



THE FUELLER

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Registered at Stationers' Hall

Installation Dinner proves a Sell-out!

This year's Installation Dinner proved to be highly popular, so much so that all spaces were sold, leaving our clerk with a waiting list. The event, supported by 107 Liverymen and their guests, was held in the hall of the Armourers and Brasiers' Company.

The Dinner was preceded by the usual court proceedings in which the incoming Master and Wardens read and signed their respective declarations before being invested with the robes and jewels of office. During this colourful ceremony, Mr David R. T. Waring JP, assumed the robe of Master, supported by the new Senior Warden, Mr Vaughan M. F. Williams, and the new Junior Warden, Mr B. Harrison CBE. The occasion also provided the opportunity for the outgoing Master, Colin MacLeod to review his year of office, and to thank his Wardens and the members of the Livery for their support and encouragement through the period of his tenure.

Following the dinner, the toasts to the Queen, members of the royal family, and to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of London were proposed by the new Master.

The Senior Warden, Vaughan Williams, then rose to welcome the guests of the Fuellers - and especially the ladies. In a reference to the guests assembled on the top table Mr Williams made specific mention of Commodore John Clayden, Commanding Officer of HMS Sultan; Commander Rod Steel, also from HMS Sultan; Captain David Newbury, the last Captain of HMS Daedelus, and the Master of The Builders Merchants' Company, Mr John Hauxwell, accompanied by his wife.

Mr Williams said it was also a rare privilege to welcome Dick Austen. A more appropriate guest for the Fuellers was hard to imagine. Mr Austen had been a figure of international repute in the coal industry over many decades. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 1982 for services to the Australian coal

industry. Mr Austen was a founder, in 1950, of Austen and Butta, and had remained, over the years, a passionate defender of coal's interests.

Mr Williams, ended his address with a toast to the Guests.

The response on behalf of the guests was given by Dr "Dick" Austen AO, the Australian Representative of the Coal Industry Advisory Bureau. Dr

Austen spoke of his long association with the new Master, David Waring, stretching back some 30 years, and of his own involvement with the UK energy market. During his address, he said that the energy sector in Britain had to accept that the future did not necessarily lie with coal or hydrocarbons. However, this was not true of much of the rest of the world which was likely to be very dependent on fossil fuels for many years to come, as the demand for energy grew. Changes in energy sources, whether they were oil, gas or nuclear were already being addressed by the Fuellers' Company in their approach to membership. Dr Austen ended his remarks with a toast to The Worshipful Company of Fuellers - root and branch, may it flourish for ever.

The final response came from the Master, David Waring. Early in his address he paid tribute to the Immediate Past Master, Colin MacLeod and his wife Kay. He had vacated his office leaving the Mastership with a healthy balance sheet and charity account. Colin had also instigated two very successful social occasions during his year - a barbecue at his home in Nottinghamshire and a visit to the Island of Alderney.



Photographed at the Installation Dinner were, left to right, the new Senior Warden, Vaughan Williams, the Master, David Waring and the Junior Warden, Brian Harrison

Mr Waring also said how pleased he was that Richard Austen had accepted his invitation to be the company's principal guest and speaker.

The Master then turned his attention to the history of the Fuellers Company, outlining its origins in the Woodmongers Company, first referred to in 1376, and the later unfortunate incident in 1667 when the organisation lost its charter. It was the Fuellers who were responsible for collecting the coal taxes which provided the income, after the Great Fire, for rebuilding most of the City of London, with its new roads and churches. Mr Waring said that the Woodmongers or Fuellers had provided a number of Lord Mayors of London, the most famous being Dick Whittington, or more properly Richard Withingsdone, coal merchant.

Today, the Fuellers, having regained their charter, were a modern company, embracing all forms of fuel from coal through oil, gas and electricity to nuclear power.

Mr Waring closed his remarks with a brief summary of the forthcoming programme and an expression of thanks to the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk for their work in making the dinner a success.

Colin MacLeod reviews his Year

Colin MacLeod's Master's Report for 1997/98 has been circulated to all members and freemen of the Livery. However, it would not be amiss to record a few extracts from the report in this edition of *The Fueller*.

After expressing generous thanks for the support and guidance of the wardens, clerk, assistant clerk, and all members of the company during his year as Master, Colin turned his attention to the subject of membership. He had been determined, from the commencement of his year, to make one of his main goals the recruitment of members. During the following months, five Freemen were clothed with the Livery. The Company also recruited 15 new Freemen, bringing the total membership to 125. Colin expressed the hope that future masters would find some enjoyment in beating the previous years target

so that the Fuellers were no longer ranked as the smallest of the City's Livery Companies.

