A message from the Master

I am immensely honoured, extremely proud and highly delighted to have been installed as the 29th Master of the Company.

Sandra and I are looking forward to representing and promoting the Company during what for us will be a highly momentous year. There are also a number of areas within the Company to which I will be turning my attention.

My involvement with the water industry began with my appointment to the Water Directorate of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. One of my earliest tasks was to produce “Using Water Wisely”, the Government’s first consultation paper on water conservation. This was followed by the establishment of the Water Regulations Advisory Committee of which I was secretary. This group made proposals for the transfer of Water Company Byelaws into Government Regulations. I was also responsible for the introduction of water industry specific trade missions to many countries around the world led by Environment Ministers. These areas of work brought me into contact with a wide range of water authorities. These areas of work brought me into contact with a wide range of water authorities.

And so to my aims for the forthcoming year. The Company is generally in very good shape. However, the average age of members, although lower than some other Livery Companies, is still relatively high. My prime aim will therefore be to encourage younger people to join the Company. A clear potential source of recruits is from the ranks of students who have benefited from bursary support provided by the Water Conservation Trust. I aim to introduce a new membership category of “Apprentice” and invite students to join on completion of their dissertation. I will also be looking to recruit young people working in the water and environment field as Freemen. I will be organising a specific recruitment evening for both categories where they will meet a number of invited Company members. Mentoring will be on offer for both categories of membership. There will also be a number of informal evening functions and a means of helping and spreading the cost of membership for the younger people.

The Company has always been supportive of and active in the WET10 group of Livery Companies. More recently it has taken on board its full administration. A very successful debate took place, appropriately, on the eve of World Water Day this year. The Thames and Fleet War-dens already have in hand the organisation of an event for the same time in 2018. This is one way in which the Company is actively promoting technical excellence in our sector. I will also be investigating what other events in World Water Week are taking place at which the Company might be represented. It would be good if members of the Company were seen to be actively supporting such events and further promoting the Company.

Our Charity, the Water Conservation Trust, continues to be proactive in schools and universities. As I am sure members are aware there is a skills shortage developing within the water, environment and resource management sectors and, mindful of this, the Trust is concentrating its efforts in the field of education. It has been very fortunate to have been given four substantial donations over the last few years which have enabled it to support around 10 MSc students each year in a range of universities. It has also supported projects in a number of schools. I am in the process of organising a poetry competition during the Christmas Term for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils in primary/junior schools where the Trust has or has had links in order to motivate children to think about water and the environment.

For me, “Without water there is no life, without sanitation life is short” is probably the most poignant maxim that I have come across. In our society how easy it is to take the supply of potable water and disposal of waste for granted, but as we all know there are large areas of the world where water is scarce and there is no sanitation. But what of climate change? We have already seen reduced river flows and even some which are drying up. There are even parts of the country where in order to keep up with population growth and low rainfall it is not possible to rely solely on the abstraction of fresh water. In June, record levels of rainfall were recorded in Scotland and the highest ever temperature in the month recorded in the South East. Irrespective of the cause however it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that we use water wisely and do not waste it. I believe it is a message that we should promulgate widely.

My sincere thanks for allowing me the opportunity to represent the Company over the next year.

Mike Williamson, Master
The Conservator

Deputy Master’s report
Reflections on the year as Master 2016 – 2017
by Keith Tozzi

It was a great privilege to be installed as the 28th Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators on 1st July at The Painted Hall in Greenwich. During the year I have worked hard to represent and lead the Company to the best of my ability and in the process have attended some 120 events and written over 170 articles for my blog. In approximate chronological order, some of the highlights of my year are recorded below, which I hope shows my original objective of maintaining many of our traditions but with some new innovations and ideas.

At my installation we broke with tradition, held the installation ceremony in front of Members and their guests, moved the event outside of the City, held at "The Painted Hall" in Greenwich and followed with a black tie dinner. The guest speaker was a very amusing Richard Goddard who until recently had organized the Henley Regatta.

In July, I was delighted to present the Lord Mayor, Lord Mountevans, with some Thames water in a specially engraved jug to commemorate King Richard I selling the rights over the Thames to the City of London Corporation.

