

MASTER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2017

My year started early by representing the Company, with my wife Judith, at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 16 May 17, meeting our Chaplin and other Masters at a quite charming day.

The first major Livery event after my Installation on 7 June was the Ironbridge weekend in Shropshire over 9-11 June. Some 90 Masters and their consorts attended: a Livery Dinner, a full day's tour of the historic museums commemorating the birth of the industrial revolution and a President's Ball, with the Lord Mayor and both Sheriffs. An excellent networking opportunity for a new Master and his Lady. More in terms of events later.....

Issues of more recent general interest are:

- Jeremy Batchelor was elected the new Chairman of Trustees at their last meeting on 13 June.
- Our Sheriffs' Award Working Group, chaired by the Middle Warden, Mike Barley, did a sterling job in August/September to assess a large number of nominations for the Award. Given the very high quality of nominations it was a challenging task reducing these to the top six for a meeting with the Sheriffs at the Old Bailey on 15 September. An excellent Award nominee was then selected whom the Sheriffs' will honour at our Annual Dinner on 9 October.
- Progress continues on the recruitment of an Assistant Clerk to increase the Clerk's capacity to support all aspects of the Company and its membership. There is now a shortlist and interviews will take place shortly. My thanks go to the Working Group of PM Brian Hughes, Treasurer Ian Miller and Chair of Finance & General Purposes David Lee, who with the Clerk, enabled that.
- At the Affiliates Lunch on 28 June, the CO of HMS SEVERN, Lt Cdr Hugh Harris, informed us that SEVERN is to be decommissioned on 23 October. A formal decommissioning ceremony is, we understand, being planned at Portsmouth on 27 October. I will attend and a number of invitations across the Company will be available, co-ordinated by the Services Committee and the Clerk. We have been advised, informally, that HMS MEDWAY (a new and very capable Offshore Patrol Vessel -OPV) will likely replace SEVERN as our new RN Affiliate, once she is commissioned next year.
- A Working Group of the Marketing and Fundraising Committee, under the Junior Warden, Sue Seaby, continues to look at improving communications with our members. An early result is that we now have a Twitter Feed on the website and a new WCoSP LinkedIn Group, for members only, is being developed. Work also continues apace on building an upgraded website.
- **City of London Livery Briefing is produced bi-monthly** by the Livery Committee with the aim of informing us all of the latest Livery News and Events. It is available at: <http://www.liverycompanies.info/library/livery-briefing/>. This link appears on our website and the Clerk will also distribute it. It shows the dates for the coming series of City Briefings (next is on 10 Oct 17) aimed at introducing Liverymen and Freemen to the City of London and explaining the role of the Livery. These are informal and very friendly short evenings over a glass of wine. Do go, they are very informative.

As your Company representative, I have attended the following events:

- Livery Committee Dinner with the Clerk at Cutlers' Hall on 12 June
- Beating Retreat and Reception at the Tower of London accompanied by my wife and the Clerk on 21 June
- Armed Forces Day Flag Raising & Reception at Guildhall on 22 June
- The Sheriffs' of London Election on 26 June in Guildhall and lunch at Stationers' Hall
- Innholders' Dinner with the Clerk on 4 July
- Provost Marshal (Army) Dinner Night at the Officers' Mess, Southwick Park, on 7 July
- Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund AGM and Reception at the old Bailey, with the Clerk on 10 July
- The Royal Navy Awards Dinner at the Wardroom HMS NELSON on 14 July

- WCoEngineers Annual Awards Dinner with HRH Princess Anne on 18 July
- Presentation of a new Queens Colour to the RAF Regiment by His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales and Open Day at RAF Honington on 20 July, accompanied by my wife. Twenty Company members also attended
- Lunch at the Old Bailey with the Aldermanic Sheriff and Judges on 1 September
- Police Foundation John Harris Memorial Lecture given by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Allison Saunders on 5 September
- Reviewing Officer at the Air Training Corps Surrey Wing Parade, accompanied by my wife, on 10 September
- Modern Livery Companies Dinner on 11 September with the Senior Warden, Phill Hagon
- Visit to HQ 1 Military Police Brigade at Southwick Park on 13 September, with other Company representatives, my wife and the Clerk, to present an Honorary Freedom Scroll to the Provost Marshal (Army), Brig David Neal. We were treated to a very informative tour of the RMP Museum, the D-Day Map Room, the Southwick Park Memorial Church, where the newly commissioned stained-glass window will be installed, and finally lunch.

In terms of our own events, reports of which appear on the web-site at <http://www.wcosp.org/news-photos> , we have had:

The annual Military Affiliates Lunch at the HQ of 3MI Bn in Worship Street on the 28 June, with all six of our affiliates attending, and over 80 taking lunch. The guest speaker was Colonel Mark Proctor, Corps Colonel Intelligence Corps. A new award, The Colonel Herring Trophy for Excellence, was presented to an SNCO from the Royal Military Police and the Securing the Skies award was once again presented to the selected RAF Police NCO. Honorary Freedoms were bestowed on: The CO HMS SEVERN, and CO 3MI Bn.

Over 80 of us attended the annual, and very enjoyable, Big Curry Lunch on 13 July, hosted for the 6th year by Gratte Bros to raise a charitable donation for ABF The Soldiers Charity.

Some 20 new members and prospective apprentices attended a New Member briefing, with a glass or two of wine, at Guildhall on 6 September, ably conducted by Honorary Court Assistant Roy Penrose and the Clerk. I attended along with the Middle Warden and Chairs of the Marketing & Fundraising and Membership Committees.

The Company Charity Golf day took place at Shendish Manor on 14 Sep 17. I was a member of the 4-man wining Stableford team (!) along with Michael Trott, Mike Rousell and PM Stuart Seymour. Over 40 played and a great day was had by all, thanks to the principal organiser Mike Rousell. Over £5000 was raised for our Charitable Trust – excellent.

Finally, and by no means least, my sincere thanks on all our behalf to our Clerk for her continuing hard work, dedication and good humour – soon to be supported by a professional Assistant Clerk.

This year's Court, Charitable Trust and Committee work gets underway in earnest later this month.

Stephen Anderton
Air Commodore
Master

15 September 2017