

The Flame



FORTHCOMING FIREBIRDS EVENTS

Monday 31st July 2017

Tour of the Globe Theatre
(for further details see page 7)

November 2017

Lunch at Merchant Taylors' Hall

Look out for this event, which is for Firebirds and their spouses/partners. More details will be sent out in due course.

OTHER EVENTS

Monday 26th June – Sheriffs' Election Day

Coffee morning for Consorts at the Members' Bar, 3rd Floor, Guildhall, 10.30 to 12.30 pm.
To book please contact clerk@accountantslivery.org or telephone 01865 582350.

Tuesday 18th July 2017

Swan Upping Cruise
(for further details see page 10)



DEAR FIREBIRDS,

Thank you for welcoming our first edition so warmly.

Andrea, Peter and I hope you will find this and future issues interesting and worthwhile to read. However, the secret ingredient is participation from you. Many of you have already been very generous with their reflections and sharing unforgettable memories. Please keep your contributions coming and let us know what you are up to.

Peter Green has pulled more city trivia out of his hat. If you have any city trivia up your sleeves, please let us know, too.

In this edition I am starting the Firebirds Notice Board. You may find it useful to publicise events like Hilary and Michael Goodridge's garden opening at the end of this month, the Watermen's Hall Preservation Trust's Swan Upping Cruise and Jane Orr's remarkable sailing trip early next year.

The next issue will be out in November. Please send your notices and articles, including any city trivia, to news@firebirds.city before then. In the meantime, I wish you a happy summer and hope you won't mind me sending you a gentle nudge later on in the year.

Yours,

Erika Gloyn (Masons), Editor

PHOTOS FROM THE FAN MUSEUM VISITS - If you want to see further photos from our trip to the Fan Museum, use the following DropBox link to view or download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jgtbdbnm6nw4m5w/AADP2ZQ-OExOggKaFpe4ck2Wa?dl=0>

DISPATCH FROM VICE PRESIDENT RIGDEN

Life Before, During & After The Old Bailey

The Rigdens usual residence is our farm near Canterbury, but for one very special year, the Old Bailey was our home.

Beyond the farm our main interest is sailing, and we have enjoyed long summers on our Moody 47 "Otters Way". 2007 to 2009 saw us cruising the Baltic for 16 weeks each summer during which time we visited Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and the old East Germany. If you are at all interested in sailing, the Swedish archipelagos are wonderful; the Stockholm Archipelago alone has over 30,000 islands so offering a constantly changing vista to gaze upon.

We returned to the UK in time for Christine's year as Master Constructor in 2009/2010, mooring the boat in St Katherine Docks where we spent much of the week living on board. This arrangement was so successful that we repeated it in 2012/2013 when I was Master Constructor. During the two intervening years our sailing project was to circumnavigate Britain & Ireland, including around the Isles of Scilly, the West coast of Ireland and North of Shetland; a fabulous trip.

We based the boat back in St Katherine's in 2015/2016 when Christine was spending much of her time in the City drumming up support prior to her election as Non-Aldermanic Sheriff. A lot of effort is required, even if the election is ultimately uncontested.

Turning now to our time at the Bailey! Christine attended well over 600 events and gave 40 speeches, and I was not a long way

behind this in terms of events attended. Highlights of the year were the China State Visit when we were introduced to the President and his wife, the many events attended by members of the Royal Family (at some of which we acted as hosts), and the Lord Mayor's Show experienced from the balcony of Mansion House.

Christine's horse ride around the City in aid of the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, and the Sheriffs' Ball, were two fun events for us. We also got great pleasure from the many small private dinner parties that we held at the Bailey for friends and family.



