

## ***Fish and Flesh Tasting and Bread Weighing***

As ceremonies, these two events are of fairly recent origin, and were introduced to add further ceremonial and colour to the town scene. Again scripted, and based on the Ale Tasting Ceremony, they are worded similarly to each other.

### **The Ceremony.**

**Constable or Marshall** - Knocks three times on the door of the establishment, and ushers the Officers inside in the following order: Constable and Town Crier/Beadle, High and Low Bailiffs, Fish and Flesh Tasters, Bread Weighers, Other Officers of the Court

**Constable or Marshall** - “Make way for the Bailiffs, Fish and Flesh Tasters, and Officers of the Court Leet of this ancient manor”.

**OR**

“Make way for the Bailiffs, Bread Weighers, and Officers of the Court Leet of this ancient manor”.

**High Bailiff** - “Are you the Vendor of fish and flesh in this place?”

**OR**

“Are you the Master Baker of this house?”

**Vendor or Baker** - “Aye Master Bailiff.

**High Bailiff** - “I command you to produce forthwith, samples of Fish and Flesh which you intend to offer for sale, in order that my Tasters may examine and judge of its quality.”

**OR**

“I command you to produce forthwith, two of your most wholesome loaves of bread, in order that my Bread Weighers may examine and judge of its quality.

**Vendor** - “Here are samples of the Fish and Flesh that are intended for sale to the townspeople of Alcester

**Baker** - “Here are two of my best, loaves Master Bailiff “

**Fish and Flesh Tasters** - “Thank you Vendor.”

**OR**

**Bread Weighers** - “Thank you Master Baker.”

**Town Crier/Beadle** - “Oyez, Oyez, Oyez. Pay attention to the matters which are to take place, that ye may know that the dealings of this house be fair and honest.”

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If Fish and Flesh are being assessed, the Fish and Flesh Tasters now examine the sample of victuals offered, firstly closely scrutinising it, then smelling it, and finally tasting it, making any appropriate comments as necessary.

If Bread is being assessed, the Bread Weighers carefully weigh the first loaf and break open the second loaf to determine its texture and consistency, before actually tasting it and making appropriate comments.

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**Fish and Flesh Tasters** - ‘Mr. High Bailiff, Officers of the Court we the duly elected Fish and Flesh Tasters of this old and ancient Manor, have examined the Fish and Flesh and found it to be fresh and wholesome, and fit for consumption by the townspeople of Alcester.’

**OR**

**Bread Weighers** - “Mr. High Bailiff, Officers of the Court, we the duly elected Bread Weighers of this old and ancient manor, have examined the bread presented, and with regard to the price of wheat, by which shall be determined the proper weight of loaves offered for sale, find the weight to be fair, and the texture good and wholesome.”

**Town Crier/Beadle** (*Ringing his bell once*) - “Pray silence for the High Bailiff of Alcester.”

**High Bailiff** - “The Fish and Flesh Tasters of this ancient manor have examined the Fish/Flesh offered, and have pronounced it fresh and wholesome.”

**OR**

“The Bread Weighers of this ancient manor have examined the bread offered, and have pronounced it wholesome and of correct weight.”

“I therefore hand you this sprig of evergreen, together with a certificate, to hang on the wall of your premises, to show to all and sundry, that your wares have been approved by those elected officials of this ancient manor.”

“Vendor, this Court Leet now expects you to take full advantage of vending your wares in the early hours of shadow.”

**OR**

“Master Baker, this Court Leet now permits you to set your own signate on every loaf of bread offered for sale.”

**Town Crier/Beadle** (*Raising his hat*) - “God save the Queen, and the Lord of the Manor.”

**All** - “God save the Queen, and the Lord of the Manor.”