

# Installation Court Lunch 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The installation of the Company's 29<sup>th</sup> Master was marked by glorious July sunshine as members and guests gathered at the beautiful Drapers Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> July for the Installation Lunch.

The last task as Master of the Company for Keith Tozzi was to Chair the Installation Court during which he was delighted to install his Bailiff, Dylan Barker, as a Court Assistant. Following the normal business of the meeting, he adjourned the Court to enable all to move to an adjacent room for the Installation of the Master and Wardens for 2017/18.



As last year, the Installation was opened to members and guests. Thus Mike Williamson was installed as the Master, Simon Catford to Thames Warden, Mark Lane to Fleet Warden, Rob Casey to Walbrook Warden and Keith Tozzi became Deputy Master.

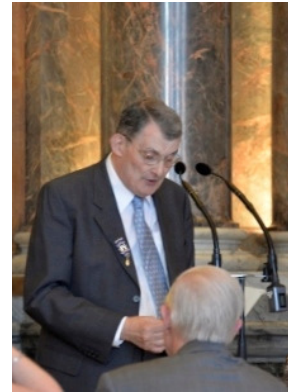


Following recent tradition, in recognition of the very enjoyable twelve months of events and leadership a magnificent antique silver goblet was gifted to the company by the Deputy Master, Keith Tozzi. It seems the Master and Wardens all have a silver goblet for their wine at our formal lunches and dinners but, until now, the Deputy Master has not had a goblet..... So that has been corrected and, fittingly, he was the first one using it!



Deputy Master's Consort, Fiona also passed on the Consort's Badge to the Master's Consort, Sandra. The beautiful jewel was originally presented to the Company by Past Master Roger Hewitt.

The lunch was attended by principal guests Captain Martin Reed, Master of the Master Mariners and Lord Strathclyde and following the meal, a toast to The Guests was proposed in the traditional manner - with water - by Court Assistant Nigel Cartwright OBE. The Response was delivered by Lord Strathclyde.



Lord Strathclyde entered the House of Lords in 1988, and from 1988 to 1994 served as a Minister in a number of Government Departments, including the Scottish Office and the Department of Environment and Department of Trade & Industry for which he was Minister for Small Firms. He became Leader of the Conservative Party in the House of Lords from 1998 and served for 14 years. He was until 2013 a member of the cabinet under Prime Minister David Cameron, Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster – a post he held since the General Election in 2010.

He is Senior Advisor to a number of companies including AECOM, JCB, and PwC and chairs the Advisory Board of the Battersea Power Station Development Company. He is Governor of Wellington College and sits on the Board of the Centre for Policy Studies. He was appointed a Companion of Honour in 2013 and has been a Privy Councillor since 1995.



Lord Strathclyde started by explaining that he was here as the result of an interesting communication beginning “You many not remember me but..... Fortunately the request was accompanied by a photo and something stirred deep in Lord Strathclyde’s memory.

Neatly touching subjects close to the hearts of Water Conservators,

Lord Strathclyde introduced water and the environment into his speech, maybe in a more unusual and, certainly more personal way, than some of our other guests have been able to. Apparently, during Mike’s career in the Department of Environment and with Lord Strathclyde as his Minister, they were thrown together on a trip to South Africa.

Part way there, an emergency landing left them stranded in an out-of-the-way settlement, whose only saving grace of an excellent hotel. Lord Strathclyde’s room was equipped with a massive, saucer shaped bath. However on entering the welcome bath, he slipped, proved the Archimedes’ Principle and managed to flood the bathroom! Despite this mishap, Lord Strathclyde would quite happily have stayed put for a few days until the plane was repaired; however Mike, using the Department credit card, determinedly managed to hire the smallest plane possible. Thus, skimming the treetops, they completed their journey.

Lord Strathclyde also gave a touching and sincere compliment about Mike's diligence and competence during his career in the Civil Service, an institution which he considered was often taken for granted and derided.

In his Reply, Mike Williamson, the newly installed Master of the Company, thanked Lord Strathclyde for his kind words and memories and thanked the Deputy Master, Keith Tozzi for the distinction with which he had led the Company during his year as Master. Mike Williamson then went on to outline his priorities for the coming year, with emphasis on membership and promotion of the company to younger colleagues in the water and environmental industry.



The retiring collection raised £900 for the nineteenth Children's Magical Taxi Tour to Disneyland Paris organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers.

*Sue Paterson, Court Assistant*