



Report from the from the Social Committee meeting on 23rd May 2024

Members Attending: Charles Brooks (Chairman/Upper Warden), Sr Steward Philippa Stary (PS), Stewards John Wilson (JW), Chris Saunders (CS) and David Pearson (DP), the Clerk

Apologies received from the Master and Stewards Kevin Thomas (KT), Gary Lester (GL), Melville Gumbs (MG) and Jacob Ball (JB).

Item 1. General Business:

- Webmaster: PS reported that work is proceeding on the Communications sub-committee and she had written a job description for the Webmaster with Asst Reynolds.
- Event write-ups for the website: PS is creating a template for writing reports to go on to the website. It was agreed that while social events would continue to be written up by the Steward responsible for the visit, other Liverymen should be identified to write-up Company events so that different voices are heard. Names would be considered at Social Committee meetings and approaches made by the Clerk/Chairman.
- Attendance: The Webmaster would be invited to be 'in attendance' at Social Committee meetings.
- Creating a Company climate action plan: A volunteer is being sought to join the group lead by Ass Reynolds. [Afternote: DP has since volunteered.]
- History Group: Following an approach from Asst Michael Cooper to reinvigorate the History Group (which had been formed in the early 2000's, running one or two events a year and linked into the Social Committee but which had become dormant) we were grateful for Asst Cooper's offer to act as secretary to the Group and were happy to host the History Group again but to be careful to ensure that history events are complimentary to the Master's programme. Asst. Cooper is invited to be in attendance at Committee meetings to link history visits into the social programme.
- New Steward: Lvy Patty Grant had offered to be a Steward, and this was welcomed. We have space for another Steward.

Item 2. Recent Events:

We reviewed recent events, with the following take out points:

- *29 February, 'Leap Day' Dinner at Mar I Terra*: 30 attendees, a well organised and enjoyable informal event. The only matter arising suggested that there is clarity about drink arrangements at any similar future event.
- *15 March, UGS service and lunch*
- *19 March, Museum of the Home visit & lunch*: a low attendance but a good event, being well organized by PS and appreciated by those attending. There was a view expressed that slightly lower attendances may be for reason of several events in close succession.
- *8 April, Annual Banquet at the Mansion House*: just over 200 in attendance, numbers probably reduced for the tube/rail strike and close proximity to the Master & Clerks' lunch (which had a record attendance). The large cohort of Stewards were thanked for the various valuable roles undertaken. Discussion on dress where views were expressed that more would attend if there was not the extra expense of the 'white tie' requirement. Agreed that this should be referred to the Membership Committee. Two actions were agreed: (i) it was felt that the music formula was rather tired so the Clerk would organise alternative music service providers for 2025, sourcing ideas from other Clerks and (ii) Freeman would be allowed the privilege of access to the booking system (for all events) for up to 12 months after becoming a Freeman, the vast majority being clothed within a 12-month period.
- *30 April, Court and Master & Clerks' Lunch at Carpenters*: This was a large event and overall went well. Two actions agreed: (i) a Steward to accompany the Clerk's Assistant in setting out place settings at all future events with a table plan, and (ii) a more prominent visible position for the merchandise sale table would be sought at future events.
- *13 May, Plumbers Lecture at Carpenters*: The feedback on the new model was positive, the exception being that several would have liked food provided. In view of the cost of food, even canapes, at the Carpenters, it was suggested we have a set menu arrangement with a local restaurant for those who wanted to eat after the lecture.

Item 3 Events in 2024/25:

- *Saturday 25 May, Reigate Priory Cricket Club*: 43 booked to attend with DP steward.
- *18-20 June, The Master & Mistress Plumber's Break on the Isle of Wight*: 50 Liverymen and partners are booked and all the plans are in place.
- *Wednesday 3 July, Court and Summer Festival at Haberdashers' Hall*: There are expected to be 12 clothings and a military award so a good number of stewards are asked to be in attendance.
- *Tuesday 10 September, Crossness Pumping Station and Engines Trust, London*: KT leading with the flyer to be out mid-late July.
- *Monday 16 September, Plumbers Table at Ironmongers*: PS to lead on this event and it was agreed that PS continues in this role after finishing as Senior Steward.
- *Wednesday 18 October, Installation Day*: As ever, a full compliment of Stewards is helpful at this event. PS agreed to do the website write-up.

Item 4 Future events:

Four events so far planned by the Upper Warden:

- A visit to the Royal Kennel Club Art Gallery in Clarges Street with sit down lunch
- The Greenwich Royal Observatory in March with lunch at the Cutty Sark and possible optional visit to the National Maritime Museum. (DP to be lead Steward)
- The London Metropolitan Archive to see the Royal Charter and other material relating to the Company: this will probably be linked with the History Group.
- A morning visit Wiltons Music Hall and on to HMS President (JB to be lead steward).

The Upper Warden hoped to organise a day at the PMWT.

The Master's away break will be 17-19 June 2025 in North Hampshire.

Charles Brooks
Chairman - UW
30th May 2024