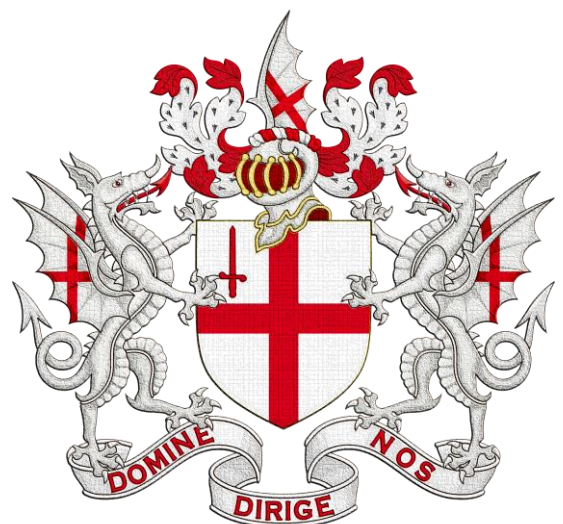


Guide for Consorts

The Worshipful Company of.....

The perfect guide for
those in the City Livery
movement!

Sonya Zuckerman & Pauline Stewart



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Foreword

When Liverymen are approaching the highest civic offices, Master/Prime Warden, and in a few cases Sheriff, they are faced with a formidable array of advice. Not only will they have observed their predecessors at close quarters, as a member of the Court of their Livery, but they will often be given comprehensive written and oral advice by their Clerk. Sheriffs have the benefit of the Sheriffs' "Red Book" as well as the services of a Footman and the Under Sheriff, whilst the Lord Mayor has the Mansion House and Guildhall support network.



Masters/Prime Wardens thus have every chance to get it right, to know what is expected at every event, whether they will have to speak (and if so whether that should be serious or humorous or both), and they only have to read the invitation to see the dress code. For the overwhelming majority of office holders, being male, the only question is whether the event is Lounge Suit, Black Tie or White, Decs or No Decs?

No such support mechanism is available for the Consorts. In many instances, the first time they will have been invited to a particular event is when they are the Master's/Prime Warden's Consort, all the other attendees being Court members of the host Livery. Of course, we all try and give some helpful guidance to our successors, but it is oral, probably hurried, and inevitably incomplete as events during the early part of the year merge in the memory. Moreover, the dress code advice which a male Consort is likely to be able to pass onto a female successor, is, quite honestly, likely to be of limited use!!

Consorts in the future are likely to be indebted to Sonya and Pauline for their compilation of this guide. Whilst every Livery has its own traditions and idiosyncrasies, this guide will, I am sure, at least point out the questions to ask.

Consorts have a unique role. I believe this guide will help you relax and enjoy your year to the full.

Lín Luder

Lady Mayoress 2008–2009

Sheriff's Consort 2007–2008

Mistress Tax Adviser 1999–2001

Mistress Arts Scholar 2014–2015

Mistress Cooper 2016–2017



Introduction

Dear Consort Presumptive

Congratulations! You are reading this because your spouse/partner will soon be installed as the Master of The Worshipful Company of.....

You will both have a wonderful 12 months of engagements and should enjoy and make the most of every single one. What follows is a personal account from the perspective of two Consorts of their year when their partner was the Master. No two Masters' years are the same; you may not go to all the events mentioned here and you may be invited to others that are not. The aim of this guide is to give you some tips and hints for your year, and to tell you what to expect and how to prepare.



This guide has been written and developed by:
Mistress Sonya Zuckerman 2013 – 2014
The Worshipful Company of Coopers

&

The First Lady Pauline Stewart JP 2014 – 2015
The Worshipful Company of Security
Professionals

Useful links for both Master and Consort

www.liverycompanies.com

Includes details and photographs in the Masters' Picture Book of all the current Masters in your year and the name of each Master's partner. There is a Mistresses' Picture Book too which can be found at www.liverycompanies.net. Download these onto your Smart Phone: they are very useful when you are out and about!

www.liverycompanies.info

Another extremely useful link which tells you everything you need to know about the Livery Companies and protocol in the City.

We hope this booklet will support you as you begin your journey as the Mistress, Consort or any other title bestowed upon you. Please remember this is only a guide and you will make your own choices.

Have fun!

Sonya & Pauline

Dress Code

Most Consorts are not members of the Livery and are not elected, so they are there very much in a supporting role. Ensuring that both you and the Master (Master is the position and title and this can refer to male and female) are appropriately dressed is important. Where the Master or Consort is male, a spare shirt in the briefcase or office is a good idea. Equally, where the Consort or Master is female, a spare pair of tights in the handbag or office is just as important.

