



Master's Blog #2



As autumn closes in and winter approaches, November for me is very much the month of memories and thanksgiving. In the Livery Calendar it begins with the Garden of Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral, where all the Livery Company Masters gather with the Lord Mayor to lay simple wooden memorial crosses on the Monday before Remembrance Sunday. I still remember that trip I made to Fillievre British Military Cemetery in Northern France in 2018 with Past Master Rodney Cartwright on



Fillievre British Military Cemetery

the centenary of Armistice Day to lay the same simple memorial cross at the grave of Capt Aubrey Hill, RAF, the only known casualty from the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in WWI and WWII.

Sadly, the rail strikes created quite an amount of disruption and some planned events were either postponed or cancelled altogether. I was delighted therefore that we were able to resurrect our visit to Charterhouse, that medieval jewel just north of the Barbican – you couldn't imagine two more different architectural styles!



On a wet and windy day, twenty of us enjoyed and fascinating tour and a warming lunch at Café du Marche next door.

Adrian, our Clerk, and I were invited to the Carpenters' Annual Awards Lunch, an easy trip down the stairs from our office! This was followed by the Fuellers' Lecture in Brewers' Hall, given by BP's Senior Vice-President, on "Backing Britain – Delivering Home-grown Energy". Very topical! And then a great evening at Cutlers' Hall for Sue and me at the Water Conservator's Annual Banquet, with another very topical speech from Lord Deben, the former Conservative Government Minister John Gummer.

Saturday 12 November dawned bright and sunny for that marvelous annual celebration, The Lord Mayor's Show. In what I hope will become a regular feature, the Master, Upper Warden, Renter Warden and Clerk joined the new Ancient Liveries' Walking Float for the procession suitably attired in WCoP Boiler Suits!



Tuesday the following week saw me at Drapers' Hall for the CCLA and Marylebone Executive Search lecture. A fascinating talk by Prof Sir Adrian Smith, President of the Royal Society on Artificial Intelligence entitled "Power, Reputation and Influence".

Sue and I were up very early the next day to drive to Amberley to visit our Plumbers Museum Workshop Trust for its AGM and true to tradition I tried my hand a bit of lead casting too. What an



inspiring group of volunteers we have keeping alive this great "art and mystere" that is so vital to the maintenance of our national heritage. The trust is always looking for more volunteers to showcase and demonstrate this skill. If you would like to learn more, please contact them.

And then it was up to London that evening for the Society of Public Health Engineers Annual Award Dinner – a lively function with 380 guests attending. It was good to see it in such a healthy state (apologies for the pun!) under the Chairmanship of Liveryman Peter White and to see two young female engineers winner and runner-up.



The function was also used to present Past Master Chris Sneath's Plumbing Centre of Excellence Award to Kevin Buchanan from the College of NW London.



Kevin Buchanan with his Award Certificate

My next Company function will be the Ladle Dinner, our own “thanksgiving” function, where we say thank you to Immediate Past Master Nick Jones for his year as Master. A very special function in our calendar, with lots of memories and its own unique atmosphere, not least for all the Past Masters “on parade”. I hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Paul

Paul Nash
Master

20th November 2022