



## Master's Blog #10



Cheers everybody! My white tuxedo is certainly getting a good outing this summer and Sue has enjoying dressing up for some great functions too...and dressing down too as you will read later on. If we thought March and April were busy, June and now July have been manic, but great fun! We found ourselves double and even triple booked on some days and it has been a real juggling act; we haven't been able to fit in everything, and we are not the only Master and Consort to have faced this challenge.

The first Monday in July saw the Plumbers Golf Society defending the team and individual cups in the Marketors' Inter-Livery Golf day at Verulam Golf Club, the so-called "Inter-Livery Ryder Cup", as it is the home club of Sam Ryder, who founded that famous golf competition. A valiant effort, but the Marketors' Team proved too strong for everyone; however, Richard Harvey managed third place in

his defence of the individual trophy. The signature hole there is number 11, which you play with St Albans' Abbey Church as your backdrop.



**The team L to R: Tony Peters, Mike Samuel, Jane Palmer, Richard Harvey, Ian Palmer, Trevor Wilson, Luke Peters and me.**

The City has informally grouped all the livery companies together with Aldermen and women to improve communication. We are part of our own Liveryman, Alderman Prem Goyal's group and Adrian, our Clerk, and I met him for lunchtime drinks in the Guildhall.



**Alderman Prem Goyal fourth from left**

We weren't able to stay for lunch as we had to hotfoot it over to Apothecaries' Hall for our Election Court Meeting and Summer Festival. Yes, we've elected my successor and the company officers for next year! Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself!

It was a real pleasure to spring a surprise on Sharon, our Clerk's Assistant, and make her an Honorary Freeman of the Company to say thank you for her twenty (yes twenty!) years of service!



Apothecaries is one of my favourite livery halls and we enjoyed a great Summer Festival. The



dining hall was full with 113 guests and we were entertained royally by Tom Wakeley, Florence Dobson and Ross Carswell from RADA with some light-hearted songs. Tom, you may recall, also provided the entertainment for our 650<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Festival in 2015.



**Tom Wakeley**



**Florence Dobson**



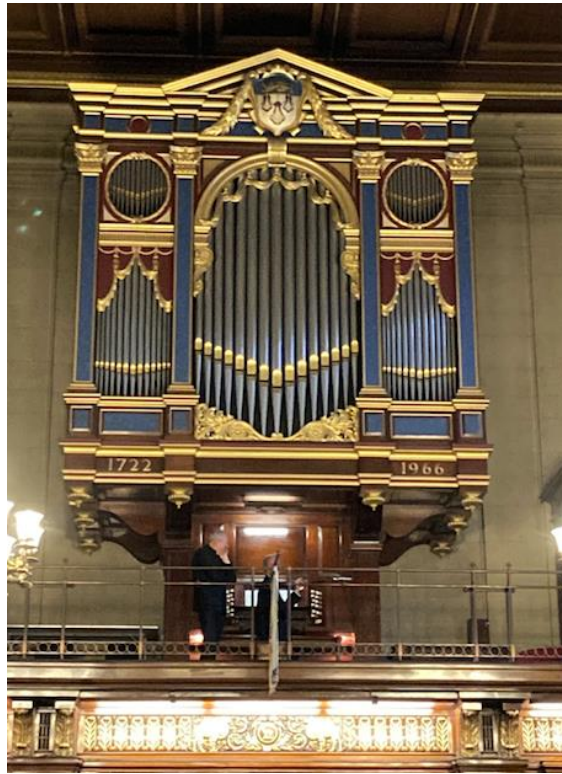
**Ross Carswell**

Our guest speaker for the evening was the author Tom Chivers, who had to pull out of our Summer Festival last year with COVID, so we were delighted he could join us this year. A “Londoner” through-and-through, he gave us a wonderfully entertaining speech on London and its history from his unique perspective. He also whetted Sue’s appetite for her “dress-down” event later in the month!



**Tom Chivers**

The next day, Nicholas Woolf, husband of Past Master Dame Fiona Woolf, was installed as Master Gardener, and Adrian, our Clerk, and I were invited as guests to his Installation Dinner at Merchant Taylors’ Hall. As many of you may know, it is the only livery hall with its own organ and yes, Adrian was asked to entertained us, which of course he did excellently!



**Sorry Adrian, from where I was sitting you were perfectly screened by the banner!**

One of the highlights of July for Sue and me was the “Wren 300” City Churches Walk we organised for our fellow Masters and Consorts. Sixty-two of us enjoyed a fabulous tour of ten Wren Churches and St Paul’s Cathedral given by City of London Guides Phil Wright and Stephen Birrell. If you



haven't seen inside many of them, you are missing a real treat. We had lunch in our very own St Magnus-the-Martyr, hosted by Father Philip Warner and Court Assistant and Church Warden Michael Cooper, with more entertainment from Adrian on the organ! The weather was very kind to us and one "oasis" on the tour was the ruined "St Dunstan in the East", gutted in the blitz of WWII and now a beautiful garden.

