

THE MASTER'S BLOG 42

ELECTION OF LORD MAYOR: MONDAY 1 OCTOBER 2018

Common Hall at Guildhall (generally twice a year) while dealing with the serious business of electing Lord Mayors and Sheriffs, can also be fun and today's event is no exception. Masters and Clerks start the day in style at 0800 with a breakfast in the Guildhall Club hosted by one of the City's leading caterers- "The Cook and Butler". This gives us all a good chance to chat with other Masters, Prime Wardens, Upper Bailiff and Clerks before we proceed to the Crypts in preparation for processing (in reverse order of precedence) into St Lawrence Jewry Church for a service led by Rev. David Parrott, with the sermon being preached by the Lord Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. George Bush (who must receive regular comments about his namesakes).



Another procession sees us enter the already packed Guildhall for the formal election business. While the official party is out of the hall where the decision is being made by the Court of Aldermen, a recently appointed Assistant Town Clerk, gives an entertaining talk about the role of some of the City officers. Alderman Peter Estlin is duly elected as the 691st Lord Mayor of the City and we hear from him, the current Lord Mayor and the late Sheriffs, Alderman Tim Hailes and Neil Redcliffe.

The group from the Plumbers' Company then proceed to Painters' Hall for lunch- with 190 other representatives from a total of 13 Livery Companies. This is a delightful affair in a party atmosphere and the proceedings end when I, on the invitation of the Master Painter-Stainer, respond to the Toast to the Guests.

MUSICIANS' COMPANY EVENSONG: WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2018



Another "gowned and chained" event this afternoon as Masters and Clerks gather in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral before processing into the Cathedral to join the congregation (which included the Mistress Plumber). It is a lovely service with readings by the Master Musician and a young Chorister who is supported by the Company. A particularly poignant part of the service is when the Royal College of Music's String Orchestra plays Elgar's Elogy for Strings as the Musicians remember those of their number who have died in the last year. This piece was composed by Elgar for the Company and has been performed at the annual service since 1914. After processing out, we join others in the Crypt for a reception.

GOLDSMITHS' FAIR 2018- PRIVATE VIEW: WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2018

A smart walk from St Paul's sees us in the magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall for a Private Viewing of their annual exhibition of gold and silverwork (and a glass to assist us around the stalls). There are many beautiful items on display and we bump into a few people we know (including a Liveryman of the Plumbers' Company).

UNVEILING OF LONDON STONE: THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER 2018

There are references to "London Stone" dating back to 1100 although it is believed that it may date back to the Roman days. Today sees me at the unveiling of this object in its new location set into a building at 111 Cannon Street. There are many myths about this piece of oolitic stone measuring 53cm x 43cm x 30cm. A large crowd of invited guests and passers by gather for



the unveiling by the Lord Mayor assisted by Master of the Mason's Company (which had been instrumental in campaigning for it to be returned to its former location). I join members of the Masons' Court and other guests in a nearby restaurant for lunch after the ceremony.

LIGHTMONGERS' LUNCH FOR MASTERS AND CLERKS: FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER 2018

I am with other Masters and Clerks today and senior representatives of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers at this annual event which takes place in Tallow Chandlers' Hall (very close to the site of the Plumbers' Company's last Hall). It is a relaxed event with a very humorous Toast to the Guests by the Master Lightmonger who likens each Company present with a TV programme. For the second time in a week, I have been asked to respond to this Toast (which, of course, I am delighted to do, probably for the last time in my year as Master).

OPENING OF PLUMBERS' CRAFT LEAD WORKSHOP: SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER 2018

Early in my year as Master I visited the Weald and Downland Museum where the Plumbers' had operated a craft lead demonstration facility since 1980. By the time of that visit, the workshop was already partially dismantled as we were in the process of moving out. Today, along with a large group from the Plumbers' Company, I visit the wonderful new facility which has been established at the Amberley Working Museum near Arundel.

I am so impressed with the work which has been done in this new location and am delighted to perform the official opening ceremony (which includes cutting a red ribbon). I even have the chance to pour some lead, making my copy of the Plumbers' crest. It is good to see the interest by members of the public in this demonstration of such an important part of our industry's heritage.