You wait for ages for the year to start and then all of a sudden the year is over. Enjoy every moment as it only comes once. Go to everything you can –

this is a unique opportunity to attend events that you would otherwise not be invited to. You need to be well prepared in advance. Treat this as a military campaign. If possible, have a range of versatile outfits to wear. Appropriate and smart outer garments are as important as having the correct attire, especially when one cannot rely on the weather.



Dress code is easy; remember you are an Ambassador for your Company.

There are only four dress codes in the City of London.

Lounge Suit, Black Tie, Evening Dress (White Tie) and Morning Dress.

Black Tie (ladies and gentlemen)

Black Tie is a dress code of formal wear for evening events and social functions, traditionally worn only for events after 6 p.m. Ladies, Black Tie means long – you can't go wrong. Gentlemen, your dinner suit should be plain black (not velvet), your shirt must be white (a pleated front is acceptable but ruffs are not) and your bow tie must be plain black. Cummerbunds are optional and should be plain, except where you are wearing a cummerbund that is part of the Mess Kit of one of your company's military associations.



White Tie (Ladies and gentlemen)

If you are fortunate enough to be invited to a White Tie event you will need to follow the guide lines.

White Tie is the most formal of all dress codes and typically associated with prestigious Livery dinners, Royal affairs, as well as State dinners and formal balls. It is a dress code that leaves little room for personal interpretation.

In brief, gentlemen, White Tie consists of a black tailcoat jacket, full white waistcoat, wing collared white dress shirt, white bow tie, and patent leather dress shoes. Ladies, long evening gowns should be worn with appropriate evening shoes. Tiaras may be worn (again, traditionally, by married women only). Jewellery can sparkle! A small elegant evening bag is essential for carrying items. Long evening gloves are optional.



For serving members of the military, Mess Kit is an alternative to White Tie. Formal National Dress is often worn on such occasions. In particular, the traditional Scottish and Irish outfits with kilt are frequently seen.

Morning Dress

For gentleman, Morning Dress consists of a black tailcoat, grey striped trousers, a waistcoat, a white day shirt and a normal tie, preferably your Livery's Company tie, or the tie of the Ward Club at that club's events. In the City of London itself, the waistcoat must be black. Usually the waistcoat that comes with the off-the-peg Morning Suit you buy or hire will be grey. Many Livery Companies keep a black waistcoat for use by the Master or Consort and you should ask the Clerk if one is available for you to borrow.

The equivalent of Morning Dress for Ladies, which will usually be worn at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party or a Ward Club lunch at which the Lord Mayor is guest of honour, consists of a smart dress (with a hem below the knee) with closed shoes and matching clutch bag, jacket or silk coat and hat. Think Mother-of-the-Bride.

Hats

At some formal occasions hats are worn, although less often these days. If in doubt, check with the Clerk. If you are aware of the etiquette, you can decide yourself what you would like to do. For example, in St Paul's Cathedral, it is said that when one sits under the dome (female consort) one should wear a large hat (before 6 p.m.). Smaller hats are the order of the day outside of the dome and fascinators are acceptable. Most female consorts do wear large hats under the dome at St Paul's at Livery events.

