

Sechselauten, Zurich - 2022



Over the weekend of the 23rd to the 26th April a small band of Pattenmakers and their consorts were superbly hosted by the United Guilds of the Tanner and Shoemakers of Zurich. You can see their guild flag in the photo – the boot and the red lion. We owe this friendship of many years to the initiative of Past Master Ian Scarr-Hall; and I am very pleased to say that the friendship is still very much alive and thriving. It is certainly a very important one to both of our liveries where we enjoy a deep and long-lasting relationship between our two guilds. It was an absolute delight to be able to renew and reinvigorate this close friendship after a number of years apart due to the pandemic, and to get to meet in person after so long.



Most of this report will be told in pictures taken throughout the event. However, I would like to mention that myself, as Master, and the Senior Past Master, Stuart Lamb, were guests of honour at their Guild lunch and dinner. I was given the honour and opportunity to be the first ever lady to address their Guild as a speaker; where I also included some of the history of women in our own livery. It turns out that this was fairly topical, coming as it did on the back of some of their own deliberations about the issue of admitting women into the Zurich Guilds.

Overall, we had a fantastic time with an opportunity to play the tourist as well. Our hosts gave us a small tour of Zurich including with it lots of interesting historical facts, we had super meals out, a boat trip on the lake, a visit to the new Guilds' Museum; and after the parade and dinner a few of us joined the Tanners and Shoemakers on their 'visitations' to other Guild houses where a speech is made to the hosting Zunftmeister normally dishing some dug up facts about him to the crowd, after which he had to respond. Good job we had some willing translators amongst us! German is hard enough but Swiss German?!

Who said you can't take sweets from a small child?!



Getting ready for the start of the parade.....

End of the parade before the Boog was burning – flowers in hand. Spot the photo-bomber!!





Merry band of Tanners & Shoemakers plus Pattenmakers

The group: from left to right: Liveryman Ingrida Kerusuaskaite, Liveryman Bryan Okynyansky, Thomas Huggler, Zunftmeister, Sarah Leijten, Master and Stuart Lamb, Senior Past Master.



And.....the burning of the Boog! Needless to say the whole experience was wonderful, different and exciting to be part of. We have our hosts to thank for making our trip so memorable – and we will be extending an invitation to them hoping that they can join us for our own banquet celebrations in January of next year.

For those who prefer the chocolate version of the Boog it was also to be found!



The next trip to Zurich will be April 2024 and I would encourage as many of you who can, to make the trip – it is one not to be missed.