Colin also referred to the several occasions when Commodore Malcolm Shirley, Commanding Officer of HMS Sultan, and his wife Lucilla, had been guests at Company functions. He also recalled with pleasure, the two days which he, and his wife Kay, had spent at Sultan House, with Malcolm and Lucilla. They had had the privilege of being the principal guests during the salute and presentation of the Fuellers' Prize to Warrent Officer Sedgeley.

The Master took the opportunity of expressing the Company's sincere thanks, once again, to the Coal Meters Committee for their unstinting support. He also thanked Court Member Roger Cloke for his efforts on behalf of the Livery, including his editing and

production, until recently, of the Fueller newsletter.

In his conclusion to the report, Colin said that he hoped, in the context of recruitment, that he had gone some way to enlist suitable new members, and that he had left the Company in good heart at the end of his year. He also referred to a task which had been left outstanding. He felt that the Committee set up to look at the Company's rules should instead look at and record the procedures for implementing the present rules, in order to identify the Members who would be implementing the organisation's procedures - and when.

Finally, after again reiterating his thanks to all who had supported him during his period as Master, Colin expressed his very best wishes to David Waring in his year in office.

Fishy Business down at the Isle of Dogs



Billingsgate Market, opened in 1992, is close to Canary Wharf.

One of a series of very successful events in Colin MacLeod's year as Master was a visit to Billingsgate Fish Market. On a sunny August morning, a party of 20, made up of Fuellers, their ladies, and guests assembled at the incredibly early hour of 7am at the Market's Docklands site.

A warm welcome was extended to Colin and his group on behalf of the Corporation of the City of London by the Market



Colin MacLeod knows a good lobster when he sees one!

Superintendent, Mr D C Butcher.

The history of Billingsgate Market, on its original site in Lower Thames Street, stretches back over 800 years. Previously a general market, it became "a free and open market for all sorts of fish" in 1698. In earlier days, the fish was caught in the Thames and estuary, and it was offered for sale by auction off the boats which displayed samples of the catch

beforehand. Subsequently, horsedrawn carts took the bargains away for retail sale.

The present 13.5 acre market site near Canary Wharf was developed at a cost of £11 million and opened in 1982. Fish trading is now a big international business with rising prices for the diminishing stocks which come to London from every corner of the world.

Down on the market floor, the traders were delighted to show off the boxes of sparkingly fresh fish and were ready with mouth-watering recipe suggestions. Among the 55 stall holders were a number of specialist traders, with African and Caribbeans providing largely for those communities in the UK; suppliers of hot-smoked sprats to meet a demand from Germany; carp - destined for customers in Eastern Europe, and rainbow trout for Jewish families. There were fresh anchovies, much sought after and difficult to obtain; sardines from Brittany; Black tilapia grown in the warm waters of a power station in Belgium, and Huge conger eels.

Colin MacLeod is extremely

well informed on piscatorial matters and he is clearly an "afishionado" of seafood dishes. He was soon chatting with the lobsters and eyeing up the turbot.

It was a fishy feast, fresh, frozen, salted, shellfish, slithery fish and dubious looking catfish apparently bred by a mad Dutch scientist to produce food from pig slurry! The eels all lived in wriggling masses in a wet chest-of-drawers and had to be scooped back in when they saw a chance of escape.

In the yard outside, the party's attention was caught by shops which sell all the etceteras for the fish trade and, of course, chips.

The deep freeze warehouse, maintained at -40°C, was just very big and cold! The Corporation of the City of London is responsible for food hygiene standards in the market and the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers also have an historic role in checking quality - and dyeing the rejects.

Out into the sunshine again after their freezing experience, the party returned to the Committee room for an excellent breakfast of kedgeree and scallops wrapped with bacon and grilled - delicious! Billingsgate is open for personal shopping and a number of the Fueller's party went home with bulging carrier bags, having enjoyed an unusual, informative and thoroughly entertaining visit. *Jane Ayre.*



A market trader discusses a technical point with Colin MacLeod, extreme right.

Meet Ralph Riley - our Assistant Clerk

Ralph Riley took over the position of Assistant Clerk on the 1st January, 1998. He was born and educated in London and now resides in the leafy suburb of Hatch End, Middlesex with his wife Stephanie.

