

NEW LORD MAYOR OF LONDON ELECTED

Andrew Overton, Master of Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, was amongst those who attended the Lord Mayor's Election. On Monday 29th September the new Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Ian Luder, was duly elected in Common Hall at the Guildhall in the City of London.

The day started with breakfast at the Saddlers Hall where Ian Luder mixed and met with many Masters of the 108 Livery companies who would be represented at the election later in the morning. After breakfast the Masters and the present Lord Mayor and all his officials gathered for a procession to The Guild Church of St Lawrence Jewry for a church service. In this present uncertain financial climate the choice of lesson and sermon was King Solomon's request to God for wisdom, which seemed very appropriate.

After the service the assembled group processed out in order and filed ready to process into Common Hall for the election itself. With five candidates to choose from the livery made their choices and whilst the Aldermen retired to make the final choice, guests were entertained and

informed by the venerable town clerk Peter Nelson. Peter is renowned for his oratory skills and kept all in rapt attention until the principals returned and the result was announced.

Andrew Overton said: "The role of Lord Mayor has been in existence for over 800 years and it is indeed an honour to have been a part of this great ceremony. In the speeches given we were reminded of just what hard work it is to be Lord Mayor spending over a third of his year abroad carrying the authority of a cabinet minister in his promotion of the City of London."

The WCHCD will be taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show in November.



CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

A plethora of Christmas themed events will take place for adults, children and all the family at Museum of London and Museum of London Docklands this December. Taxi drivers taking part in The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Guide Course have visited both these museums in recent months and found them fascinating. So why not step into the festive season, whilst at the same time explore the history of London and Londoners. The Museum in Docklands, West India Quay, E14 4AL is open daily 10am-6pm. For more information telephone 0870 444 3855 or log on to www.museumindocklands.org.uk

SAILOR'S 1000 STORIES

Join museum staff for The Lighthouse Keeper's Christmas by David Armitage. It's Christmas Eve but there is a big storm out there and the light keeper cannot get home. How will he spend his Christmas?

Duration: 30 mins.

No fee

Saturday 6 December: 12.30pm & 1.30pm

SUGAR JOURNEYS

Use the paintings and drawings on display in the new London Sugar and Slavery gallery to follow the history of the sugar trade. Find out how it changed the world and the legacies for us today.

Duration: 40 mins.

Advanced booking required.

No fee

Saturday 13 December: 12.30pm & 2.45pm

THE POCAHONTAS STORY

In December 1606, a group of English settlers left London for the New World. Captain John Smith sailed with the settlers and in a fascinating account of his experiences claimed that Princess Pocahontas saved him from execution. Find out the real story.

Duration: 30 mins.

No fee

Saturday 27 December: 12.30pm & 2.30pm & 3.30pm

FESTIVE CRAFT FAIR

A festive evening in the Museum galleries with

live Klezmer music and Advent carols, a bar and the opportunity to shop for unique gifts made by the best of London's designers and craft workers. Throughout the evening the cream of London's design talent will be selling their work including jewellery, ceramics, glass, textiles, bags, badges and stationery. With 50 stalls and prices ranging from £1 to £300 there's something to suit everyone. Please bring cash and cheque books along as credit card facilities may not be available.

Duration: 3 hour(s) 45 mins.

No fee

Thursday 4 December: 5.0pm

LOST LONDONERS

Meriel Jeater, curator of the London's Burning exhibition, will talk about the fate of the 100,000 Londoners made homeless by the Great Fire of London in 1666. Where did they live once their homes were destroyed? How did they rebuild their lives after the fire? What assistance were they given by the government? How did they cope with their loss? Using case studies of individual Londoners and images of the Museum's rich collection of fire-related objects, Meriel will discuss these questions and explore the human tragedy behind one of London's greatest disasters.

Duration: 40 mins.

Advanced booking required.

No fee

Friday 5th December at 1.10pm

CITY IN THE BLITZ

On 29 December, 1940 the city suffered its worst night of bombing and incendiary fires of the Second World War. Walk through the city to discover the stories of danger, destruction and sadness that the City faced that night and in its aftermath. Visit the main sites and streets and find out how Londoners coped - their stories of danger, destruction, bravery and despair - and the heroic deeds of the fire fighters on that night and the following days.

Duration: 2 hour(s)

Advanced booking required.

Fee: £7.50

Monday 29 December: 11.0am

TAXI FOR RENT

At the time when some of London's TX4 owners were searching for an alternative cab to rent as their own had its licence suspended, rentals became hard to find. Taxi Globe's editor was on holiday on the sunny Greek island of Kos and was extremely surprised to be driving down the road to see a London taxi coming along in the opposite direction. The taxi belongs to a car rental company on the island. A long way to go for a rental cab, and probably the fairy lights decorating the taxi might not get PCO approval! Unfortunately the car rental company was not open at the time and so it was not possible to find out how the vehicle came to be on Kos or if the owner was a retired London cabbie.

