

Searching and Sealing Leather.

Yow shall diligently observe that noe tanner sell any leather within this mannor but such is first sealed by yow, and such as is sufficiently tanned and merchantable for use of the Queen`s liege people. (From an ancient charge to the searcher and sealer of leather)

This ceremony takes place as part of the Annual Assizes in the High Street.

The Constable or Marshall - knocks three times on the door of the establishment. "Make way for the High Bailiff of Alcester, his Searcher & Sealer of Leather and other Officers of the Alcester Court Leet who are here to conduct the searching and sealing of leather sold from these premises"

The High Bailiff - "Are you the keeper of this establishment?"

Vendor – "Aye Master High Bailiff."

The High Bailiff - "I command you to bring forward a sample of the leather sold from these premises so that my Searcher & Sealer of Leather may assay the quality."

Vendor - "As you command Master Bailiff."

Town Crier (*ringing bell three times*) - "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez. All ye gathered here pay attention to the matters that are to take place so that ye may know the leather sold from these premises has been sufficiently tanned and is merchantable for the Queens liege people."

The High Bailiff - "Searcher and Sealer do your duty and report to me."

Search & Sealer - after examining goods, feeling quality, thickness and smelling the leather to check its tanning reports to the High Bailiff.

"Master High Bailiff I find the leather sufficiently tanned and merchantable for the use of the Queens liege people."

Town Crier - "Pray silence for the High Bailiff."

The High Bailiff - "The Searcher & Sealer of Leather finds the goods sold from these premise to be sufficiently tanned and therefore merchantable for the use of the Queens liege people in this ancient Manor." "I therefore hand you this sprig of evergreen to hang over your portal together with this certificate to show all and sundry that your goods have been searched and sealed by the official Searcher & Sealer of Leather of this ancient Manor."

Town Crier (*removing his hat*) - "God save the Queen, and the Lord of the Manor."

All – "God save the Queen and the Lord of the Manor."