

A message from the new Master

Mr Peter English, MBE

This new century and Millennium has hardly yet begun but for me the first eighteen months have been startlingly eventful. My personal involvement with the construction of the Millennium Dome and the excitement of a project which all knew could not, by definition, be late, meant that the Millennium Moment at Midnight on December 31st 1999 was, I thought going to be the climax of my life. However, a year on and earlier this month I became the Master.

I am conscious of the honour that has been accorded to me and the trust and confidence that has been placed with me. I am proud to be Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators and will do my best to live up to the high standards set by my predecessors.

Also appointed on July 4th 2001 were:-

Thames Warden, Prof. Gerald Noone MBE, Fleet Warden, Dr. Kevin Bond & Walbrook Warden, Dr. Marion Carter.

We have also welcomed three new members to the Court of Assistants.

Mr Ken Clarke, Dr. Peter Matthews and Mr Hugh Speed OBE.

The first task of an incoming Master is to install the Deputy Master and I was especially pleased to install Nick Paul as such. His year, the first full year for the Company as a Livery Company has been as I am sure you will all agree an outstanding success. Later in this edition he is

describing that year in detail so I shall content myself by acknowledging that he has set a formidable standard and hence challenge to live up to! However, among the high lights of this year must be the launch of the Company's Cutter, the "Water Forget-me-Not". This magnificent addition to our assets will allow the Company to participate fully in the colourful events that take place on the River Thames such as the Tudor Pull. The History of the Company will record that this began in Nick's year as Master.



Sadly the Court of Assistants has had to say farewell to Past Master Ted Flaxman who has retired from the court only because of the passing of time: a phenomenon none of us can control. Ted has been a member of the Court of Assistants since the Company was a Guild. He was Master for the year 1996/1997.

Ted has played a major role in shaping and guiding the Company. I should like to take this opportunity and especially for his tremendous efforts with our float at the Lord Mayor's Show last year. It was Ted who proposed that we should provide a float in the Show and it was Ted who orchestrated the efforts to bring about its successful conclusion. Without him I doubt that it would have happened.

I am striving to maintain the high standards of principal guests and speakers at our lunches that my predecessors have set. Good speakers make our lunches so much more attractive.

Thus far we have fixed the dates, locations and secured principal guests for:

Michaelmas Lunch - This will be held on Wednesday the 19th September 2001 at the Cutlers' Hall. Our principal guest will be David Brewer who is not only an Alderman of the City of London but is also currently Master of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors.

Annual Banquet - Vinters' Hall will be the venue for our most important event on Wednesday November 7th 2001. Our principal guest is Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy Tod, the Royal Navy's senior officer responsible for the Sea Cadet movement and his acceptance further cements the close ties we are building with the Maidstone Sea Cadets (T S Scott) with whom we are affiliated.

Myddleton Lunch will take place on 25th January 2002 in the Merchant Taylors' Hall and will be preceded by a Service of Dedication at St Michael's, Cornhill. Deputy Pauline Halliday, who was Sheriff of the City of London at the time the Company was granted Letters Patent in the year 2000, will be the principal guest.

Another new venture is to be a Joint Lecture with the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. The lecture is titled "The History of Water & Plumbing Development" and will be delivered by Court Assistant Prof Christopher Binnie. It is to be held on Thursday 31st January 2002 at the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Preparations are well underway, and I urge the members of the Company to make a note of this major event for their diaries.

The last year has seen the adoption by the Court of two important reports on membership and the future role of the Company. The task for my year is to implement the recommendations of those reports and this I will try to do. I also look forward to receiving the report of the subcommittee looking into our relationship with the City of London in due course. All three of these reports are inter-dependent and address, fundamentally, our relationship with the wider world.

Master

About the new Master

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Born in St. Ives (Huntingdonshire now Cambridgeshire) on the 24th February 1939, but a FENMAN by upbringing coming from a family living in March, Cambridgeshire, formally the Isle of Ely, for six generations. He was educated at the Kingswood School Bath and the

University of London, Imperial College from whence he graduated with an honours degree in Civil Engineering in 1961. Married to Angela, who also comes from an even older March fen family, and they have two daughters, Tracy and Helen, both of whom are also married and Angela and Peter have two grandsons and two grand daughters, who take up a great deal of their spare time!

A Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a Fellow of the CIWEM, a Member of the Institute of Quality Assurance, a Member of the Institute of Directors and a registrant of the European Federation of National Engineering Associations.

