

The Flame



DEAR FIREBIRDS,

Although this is a very busy season, our Biennial Lunch on 28th November is one event that shouldn't be missed. You will all have had your invitations, but just in case it got mislaid, the information about the lunch on this page should remind you.

The other event that should go in your diaries is the AGM and Buffet Lunch on 6th March 2018. Please do come. This is your opportunity to comment and vote on issues going forward and let your voice be heard.

I am delighted that John Nugée (Weavers, Upper Bailiff 2015-16) has filled our City Trivia column this time (see page 3) and I am sure you will enjoy his article. It gives Peter a break to concentrate on Liz's Election Campaign.

Some Firebirds aren't quite sure who the members of the Committee are and what they are doing – please see page 5.

Looking forward to receiving your contributions for the February/ March 2018 issue and wishing you all the best for the coming festive season,

With kind regards

Erika Gloyn (Masons)
Editor

The views and opinions expressed by the authors and those providing comments are theirs alone and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Editor or the Firebirds Committee.

FORTHCOMING FIREBIRDS EVENTS

**Tuesday
28th November 2017
The Firebirds Biennial Lunch**

to be held at
The Merchant Taylors' Hall
12.00 pm for 12.30 pm
Carriages at 2.30 pm

The Firebirds' first Biennial Lunch is open to Firebirds and partners/spouses.

The tickets are £85.00 per person and available from Eleanor Moss at

events@firebirds.city.

The absolute **deadline for applications must be Monday 13th November.**

**Tuesday
6th March 2018
Firebirds AGM and
Buffet Lunch**

To be held at
Painter-Stainers' Hall
12.00 pm
Ticket: £65.00 per person and available from Eleanor Moss at
events@firebirds.com.

DISPATCH FROM OUR PRESIDENT JULIET, LADY MOUNTEVANS

It is almost a year since Jeffrey's term as Lord Mayor finished.

We took the opportunity of purdah to go travelling, first to Hong Kong, where I spent a good while watching the amazing harbour lights; then to Vietnam, where Hoi An with its delicious food, packed bicycles, picturesque vegetable market and charming streets was a real highlight.

In February we went to Sydney (fantastic to stay right on the harbour) and on a tour of parts of New Zealand (with some dramatic scenery; and abseilers past our Auckland hotel window).

A summer highlight was sailing with Stephen and Christine Rigden from Roscoff to Brest in their boat 'Otters' Way': excellent skippering from Stephen, and crewing from Christine, meant we could just enjoy the scenery and good weather. Dolphins joined the boat at one point, turning sideways to look up at us. If there was no ring for a boathook on a buoy, Christine would lassoo it: definitely a Shrieval skill!

Talking of boats: part of the proceeds from Jeffrey's Lord Mayor's Appeal went to the Sea Cadets for a Rustler yacht named 'City of London': I was lucky enough to name her in Falmouth, and she will soon be joined by a second Rustler so that the Sea Cadets' complement of boats is now complete.

I have been elected to the Court of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, and took part in the summer judging of 'Flowers in the City'. There are some amazing roof-gardens which I had never seen before, such as Nomura's. I understand from Mme La Presidente that the Firebirds may be visiting some gardens in the year to come.

Apart from the above, the year has included attending the State Opening of Parliament; Jeffrey's Maiden Speech from the Crossbenches; the State Banquet for the King & Queen of Spain; and my first Zumba class! I much look forward to seeing many of you at the lunch in November.



LADY MOUNTEVANS NAMING THE NEW RUSTLER FOR THE SEA CADETS IN

“... And the Upper Bailiff”



Anyone who has attended gatherings of the whole livery, whether at the Banquet in Mansion House, the United Guilds service in St Paul's or Common Hall in the Guildhall, will have noted that among the many masters of livery companies and several prime wardens, there is one Upper Bailiff. Who is this unique individual and why the unusual title?

As to who the Upper Bailiff is, this is straightforward: he or she is the Master Weaver of the year and has the same role as the 102 masters and 7 prime wardens of the other companies. But the history of the title is a little more interesting – and a lot more ancient.

