

DIARY DATES

2010

- March 23** Lady Day Court
- March 30** Visit to the works at Eleanor Cross, Charing Cross
- April 7** Galleys: Rebuilding Kabul - a talk by new Freeman Lee Saunders. Details to be confirmed - probably evening at the Baltic Exchange
- May 20** Prince Arthur Cup Golf Competition
- June 15** Election and Installation Court at Mercers' Hall followed by Common Hall and Lunch
- June 24** Election of Sheriffs - Lunch at Painters' Hall
- July 20** Mid-Summer Court
- September 28** Michaelmas Court
- October 6** Galleys: details to be confirmed
- November 2** Livery Dinner at Mercers' Hall

CLERK'S CORNER

Unframed Prints of Temple Bar **£2.50** each

Notelets with Company Crest and envelope - 10 for **£6** or 50 for **£25**

Cufflinks with Company Crest - **£40**

Ladies Brooches with Company Crest - **£30**

Company Crest Lapel Pins - **£10**

Set of Cufflinks, Ladies Brooch and Lapel Pin - **£60**

Hand painted Company shields - **£45**

All including Post and packaging.

Surplus funds are donated to the Masons' Company Charitable Trust.

Omnium Gatherum

'Omnium Gatherum n. colloq. A miscellany or strange mixture.'

An apple a day

Did you know 2009 was the 200th anniversary of the Bramley Apple? To mark the occasion the Fruiterers' Company have planted nineteen Bramley Apple trees in schools and institutions in the less affluent boroughs adjacent to the Square Mile. They have also produced an educational pack with a CD and brochure containing a wealth of information designed to help appreciate and understand this historical English event.

Since 1748, the Fruiterers have made an annual presentation to the Lord Mayor of 'not more than twelve bushels of fruit'. This was started by the Company to replace the many tolls around the City and has continued as an obligation ever since. The presentation is paid for by Liverymen and any surplus goes towards the Company's Distribution of Fruit Programme to the City's needy (how many bankers benefited this year?). Fruit beyond his personal need is distributed to worthy causes.

Discordia Frangimur

The Glass Sellers have acquired a new Coat of Arms – they were until 2009 the only Company not to have arms registered with the College of Arms - but its traditional motto has caused a little confusion. If you look it up in the *Dictionary of Mottoes* (L.G.Pine 1983) the translation given is *We break up discordant matters*. Their Clerk, however, decided to consult a friend, expert in the Classics, who disagreed with Pine. Although *discordia* can mean discordant matters it can also mean discord or dissension; *frangimur* is the passive first person plural of *frango* – 'we are broken in pieces/weakened/diminished'.

The Master sees a nice little pun here as they deal in a product that itself can be broken into pieces. 'We are a friendly Livery and we should always remember our motto, if we are ever tempted to be in dispute with each other'. Should we be thankful ours is in English?

I know that feeling

Reading one of the three volumes of Lady Diana Cooper's memoirs (*The Light of Common Day*) over Christmas I came across a diary entry dated 16th April 1937, which she wrote whilst staying at Windsor Castle with her husband, Duff, then at the War Office: 'We motored down here in grey rain. I slept most of the way, which I felt unworthy of the occasion, but I was suffering from a headache, caused, I think, by the excellent Johannisberger 1900 which was given me by the Goldsmith's last night'. Exactly my own feelings after the Master's Banquet.

Whilst on the subject of reading, and judging by its sales most people seem to have read Hilary Mantel's award winning *Wolf Hall*, there is a report on a conversation between Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII about Cromwell's expertise as an archer. 'The King says, you have a good arm, a good eye. He (Cromwell) says disparagingly, oh, at this distance. We have a match every Sunday, he says, my household. We go to Paul's for the sermon and then out to Moorfields, we meet up with our fellow guildsmen and destroy the Butchers and the Grocers, and then we have dinner together. We have grudge matches with the Vinters...'

David Blake