INTRODUCED TO HM THE QUEEN AT THE COMMONWEALTH RECEPTION, GUILDHALL

We have devoted much of the last two years to Christine being Sheriff. Not a hardship I would agree, but most demanding of our time. I have arranged over five months holiday this year. We have already spent a fascinating month in the Far East, visiting India, Thailand and Hong Kong. In the 1970's I spent six years working in Hong Kong, and this was the first time I had been back. Great changes - the harbour had got narrower, the many squatter huts had disappeared from the hills, and everyone seemed much more prosperous. We have also enjoyed a week skiing in Les Arcs; my first time in 27 years and Christine's first ever. Interesting, tiring and bruising, though I cannot show you my bruises!

We have eight weeks sailing along the French coast to Brittany planned for this summer, during which nine Livery friends will join us as crew. We will end the season in Brest where we will overwinter the boat, in preparation of sailing further south next year. We still have six weeks in Italy, a week in Spain, and a week in Ireland to look forward to (the latter two purchased at charity auctions during Christine's year).

A busy life before the Bailey, a busy life after the Bailey, but nothing can compete with living at the Bailey – a fascinating place to call home for a year. The help and friendship of our fellow Shrieval team, Charles & Samantha, and the OB staff, made for a fantastic year. The whole experience was a great pleasure and huge honour for us both, greatly enhanced by Jeffrey & Juliet Mountevans who were a delight to work alongside.



PREPARING TO RECEIVE GUESTS – THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET GUILDHALL

FIREBIRDS GOLF GROUP NEWS



SANDY ROWSELL (LIGHTMONGERS)
IN ACTION

The Golf Group is very much in the 'embryo' stage.

Diana Leese, Katusha Bull, Rosemary Middleton and Rue Hoddinott have shown an interest and, of course, Sandy Rowsell has offered to take on the organisation of it. The idea of the group would be to play at one another's clubs, where distance allows, and perhaps to form a team which could challenge other Livery clubs to matches etc. Members who have shown an interest so far are all of different standards; therefore a high (or low) handicap should not be a deterrent.

If you are interested in any way please contact Sandy on johsan54@keme.co.uk

'... MISTRESSES AND CONSORTS ARE BLOSSOMING'

by Angie Kay (Environmental Cleaners)

As many Firebirds and Phoenixes have already discovered, the day you hand over to your successors is a bittersweet one. There is a sense of pride in your own year, a feeling of sadness in relinquishing your fabulous badge and jewel, and a sense of relief that the mad whirl of City engagements is finally coming to an end. There is also a kind of bereavement which hits you afterwards, as you are suddenly and somewhat brutally no longer the recipient of the emails, letters and invitations, and others prepare to attend the garden party, the banquet and the ball.



ANGIE KAY AT LORDS

Looking back, we celebrated a number of firsts: the first ever Sheriff's Ball at Guildhall, the first ever Mistress' Awards for outstanding contributions by women to the Environmental Cleaners Company, and the first ever Mistresses' and Consorts' event - a visit to the award-winning Nomura building, which raised £1,200 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and WCEC Charitable Trust.

Together we hosted eighteen Masters and forty Consorts, celebrated the Company's 30th birthday, and raised £800 for a hospice in Sussex by auctioning a mention in a crime novel. Even more amazingly, we got all four of our children together in the same place, smartly dressed in black tie, for the Installation, which is no mean feat!

We have great memories and photos from the amazing events we attended, both together and separately, and we have made some lifelong friends along the way. We also noticed that more and more invitations came to the Master and Consort, as the changing roles of Consort and Clerk were recognised. The Clerk is as ever the powerhouse behind every ceremonial, court meeting, luncheon and banquet, but the Consorts are coming into their own, organising their own events and promoting their Livery, its skills, treasures and history just as much as the Masters and Clerks.

This is a change to be welcomed and something that we, as past Mistresses and Consorts, can do a lot to encourage in our own companies. By mentoring our successors, we can encourage them to be just as proactive in their networking.

So here's to the blossoming of the Mistresses and Consorts and to writing a new chapter in the rich history of Livery.

