

Headlines from the Hall

28 June 2018

Dear Merchant Taylor

We are all very much enjoying the comfort cooling in the Great Hall, and keep finding excuses to go in there. Not that we need many, as there has been a LOT going on:

Election of Master Merchant Taylor and Wardens - 25 June

On Monday afternoon the Court met to elect next year's line up. We are delighted to announce that the Master Merchant Taylor 2018-19 Elect is Duncan Eggar. We look forward to working with him and his wife, Annie, when they take over from Peter and Pam Magill on 16 July.

The new Wardens will be:

Dr John Sichel - First Upper

Mr Peregrine Massey - Second Upper

Mr Harry Parshall - Upper Renter

And Mr Michael Cole Fontayn - Under Renter Warden and new to the Court.

Common Hall Elections - 25 June

Held at Guildhall twice a year, Common Hall is a meeting of the City's Liverymen to elect a number of municipal officers including the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor is elected annually on 29 September and the City's [Sheriffs](#) are elected after Midsummer day. The office of the Sheriff is the oldest civic office in the City (older even than the Lord Mayor itself).

At Common Hall on Monday 25 June 2018, in the first contested election for the non-aldermanic position since 2011 and with a turnout that was full to overflowing, Liz Green was elected in a 'sea of yellow' - her supporters' colour. Farringdon Within Alderman Vincent Keaveny stood unopposed for Aldermanic Sheriff, which is normal for a role considered to be the 'Lord Mayor-in waiting'.



The 'sea of yellow' at Common Hall in support of Liz Green.

Billesden Dinner - 25 June

Back in the middle ages, processions were a regular part of London life, and Companies fought hard over the order of precedence, sometimes violently. The Merchant Taylors and the Skinners were particularly troublesome, and asked the Mayor, Sir Robert Billesden to sort them out. He wisely told them to make peace by entertaining the Master and Wardens of the other to dinner in their Hall each year, and to swap precedence annually. This has worked beautifully since 1484; as Samuel Pepys said, "It is strange to see how a good dinner and feasting reconciles everybody."

With sunflowers in the floral displays and the badges of the many guest Masters at the event winking in the evening sunshine, the Hall looked magnificent on this year's occasion. 160 guests enjoyed Simon Bass' jazz composition played by guitar legend John Eldridge and his trio - entitled the 'Sixes and Sevens Stomp'. There was no fighting to report.



Mrs Annabelle Baird, Master Skinner, speaking at the evening

Merchant Taylors' Election Service and Barbeque Supper - 19 June

The week before our Court election, guests gathered in the Cloisters to be led by the Beadle through the secret door in the Library to parade to [St Michael's Church Cornhill](#), where we held an uplifting, full to capacity service, traditionally held in prayer for a good outcome of the next week's Court election.



During the barbeque back at the Hall, the Master presented a cheque for £50,000 to his chosen charity, [For Jimmy](#). Barry and Margaret Mizen (pictured), Jimmy Mizen's parents, were our guests for the evening, and spoke to everyone of their gratitude, calling the evening a great opportunity for them to meet and chat in an informal way with some of their supporters. This donation, raised primarily through the Neon Ball with the support of the LFF, will go a long way in supporting their schools programme, [Safe Havens](#).

Almshouse Residents' Strawberry Tea - 14 June

20 of our residents gathered for their annual afternoon tea in the Drawing Room, following the Housing and Care Committee meeting, at which a group of Liverymen and Court discussed the finishing touches to the almshouse development. It was a lovely afternoon, with [Bertie Pearce](#) the magician making everyone howl with laughter, ribbing the guests, and producing eggs out of thin air. Peggy, 93, told us she and her friends look forward to this day every year.

NOTE: Almshouse Opening Date - 12 July

After years of hard work and graft, the opening ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new [almshouse development](#) will be taking place on 12 July. This is when the residents will be seeing their new homes for the first time, before moving in in early September. A report on the day and their reactions will feature in the next Number 30. All very exciting.

DATE FOR THE DIARY:

Clerk's Briefing Preceding the Livery Dinner - 3 July 2018

The new Merchant Taylors' Liverymen are elected each year at a specially convened Court, after which the Clerk holds a briefing for the new entrants which covers all the Company's strands of activity. All members of the Livery are also most welcome at this enlightening session. If you are interested in refreshing your knowledge of our work, or would like to find out more, then please get in touch with Georgina on the contact details below to book a place.

**To find out more, or to add an MT event to these listings, please contact
Georgina Annett at gannett@merchant-taylors.co.uk or on 020 7450 4452.**

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