



Master's Blog #7

Time marches on and here we are well into spring and on the cusp of summer with a whole month of bank holidays to look forward to in May.

April began with our visit to Amberley to see the Plumbers' Museum Workshop Trust in action and to make two very special presentations. The first was to Wendy Mead in memory of her late husband Liveryman Phil Mead, the inspiration and leading light behind the workshop. It is a beautiful lead cast planter sited outside the workshop at the Open Air Museum for everyone to see and a perfect tribute to him. Wendy and all her immediate family were there to "receive it".



The second presentation was to Past Master Edward Hopkinson, another driving force for the Plumbers' Museum Workshop Trust, who has just retired as Chairman, and we were delighted to present him with a lead statue for his garden. Senior Steward Malvern Tipping tried his hand at



some lead casting while we were there and Rowan Smith, a first year plumbing apprentice at Brighton College, tried her hand too. Sue and I were able to make a lovely long weekend of it, staying with two longstanding ex-RAF friends of ours who live nearby.

After a long drive home, it was back down to London on the train the next day for a planning meeting for the Wren 300 City Churches Walk we are organizing for all Livery Company Masters and Consorts as part of the Wren 300 celebrations. Sue and I were then over to Belvoir Castle the next day to continue with the preparations for my Masters' Weekend. Back down to London again the next day for me, to taste the menu for the Annual Lecture at the Royal College of Physicians. A fine start to the day and I hope you enjoy what the Clerk, Adrian and I have selected! More planning back at the company office with an on-line meeting with the three Lecture presenters, followed by a Website development meeting with the webmaster, Steward Philippa Stary and Adrian.

After that, it was a short "journey" downstairs from the office to the Carpenters' Annual Craft Lecture and a very thought provoking one from Tony Hackney, the CEO of the Building Sustainable Worlds Timber Group, on just how much "greener" we need to be in the construction industry.



Sue and I then enjoyed a lovely Easter Weekend at home with the family celebrating our younger daughters' engagement – we still have an Easter egg hunt in the garden, a great family tradition! For those of you who have a keen interest in how much I will weigh at the end of my year, Sue and I shared just one between us!

More travelling the next week and down to Kent for the first Plumbers' Golf Society meeting of 2023 at the splendid Wildernesse course near Seal. A great turn out in beautiful sunshine for most of us, but the last group did catch a hailstorm! We need all the practice to defend our two inter-livery trophies from last year!



Those of you with good eyesight will see I'm in Black Tie with decorations for the lunch afterwards. I didn't have time to change to catch a train to London for the Worshipful Company of Playing Card Makers' Livery Dinner at Cutlers' Hall that evening. Having had to decline two previous invitations from them because of diary clashes, I was determined not to let them down a third time. Sadly, diary clashes are quite a feature of Masters' year, as my predecessors will know.

I'm inspired by the way our new Apprenticeship Membership Scheme with CIPHE is taking shape under the leadership of Court Assistant Martin Shouler and Tim Sainty from CIPHE, with some excellent input from others. We had the latest on-line working group meeting to plan its development and all is looking good for an announcement soon. While I'm on the subject of apprenticeships and training, can I make a plug for our Annual Lecture on 15th May? It's a great evening and a thought-provoking topic. If you haven't booked, the link is below.



<https://www.plumberscompany.org.uk/event/the-plumbers-lecture-2023/>.

Another diary clash prevented me from joining in the Brigantes Golf Spring meeting at Lindrick Golf Club just up the road from home, but I can't complain as I was invited back to Wax Chandlers' Hall for their Company Masters' & Clerks' Dinner. It felt very much like "coming home again" as this was where we had our offices when I first started as Clerk.

The last week of April began with the Chartered Architects Spring Lunch at Watermens' Hall, where I had the pleasure of sitting with the Port of Genoa's Ambassador to the Port of London and Alderman Michael Mainelli, next year's Lord Mayor (if elected!), who was installed as an Honourary Liveryman of the Architects' Company.

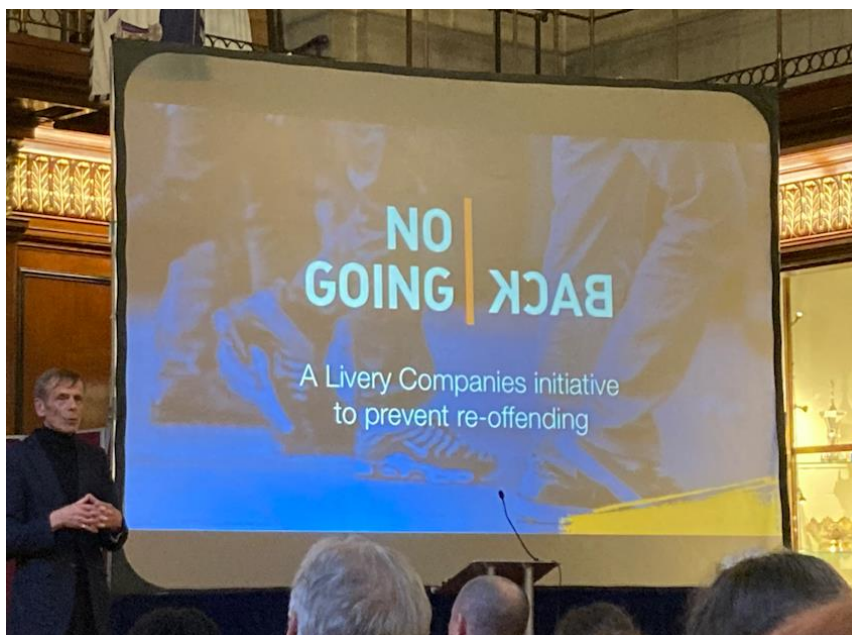


One of the highlights of April for me was our Masters' & Clerks' Lunch in Carpenters' Hall following our Spring Court meeting. We welcomed thirteen Masters and twelve Clerks and



with a total of 87 diners it was an excellent turnout. Our guest speaker was Fran Findlater, the founder of the charity "Bounce Back" and Chief Executive of the linked pan-livery initiative "No Going Back", which provides full support and mentoring to offenders looking to turn their backs on the past and gain meaningful training and employment, particularly in the construction industry. We at the Plumbers through our charity are one of some 30 livery companies who support it. It has been running for three years and already three ex-offenders are training to become plumbers, along with many others in other trades and professions. I was delighted that Fran could speak to us and promote it to our fellow companies. That evening "No Going Back" held its own reception in Merchant Taylors' Hall to thank those who support it and we heard

some quite moving stories from some remarkable individuals who have turned the corner with your help.



April drew to a close with a delightful dinner for Masters, Clerks and their partners/consorts courtesy of the Apothecaries Company at its delightful hall in Blackfriars' Lane, one of my favourites; we're holding our Summer Festival there on 4th July, with some special musical entertainment and guest speaker, award-winning writer Tom Chivers.



Can I just finish with a final thank you to everyone who donated so generously to my Sleep Out with the Lady Mayoress last month in the Guildhall Yard? My final total is a shade under £1,500, and between us, the 115 "rough sleepers" have raised £120,000, a fabulous achievement. Get your sleeping bag ready for next year David!

May promises to be a very special month and I hope it is for you too. I look forward to telling you all about it in five weeks time.

Paul Nash
Master

30th April 2023