

News from the Master

Our new Master, just a day into the job, was at Mansion House on the evening of 18th Oct for a rare visit to the City of London by the King and Queen. The Dinner was to "mark the contribution of the civic institutions of the City of London to the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and Queen.

"I was attending to represent the Plumbers' Company, one of over 90 Livery Company Masters to join a guest list of over 300 comprising Aldermen, Common Councillors, former Lord Mayors etc etc.

Significant speeches were made by the Lord Mayor and The King. The Lord Mayor spoke of the major ties between the Monarch and the City of London over the centuries and of the importance of London in global business and cultural terms. He praised the King's leadership of the country since his accession. In his speech the Lord Mayor also specifically told the gathering that the Queen is an Honorary Liveryman of the Plumbers' Company.

The King's speech is already well covered in the national media. It was an excellent oration. He thanked the City and the Livery Companies for their contribution to the Coronation. He spoke of the need for tolerance, mutual respect, and giving each other space; also of the need to tackle climate change.

I liked the sentence: "Next, there is the breathing space we afford one another, leaving us able to think and speak freely. This well carries the politeness and respect we owe to one another; our willingness to put others first and treat them as we would wish them to treat us.

But I cannot do full justice to it, so here is the complete text released by the King's media organisation:

<https://www.royal.uk/mansion-house#:~:text=Our%20society%20would%20be%20a.wish%20them%20to%20treat%20us.>

Finally to say that I was seated at the very top of a fairly central sprig, next to the top table. I was only 10 metres away from Queen Camilla and maybe 13 mtrs from King Charles. I like to think I was given this excellent seat because Queen Camilla is a Plumber!

The Master and Mistress Plumber, David & Kathy, attended The Lady Mayoress's Musical Feast at The Mansion House on the evening of 24th October.

This was an opportunity for six charities that work with young people to develop their musical abilities and life skills, to showcase the work of their students. We saw some wonderful instrumental and choral works which delighted an audience of about 200.

One highlight was a ensemble of young Ukrainian musicians, studying in the UK with The London Performing Academy of Music. Another was The North Belfast Youth Choir that brings together young people from all backgrounds and religions to sing together."



The Plumbers' Master & Mistress, David & Kathy Adams, had the pleasure of attending the Installation Dinner for the new Master of the Builders' Merchants on Friday evening, 27th October. Sitting at Top Table, in the grand setting of Drapers' Hall, they enjoyed an evening of fellowship as Liverymen and guests warmly welcomed Mr Alan Hawkins as their new Master, with his Consort Mrs Madeline Hawkins by his side.

Plumbers' Liveryman Jamie Fisher was clothed as a new Liveryman of the Builders' Merchants earlier the same day



The Plumbers' Master & Mistress, David & Kathy Adams, and The Plumbers' Clerk Adrian Mumford, were pleased to attend an evening Presentation and Reception at Drapers' Hall on 30th October to celebrate the Coronation Anointing Screen.

This was an occasion to thank those Livery Companies that contributed to the pan-livery fund for the new Anointing Screen, for King Charles III's Coronation at Westminster Abbey.

A fascinating presentation was made by the team of highly expert crafts people who designed and created this beautiful object, to the King's specification and under significant time constraints. The levels of skill required and the high degree of cooperation between crafts was hugely impressive.

The Screen was on display for close inspection, and the crafts people were on hand to answer questions about their work.



The Master, David Adams and the Clerk, Adrian Mumford, were kindly welcomed by the Carpenters' Company at their Court Luncheon on 1st November. This is a customary opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of our friends at Carpenters' Hall. We were honoured to be recognised by the Master, Dr Zimble, in his excellent speech.

Over lunch David much enjoyed a fascinating conversation with Carpenters' Liveryman John Makepeace OBE, the renowned furniture maker, author, and founder of Parham College, 'The School for Craftsmen in Wood', in Dorset in 1977.

A special guest at the lunch was Mr Will Kirk, of the BBC's 'Repair Shop', with whom David and Adrian chatted and were photographed.