Our next formal event was the Michaelmas Lunch held at Trinity House near Tower Bridge. The guest speaker was Lord Tim Bell who, whilst discrete, told us some amusing anecdotal stories of life around Margaret Thatcher.

Throughout my year as Master I have tried to support the Company’s Water Conservation Trust. I have personally written to Members seeking their support with regular financial contributions and I am pleased to report that this has worked! In October, Fiona and I supported the Trust by taking part in the sponsored Charity Walk to raise funds for our important work. In addition, we have been strong supporters of Treloar College in Hampshire where we sponsored and formally opened a water garden in one of the residential houses.

In November we held our black tie Annual Banquet at Fishmongers’ Hall and what a splendid event it was. Our Bargemaster was there to welcome guests accompanied by two Doggetts all resplendent in their colourful uniforms. Our guest speaker was Olympic Gold rower Mark Hunter who gave us a very personal view of the dedication required to win gold. A fun musical interlude of Flanders & Swan famous songs was provided by the Guildhall School of Music.

Later in November, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley (a Member of our Company) was installed as the 689th Lord Mayor of London. The following day our Company entered a float in the Lord Mayor’s Show. The magnificent float had a Magic Tap built for us by Court Assistant Dylan Barker – the float received much praise and attention and I was interviewed live on BBC television. A fun day with some fifty of us on the float and walking alongside.

In early January, the Lord Mayor held a Children’s Christmas Party at the Mansion House which was reported as “very posh” and I was delighted that three of my grandchildren were able to attend. Later in January we held our Myddelton Lunch, which was preceded by a church service at St Michael’s, Cornhill where a rededication of the Livery...
The Conservator takes place. The lunch was held at the Mansion House in the presence of the Lord Mayor who was welcomed with a musical tribute from Hugh Myddelton Primary School. With a record breaking 180 Members and guests in attendance it was a splendid affair. Photograph shows us with principal guests at the Mansion House.

In March our Company organized a very successful WET 10 debate at the Guildhall. This was a very well attended event, organized by Mark Lane, our Walbrook Warden. The motion “THIS HOUSE believes that the water utility of 2030 will have to be unrecognizable from the water utility of today to survive” was lost.

A series of social visits and events were held in the spring and early summer. These included a behind the scenes visit to Harrods (organized by Fiona), an evening City walk and supper (led by Murray Craig, Clerk to the Chamberlain’s Court), a visit to the Thames Tideway Tunnel Scheme (led by Phil Stride) and an evening tour of the City Gin Distillery followed by supper. All of these were a great success and a sellout.

Our Election Court lunch was held at Armourers’ Hall where Sheriff Peter Estlin was the amusing guest speaker who told us about some of the realities of life living in the Old Bailey!

On 14th February, I invited all Members of the Court and Past Masters to join Fiona and I on board HQS Wellington for a Valentines Dinner. This was to say thank you to everyone there for their help and support during my year as Master.

On 14th February, I invited all Members of the Court and Past Masters to join Fiona and I on board HQS Wellington for a Valentines Dinner. This was to say thank you to everyone there for their help and support during my year as Master.

In early March the Master’s Committee organised a meeting “offshore” in Seville. As well as a good meeting it was a great team building exercise for the team and our partners.

Other key events which I have not found room to include here, have been the Sheep Drive across London Bridge, the Annual Pancake Race in Guildhall Yard, the Tudor Pull from Hampton Court to the Tower of London, the Royal Garden Party and the Master’s Weekend at Ironbridge.

I must make mention of the magnificent all female rowing crew of our Cutter, the “Water Forget-me-not”. They rowed Fiona and I in the Admiral of the Ports Challenge and easily won. In fact they were so fast we arrived at the finish before the welcoming party!

And finally to the Installation Lunch in Drapers’ Hall, where following my last Court Meeting as Master, I handed over to Mike Williamson, our 29th Master. Fiona and I wish Mike and Sandra every success in their year.

