



The Livery Society

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LIVERY SOCIETY EVENT



On **Wednesday 12th July** a total of **21 Liverymen** and their guests were taken on a **Private Tour** of the **Billingsgate Roman House & Baths**, followed by **dinner** at **Salotto 31**.

This trip had been '**unfinished business**' for the Bakers Livery Society, as we had been planning a trip since the presentation at the AGM 8 years ago, which introduced us to the Billingsgate Roman House & Baths... - but the pandemic got in the way.

Our **host was Ian McDowell**, one of the City guides. He was **very passionate** about his subject, and literally **brought to life the ruins that lay before us** – in the basement of a 1970s tower block at 101 Lower Thames Street.

Not only were we able to imagine the **River Thames literally at our door step**, but we could also envisage the **heat generated in the 'tepidarium'** by what today is the **oldest oven in the City** (was it ever used to bake bread, we wondered....?) This was the area where 'hair plucking' would take place.....
Guests then moved on to the '**caldarium**', where they were massaged with perfumed oils.....

A truly memorable and privileged experience.

- which was followed by a **convivial dinner** at Salotto 31.

Huge thanks to Ian and to the **team at the City of London Information Centre** for arranging this fantastic experience.

Max Elvidge

Chairman of the Bakers' Livery Society