



Report from the Social Committee meeting on held at the Carpenters' Hall and on Zoom on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 1345

Members Attending: Sandra Raine (Chairman/Upper Warden), Charles Brooks (The Master), Senior Steward Kevin Thomas (KT), Stewards John Wilson (JW), Gary Lester (GL), David Pearson (DP) Jacob Ball (JB) and Patty Grant (PG)

In attendance: Senior Assistant Michael Cooper (MC), Acting Clerk Debbie Abergil (DA) and former Clerk Adrian Mumford (AM).

1. New Senior Steward

Sr Std Kevin Thomas reported that he had a happy, smooth handover from recently retired Senior Steward Philippa Stary and that the Stewards had enjoyed a farewell dinner to thank her.

2. Call for New Stewards

- A letter from the Master had been circulated to all members of the Company inviting interest to become a Steward.
- One name had emerged and he would be interviewed by the Chairman/Upper Warden.
- All committee were members encouraged to speak to Liverymen who could potentially be Stewards at the Carol Service and January Court: if no other names emerge, the letter would be resent.

3. Review of events since the last meeting of the Committee

- *Wednesday 16 October: Installation Day* The Master thanked the Stewards for their support in ensuring that the day went well.
 - Receiving line to consist of the Master and Consort only in future
 - Choice of photographer to be reviewed under contract
- *Thursday 31 October: Greenwich Royal Observatory & Cutty Sark lunch*
 - DP was thanked for his hard work coordinating a successful visit and an amazing tea. The only issue was that catering staff needed prompting.
- *Tuesday 12 November: Ladle Dinner Armourers Hall*
 - Chaired by the outgoing Senior Steward Philippa Stary, this was enjoyed by the 86 Liverymen present
 - JW was thanked for managing sales of Company 'merchandise' and putting sales through the hand-held card reader. Sung Grace had been taken out as unnecessary but potentially to be put back in.

4. Forthcoming events

- *Wednesday 4 December: Carol Service at St Magnus the Martyr*
GL was leading on a new catering plan, ordering food from Waitrose to be delivered directly to the Church. Penny Brooks had made mince pies. This enabled ticket prices to be reduced, and bookings were up on last year. Almost all Stewards would be in attendance, led by KT. DP and JB would organise merchandise sales. GL to update with feedback on lessons learned for next year.
- *January 15 2025: The London Proof House – the Gunmakers Company*
The visit will be limited to 24. JB will run this event. The Master advised costing has been an issue as it is comparatively expensive, but he has negotiated a reduced-price lunch in the Court Room of £80 + VAT.
- *January 22 2025: January Court Saddlers Hall*
Saddlers are inflexible re wines so we have to take their full package.
- *February 4 2025: The London Archives*
Organised by the Sr Asst Hon. And Hon. Archivist Michael Cooper. Only 20 can be accommodated on a tour but there can be two groups (morning and afternoon) who could lunch together as a group at a nearby venue. CS and MC would assist. There is no charge for the Archives but a token donation to be offered. The flyer would be released soon after Christmas.
- *February 10 2025: The Plumbers Table at Ironmongers*
Philippa Stary has asked for pricing and is happy to continue organising this event as she has built up contacts.
- *March 17 2025: Annual Mansion House Banquet*
Other Companies have reported that Social Pantry has been inflexible re dietaries. The committee discussed keeping speeches to a minimum, the UW to mention guests but no CVs. F&L to be approached as to whether “White Tie preferred and Black Tie permitted” is acceptable.
- *March 28 2025: United Guild Service and Lunch*
It was agreed to book Carpenters as per last year.
- *April 30 2025: Court with Masters & Clerks at Carpenters*
Nothing to report thus far.
- *May 12 2025: Annual Lecture Carpenters Hall following by dinner at Brasserie Blanc*
Stewards will be required to usher people to the restaurant. The Golf Society have postponed their weekend away due to the Lecture.
- *Thursday 29th May: Plumbing Museum and Workshop at Amberley*
Trustees and volunteers will welcome us. Lvy. Peter Cheesman will demonstrate lead casting. Members will then lunch and enjoy a visit to Amberley. GL to lead.
- *The Master’s midweek break in North Hampshire: 17-19 June 2025*
Final touches are being put to plans for the event – to be reported.
- *September 10 2025: Royal Kennel Club Art Gallery, Clarges Street*
The lead Steward will be PG.
- The Chair outlined her plans for next year to include a private tour of the House of Lords; the Royal Opera House; the Globe Theatre and a walking tour of Huguenot Spitalfields (Liverpool Street area.) and Dennis Severs House. The Amberley visit will possibly include an add on.
- The Chair also to discuss with Asst. Damon Reynolds his attendance list with a view to possible inter Livery joint social events. It was noted that daytime events can be difficult for working members.

5. Terms of Reference & The Steward Year

It was agreed that no changes were needed going forwards to the Terms of Reference. All Stewards to review the Stewards year document and give feedback at the next meeting.

6. Climate Action Plan

A paper was tabled and discussed and a final version agreed. DP & PG have reported back to Asst. Damon Reynolds (DR). DR will report at the January Court.

7. History Group

Sr Asst Hon. And Hon. Archivist Michael Cooper attended to introduce the reinvigorated History Group. The first event would be The London Archives (see above). The History Group will suggest ideas to fit in with social events. Assistant Cooper was thanked for his presentation and assistance in organising the archives visit.

Sandra Raine
Chairman/Upper Warden
5th February 2025