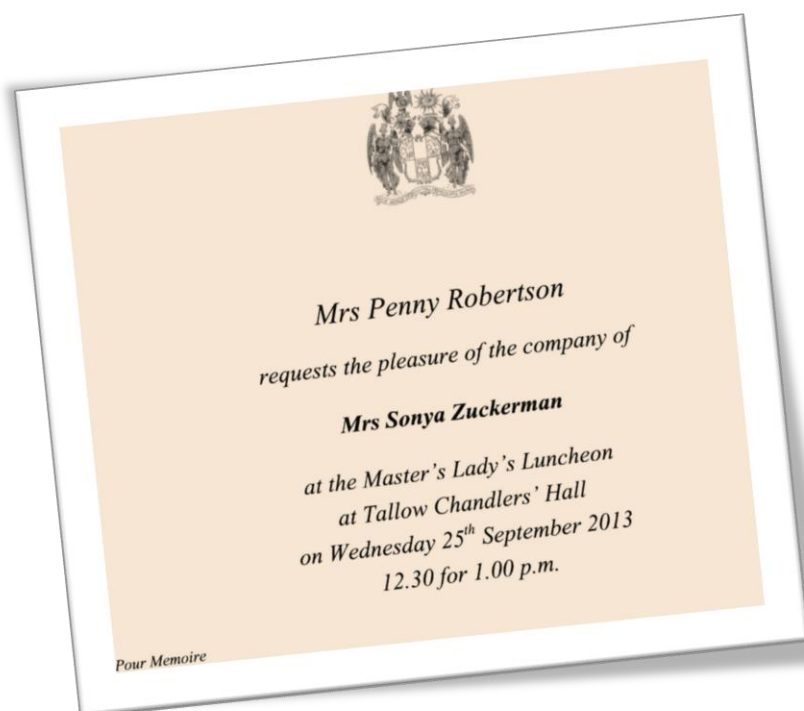


Invitations, Pour Mémoires & Thank You Notes

Invitations are often sent by email and will be sent to you via the Clerk, who will accept or decline on your behalf. Most Companies will send out a “pour mémoire” card a couple of weeks before the event, unless the invitation specifically says that no pour mémoire will be sent. Do check if you do not receive a pour mémoire you were expecting. Some invitations specify that if the Mistress/Consort is unable to attend, the Immediate Past-Mistress is welcome to attend in her place. If this is the case, do pass the invitation on to your predecessor.

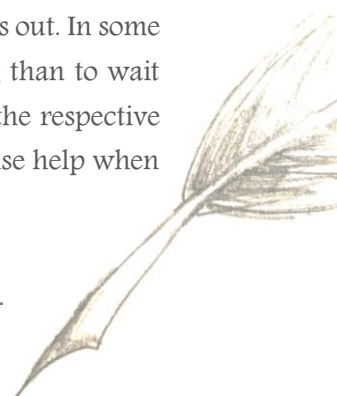
You will probably receive one or two invitations during the beginning of your year which are meant personally for the previous year's Mistress as a result of personal friendships made on the Livery circuit. Please check with your predecessor or the Clerk if you are unsure, particularly if the outgoing Mistress or Consort is named in the invitation. Do not assume that the host is simply unaware that you have taken over.

This is a typical pour mémoire sent to Sonya in 2013.



Following the event at which you were a guest, it is important to hand write a thank you note to your host. This should be written in ink as soon as practicable following the event. This is important as it is expected that you mention some of the details of the event, eg the charming member of their Company who sat next to you and looked after you, the quality of the food and wine, and the speeches.

You will find that you will have lots to do, so make sure you allow some time to carry this out. In some weeks you will be attending more than one event, and nothing is more embarrassing than to wait until the weekend to do the thank you letters and confuse the details in the letters to the respective hosts. If you can, take away with you a menu and seating plan which will be of immense help when you come to write your letter!



Business cards

Many Mistresses have cards printed. Opposite is Sonya's. Do remember to put your year of office on the card too (e.g. 2013–2014) – something she forgot to do and regretted! It means that you can use your card after your year is over. When you attend a function, have your cards in one pocket and put other people's in another pocket. So simple but so useful. Gone will be the days of sifting through a handful of cards looking for your own card to hand out!



Diaries

You will probably have worked out the best way for you to keep track of your events and those of the Master. iPhone/iPad calendars work very well and can be used while you are on the move. Create a “shared Company calendar” and every Company engagement that you and the Master have should be input into the shared calendar. The “reminders” are also particularly useful!

Badges

The simple rule is to wear your Mistress's/Consort's badge when you are accompanying the Master and he/she is wearing his/hers, or when you are attending an event on your own as the Mistress or Consort.

Remove your badge before you leave an event. You should not wear your badge in the street – it is not a piece of decorative jewellery. It is customary to wear badges only at Livery events in the City of London, or when specifically requested to do so, e.g. at Buckingham Palace or at Ironbridge.

Wearing a badge is a very easy icebreaker at events. You can go up to someone who is also wearing one and introduce yourself as the Mistress/Consort of The Worshipful Company of.... and then ask them which Company they are with. It is almost impossible to remember everyone's name and Company.

The Clerk

The Master's default reply to most of your questions relating to your role as Mistress/Consort will be “ask the Clerk”. And so you should.