Ralph's career started in the City of London in 1974 when he joined the Corporation of London in the Office of the Keeper of Guildhall. This provided him with his first insight into the arranging of functions and events, something which held him in good stead for later life.

In 1979, he was approached to join the City Remembrancers Office and in that position assisted in arranging all State and Official occasions that took place in the City of London. Throughout his time within the Remembrancers Office he came into contact with numerous people from all walks of life and established contacts with the various Livery Companies of the City of London. The Remembrancers Office is largely responsible for the Lord Mayor's Show and for the organisation of the Lord Mayor's Banquet. It was throughout his time in this Office that he took a keen interest in the Livery, so much so that in 1984 he moved to the Chamberlains Court where he then began to discover the ancient mysteries of the Livery. In his capacity as Assistant Clerk, he was responsible for admitting individuals to the Freedom of the

City of London which in turn put him in contact with all the Livery Companies. In 1985 he became a Liveryman of the Distillers Company.

In 1990, whilst still at the Guildhall, he was approached by the Guild of Water Conservators, a newly-formed Guild, to be their Assistant Clerk. In 1994, the Guild was recognised as a City Company without Grant of Livery and with this upturn in status, additional duties and commitments were inevitable. Fortunately, at this stage in his career, Ralph had adopted a keen interest in computers, so much so that by his proven ability he was asked by the Chamberlains Office to construct a specialised database. He subsequently created a comprehensive membership database for the Company of Water Conservators.

When a reorganisation took place at Guildhall in 1997, an opportunity arose to leave the Corporation of London and pursue the Livery and his other endeavours more fully. This was a natural progression, as the Water Conservators was now establishing itself within the ranks of the City of London Companies. They subsequently appointed him Deputy Clerk.

In January 1998, he was appointed Clerk of the Meters Committee and Assistant Clerk of the Fuellers. He hopes that our Company

can benefit from his 23 years experience in the City of London and, with his knowledge of computers, take the Company into the millennium with a modern approach. The Assistant Clerk is currently working on a membership database, more of which will be heard about soon. Ralph has also established an Email address for the Company - fuellers@aul.com.



Ralph Riley, the Assistant Clerk of the Fuellers' Company.

Country Life features Fuellers' Company

A recent edition of "Country Life", presumably pursuing the theory that small is beautiful, ran a brief article on our company. The item, produced verbatim, read as follows:

"If one judges the size of a City Livery Company by its number of full liverymen, the Worshipful Company of Fuellers, with 59, as against the more usual 200 or 300, is certainly the smallest. But why so small? One might expect that a company so closely aligned with the coal industry that was once so lucrative would be among the wealthiest in the City with its own magnificent hall. It is embarrassing really", says the company's clerk, Simon Lee, but the original company, known as the Company of Woodmongers and Coal Sellers (and more commonly as the Fuellers), had to surrender its Royal Charter in 1667. It was the year after the Great Fire of London, one of the coldest winters on record had set in, and the price of fuel rocketed. Charles II considered our members were over-charging and asked for the surrender of the Charter. And we lost our hall in the fire, too."

The Company of Woodmongers and Coal Sellers did not reform until 1981, quickly changing its name to the Company of Fuellers. So we missed the Victorian period when coal was king,' Mr Lee says 'If we had been active then, we would be quite a wealthy company now.' Ironically, the original Company had been responsible for the collection of coal taxes, which largely met the bill for rebuilding the City after the Great Fire.

With the UK coal industry now so contracted, the Fuellers would be a smaller company still if the City Corporation had not allowed it to enlarge its membership to include middle and senior management from all major producers and distributors in the national energy market. As managing director of T. W. Lee, a small family coal-retailing business in Surrey that was started by his grandfather in 1920, Mr Lee came into the Company via a route that would have been familiar to its first members in the 14th century. But increasingly members are being drawn from the gas, oil and even nuclear industries, and this is where the future lies."

A Night at the Grocers

A recent opportunity to attend a Livery shopping event at Fortnum and Mason, the famous London grocery establishment in Piccadilly, drew the support of 16 Fuellers. The Directors of the company had invited members of a number of City Liveries to an evening of champagne and canapes as a pre-Christmas promotional exercise. Although the shop, established in 1705, has been a grocers for most of its life, its business activities now extend to the sale of china, glassware, clothes and antiques.

Nevertheless, it was the grocery department which for most provided the interest and enjoyment. The many island displays and food counters provided the opportunity to see - and often sample - an exotic range of baked and preserved meats, pies, teas, wines, confectionary and fruit.