So it is farewell from us. A very big thank you to Ralph Riley who has supported me so well over the last year. Many thanks also to the Beadle, the Bargemaster and of course my three Wardens who have been wonderful. Finally a massive thank you to Fiona, who has supported me and the Company so well. It has been great fun.
The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Wardens

Mark Lane MA (Cantab), FRSA
Installed as Fleet Warden on 6th July 2017

Mark Lane has been a Liveryman of the Company since 2009 and was elected Fleet Warden on 1st July 2016.

Mark was educated at Cranleigh College and at Trinity College Cambridge where he studied History and Law.

Mark qualified as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 1975. After working in Bahrain for nearly four years and Hong Kong for one year, he spent the greater part of his professional career with the international law firm Pinsent Masons where he was a Partner in the firm for 25 years. Mark’s work focused on infrastructure projects and process engineering projects, many of which were overseas. This included working on the rebuilding of the sarcophagus over the exploded nuclear reactor at Chernobyl, and extensive work in West Africa including Ghana and Nigeria.

Mark set up the Water Group at Pinsent Masons in 1995 and remained the Head of the Water Group until his retirement as a partner from the firm in 2013. In this capacity he advised on water, wastewater and desalination projects in many parts of the world, particularly the Middle East, as well as regulatory issues and the introduction of new water-related technologies.

During his time as a Partner at Pinsent Masons, Mark instigated the Wet Networks. These events started almost 10 years ago, and the 29th event in the ongoing series was held in June 2016. From 2012 to 2015, Mark was Chairman of British Water and from 2012, he has been the Chair of UKTI Environment and Water Advisory Group. In 2013 Mark was asked by the then Government Chief Scientist, Sir John Beddington to Chair 26 experts in the writing of on UK water technology. This report was entitled “Tapping the Potential: A Fresh Vision for UK Water Technology”. It was published in 2014, and launched in the House of Commons and the City.

The Report led to the foundation The UK Water Partnership, of which Mark was a promoter and is the founding Councillor and School Governor and now undertakes a number of other voluntary roles in the community.

Before his time at Pennon Group Simon spent many years with ICI, primarily in their Plant Protection Division, prior to which he worked in private, small to medium sized enterprises.

Simon became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators in 2012 and is currently its Thames Warden.

He and his wife Wendy live in Hampshire and enjoy gardening, walking, travel, good wine and catching up with their two daughters.

Simon Catford, FCIPD, DipSM
Installed as Thames Warden on 6th July 2017

Simon has always been passionate about skills, development and sector attractiveness and was a Non-Executive Director of Energy and Utility Skills Ltd for over seven years. He also founded and chaired the Waste Management, Recycling & Resource Recovery Industry Skills Initiative (WRRISKI) for over ten years and sat on the South West Regional Board of Business in the Community (BiC).

Simon retired from Viridor at the end of 2016 to pursue a portfolio of non-executive and consultancy roles. Amongst these he is a Non-Executive Director of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assurance (IEMA) and a Trustee Director for Viridor Credits (an Environmental Distributive Body). He has also served as a Parish Council and School Governor and now undertakes a number of other voluntary roles in the community.

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Simon became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators in 2012 and is currently its Thames Warden.

He and his wife Wendy live in Hampshire and enjoy gardening, walking, travel, good wine and catching up with their two daughters.

Simon Catford, FCIPD, DipSM
Installed as Thames Warden on 6th July 2017

Simon has been involved in the energy recovery, recycling and waste management industry for 25 years, originally joining Blue Circle Waste Management in 1991. Since the acquisition by what is now Pennon in 1995, Simon has led all the Human Resources, Environmental Compliance, Sustainability, Health & Safety and Training & Development processes of the business thus positioning it as one of the leading UK companies in the sector.