The Weavers' Company is very old – the Weavers themselves are always quite careful not to claim categorically to be the oldest London livery company, as this is not provable, but no-one has a better claim to the title and the Company certainly has the oldest extant Royal Charter, dating from 1155. This Charter, incidentally attested (i.e. witnessed) by Thomas à Becket when he was Chancellor, confirms the Company's right of judgment over all matters pertaining to their craft and right to levy fines on transgressors and guildsmen. It is these powers which led to the Company's two officers being known as Bailiffs; the term is a Saxon one for an official combining a judicial and financial role and may even have been held by the Guild's officers as early as pre-Conquest times.

The Weavers' Charter predates the creation in 1189 of the position of the Lord Mayor, and this too led to a unique position. The charter states clearly that the Company is subject to no higher authority in the City (the Lord Mayor not being in existence at the time), and this created ongoing tensions, as the Lord Mayor did not like to see a powerful guild outside his control. Matters came to a head in 1202 when various people petitioned King John to suppress the Weavers. John's solution, being permanently short of money and largely disinterested in a City quarrel, was to settle for being bought off, and the Weavers were rich enough to outbid their opponents and powerful enough to retain their privileged position.

Indeed the Company only finally bowed fully to the authority of the Lord Mayor as recently as 20 years ago, when its practice of holding its Common Hall outside the boundaries of the City (and, symbolically at least, outside the Lord Mayor's jurisdiction) was reluctantly abandoned.

So, given this unique and venerable history, why are the Weavers only number 42 in the Order of Precedence? By Henry VIII's time, the Weavers had lost most of their powers to newer companies in the textile trade such as the Taylors, the Clothworkers, the Drapers, the Dyers and so on, and with it most of their wealth. And Henry was not interested in great age, just current assets – preferably passed in his direction! – which the Weavers did not have and so could not give him. So the company took their place towards the bottom of the list, and are today just one company among 110.

But the unique position of Upper Bailiff survives.

GOING ROUND THE GLOBE WITH THE PHOENIX MASTERS

by Vicky Nugée (Weavers)

On 31st July the Firebirds tried a new departure: a joint Firebirds and Phoenix Masters visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. The visit was open to both Firebirds and Phoenix Masters to join, separately or together, and there was a good attendance of over 40, the sun shone and it was great fun. Many of us met for coffee at the Swan, next door to the theatre, and it was lovely to have a bit of time to catch up with other Firebirds, and also Phoenixes of our acquaintance.

We had a very interesting tour of the theatre, which was the brainchild of Sam Wannamaker (that is, Zoë's father) though he sadly never lived to see it completed. It is constructed as far as possible out of authentic materials and has the first thatched roof built in London since the Great Fire in 1666.

We then gathered for a demonstration of stage sword-fighting skills, which was fascinating. There was, interestingly, an actress as well as an actor who showed us the various swords and daggers which are used as props. There is a whole field of study devoted to ensuring authenticity; they have swords specially made, as accurate as possible in every detail, except for the sharpness, of course. The demonstration was extremely energetic, and even if every move was carefully choreographed it

looked alarmingly real and I for one would not like to have been facing either of the swordsmen.



This was followed by a splendid (and enormous) buffet lunch at nearby Dogget's Coat and Badge who gave us a room with a brilliant view of the river and laid on a magnificent spread. For those who were interested, there was a return visit to the Globe in the afternoon to look at their excellent exhibition.

It was a lovely day out and I hope that there will be opportunities in the future for joint visits such as this; it was a great success.

VISIT TO TWO TEMPLE PLACE

by Janice Hoad (Firefighters)



LUNCH AT HQS WELLINGTON AFTER OUR VISIT

In my year as Mistress Firefighter I organised a visit to Two Temple Place. This is one of London's hidden architectural gems – an extraordinary late Victorian mansion on the Embankment, built in the gothic revival style by William Waldorf Astor, arguably the richest man in the world at the time. And it was just for his use as an office for the Astor estate! It has a richness of natural materials, wood paneling and carvings of all types lining the walls, with statues also in wood showing famous figures from American and French literature, beautiful marble floors and stained glass.

At the beginning of each year Two Temple Place also has a free Exhibition. Next year's exhibition will run from 27th January 2018 to 22nd April 2018. It is titled 'The Age of Jazz', marking 100 years since Jazz reached Britain, which will explore the aesthetic and cultural impact of the music on artists and society in particular. I can recommend a visit there, not just because of their delicious home-made cakes in the coffee shop.

