The Clerk and I were today lunch guests of the Worshipful Company of Gunsmiths whose current Master is a Solicitor and Liveryman of our Company (Robert Pitcher of Eversheds Sutherland LLP).

The Gunsmiths were formed under Charles I. They are located just outside of the City, in Whitechapel, after a bit of an accident in 1663 that worried the City (albeit the general risk of fire, demonstrated three years later, was far more worrying).

Broadly speaking, all guns sold or supplied in the UK, unless originating and proofed in one of a small number of other countries with whom a Convention applies, must be proofed by the Gunsmiths.

The proofing includes a firing and the learned Clerk duly did the honours with one such gun. Even now that firing is accomplished with string tied to the trigger and which is pulled in the corridor through a hole in the wall to the proof chamber.

If you here a dull thud about Aldgate East it could also be the guns fired at the Company before lunch or speeches and nothing more sinister!

Nick Hughes
Master
4th May 2017