Lunches

You will find you are invited to Livery Company lunches as the Master's Consort. Invitations are extended by the Consorts of the many Worshipful Companies. Depending on circumstances and connections, invitations can extend to the Old Bailey as guest of the Sheriffs' Consort. Each Company has links with some of the other Companies and your invitations will depend on the connections of your own Company. The invitations vary from year to year. The lunches are all very jolly occasions, sometimes with musicians, singers or poetry readings. They give you a wonderful opportunity to get to know the other Mistresses/Consorts and, throughout your year, to catch up and exchange experiences and ideas. You may even be lucky enough to get invited to a Lady Mayoress's lunch.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party

The Clerk will send the Master a selection of dates which he/she will have received from the Palace. The Clerk will suggest which date is the most appropriate for the Master and you to attend. You will receive copious notes from the Palace well ahead of time, but here are some personal tips.

Enter the Palace from the Garden Entrance at Hyde Park Corner.



*You will be
asked for ID
so do not
forget it*

The queue will be much shorter than at the front of the Palace. You will be able to walk through the Palace on your way out. Depending on the time when your spouse is installed as Master, your newly formed group of friends from other Livery Companies may suggest a lunch and get together before attending the Palace.

Wear comfortable shoes. Stilettos are to be avoided. Take note of the weather for the preceding week or so. Even if the weather is bright and sunny on the day you go, it may have been raining earlier and

the ground will still be wet. You don't want to sink into wet earth. There is no more distressing sight than women barefoot in the Palace grounds holding their shoes in their hand. Be comfortable. You will be standing around a lot of the time and it could be hot.

It is a very long day and very tiring. For most, it will be the first time you will have been to Buckingham Palace and it is very exciting. The Palace brief says no photography but everyone takes photos with their mobile phones. However, please note that it is not the done thing. Wait until you get outside. Remember, it is for security reasons that you are asked not to take photos and after all this is the Royal Family's home!

Napkins! Yes, seriously! Of course there are napkins in the tea tents but they are rather small and not particularly visible. You may want to take some hand-wipes in your bag, especially as some of the cakes and pastries can be really sticky!

Your event – Consort's Lunch

You may want to host a Ladies'/Consorts' Lunch of your own. Not every Company does this. Your guests will be the Consorts of some or all of the Companies. You may wish also to invite the Consorts of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. If so, this needs to be done well in advance as they will have very full diaries. You, or the Company's Clerk, should contact the Diary Secretary at the Mansion House to make the arrangements. The Company's Clerk can be very helpful in supporting and guiding you where and when necessary.

It is customary for the Clerk to send invitations to your guests. Do check the list against your own knowledge. Some Companies are more affluent than others and will be able to support the event financially. However you may be asked to finance your lunch yourself. This is particularly the case where you are inviting people who have hosted you in order to return their hospitality. Some Mistresses/Consorts organise a lunch which is open to their opposite numbers in all the other Companies, but the guests have to pay for their tickets.



You will need to work out with your Clerk if they would like the acceptance cards returned to them or personally to you. It is usual for the lunch to take place within the City and at one of the City Livery Halls. Some Companies have their own Hall but most do not so you may need to ask your Clerk to negotiate a price for your event. If the Clerk is too busy, it is acceptable to approach the Livery Company yourself to make arrangements to hire the Hall. All the Halls have professional caterers operating the dining facilities who will be able to guide you. They will suggest menus, wines and optional extras such as candles and floral arrangements. If this is your first time running an event of this size, please do liaise with someone who has experience of running a lunch event, e.g. the immediate past Mistress/Consort. He or she will be able to tell you what has worked in previous years and be able to offer a second opinion if the caterers offer a tasting for your event.

It is customary for the hostess to make a short speech. You may wish to make a speech of welcome at the very outset so that you can then enjoy the meal and the company of your guests. Alternatively, if you decide to speak after the meal, you will be wise to limit your intake of alcohol beforehand! If you have any dignitaries attending, thank them in your speech. The Beadle plays an important part at the lunch and is there to keep both Master and Consort 'on track'. VIPS and guests will be seated at the top table with you and it is customary to invite the Past Mistress to attend. It is the custom for the Mistress/Consort to have her guest on her left and the most senior past-Mistress on her right. This will depend on your guest list!

You will be asked if you would like to say Grace, however another can say this for you.

It is usual to ask the Mistresses/Consorts of the most senior Livery Company present to respond to the toast to the guests. An exception is where you have invited a guest speaker. Their speech will be in the form of a response on behalf of the guests.

Where there are flowers on the table(s), you can nominate someone on the table to take the flowers home. A good and fair way to do this is to mark the underside of the 'name card' of the lucky person with some kind of mark. Inform the Clerk if you would like your flowers to be a specific colour.

A Champagne reception precedes all Consorts' lunches and is a nice way to relax with new friends.