ASCOT RACING DAY

by Kulbir Shergill (Management Consultants)

On a chilly day in May we gathered for the Rt Hon Lord Mayor Andrew Parmley's Ascot Racing Day to support the Lord Mayor's Appeal. The unseasonal weather did not put anyone off and we saw a beautiful looking crowd in their finery, livery badges and gorgeous hats.

Rain threatened as we made our way from the train to the reception, where a glass of champagne gave us hope that the sun might come out. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and as far as I was concerned, I managed not to see a horse all afternoon, as I stayed indoors enjoying tea and cakes, protecting my hat from the inclement weather.

There was much glee from those who made a lucky bet and a shrug of the shoulders from those who didn't. Luck was with the guests who, on the recommendation of the Master Mariner, Captain D'Souza, bet on the Jockey named de Sousa, as he won three races.

The Lord Mayor's Racing Day raised over £75,000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal - a great result and a great day. Thanks to all the Firebirds who took part.



THE FIREBIRDS PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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PRESIDENT



SAMANTHA BOWMAN
VICE PRESIDENT



STEPHEN RIGDEN
VICE PRESIDENT



LADY LENZIE
(CLOCKMAKERS)
CHAIRMAN



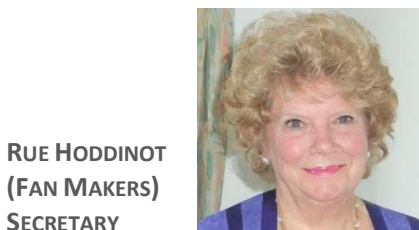
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(WEAVERS)
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EL MOSS
(HORNERS)
EVENTS





DRAGONS AND BOATS AND THE LORD MAYOR

Earlier in the summer, before the Livery Companies broke up for the recess, a small group met. Felicity Histed (Information Technologists (2016-17), Crescent Giffard (Drapers 2015-16) and Sue Wichtowski (Cutlers 2015-16) joined me, the keeper of time, (Clockmaker 2016-2017), to discuss what is hoped will be an exciting occasion for the City. That was when the The Firebirds Fundraising Committee (FFC) was born, with the purpose of organising this high profile event.

The newly formed FFC is chaired by Crescent Giffard, who will kindly host "The Lord Mayor's Dragon Boat Race Day" in the summer of 2018, at the historic estate of Chillington Hall in Staffordshire.

Chillington Hall has been the home of the Giffard family for nearly 840 years. The house was designed by Sir John Soane in 1786 and there is a lake on the estate which is a mile wide at its widest.

This lake is ideal for providing us with a spectacular day of dragon boat racing, where the final heat winners will be presented with the Lord Mayor's Cup. If

you don't fancy rowing in a dragon boat, you can cheer from the bankside – or you can enjoy the plethora of fairground entertainment, music, craft stalls, food tents, Hog Roast, tours of Chillington Hall and much more. It promises to be an extraordinary day of fun and entertainment.



The Lord Mayor will no doubt be referring to the Dragon Boat Race Day when he lunches with us on 28th November.

The FFC is delighted to be working in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Appeal, which will be supporting three charities over the next three years, namely the Samaritans, On-Side and Place 2 Be.

Further news about 'The Lord Mayor's Dragon Boat Race Day' in the next newsletter!

Lady Lenzie
Madam Chairman



LIZ AND PETER GREEN WITH CHRISTINE AND STEPHEN RIGDEN

THE ELECTION OF THE SHERIFFS ...

by Stephen Rigden (Firebirds Vice President)

The election of Sheriffs is a major event in the Civic calendar, and one that I remember well from June 2015 since it marked the date when I became Sheriff's Consort-Elect – not that this title is one that I can find recognised in any City literature! The election in 2018 is likely to be contested, and Christine and I were delighted to learn that Liz Green (immediate Past Master Framework Knitter) had declared her intention to stand as a candidate for non-Aldermanic Sheriff. Despite our mutual promise to spend more time sailing after our hectic Shrieval year, Christine has agreed to chair Liz's campaign team.

