

THE (IMMEDIATE PAST) MASTER'S BLOG 44

In his final blog, the new Immediate Past Master outlines the activities he was involved in during his last couple of days as Master and his first week as Immediate Past Master.

SCOTSCARE RECEPTION- MONDAY 15 OCTOBER 2018

ScotsCare 
The charity for Scots in London

Tonight, we travel to Mercers' Hall for a reception for Scottish Masters, Wardens and Clerks hosted by ScotsCare. Initially set up in 1603 as a charity to assist Scots in London under the

name of the Royal Scottish Corporation, ScotsCare carries out an impressive programme of work with first, second and third generation Scots in London. We are welcomed to the Hall by the recently-installed Master Mercer, Mrs Xenia Dennen, who gives a very interesting talk about her Scottish roots. Her grandfather was Earl Haig and we were able to view a fascinating exhibition in the Hall about his life and work- including the home in the Scottish Borders which was presented to him by the state after World War I. Chairman of ScotsCare, James Chestnut then welcomed the guests on behalf of the charity and gave an introduction to its history and role. Finally, Shona Fleming, CEO of the charity gave an extremely good account of the vast range of work undertaken and presented a short case study of one Scot whose life had altered for the better as a result of ScotsCare's interventions.

COURT MEETING, INSTALLATION AND LUNCH- TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2018



One recurring feature of my year as Master is that the sun has shone on most of our outdoor activities and today is one of those days as I make my way to Vintners' Hall to chair my fourth and final Court meeting of my year. We are pleased to welcome, as an observer, the recently appointed new Clerk, Adrian Mumford (who will take up his post on 2

January 2019). The meeting goes well and to time and we then process to the Company church, St Magnus the Martyr, where I am delighted to install Dame Fiona Woolf, DBE, DL as Master Plumber. She, in turn, presents me with my Past Master's jewel before installing Dr Peter Rumley as Upper Warden and Nick Jones as Renter Warden. The large congregation almost lifts the church roof with its hearty singing and the choir sings two lovely anthems. The Company Chaplain (who was unable to conduct the Installation service last October) is in good form and preaches a challenging sermon.

After processing back to Vintners' Hall for a drinks reception, we hear an amusing double-act speech by the new Master and her consort, Nicholas. She then presents the Consort's badge to Nicholas (and expresses sympathy with me as I lose my Mistress and have to return to living with my wife!). Lunch today follows see her during which we hear more from our new Master and presenting the Company's Silver Award to apprentice Rebecca Russell of Croydon College.



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SOCIETY OF LONDONERS' CELEBRATION: TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2018

It is good to be invited to another event at the Museum of London this evening when we are guests at a celebration organised by the Society of Londoners. This gives us the opportunity to chat to curators about aspects of their work and to hear a lively debate, hosted by London's Night Tsar, Amy Lame, about the best historical era to enjoy London's nightlife (the 18th century in the heyday of places like the Vauxhall Pleasure Garden, the early 20th century when public toilets became readily available or during the music revolution of the 1970s). After listening to the debate, the audience voted, and the result was a tie between all three periods.

ROYAL ENGINEERS' CORPS GUEST NIGHT: THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2018

I travel to Chatham this evening to represent the Master at the Royal Engineers' Corps Guest Night at Chatham Barracks. The Master Mason and I are the two guests from City of London Livery Companies and we are welcomed by the recently appointed Chief Royal Engineer, Lieutenant General Tyrone Urch, CBE. Pre-dinner reception drinks are served in Pasley House (which dates to 1866-1877). The assembled guests and officers then cross the parade ground to the Officers' Mess where dinner is served under the gaze of famous

Royal Engineers including General Gordon and Field Marshal The Lord Kitchener (whose great-grandniece is one of tonight's guests). For the first part of the meal I am seated between two Major Generals and then later, when seats are swapped, I am joined by two of the latest officers to join the Corps (one of whom is about to be posted to the Falkland Islands for 12 months). This is a delightful evening in delightful company.