THE LONDON CITY CONSORTS SOCIETY - City Consorts (C²)

This is a Society formed for all Consorts, future, past and present. Mayoral, Shrieval or Livery, whether you are just beginning as Junior Warden or preparing for your year of office, this friendly group is here to help you learn about the operation of the City and its Livery Companies.

For further information please email Von Spofforth (Chartered Accountants) – yonwcw@gmail.com

MEMORIES

by Ellen Mary Barton (Cordwainers)

Of the many vibrant memories I treasure of events which took place during my year as Consort to John Rubinstein, Master Cordwainer 2015-16, one in particular comes to mind - the extravaganza on April 21, to celebrate Shakespeare, Music and the Arts, in Clothworkers' Hall.

The Master's mission was to raise money for the blind, and to do so in a way that the Cordwainers could get to know and understand their beneficiaries. The evening commenced with an exhibition of "Touch Sculpture" in the reception area. The seven pieces on show and feel - large and small - were the work of the late Arthur Fleischmann MBE (kindly lent for the occasion by his wife Joy, who attended the event, and the Arthur Fleischmann Foundation). The collection included works in various media, to give the guests a wide and different touching experience, including wood, bronze, stone and perspex.

During his lifetime Arthur Fleischmann was the official sculptor to four Popes, and among his many and varied works to be found around the world (including the magnificent bronze doors of the NSW Public Library in Australia), one of his remarkable pieces in perspex can be found at St. Catherine's Dock. This was commissioned by Stanley Kubrick for the opening scene of his unforgettable film '2001'.

The speaker for the occasion was Lord Holmes of Richmond MBE, a blind nine times Paralympian gold medalist, who declaimed the great speech from Henry V before Agincourt from the staircase in the marble arrival hall.

The event, which was compered by wonderful Rachel Riley, included an unforgettable performance by two blind artists - award-winning soprano Victoria Oruwari and pianist Kevin Satizabal, who accompanied her.

For the occasion the Master had commissioned "Rainbow", a musical work to convey colour to the visually impaired, which was composed and performed by one of the country's leading young female composers, Cheryl Frances Hoad.

The whole occasion was profoundly moving for everyone present that evening, which is why I wanted to share it with you, dear Firebirds.



THIS PHOTO SHOWS EXACTLY HOW THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED GUESTS WERE ABLE TO TOUCH, FEEL AND UNDERSTAND THE SCULPTURES EXHIBITED (THE SCULPTURE SHOWN HERE HAPPENS TO BE OF MARY ELLEN HERSELF. IT WAS CREATED AT THE SCULPTOR'S STUDIO IN ST JOHN'S WOOD IN THE 1980s. ED.)

SUPPORTING YOUR IPM

by Nicola Barclay (Saddlers)

As a Prime Warden's Lady (PWL) you have been very happy, your house stayed tidy, nobody folded the towels the wrong way, you made new friends, were allowed out unaccompanied and trips to London were like date nights. It was domestic bliss. Then Election Day dawns and life will never be the same, your PW is about to be unceremoniously (odd for a Livery Company) reintegrated into your life as an IPM.

When sorting through the vast amount of clothes brought home from the City by your Ex PW you may find the number of Pizza Express receipts in the pockets disconcerting. He hasn't been having an affair. He has just seen a lot of the Clerk and whilst you may be momentarily jealous about the time they spent alone, the bills have been reclaimed so your household account won't be pillaged.

Dressing for dinner might have been less than formal at home whilst your IPM was in office, (don't admit to eating with a pinny on) but now back at home your IPM will be reaching for the White Tie before you can say 'United Guilds'. The key is negotiating. Remember, this isn't a phased return. Allow the White Tie to be worn once or twice, then reassure him that wearing Black Tie is acceptable especially when the main course is scrambled egg. In two shakes of a Party Ingredients Soufflé you will have your IPM back in chinos.

Your IPM stands behind the dining chair for a moment too long and you realise he is waiting for someone to pull it out for him to sit down. If you don't have your own Beadle (and there is clearly a shortage in Wiltshire), use a soothing voice to invite him to take his seat in a formal manner so he knows it's ok so to do. If this fails, use one of your children's polo sticks as a gavel.