Fortnum and Mason acquired an early reputation in the sale of foods unfamiliar to the British palate. In the Eighteenth Century the company obtained such oddities as "Harts Horn, Gable Worm Seed, Saffron and Dirty White Candy" through the East India Company. The business was also famous as a provider of provisions to military and naval officers, and from the mid-Nineteenth Century to the present day, the sale of pre-packed hampers. During the Crimean War, Queen Victoria ordered a vast quantity of concentrated beef tea for dispatch to Florence Nightingale.

It was a pleasant experience to see the continuation of much of this tradition. Few Fuellers resisted the temptation to purchase some memento of a night out at the grocers!

HMS Sultan lays on the Hospitality

Members of our Livery were recently invited to participate in an "Open Day" at HMS Sultan in Gosport. The party, led by the then Senior Warden, David Waring, were welcomed by Commodore John Clayden ADC and Commander R T Govan OBE. The hosts had arranged a most interesting programme for the day, which commenced with a brief on air engineering training and an opportunity to see a helicopter ground run demonstration. Commodore Clayden also found time to show two Fuellers the small training foundry which is part of the overall facilities at HMS Sultan.

During the course of the morning, David Waring was able to hand over a cheque for £500 from the Company to Commodore Clayden as a contribution to HMS Sultan's Central Amenities Fund.

After lunch in the wardroom, the Fuellers' party was invited aboard the tender Sultan Venturer for a short tour of the Portsmouth Navel Base, before disembarking close to the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious. The party then boarded the ship for an extensive guided tour which took in the bridge, flight deck, underdeck hanger and the engine control room.

The most enjoyable day ended with tea in HMS Sultan's wardroom.



Members of the Fuellers' party photographed as the Master, David Waring JP, hands over the cheque to Commodore John Clayden. The individuals are, left to right, Mac McCombe, Simon Lee, David Waring, Bill Prestwell, Dennis Glew, John Clayden, Paul Glover and Jane Ayre.



Jane Ayre and Dennis Glew share a joke with Commodore John Clayden.



Bill Prestwell in deep discussion with Commander Rod Steel, Training Commander (Air Engineering), HMS Sultan.



Jane Ayre leads the way down the flight deck of HMS Illustrious.

Paul Glover welcomes Guests to Chiltern Open Air Museum

Paul Glover, a Past Master of our Company, is Chairman of the Chiltern Open Air Museum in Chalfont St. Giles. Earlier this year, he welcomed a large party of guests to the Museum on the occasion of the opening of Astleham Manor Cottage, a new acquisition which is to be used as the organisation's headquarters. The cottage, a late medieval hall house, originally stood within the boundaries of what was to become the Queen Mary Reservoir. It was dismantled and reerected at the edge of the reservoir just prior to the

First World War. In recent years, the building had become derelict and in 1993 Thames Water invited the Chiltern Open Air Museum to consider its preservation. This step has now been taken.

The event also saw the commissioning of a water sculpture clock. The exhibit, designed by Tim Hunkin, is intended to reinforce the message "Turn on the taps and the river runs dry" an allusion to the efforts of Thames Water and Three Valleys Water to restore flow on the River Misbourne.



Paul Glover, a Past Master of the Company, welcomed visitors to the Chiltern Open Air Museum on the occasion of the opening of a new exhibit, Astleham Manor Cottage.

Fuellers attend Lord Mayor's Election Ceremony

There was a good turnout by members of the Fuellers' Livery for the election of this year's Lord Mayor, The Lord Levene of Portsoken, on the 28th of September. The ceremony, held in the Guildhall, is pure pageantry, with the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs clad in black cloth court suits and scarlet gowns, each carrying a nosegay. Equally impressive is the procession of the masters, Prime Wardens, and Upper Baliffs of the Livery Companies. The event provides an unrivalled opportunity to see the splendid array of gowns and jewelled insignia worn by the Masters. Amongst them on this occasion was our own Colin MacLeod, resplendent in his gown edged with gold and red flames.

Next year's election is on Wednesday, the 29th of September at 11.45 am. However, if you want to be sure of a place, and certainly to be one of the coveted side-of-the-aisle seats, you must be in the Guildhall at least 30 minutes before the ceremony starts.

After this year's election, the Fueller's party adjourned to the Stationer's Hall for a buffet lunch.