Upon graduating he joined Taylor Woodrow and for whom he worked for 35 years when he "retired" for the first time. He was a "founder" Director of Taylor Woodrow Management Ltd. In 1989, he was part of the team with the newly privatised Thames Water PLC. He was Director in Charge of the project "Extended Arm" which between 1990 and 1995 satisfactorily completed some 137 individual design, manage and construct schemes covering both "dirty" and "clean" water. It was during this time that he became a member of the then Guild of Water Conservators.

When he left Taylor Woodrow he was Chairman of the Taywood Construction Consultancy, and a Director of TAYMEL Ltd. as well as Taylor Woodrow Management Ltd.

After "retiring" he became a consultant to W.S. Atkins advising on construction management techniques for the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich. He joined the New Millennium Experience

Co. as Deputy to the Construction Director and was "Clients Representative" for all aspects of the construction and engineering of the Millennium Dome and Experience. A role conducted with constant exposure to press and parliamentary scrutiny and comment. In spite of which the Dome was spectacularly completed and opened on time on the 31st Dec. 1999 and as far as construction was concerned within budget. He was awarded the MBE in the Millennium Honours list for services to the Millennium Dome.

He considers his greatest personal achievement at the Dome to have been the promotion and inclusion, again in collaboration with Thames Water Plc., of the Recycled Water System and being able to state that all water used for flushing toilets at the Dome was "reclaimed".

He is still with NMEC, being the longest surviving member of the team, serving four Chairmen, four Chief Executives and four Shareholders. He is now responsible for the physical decommissioning of the Millennium Experience.

Among his interests he lists History, Antiques, Music, Golf and Rowing. In this latter respect he was President of Reading Rowing Club from 1991 to 1995. At Imperial College he was a trumpeter in the orchestra and President of Fencing, for which he won his full colours, as well as playing rugby and tennis. Alas he is now inactive except as a spectator! He is also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers (no. 41) and a Life member of the National Trust. Angela and Peter currently live in March, Cambridgeshire when Peter intends to retire again!



Deputy Master's Report 2000/2001

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The last year has been a busy period for members of the Company. The wettest year since records began over 200 years ago resulted in the worst flooding for decades and the scourge of foot-and-mouth has been with us for the last 5 months. The press concentrates on the political and social elements of these events, with no recognition being given to all the hard work put in by engineers and scientists to help resolve these crises.

The disposal of over 6 million carcasses has been a major public health issue that has taxed large sections of the industry. In addition, we should not forget that the restriction of movement over much of the countryside imposed huge problems for our utilities which for some weeks were not able to get access to their installations. The disposal of sludge to land was also severely restricted and contractors had problems getting access to sites, particularly for the construction of pipelines (if the sites were not already flooded!!).

It has also been a busy year for the Company. Our first full year of Livery status has seen an increased level of activity, both in the City and in our relationship with other Livery Companies. It has been a delight to see the very positive welcome that we have received from other Livery Companies. The events and activities that I have attended as your representative are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Company continues to flourish. Membership has risen to 213, of whom 156 are Liverymen. With 7 Honorary Freemen/Liverymen, there are still 50 Freemen of whom some 40 have expressed a wish to be clothed. I would ask these latter

members to contact the Clerk so that they can arrange to attend a suitable Court Meeting for the clothing ceremony.

The Court and Committees have been kept busy, particularly in respect of resolving the future role of the Company now that we have achieved Livery status. Reports have been received on membership and on our role in water conservation. The report on our relationship with the City has been delayed due to the Deputy Master's accident last year but has now been received and will be discussed at the Committee and Court meetings. A number of interesting recommendations in the first 2 reports have been agreed and these will be implemented progressively during the coming months. In addition, we are considering an exciting educational initiative, led by Court Assistant Jeff Rasbash.

The Archive Committee (Past Masters Truesdale, Hewett and Bland) did a wonderful job in writing the "history of the Company so far" and the result was a fitting testament to all their hard work. Our grateful thanks are also due to Wing Commander Gary Barber OBE and his team at AIDU for their help in the printing. Copies were not only sent to Company members but also to all the other Livery Companies and I have received a huge number of letters complimenting us on the quality of the document.

Social events have been well attended, as have the new Business Lunches which will hopefully now become a regular feature in the Company's calendar. The introduction of refreshments after Company Lunches has also been well received since they have provided a welcome opportunity for increased networking and discussions with old friends.