Events

There are lots of different events that you and the Master will be invited to. They will vary enormously, however all have a unique link to the Livery Movement and the great work that the Companies do for education, charities and military affiliates.

One event that all Companies are invited to is the United Guilds' Service at St Paul's Cathedral which is held two weeks before Good Friday. This is one of the highlights of the year. It comes the morning after the magnificent Lord Mayor's Mansion House Banquet for the Livery Companies. As Mistress/Consort, you will be sitting with the other Mistresses and Consorts at the very front of the Cathedral, under the dome, to one side of the dais. The Master will be sent copious notes before the event, especially if it is the year in which the Master processes.

*Remember
reading
glasses!*

Regardless of whether the Master processes, you will be seated in the same place. Your ticket is a white ticket with a red stripe running vertically down the middle. Make sure you have this ticket when you arrive at the Cathedral so that you can be shown to your place with the other Mistresses/Consorts. There will be a seat reserved for you.

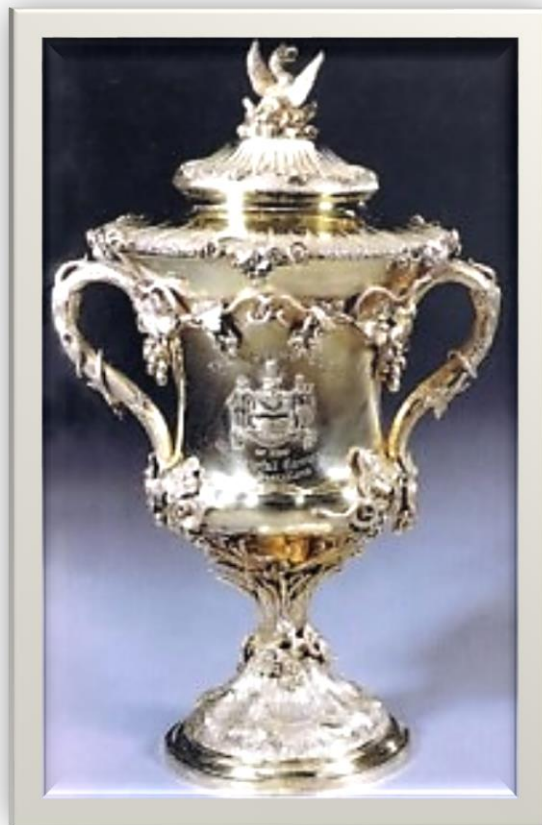


Do wear a hat! 90% of the women wear hats. It is a fantastic occasion and you should dress accordingly. After the service, Companies attend various Halls for a light lunch – it is a joyous occasion.

Livery Dinners

The Master will be invited to numerous Company Dinners. Most Livery dinners are for Masters and Clerks. Occasionally, you may be invited to a dinner with the Master. You will be advised of the dress code. At some of the dinners, you are required to partake in the Loving Cup ceremony (see below) and, if you so wish, a little snuff, if you are fortunate enough to be invited to a dinner hosted by The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders. All good fun!

The information below can be found on the Website of The Worshipful Company of Distillers (and is reproduced with their kind permission)



He who thus drunk stood up and,
as he lifted the cup with both hands, his body was exposed
without defence to a blow.

The Ceremony of the loving cup, which is traditional with all livery companies, is said to date back to Saxon times before the Norman Conquest of 1066, and to derive from the assassination, by command of Elfrida, of King Edward whilst drinking.

It was customary for our forefathers in drinking parties to pass round a large cup, from which each drank in turn to some of the company.

An enemy with the intention of murdering him often seized upon the occasion. Consequently when one of the company stood up to drink, he required the companion who sat next to him to be his pledge. If the pledge consented he stood up and raised his drawn sword in his hand to defend the drinker whilst consuming the drink.

Nowadays the cup passes round the table with each guest drinking to his neighbour. When the guest about to drink a Loving Cup stands up those on either side of him also rise. The guest on one side stands with his back to the one who is about to drink so as to protect him from attack. The drinker and the guest on his other side bow to each other, the second guest removes the cover, the drinker drinks, and wipes the rim of the cup with a napkin provided, and the second guest replaces the cover and the two bow to each other again. The same procedure is then followed by the second guest with his next neighbour, the original drinker now mounting guard, and the one who was protecting him sits down again.

It is believed that the Distillers Company is the only Livery Company to circulate daggers (as a symbol of the drawn sword referred to above) with the Loving Cup.