Laying a table after your year as PWL is tricky. Your IPM will be used to at least four glasses, an array of matching cutlery and possibly a silver goblet. Now is the time to get out the wedding china, currently boxed in the garage, which you were saving in case the Queen Mother ever came for tea. If, like me, the finishing school classes on napkin folding swans were all booked before you got there, feel able to bring out the silver napkin rings your godmother gave you 50 years ago from under the sink and use the paper napkins left over from Christmas.



THE PAST MASTER'S BABY POLO STICK

About now you realise that normal conversation about how many times the dog went round the meadow is completely lost on your IPM. He will only be interested if the dog needs a saddle or can be used with a carriage. This can be crushing. Get over it, that's why you have girlfriends.

After meals your IPM may want to make a speech. Whilst this can be disconcerting for your children (they may often choose to curtail their vacs and go back to Uni worried about their pater's mental health), guests won't mind because they always thought you were a little out to lunch and it will give them something to talk about on Facebook.

Reassure your IPM that loyalty to the Queen is taken as read, there is no need to be upstanding or indeed to sing the National Anthem.

If you catch your IPM spending too long looking through your jewelry box, he may be looking for bling having relinquished his badge. Firmly discourage any discussion of medallions.

You may have to share your bed again if your children insist on coming home from University. Don't panic, he will have grown accustomed to wearing pyjamas (following the ill-fated fire alarm epic, pyjamas for a PW are practically obligatory).

In short, embrace your life as Immediate Past Mistress, negotiate for what you want from this new phase and stick close to your friends (old and new).

Life will never be the same, but it's all good.

CITY TRIVIA by Peter Green (Framework Knitters)

In March I went on a fascinating tour of Goldsmiths' Hall, during which we discovered the origin of some commonly used words and phrases. Here are three of my favourites:

Hallmark - King Edward I enacted a statute in 1300 requiring that all silver and gold must be assayed to verify quality. The 'Guardians of the craft' were to go from 'shop to shop' to assay work and apply a leopard's head mark. In 1478 the Goldsmiths' Hall became the home of a permanent assay office, and pieces would be brought to the Hall to receive the marks of authenticity - the leopard's head, the maker's mark, and the date letter. It is probably from this that the term 'hallmark' originates.



Masterpiece - An apprentice was required to present, to the Master of the Company, a piece of work that demonstrated the required level of skill. Clearly this would be the best piece made by that apprentice, and became known as the Master Piece.

Acid Test - To test for gold, the metal is rubbed on black stone, or touchstone, leaving a visible mark. Nitric acid is applied, which dissolves the mark of any item that is not gold. Nowadays, "acid test" has been popularised to mean the definitive test of something genuine and important, and is a specific financial ratio – the 'acid test ratio'.

We'd love to hear of your favourite trivia for future editions – if you have any specific examples, please contact our Editor, Erika Gloyn (news@firebirds.city).

TOUR OF THE GLOBE THEATRE - Monday 31st July 2017

This is a joint visit between The Phoenix and The Firebirds. The itinerary is as follows:

- 11.15 Arrival and gathering
- 11.30-13.15 Tour of Globe Theatre followed by sword fighting demonstration
- 13.15 Lunch (not included in ticket price).

Many members are going to Doggett's Coat and Badge Pub, which is by Blackfriars Bridge and a five minute walk from the Globe. The price for lunch will be about £30.

After lunch you will be free to go back to the Globe and view the exhibition.

The ticket price is £20; if you would like to know more please contact: events@firebirds.city

THE FAN MUSEUM VISITS

by Eleanor Moss (Horners)

In a small corner of Greenwich, there is a little gem called The Fan Museum – and what a joy it was to visit. It is the only Museum in the UK which is devoted to the history of fans and the art of fan making. It is housed in a restored pair of Georgian houses, constructed in 1721.