Black Country Museum receives Continuing Support from Fuellers' Company

Earlier this year, the Master, Colin MacLeod, and members of the Company attended the Livery Open Day at the Black Country Museum in Dudley. A cheque for £5,000 was presented by the Master on behalf of the Company to Sir David Rowe-Ham who accepted it as the Museum's representative. In return, Sir David presented horse-brasses, each depicting a coal sack, to several Liverymen who had been instrumental in setting up the coal yard display, one of the latest of the Museum's working exhibits. The company was also handed a picture of a certificate from "Willetts" coal yard. This gift has been hung in the headquarters of The Coal Trade Benevolent Association at Bridge Wharf.

The Black Country Museum houses a very impressive "underground" exhibit which provides the visitor with the opportunity to experience what it was like to be a miner winning coal from the Staffordshire Thick. This 30-ft thick seam posed particular difficulties and dangers in its extraction.

Next year's programme includes a visit to the Museum on Saturday, the 29th of May.

Can the Fueller's Dip even Deeper?

Jane Ayre's efforts in the organisation of a Fuellers' team who took part in the 1998 City Dip, one of the Lord Mayor's charity events, netted over £1,200. Jane has every intention of raising the Company's profile even higher at next year's event. The City Dip will take place at the Golden Lane Pool, within the City of London, on Thursday, the 18th of March, 1999. If five enthusiastic swimmers can raise that amount of money for charity, then an even stronger representation should set a new record in our support of the Lord Mayor's appeal. So if you can swim a kilometre, even if ever so slowly, Jane will be delighted to hear from you.

The Invisible Frontier - the Coal Duty Posts of London

London is still ringed today by over 200 "coal posts", cast-iron boundary markers which once indicated the point at which duty was payable on coal inward-bound to the metropolis. It is probable that early shipments of coal arriving in the Port of London in medieval times quickly attracted the attention of those bodies who sought to raise revenue through the imposition of dues. As early as 1332, the Corporation of London levied a tax on coal to pay for a campaign embarked on by the Black Prince. As the years passed, the Corporation of London came to look on coal duties as an important source of income.

Throughout the Seventeenth Century, the amount of tax levied on coal varied considerably, but the Great Fire of London provided the Corporation with the opportunity to impose extra dues to make good the devastation, widen streets and rebuild wharves and prisons. In 1667, Parliament granted the right for the Corporation to collect, over a period of 10 years, one shilling per chaldron on all coal brought into the City. The tax yielded about £10,000 a year. In May, 1670, an additional two shillings per chaldron was charged, three-quarters of the money raised being used for rebuilding or repairing the City churches, including St. Pauls.

The money from coal dues was still being directed to public improvements in the Nineteenth Century. In 1831, coal dues were 1s 1d per ton, the duty being spent on upgrading the approaches to the London Bridge. Under the Acts of 1861, 1863 and 1865, 9p of

the 1s 1d was required to be paid by the Corporation of London to the Thames Embankment and Metropolitan Improvement Fund. The remaining 4p was used to pay off debts incurred by the Holborn Valley Improvement Act and the Farringdon Markets Improvement Act.

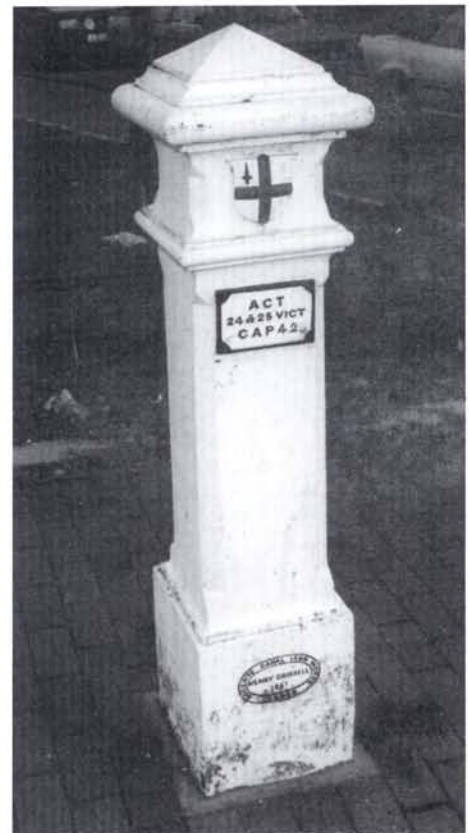
Before the Nineteenth Century, the collection of dues was comparatively simple - almost all coal arrived by sea. But with the advent of canals and railways, and improvements in roads, the tax became much more difficult to collect. As a result, the first boundary markers indicating the point at which duty became payable were set up in 1805. Finally, under an Act of 1861, hundreds of marker posts were installed where any canal, navigable river, railway or main road crossed the boundary of the Metropolitan Police District.