Ironbridge Weekend

This is a much talked about and much anticipated weekend at which most of the Masters and their Consorts gather for a “bonding weekend”. The event is organised by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. Guests arrive on Friday evening (usually at the Holiday Inn Hotel) for the first event which is a black tie dinner held at Coalbrookdale.

On Saturday, various daytime visits are arranged including a visit to Blists Hill Victorian village which is a truly fantastic site, a tile factory, a pottery factory museum, and of course The Iron Bridge itself. Saturday lunch has been held at Coalbrookdale in recent times.

It is a super weekend and exceptionally well organised. Everyone is given a badge which is colour coded and your transport is colour coded too! As you are taken by coach to all the events, you do not have to worry about drinking and driving!

The Saturday night black tie President's Summer Ball is held at the Engine Shop at Coalbrookdale. It is customary for the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to attend the weekend along with the Sheriffs and Consorts.

On Sunday morning, it is customary to attend a meeting to form a Past Masters' Association (PMA). Masters and Consorts congregate at two designated rooms in the hotel to form their year groups. There is no rule regarding the forming of The Past Masters' Association and very often two groups are formed: one for the Masters and one for the Consorts. The idea behind the PMA is to create a social group whereby newly formed friends can continue to enjoy Livery events together. The name of the PMA makes reference to the year. For example we both belong to One4All – 2014 Past Masters' & Consorts' Association. The name of the group is put to a vote and this is followed by the appointment of various officers of the newly formed year group.

The tour of Ironbridge continues on Sunday morning with a visit to the Costume Project and the Darby Houses. These are fascinating to visit, if time permits, depending on when you are planning to start your return journey home.



The **IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM TRUST** Coalbrookdale Telford Shropshire TF8 7DQ
Tel 01952 435 900 Fax 01952 435 999
www.ironbridge.org.uk

THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS LIVERY WEEKEND 2014

ITINERARY

As part of the Museum is out of doors we suggest that you wear comfortable walking shoes and that you bring along waterproofs if it looks like rain. The itinerary below is a guide for the whole weekend and includes timings for guests wishing to join for only part of the event.

Friday 6th June

- From 2.00pm Arrive at and check in to the **Holiday Inn, Telford**
for overnight accommodation
- 7.15pm Leave Holiday Inn, Telford by coach for
Black Tie Livery Dinner at Coalbrookdale *BADGES TO BE WORN*
- 11.00pm Coaches will depart Coalbrookdale for return journey to the Holiday Inn
The Hotel Bar will remain open to residents for as long as is required

Saturday 7th June

- 9.30am Assemble in foyer of Holiday Inn
- 9.45am Depart for **Museum Tour**
Please board any one of the coaches at the front of the Hotel, where you will be supplied
with a more detailed itinerary of the tour route
- 12.30pm **Lunch** at Coalbrookdale
- 1.45pm Board coach for second part of Museum Tour
- 4.30pm Return to Holiday Inn, Telford
- 7.15pm Leave Holiday Inn, Telford by coach for
The President's Summer Ball in the Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale
Black Tie *BADGES TO BE WORN*. A raffle will be held during the evening.
- Midnight Coaches will depart Coalbrookdale for return journey to the Holiday Inn
Earlier coaches will leave the Ball, should you wish to depart before 12 midnight
The Hotel Bar will remain open to residents for as long as is required

Sunday 8th June

- 11.00am "Behind the Scenes Tour" of the Darby Houses and The Costume Project at
Coalbrookdale; to include a light lunch & refreshments.

Alternatively, Sunday does remain free for you to spend time enjoying the Ironbridge Gorge and our 10 unique
Museums; you may wish to relax in the hotel's leisure complex or visit some of the other attractions Shropshire
has to offer.

Ironbridge itinerary reproduced with the kind permission of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum
Trust – please note that details change year to year and this is a sample itinerary.

The Civic City

The Livery Companies are the most enthusiastic and loyal supporters of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and the City of London Corporation. Each Lord Mayor nominates his own charities for his year of office and will organise fundraising events to raise money for them. The Master and you can expect to be invited to support various events of this nature organised by the Lord Mayor or the City itself. Participation is always optional but you should do your best to provide support to the Lord Mayor to help him or her to have as successful a year as you would enjoy for yourself. Recently, these events have included charity Fashion Shows held at the Old Bailey and the Mansion House, a charity concert and a charity ball at Guildhall.

To contact Sonya or Pauline, please email them at
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ps@inspirati.org.uk

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Consort's Notes