I am sure that many of you know Liz and Peter (who is a member of the Firebirds Committee) from their active involvement in Livery events during Liz's year as Master; we know that she will show the same dedication should she be successful in receiving the backing of the Livery next June. If elected as non-Aldermanic Sheriff, Liz would work actively as part of the Civic Team, promoting the value and relevance of the Livery movement. The Court of Aldermen have selected Alderman Vincent Keaveny as their preferred candidate for 2018, and the two Lord Mayor's covering the period when we hope and expect Liz to be Sheriff, will be Accountants by professional background. Liz's background in PR & Marketing, will create the complimentary skill set vital for the Civic Team; this, combined with her personal skills and energetic and personable nature, together with her strong Livery heritage - both her parents and her two grandfathers were Livery Masters - will be invaluable in discharging the wide-ranging responsibilities of the non-Aldermanic Sheriff. I commend Liz to you.

From personal experience I can vouch that, whilst the Livery elect the candidate, a supportive Consort helps the Sheriff maintain a degree of sanity during an incredibly hectic year. Peter is fully committed to Liz's candidacy, and I know he would be an invaluable 'sounding board' for Liz on a broad range of topics that are relevant to the City of London.

A large number of members of both Phoenix and Firebirds have already pledged their support for Liz, for which the team are immensely appreciative. If you have not already done so, we would ask that you visit <https://www.lizgreen.co.uk/contact> to register your support. Please mark in your diary the election date: 25th June 2018 at Guildhall. Wouldn't it be exciting to have another Sheriff's Consort in the Firebirds!

FIREBIRDS NOTICE BOARD

Calling all Firebirds - Final Chance to Get Aboard

Jubilee Trust is a charity delivering life-transforming voyages, with combined crews of able bodied and people with impaired mobility sailing on tall ships around the world. One in three of the crew will have physical disabilities. Britain has over 11 million people with disabilities, 83% have become disabled in later life due to accident or ill health, immobility being the most commonly reported disability.

Our fellow Firebird Jane Orr (Glover) has tasked herself to join one of these voyages, and is currently getting fit for her travels by putting in many hours on the treadmill and pumping iron in the gym.



She is funding herself, but all the crew have been challenged to raise another £1,000 to help allow more people to be sponsored to join. Her aim is to raise £2,000 and she is now halfway towards achieving her target. A donation of **£10** from every Firebird will enable her to help more people to sail on the tall ship Tenacious from Auckland in New Zealand to Stanley in the Falklands via Cape Horn. She starts her voyage in January through to February 2018.

Please donate on her fundraising page <https://give.everydayhero.com/uk/help-jane-raise-money-for-the-jubilee-sailing-trust#/?k=hi7kgz>

You can see a video of what life aboard will look like for Jane at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlcNR31wYXs&feature=youtu.be>

The Firebirds Committee wish Jane safe travels and the Editor is looking forward to receiving Jane's article about her experiences for one of next year's editions.

A NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Firebirds membership will be due for renewal in February, but all Firebirds will, of course, be reminded nearer the time.

FIREBIRDS GOLFING GROUP NEWS

Dear fellow golf playing Firebirds,

In September of this year I had the great pleasure of playing in the LPMA & CLC Golf Tournament. This was held at the prestigious RAC Golf Club in Epsom.

It was a most enjoyable day in every respect and I was very fortunate to play in a 4 with The Hon Elizabeth Green, who as you know is a candidate for non-Aldermanic Sheriff. My husband John was also due to play in the 4 but is unfortunately injured and had to watch from the very comfortable club house!! I was not amongst the prize winners and did not play as well as I would have liked, but nonetheless I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

The LPMA have very kindly opened the tournament up to Past Mistresses and Consorts for future tournaments and the next one is to be held on 13th November 2018 at Temple Golf Club. If you would like to know more about this, I will make sure that your name is added to the email list.

I will be entering again next year, possibly with John, but there is no rule that you must play with your own husband/Past Master!

So far, I have not been inundated with contact from other golf-playing Firebirds, but I am ever hopeful.

Happy golfing.

Sandy Rowsell (Lightmongers)
johsan54@keme.co.uk



GUILDHALL CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Guildhall Christmas Market, in aid of the Red Cross, seems to be the event to get you into the festive spirit. It starts with a preview evening on Monday 27th November, and is open for one day only on Tuesday 28th November. The Christmas Market does not close until 20.00 hours – what a great opportunity for some Christmas shopping after our Biennial Lunch.

For full details see <http://www.redcross.org.uk/en/Get-involved/Events/Challenge-and-social-events/Social-events/Guildhall-Christmas-Market>

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