FAN MUSEUM 5TH JUNE 2017 WITH SAMANTHA BOWMAN

The Fan Museum started life in 1986 and was set up by the Fan Museum Trust. It was based on the Heléne Alexander collection of 2,000 fans which she had started to build up in the 1970s. The Museum's collection has been supplemented by gifts, acquisitions and bequests, so that there are now over 4,000 fans.

We were greeted with a glass of Prosecco before going downstairs to the Orangery where our tutor, Caroline Allingham, was ready to teach us how to make a 'Fontange' fan. This fan has guard sticks which are shorter than the leaf and has a round appearance. Putting the fan sticks on the back of our piece of pleated paper proved quite an art in itself and I

managed to excel myself by sticking together two sticks which I could not prise apart!

The permanent collection of fans is housed behind glass on the ground floor. The fans are exquisite and the workmanship, superb. Many of the fans had wonderfully designed patterns, edged with silver and gold wire and leaves often made of fine lace. We saw many 'Brisé' fans which are made only of sticks and held together at the top by cord or ribbon. The easiest material with which to work is ivory, whilst the most prized is tortoiseshell. I was delighted to see the 'Horn' fans (as PM Horner), but somewhat alarmed to find out that sometimes urine was used to make horn look like tortoiseshell!

We were very lucky to have the curator, Jacob Moss, talking to us on 12th June (on 5th June, we had the past curator, Mary Kitson). His knowledge of fans and their history, really made the collection come alive. The majority of fans were from 18th and 19th century Europe. At that time, fans were seen as accessories to beautiful clothes.

Mrs Alexander (Director of the Fan Museum) took us around the current exhibition 'All Creatures Great and Small'. She was a most inspiring guide. The fans there depicted everything from horses, dogs, cats and birds to insects and butterflies.



FAN MUSEUM 12TH JUNE 2017 WITH JULIET MOUNTEVANS

Today, we would baulk at the idea of having a bird of paradise fan or a fan which had butterfly wings on it, but at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century they were considered high fashion.

With our minds still full of the glorious fans that we had seen, we went back to the Orangery for a delicious tea.

FIREBIRDS NOTICE BOARD



Hilary Goodridge, Past Mistress of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, and her husband will open their garden through the National Garden Scheme on Sunday, June 25th and Wednesday June 28th, from 11.00 am to 5.30 pm. For full information see <https://www.ngs.org.uk/?bf-garden=11569> .

Some of our members showed an interest in the Open Garden at the Phoenix Past Masters' dinner, and Hilary and Michael would be delighted to see you there.

The Ladies Committee of The Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames, The Watermen's Hall Preservation Trust, invite you to the SWAN UPPING CRUISE on Tuesday 18th July 2017.
Boarding - Salter's Steamers staging near Eton Road Bridge, a few minutes' walk from Windsor and Eton Riverside Station, from 09.30,
Departure - 10.00 PROMPT
Dress - Casual
Ticket - £70.00 per person
Includes welcome drink on arrival, Admiral's Feast Buffet and wine with the meal.
Cash bar during the cruise. Contact Carol, Assistant Clerk, on carol@watermenthall.org



Jane Orr, the Past Mistress Glover, will be sailing on the tall ship Tenacious from New Zealand to the Falklands via Cape Horn early next year. One in three of the crew have disabilities, but everyone works the ship as equal members of a team. It is inspiring to work alongside amputees, deaf, blind and those with severe muscle weakness as well as those with mild learning difficulties. Jane is funding herself, but all the crew have been challenged to raise at least another £1000, partly to enable people to attend who cannot afford the cost, and partly to spread the news about this wonderful charity. She would like to raise £2000. Please help her support others by visiting her fundraising page: <https://give.everydayhero.com/uk/help-jane-raise-money-for-the-jubilee-sailing-trust#/?k=hi7kgz>

The Firebirds MCA 70 Wimpole Street Mayfair London W1G 8AG
news@firebirds.city