



Master's Blog #3



As the end of 2022 beckons the first term of my year in office continues apace. The last week in November saw me continuing on the training theme with an invitation to the Plaisterers' Training Awards Presentation and Lunch in their splendid hall. They even had a compere, Alan Dedicoat, who reads out the national lottery ball winning numbers each week. My numbers didn't come up!

That evening it was our wonderful Ladle Dinner in Cutlers' Hall to say thank you to Immediate Past Master Nick Jones for his year in office; almost a night off for the Master as all I had to do was serve the soup to the top table! I do enjoy that evening with its special atmosphere. The next day it was off to Westminster Abbey with the Clerk Adrian for the Festival of St Cecilia in aid of the Musicians' charity, who was actually there as an Assistant of the Musician's Company. I've never really appreciated how good the acoustics are until a solo clarinetist played from the top of the screen and filled the Abbey with music – quite moving! A quick trip back to the office to change into black tie for the Shipwrights' Masters' & Clerks' dinner at Ironmongers' Hall that evening, but not before we were both at the Mansion House for the Lord Mayor's annual address to the Livery. The week finished with Sue and me at the Guildhall for the Broad Street Ward Annual Civic Lunch. It was good to see some other Plumbers there too.



The following week kicked off with our first workshop to discuss the set-up of our new Apprentice Membership Scheme. The pilot will be run in conjunction with CIPHE, and the workshop was excellently hosted by Asst Martin Shouler, with three young apprentices, training college representatives, the CIPHE training and membership officers and the Upper Warden and me. Some very good ideas were forthcoming, not least from the apprentices themselves. We now need to put words into actions, but it is looking very positive and promising.



The round of autumn committee meetings began with the Membership Committee followed by the Freedom & Livery Committee, before Adrian and I attended the launch of the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch at the Honorable Artillery Company. The lunch will be held in the Guildhall on 30 March 2023 and raises money for the three main Service charities, the Royal Navy & Royal Marines' Charity, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Look out for the flyer when it comes out after Christmas, all Liverymen from all Livery Companies can buy tickets. I will be going with Adrian.

My next meeting was the AGM of our insurance company, the Livery Companies' Mutual Ltd, held at Fishmongers' Hall, once again accompanied by Adrian. The Company 'Execs' (Master, Upper Warden, Renter Warden and Clerk) got together for one of their informal meetings before the Education & Technical Committee meeting. I then shot off to the Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers Carol Service at St Margaret Lothbury. Sadly, the church boiler had broken and it was freezing, but was more than made up for by their Court Dinner in Drapers' Hall afterwards at which Sue joined me; our own Past Master Erica Stary is their Master this year. The following morning I visited the RAF Benevolent Fund offices to brief our January Court Lunch guest speaker. Unfortunately it looks like AVM Christina Elliot, the RAFBF Controller, will have to pull out, but her deputy, Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon, will cover for her if this happens. He is also a Liveryman – of the Gold & Silver Wire Drawers. That afternoon was the Social Committee meeting, before we got into the festive spirit at St Magnus for our Annual Carol Service – a great family occasion as always with mulled wine and a buffet to fortify us. More meetings followed the next morning with the Investment and Finance committees, and the weeks activities concluded with the Coachmakers' Masters' and Clerks' lunch at Watermen's Hall.



That weekend Sue and I travelled up to Yorkshire for the Brigantes' Winter Gathering in Bradford. A visit to the National Science & Media Museum and lunch in the Bradford Club, a historic old

former Victorian Men's Club, and then a wonderful Carol Concert in Bradford Cathedral, with the choir accompanied by the outstanding Black Dyke Brass Band. They really did take the roof off! The Plumbers were well represented by Past Masters Nick Gale and Fiona Woolf, Liveryman Michael Rooze and all our spouses. Michael and Silvia had to shoot off before the photograph, but Sheriff Andrew Marsden kindly completed the line-up.

Sadly, my main event of the final week was to attend the funeral of our late Father of the Company, Past Master David Thomson. Nick Gale joined me for what was a great family celebration of his life. What a wonderful man he was, and so humble with it. He achieved so much, ably supported by Patience, his wife, another wonderful person, who passed away a few years ago.

Two on-line meetings concluded my activities, one with Alderman Alison Gowman, Immediate Past Master Nick Jones and Upper Warden David Adams to discuss the Livery Climate Action Group and then a planning meeting for the arrangements for next year's lecture.

Phew! That's my final blog for this calendar year. I'm now looking forward to time over Christmas with my own family, and I hope you will be able too with yours. I'll be in touch again before the Christmas break, with a message to you all.

In the meanwhile, take care and Season's greetings,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Paul Nash
Master

16th December 2022