That evening it was back to Apothecaries' Hall for me and the Chartered Surveyors' Court and Livery Dinner, but with a different menu! As if that week wasn't busy enough, Sue and I were back at the Mansion House for the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers' Banquet and a chance to see the London Banqueting Ensemble perform again. This was a reciprocal invitation Sue and I had to accept and it meant we had to miss the Brigantes Breakfast in Harrogate for Liverymen of the North. Another diary clash!



Sunday saw me back down in London, with Adrian, for the Richmond Sea Cadets Sea Service and Parade at St Mary Magdalene Church in Richmond and afterwards at their base, TS Goodwin, with



local dignitaries. They are just starting a recruiting drive to try and boost numbers and I wish them success. Sadly they only have 15 cadets at the moment.

The following week began with another successful Plumbing Professionals Development Scheme, (the official title for our new Apprentice Scheme) working group meeting to finalise details. All is looking good for a launch in the autumn. Look out for it!

The Worshipful Company of Engineers held their Annual Awards Ceremony and Dinner at Plaisterers' Hall the next day and what a superb event it was. These were truly national awards with significant corporate sponsorship. It was particularly enjoyable for me because the Engineers Company has many former and current RAF engineers in its livery and I was delighted to be sitting on an "RAF table" with longstanding colleagues.



Sue enjoyed lunch with the Lady Mayoress the next day at the Mansion House, which included a wonderful behind the scenes tour and a visit to the Plate Room to see all the gifts given to Lord Mayors over the years. And for me a quick Plumbers' Golf Society committee meeting on Zoom to check everything was in place for our Annual Golf Day at the iconic New Zealand Golf Club in Surrey on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The following week I had the first of two visits to Painter-Stainers' Hall, firstly for their Masters' and Clerks' Dinner; eighteen Masters and Clerks were there and we were in fine form! We were



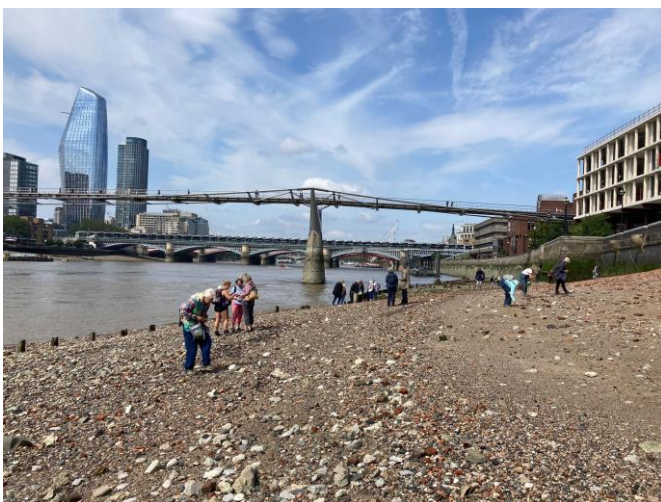
brilliantly entertained by a Brazilian classical guitarist who was superb. With a repertoire of Queen songs we were soon all singing along! The mood of the night is captured in this “selfie” I took with, left to right, me, David Sheehan – Master Construtor, James Clover – Master Painter-Stainer, and Tim Maile – Master Wax Chandler.

The following day Sue and I drove down to Kent for a reception hosted by the Commandant of the Royal Engineering School of Military Engineering at Brompton Barracks. Again, the weather was very kind and we enjoyed some excellent hospitality with local dignitaries from all over Kent. Luckily my sister lives only 20 minutes away so we were able to beg a bed for the night! The



barracks are steeped in history and sit on a hill overlooking the old Royal Dockyard at Chatham. A statue of probably their most famous officer, General Gordon of Khartoum, sits outside the headquarters.

Sue’s “dress-down” day that I referred to earlier followed; mudlarking, which Tom Chivers mentioned in his speech at our Summer Festival. Organised by the Water Conservators’ Consort, she enjoyed a great day and even managed to find some interesting items. The dark brown piece





top right in the picture is possibly Roman pottery, the green one medieval, and bottom right is a “hagstone”, which was supposed to protect you from witches or “hags” as they were called.

The last full week of July saw Adrian and me back at Painters’ Hall for the Joiners & Ceilers Midsummer Banquet, before I travelled down to Surrey for the Plumbers’ Golf Day at the lovely New Zealand Golf Club. The rain held off and 38 Plumbers’ Golf Society members and guests enjoyed a great day. Congratulations to Graham Setterfield who is the Plumbers Golf Champion for 2023, the third time he has won the “Plumbers Ladle” trophy.



**New Zealand Golf Club**



**Graham Setterfield receiving the “Plumbers Ladle” Trophy for 2023**

The same day Sue was invited to lunch at the Old Bailey with the Sheriffs’ Consorts. And my final event in July was the Founders’ Masters’ and Clerks’ Dinner at Founders’ Hall, again with Adrian.

Sue and I now have the whole of August off, with nothing in the diary! Apart from one week away, we are planning a relaxing time at home visiting all those places close by that you somehow never get round to seeing, and catching up on all those jobs around the house and garden that for some reason I haven’t had time to do recently! Whatever plans you have for the summer, some of you I know have already started; I hope you have a great time, wherever that may be. Fingers crossed for some good weather. My next blog will be at the end of September, two weeks before I hand over the reins and my year is over!

Paul Nash  
Master

31<sup>st</sup> July 2023