The Master and Mistress Plumber, David and Kathy Adams, attended a private dinner for Senior Wardens on Friday 3rd November with the Lord Mayor Elect, Aldermen Professor Michael Mainelli, and Mrs Elisabeth Mainelli.

About 100 Masters and Consorts for the 23-24 year attended a lively reception and dinner at the Chartered Accountants' Hall.

This was an opportunity for our new Lord Mayor (commences 10th November) to present the major themes for his year, to articulate how he will support the Livery Companies, and to seek Livery support for his mayoralty. After an illuminating presentation, Prof Mainelli took questions from the floor.

A key theme for Prof Mainelli's year is 'Connect to Prosper', bringing together thought leaders from the business, scientific, and academic worlds to demonstrate the City's strengths in solving global challenges. He describes the 'Square Mile' as having a unique leadership role as the world's coffeehouse, where connections between firms, institutions, and people, lead to new ideas and solutions that benefit the world.

In his remarks the Lord Mayor Elect stressed the power of London in technical and scientific arenas, not only in financial services. He also emphasised the constant challenge to improve the environment in all that we undertake.

The Plumbers' Master had the opportunity to talk with Prof Mainelli at the event and they posed together for an informal photograph.



The Master, David Adams, was honoured to attend the 19th Annual Dinner of CIBSE's Society of Public Health Engineers (SoPHE) on 2nd November at The Royal Lancaster Hotel, London.

David was kindly invited as the guest of Peter White, the SoPHE Chairman, who is also a Plumbers' Liveryman.

Alongside an excellent reception and dinner, those many present were excited to see Awards presented to 2 young public health engineers as winners of annual SoPHE competitions, and to hear Peter White's report on the year including his thanks to SoPHE's industry sponsors.

David met many interesting people over the evening for stimulating conversations about the public health and plumbing sector. Frequently raised were the challenges of 'greening' the industry, and of the international mindset needed to raise standards of public health everywhere.

The photograph below shows Peter White, Martin Shouler, David Adams and Chis Northey. All are Liverymen of The Plumbers. Furthermore, Peter is the current Chairman of SoPHE, and Martin and Chris are both past Chairmen.



The Master David Adams, and the Clerk Adrian Mumford, represented the Plumbers' Company at the Garden of Remembrance Service outside St Paul's Cathedral on a bright morning on 6th November.

This solemn but uplifting service was attended by the Lord Mayor, the clergy, representatives (young and old) from the three Services, and by leaders from almost all the Livery Companies.

Crosses with poppies were laid by those present, to the accompaniment of a small military band, to remember all those who gave their today for our tomorrow.

The two minutes silence was observed. The Lord Mayor and The Dean of St Paul's spoke movingly about our debt of gratitude to the fallen.

The Master is pictured in The Garden of Remembrance, as is the City of London's wreath in tribute.



The Master, David Adams attended an extraordinary lecture at Lloyd's of London on 16 Nov, offered by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters.

The speakers were three brave men who work for UKISAR (UK International Search & Rescue) the team of first responders to earthquakes around world. All are highly trained UK firemen who specialise in finding and saving lives in collapsed buildings in urban environments.

The 3 spoke of their direct personal experience of going to Turkey within hours of the recent 'quake close to Syrian border. It was a moving and harrowing story, yet peppered with moments of joy as they recalled rescuing people after hours of painstaking, dangerous work.

The picture shows the Plumbers Master alongside the Firefighters' Master, Graham Woodhouse



The Master was very pleased to attend a tutored Whisky Tasting event hosted by The Master of the Distillers' Company at Guildhall on Friday 17th Nov in the evening.

In a relaxed occasion attended by about 40 Masters and Immediate Past Masters, we were guided through tasting 4 different whiskies from John Dewar, led by their expert Jonathan Wilson. He helped us find the words to describe the differing tastes and gave rich descriptions of his own. One was a blend and three were single malts of differing ages.

The tasting session was followed by an excellent buffet supper and much whisky inspired conversation!

The picture shows the Master of the Distillers, Chris Searle, on the right, and Dewar's guide, Jonathan Wilson.