There were seven different forms of marker post: Obelisks of varying shapes in cast-iron or stone, square-section cast-iron bollard-like posts and cast-iron plaques.

A good place to see several of the remaining coal posts, including two obelisks, is Staines. Easy to find are two on the South side of Staines Bridge and an obelisk on the railway embankment in Laleham Road.

The various Acts relating to coal dues were abolished in 1889, although a duty of 4d per ton was still being charged until 1890.

One of our Liverymen, Paul Glover, has managed to secure two boundary markers for display in the Chiltern Open Air Museum.



A typical bollard-shaped coal-duty post. This example stands at The Hythe, immediately South of Staines Bridge. The post carries the shield from the City's arms, and an inscription referring to the Act under which the marker was erected. The oval at the base records that the post was cast by Henry Grissell, at the Regents Canal Iron Works, London, in 1861.

Fuellers' soak up the Sun in Alderney

One of the most enjoyable events organised by Colin McLeod during his year as Master was a three-day visit to the island of Alderney. In the event, apart from Colin and his wife Kay, 16 people participated in what proved to be a most enjoyable programme.



All at sea - left to right, Henry Squire, Bill and Eileen Pretswell.

The party, made up of liverymen and their partners, stayed at the Belle Vue Hotel in St Anne.

Despite the fact that the island only extends to three square miles, there proved to be something of interest to every participant. One of the highlights of the weekend was a boat trip around the coast, enjoyed by all but your Editor who had not realised that a choppy sea was very different from a sedate cruise down the Thames!

The visit provided the opportunity to see something of the fascinating remains of the German defences erected during the Second World War, and the earlier Victorian forts which ringed the island.

Colin's interests seem to be synonymous with seafood, and he did not fail the party by organising an evening meal, overlooking the harbour, at Alderney's premier seafood restaurant.

Even the weather had been arranged - the sun shone throughout the weekend.

Fuellers stoke-up at Carlton House Barbeque

It was supposed to be "flaming" June. Unfortunately it was the 13th and the rain came down in torrents. Colin MacLeod and his wife Kay must have viewed the leaden skies with dismay, for this was the day of the Company barbeque. However, organisation triumphed and the well-supported event was held indoors, with tables laid out in the capacious garage area.

Guests sat down to a superb meal, overlooking the extensive lake which Colin has laid out in the grounds of Carlton House, near Newark.

Despite the inclement weather, the event proved to be one of the highlights of the Master's year.



The participants in the Master's barbecue obviously enjoyed the indoor venue.

CITY AND COMPANY DIARY OF EVENTS - 1999

Month	Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue	Attendance
February	Tuesday 16th		Court Meeting and Valentines Dinner	Cutlers' Hall	Court
March	Thursday 18th		City Dip (Swimming for Charity)	Golden Lane pool	Court/Livery/Freemen/Ladies
	Friday 19th		United Guild Service & Lunch	St Pauls Cathedral & Stationers' Hall	Court/Livery
April	Tuesday 23rd		Committee Meetings	Bridge Wharf	Committees
	Wednesday 14th		Election Court Lunch	Painter Stainers' Hall	Court/Livery/Ladies
May	Date to be announced		Church Service and Supper	Tower of London	Court/Livery/Ladies
	Saturday 29th		Company visit to Black Country Museum	Dudley	Court/Livery/Ladies
June	Wednesday 2nd		Court Meeting	To be announced	Court
	Wednesday 2nd		Beating the Retreat and Supper	Army and Navy Club	Court/Livery/Ladies
	Thursday 24th		Election of Sheriffs and Lunch	Guildhall, then Stationers' Hall	Court/Livery
July	Date to be announced		Company Visit to HMS Warrior	Portsmouth	Court/Livery/Ladies
September	Thursday 2nd		Committee Meetings	Bridge Wharf	Committees
	Monday 27th		Cocktail Party	House of Lords	Court/Livery/Ladies
	Wednesday 29th		Election of Lord Mayor and Lunch	Guildhall, then Stationers' Hall	Court/Livery
October	Wednesday 29th		Court Meeting	Wax Chandlers' Hall	Court
	Date to be announced		Installation Lunch	To be announced	Court/Livery/Ladies

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