Pennon Group Plc is the holding company for both Viridor and South West Water and Simon served on the Viridor Board as HR and Regulatory Director for many years. He was also a Trustee Director on two Pension Trustee Boards and the Chairman and Trustee of a third scheme.
Rob joined the Company as a Freeman in 2006 and was elected Walbrook Warden in July 2017. Born in North West London, Rob obtained a degree in Civil Engineering at Imperial College London and started a career in the water industry, initially with Southern Water, moving to Thames Water in 1977. Rob has over 40 years of experience in water systems engineering with specialisation in applying hydraulic models for planning, designing and optimising major water supply systems. In the late 1990s he played a key role in implementing new advanced data processing and model building techniques to revolutionise network model construction speeds and detail, including links to Geographic and Customer Information Databases. For 20 years as Network Analysis Manager and Water Modelling Manager at Thames Water, Rob managed a group responsible for all clean water hydraulic modelling for a supply network supporting over 7.5 million customers including steady state distribution modelling, surge analysis, water quality analysis, raw water and water treatment works modelling. In 2015 he became Water Strategy Manager and now manages a team responsible for the strategic operation of the Thames Water supply system.

Rob is a member of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and was Chairman of the Metropolitan Branch in 1999/2000. He was also a member of the American Water Works Association for 20 years, serving as a technical expert on AWWA research projects and reviewer of papers for the technical journal. He has presented papers at conferences all around the world. For many years Rob was a lecturer for Water Training International on Network Analysis and Distribution Function courses at York. As a Trustee for the Water Conservators Trust Rob coordinates the schools programme. In 2015 he became a governor at Hugh Myddelton School that has enabled a special link between the Water Conservators and the school, developing a water theme at the school. Rob has a keen interest in the history of London’s water supply, presenting at various meetings including the Royal Society of Chemistry. He is an ambassador for Museum of London Archaeology.

Welcome to New Members

Andrew Williamson
Andrew is co-owner and Director at RG Jones Sound Engineering Ltd based in London. The company specialises in Audio Visual and is one of the oldest in its field, trading since 1926 with a high-profile client portfolio including the Royal Household, City of London Guildhall and Mansion House, RAC Club, AELTC, Lords Cricket Ground, St Paul's Cathedral, and the iconic Glastonbury Festival – supporting WaterAid.

In 2004 Andrew was selected as part of a management team to take over from the owner, based on his extensive experience and ability to maintain the company’s outstanding reputation. In 2006 the Company was awarded a Royal Warrant for supply of audio equipment services to Her Majesty The Queen. Andrew is grantee of the Warrant and upholds good business practice and environmental responsibilities required to maintain the Warrant. He is the son of present Master, Mike Williamson. Andrew has always taken a very keen interest in his father’s work, leading him to instigate a high standard of environmental measures within his own company. Andrew is honoured to be installed into the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators by patrimony.

Gareth Jones
Gareth started his career with Ernst & Young in Southampton, moving to KPMG after qualifying as a Chartered Certified Accountant where he worked with SMEs in a consultancy role, advising on Business Processes and IT systems. A career move into industry then followed, where he worked extensively for SMEs in industries as diverse as travel, engineering, manufacturing and various service industries.

Gareth moved to WPL limited in 2005 as Finance Director assuming the role of Managing Director in 2015 where he is responsible for leading a team manufacturing and delivering waste water solutions to customers in the utility, industrial and commercial sectors in the UK and abroad. In his spare moments Gareth enjoys rugby, cycling and spending time with his family.
The Water Conservation Trust
by Roger North, Chairman of the Trustees

This year has been a particularly active one for our Schools Education Programme through which we have provided expertise and support for water and environmental projects.

The Water Conservation Trust (WCT) is the Company’s charity. The management of its activities has been shared between 12 Trustees. It is with regret that we learned that our previous Chairman, Colin Bland, passed away on 30 July 2017. Colin was an inspiration to the Trustees, a source of wisdom and a driving force behind our programme of activities. He will be sorely missed by us all. I took over as Chairman when Colin retired in November 2016. It is an honour and a privilege to lead such an active charity. The Trustees support and review initiatives identified by the Company by the Charity Committee. Our support is targeted on education in schools and universities, grants to water people in need and on charitable initiatives in the City of London. The trustees are always keen to hear from members of the Company about charitable initiatives in line with our mission.

Schools

Our Schools Programme has gone from strength to strength thanks to the sterling efforts of Rob Casey. We have links to 17 schools and recently we have focussed on Hugh Myddelton School in Islington helping the school to improve results, particularly in the STEM subjects. At the School’s request, this year we funded new laboratory style furniture in the STEM Room for science teaching and experiments.

