAY: TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

The focus all over the City of London today is charitable giving and I take the opportunity to visit the Master and Mistress Management Consultant this afternoon in their Barbican flat where they have been hosting an Open Day to mark City Giving Day. It is good to meet some people from the current Livery circuit and some who I meet for the first time.

CLOCKMAKERS' LECTURE AND MICHAELMAS COURT DINNER: TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Although this has been a busy day, I travel to the beautiful Clothworkers' Hall this evening to attend the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers' annual Harrison Lecture and Michaelmas Court Dinner. The Lecture- on two clocks which are alleged to have been made by Past Master of the Company, George Graham in the 18th century- is fascinating (even to someone who knows nothing about horology). The dinner which follows is delightful and I have excellent company at the table.



ANNUAL CITY OF LONDON CHURCH WALK: WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

A group of 40 Masters and consorts meets in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral at 0930 this morning for coffee and bacon rolls (how civilised!). The occasion is the start of this year's walk around 12 City churches which were designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The Plumbers' Company has organised this year's walk (we take it in turns with the Constructors' Company to make the arrangements). The weather could not be better as we set off with our two City Guides. Lunch is taken in St Lawrence Jewry and the walk finishes at 1630 with tea and

cake at All Hallows by the Tower. This is a really lovely event, during which we learn so much and the day is much appreciated by those who participate.

FUELLERS' ANNUAL LECTURE: WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2018



Not much time to change before the Clerk and I head to Trinity House, near the Tower of London, for tonight's Lecture arranged by the Worshipful Company of Fuellers. The subject is Energy Policy in the City of London and the lecturer, Chris Hayward, Chair of the City's Planning and Transportation Committee, outlines current plans to make the City a greener, more energy efficient place.

INTERVIEWS: THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

I am at Carpenters' Hall today for the interviews for the vacant position of the Clerk of the Plumbers' Company. It is a very interesting day and the panel is unanimous in its choice. More information about our appointment will be provided to the Livery in due course.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM LIVERY RECEPTION: THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Mistress and I join many other Livery Company representatives tonight at the beautiful National Army Museum next door to the Royal Hospital Chelsea for a reception aimed at representatives of the Livery Companies. This museum, which recently benefitted from a £24m programme of work, looks very impressive and we plan to make a return visit one day when we have time.

CIPHE SURREY BRANCH 60TH BIRTHDAY DINNER: SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2018

We have been invited as guests by the President of the Surrey Branch of the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering to the Branch's 60th anniversary dinner in Windlesham. It is a very enjoyable dinner and it is good to catch up with several people whom I have not seen for several years (including two Past Presidents of the national organisation).



ST MICHAEL'S DAY SERVICE AND LUNCH: SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

The patron saint of the Plumbers' Company is St Michael and this morning we join the congregation in the Company's church, St Magnus the Martyr, for the annual service to mark the feast day of St Michael and All Angels. In accordance with tradition, as Master of the Plumbers' Company, I read the first lesson. After the service we proceed to the crypt for a delicious lunch which has been arranged by members of the congregation.

SHEEP DRIVE OVER LONDON BRIDGE: SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

One of the privileges of being a Freeman of the City of London is that one can drive sheep over London Bridge. In normal circumstances, the results of such activities would be traffic and pedestrian chaos, so we join the annual sheep drive event this afternoon organised by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen. It is good to see the Company Almoner, Caroline Walsh participating (watched by her father and mother) and we are also joined by the Company Chaplain, Fr Philip Warner who comes to witness the event. I now have a certificate to prove that I have "exercised the right of a Freeman of the City of London to drive sheep across London Bridge."