Two years ago Hugh Myddelton School was at risk from going into Special Measures. This year the school was given “Outstanding” in its Ofsted Report and results were in the top 3% in the country. The Minister for Education wrote to congratulate the school on its achievement and acknowledged the contribution the Water Conservators have made to the improvement.

Following on from the success with Hugh Myddelton School we are in discussion with the Head of School Improvement, London Borough of Islington, to explore the possibility of developing a project with a science focus in other schools near Hugh Myddelton School. We aim to encourage more children to consider a career in science and engineering, particularly the water industry, and also encourage thinking about water efficiency and care of the environment.

One of the WCT objectives in the Schools Programme is to work with schools for children with learning and physical disabilities. For some years we have supported Ysgol y Gogarth, where recently we have funded equipment items for its environmental lodge, Hafan Marj, and a mower and strimmer for the pupils community work. At Tir Morfa school we have funded a topographical survey of the school site. The school is keen to develop its outside activities, including horticulture. A priority of the school is to divide the outside learning area into different sensory spaces for the pupils. The survey information will also be used as a resource, introducing plans, scales, lengths and areas. For some years now we have supported Treloar School at Alton, Hampshire. This is one of the country’s leading providers of education, care, therapy, medical support and independence training for disabled young people. In 2016 we provided a water feature in one of the residential gardens. This was officially opened by the Master, Keith Tozzi and one of the students.

An annual event to raise funds for the WCT, particularly for our Schools Education Programme, is the sponsored charity walk organised by Rob Casey. In October 2016, the walk visited some historic water sites in London (some famous, others not so well known). The walk started at The Angel, Islington, and finished at Battersea Park. On 8 October we will be completing our series of walks along the New River by walking the central section including the attractive Enfield Loop.

An aim of our schools programme is to encourage children to think about water and the environment in the widest possible sense. Our current Master has proposed a children’s poetry competition which will be open to all junior and primary schools with whom the Trust has links.

Universities

Over the last year we have continued granting bursaries to MSC graduates. The bursary package is offered to universities running approved Masters Degrees in water, waste and environment subjects. This year we have added City University London and we have financed an MSC student at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Machynlleth, Powys. We were very fortunate to receive repeat donations in 2015 from WAMITAB and ESAET amounting to £100,000 and this has enabled us to expand our bursary scheme. Every year the Best Dissertation Award is presented to the most outstanding student in courses supported by the WCT. What successful students go on to do is monitored to see that our targeting is right. The majority find employment in consultancies or remain in academia to address technical issues requiring further research.

Maidstone Sea Cadets

Aligned to the Company’s affiliation with the armed services the WCT has continued a close association with the Maidstone Sea Cadets. As in previous years we have donated the cost of a berth on the Sea Cadets training ship HMS Royalist for the Best Cadet. We have also given significant financial support towards the cost of a new landing stage which we expect to be built during this year.

City Charity Funding

The WCT and the Company support a number of the City of London and Livery Companies’ charity initiatives. We sponsor a taxi in the Hackney Carriage Drivers Magical Disney Tour. This takes terminally ill children, their carers and medical support staff for a weekend to Disneyland, Paris. Over 100 London Taxis, British and French police escorts along with various support vehicles leave Canary Wharf after a good breakfast. The event is very moving. We support the Lord Mayor’s charities which, this year, are The London Symphony Orchestra Discovery Programme, Music in Hospitals and St Paul’s Cathedral Foundation.

Company members contribute substantially to WCT funding through collections at functions and regular giving. There is a sustainable balance between income and expenditure which means Trustees can make medium term funding plans. Trustees are very active and we can always make good use of further donations. The Trustees and charity committee members freely give their time to ensure the WCT makes the best use of the available resources.

The Trust

I am extremely grateful to Peter Hall who as Hon Treasurer has managed our financial affairs expertly and to Mike Williamson who was our Hon Secretary before he relinquished the role to concentrate on his responsibilities as Master. I was very pleased to welcome Christine Duthie who took over as Hon Secretary to the Trust in November 2016.
Chris then retired, forming CJC Associates.

Chris was installed as a Freeman of the Water Conservators’ Company in 1995, and remained a member until his passing earlier this year in Exeter. He is remembered as a reliable, energetic and helpful colleague.

Colin Bland
Past Master and Honorary Liveryman
Colin Bland passed away in July 2017. He was born September 1933 in Essex, He attended Merchant Taylor’s School at Northwood – and from there moved to what is now The University of London. In 1956 he joined the National Salt Glaze Pipe Manufacturers Association, where he was to work for the rest of his professional career.

Colin met Ann in London and they were married in 1957, establishing the family home in Chesham, and, after more local moves, returned to Chesham. They have two children. In his personal life Colin became Chairman of Kingshill Riding Club making the club extremely successful and, with Ann, ran one of the biggest horse shows in Buckinghamshire.

Meanwhile, Colin’s career was going from strength to strength. In 1978 he was appointed to head what is now the Clay Pipe Development Association, as Director of Technical Services. He held this role with distinction until he retired in 1999. He represented the clay pipe industry on both British Standard and CEN Committees, and was a Council Member of the IPHE and CIWEM for a total of twenty-eight years. His awards are numerous – the IPHE awarded him two prizes for ground-breaking work on hydraulic and structural design of buried pipelines: the IPHE Neil Shimmin Award for distinguished service, the Arthur Sydney Bedell Award for extraordi nary services to the IPHE. As Dean of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovellers (the 5 S’s) in 1978 he was the first non-US resident to receive their Water Pollution Control Award for his work on hydraulic and structural design, and in 1992 he received a Distinguished Service Award from BSI marking thirty years service on Technical Committees.

Colin’s involvement with CIWEM and the 5 S’s inevitably led to his becoming part of what is now the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. His involvement was impressive. He was first elected Court Assistant in 1989 and became Walbrook Warden in April 1995. On 1st July 1998 he was installed as the Master – a role he filled with distinction. Colin continued to play a major role within the Company: he edited the Company newsletter (The Conservator) for many years and served as Chairman of both the Past Masters’ Committee and the Company’s Charity, the Water Conservation Trust, until his retirement in the autumn of 2016.

In recognition of this unique service to the Company, the Court appointed him Honorary Liveryman and presented him with his framed certificate at the Mansion House in January 2017 in the presence of the Lord Mayor and his family.

Contact: Mr Ralph Riley
Clerk
Worshipful Company of Water Conservators
The Lark
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Calendar of Events 2017–2018
Michaelmas Lunch: HQS Wellington
- 12th September 2017
Much Ado About Nothing: The Globe
- 20th September 2017
1st Gresham Lecture: Barnard’s Inn Hall
- 28th September 2017
WCT Sponsored Walk: New River
- 8th October 2017
Annual Banquet: Cutlers’ Hall
- 2nd November 2017
2nd Gresham Lecture: Barnard’s Inn Hall
- 9th November 2017
Evening Carol Service: St Mary-at-Hill
- 14th December 2017
Election Court Lunch: Watermen’s Hall
- 20th April 2018
Sports Report

Rowing
(Deputy Master Keith Tozzi)

Our Cutter, the Water Forget-me-not, and its all female crew of rowers from the Poplar Rowing Club had another very successful year. Under the watchful eye of our Bargemaster, Johnny Dwan, the cutter has three formal outings during the year.

The first was in July 2016 when we took part in the Port of London Challenge Rowing Race organized by the Thames Traditional Rowing Association (TTRA). The race, from HQS Wellington to Chelsea Harbour Pier (4.3 miles), attracted nine entries, each consisting of six rowers, a coxswain and one passenger. Expectation from the Water Conservators spectator team on board The Salient was high — we were not disappointed, we won the women’s race and celebrations with the crew on board Salient went on into the night!

The second event was on St George’s Day, Sunday 23rd April, at the Tudor Pull. This annual event transports the “Stela” (an ancient piece of wooden water pipe donated by us) on board the Queen’s Rowbarge, Gloriana, from Hampton Court to HM Tower of London. As part of this event, our Cutter accompanies Gloriana and transports the Thames Warden and his Consort with a crew of four rowers and a coxswain from Richmond to HM Tower of London. This takes about two and a half hours and is a test of the endurance of the crew – the girls passed with flying colours.

The third and final event is the Admiral of the Port’s Challenge in June. The race, organized by the TTRA, is from HQS Wellington to Westminster Boating Base (1.33 miles). The Cutters must be rigged with ceremonial canopies and flags, have a crew of four, a coxswain and carry two passengers (The Master and his Consort). We were the clear winners and arrived before the welcoming party had assembled! The Lord Mayor presented our crew with the Rose Bowl, before celebrations began.

Well done the girls!

Golf
(Roger North, Captain of Golf)

During the year the Company entered teams in two inter livery golf competitions. The Prince Arthur Cup and the Marketers’ “Ryder Cup” Golf Day. We have a small band of golfers from which we pick our teams. This year we had Stuart Herity and John Flannery playing for the first time; if anyone has an official golf handicap and wants to play please let me know. You will be very welcome.

The Prince Arthur Cup is the annual Inter Livery Golf Tournament – the largest one day, two course, amateur tournament in the UK which was first held in 1927 at Walton Heath Golf Club, the year in which Prince Arthur of Connaught was invited to become a guest of the Coachmakers’ Livery Company and then went on to accept the Freedom and Livery of the Company. He was subsequently elected Assistant and showed such an interest in the Company that he became Master in 1932.

But his admission in 1927 to the Coachmakers was a great honour and to commemorate the event, the Master Arthur Hungerford Pollen presented the Coachmakers’ Company with the Prince Arthur Cup – an impressive silver gilt trophy that would be competed for annually by the Livery Companies of London in a foursomes’ golf tournament. The first tournament at Walton Heath, which saw Companies represented by two pairs playing two rounds of golf, was won by the Butchers Company. As time went on, more Companies participated and the event was held at a number of different golf clubs before returning to Walton Heath in 1979 and the event has been held there ever since.

This year’s competition was held on 18th May at Walton Heath Golf Club. The Water Conservators golf team was Roger Harris, David Port, Stuart Herrity and me. Despite our valiant efforts and a great day of golf we were not in the prizes.

The 12th Marketers’ “Ryder Cup” Livery Fellowship Golf Day, held at Verulam Golf Club, St Albans on Monday 3rd July 2017. Verulam Golf Club is the known as the “Home of the Ryder Cup”. Samuel Ryder, founder of The Ryder Cup, joined the Verulam Club in 1909 and only two years later, he was appointed Captain for the first time.

This year The Water Conservators were defending the trophy that we won last year. Unfortunately, we did not win again but came a very creditable 3rd. Our team was David Port, John Flannery, Richard Waller and me. One of the off course competitions to raise money for the Lord Mayor’s charities was to have three shots to be nearest the pin on a golf simulator of the 13th hole at Hazeltine National, where the Ryder Cup was played this year. David Port was just beaten into 2nd Place. There was also an 18 hole putting competition in which I managed to come 2nd. The Lord Mayor’s Appeal has gained a total of £895 from the golf day.

Pancake Racing
(Past Master Peter Hall)

Each Shrove Tuesday, the Worshipful Company of Poulters organize an inter-livery pancake race in the Guildhall Yard in London. This is a fun event and some 30 livery companies took part this year, including us. The Lord Mayor and the two Sheriffs watched over proceedings, to ensure no cheating! There are four categories of race: Master, Liverymen, Ladies and Novelty. The participants (racing in groups of five) have to wear their gowns, badges, an apron, chef’s hat and gloves – the novelty theme has to reflect the current Lord Mayor’s music related charities.

Our Clerk, Ralph Riley was team manager, Keith Tozzi ran as Master, Fiona Tozzi ran as a Liveryman and Lynva Russell represented us in the Ladies Race. Mike Williamson (now Master) was our Novely entry. Mike was dressed as conductor Sir Simon Rattle who joins the London Symphony Orchestra as Music Director in September.

We were unfortunate in not winning anything, but had great fun on the day. Many thanks to the Poulters for organizing this fun event.