Sadly, a number of members or their partners have suffered serious illnesses during the year. This has shown that our systems for finding out about such problems and giving practical and moral support are not as good as they might be. It was therefore decided to appoint a Company Almoner who can be the focal point for contact in the event of death or serious illness and who can arrange for other members to give appropriate support. I am delighted that our Chaplain, Adrian Hopwood, has agreed to undertake this role and he will be circulating a note to members in the near future.

I am delighted with the appointments of the Master and Wardens for the 2001/02 year. The Company is in good hands and I wish them well for their year in office. I am also pleased that, for the first time, we had 3 nominations from the membership for new Court Assistants. In the past, nominations have come from the Court so the nominations this year are a healthy sign.

It has been a great privilege to have been your Master this year. It has been a year of immense personal enjoyment, as well as filling over half my time since my retirement at the end of May 2000. Inevitably, I have not achieved as much as I had hoped to do at the start of the year but that is the "nature of the beast" and hopefully a number of the new initiatives that have been started this year will come to fruition in the coming year.

A close involvement with any organisation such as ours demonstrates that little would happen without the personal commitment and time that members are prepared to put into it. We all owe a debt of gratitude particularly to the members of the Court and, on your behalf, I would like to thank them for all the time and help that

they have given to the Company during the past 12 months.

I also thank my wife, Judy, for the support that she has given me during the last year. Without her understanding and involvement it would have been impossible to give the Company the level of commitment that the role requires. In the process however, she has also had some good times and has met a number of interesting and delightful people.

P.N.Paul
Deputy Master



Past Master's Events 2000/2001

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July 2000

- Installation Lunch
- Sheriffs and Records Fund AGM
- Presentation to Lord Mayor
- Conservancy Day
- St Michael's Church, Cornhill
- Buckingham Palace Garden Party
- Maidstone Sea Cadets Annual RN Inspection

September 2000

- Company of Firefighters Dinner
- Cranfield University
- Globe Theatre
- Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators Lecture
- Rehearsal for Lord Mayors Show
- Autumn Lunch
- Worshipful Company of Glaziers Cocktail Party
- Modern Companies Dinner
- Election of Lord Mayor

October 2000

- Ironbridge in the City Exhibition
- Worshipful Company of Plaisterers Dinner
- Worshipful Company of Horners Dinner

- Worshipful Company of Lightmongers Lunch
- Worshipful Company of Feltmakers Installation Dinner
- Worshipful Company of Fuellers Dinner
- Launch of Company Cutter
- Lord Mayor's Reception for the Royal Engineers
- Business Lunch
- City & Guilds of London Institute Dinner

November 2000

- Remembrance Day Service - St Pauls
- Worshipful Company of Barbers Dinner
- Worshipful Company of Horners Lecture
- Lord Mayor's Show
- Remembrance Day Service - Merchant Navy Memorial
- Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects Lecture
- Annual Banquet
- Meeting with British Water
- Festival of St Cecilia - St Pauls
- Meeting with Lord Mayor
- Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Dinner

December 2000

- Master's Lunch
- Carol Service
- Meeting with Worshipful Company of Plumbers
- Worshipful Company of Cutlers Dinner
- Carol Service - St Mary at Hill Church

January 2001

- City Livery Club Lunch
- 100+ Club Dinner
- Letters Patent Lunch
- Company of Tax Advisers Drinks
- Worshipful Company of Plumbers Lecture

February 2001

- Winter Lunch
- Worshipful Company of Constructors Dinner

- Company of Watermen & Lightermen Exhibition
- March 2001**
- Worshipful Company of Actuaries Lecture
- Worshipful Company of Plaisterers 500th Anniversary
- Business Lunch
- Maidstone Sea Cadets Affiliation Dinner
- Modern Companies Dinner (Thames Warden)
- Shoals of Capricorn Dinner
- Lord Mayors Dinner
- United Guilds Service and Lunch

April 2001

- Honourable Company of Master Mariners Lunch
- CIWEM Annual Dinner
- Company of Watermen & Lightermen Lunch
- Worshipful Company of Engineers Livery Dinner
- Election Court Lunch
- Worshipful Company of Coopers 500th Anniversary

May 2001

- Company Visit to Mansion House
- Visit to City of London Freemen's School
- Sons of the Clergy Service at St Pauls Cathedral
- Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners Lunch
- Green Business Awards Meeting
- Meeting with President of CIWEM

June 2001

- Tudor Pull
- Shoals of Capricorn Lunch
- Cricket at the Oval
- Weekend Visit to Ironbridge
- Worshipful Company of Brewers Annual Dinner
- Company Golf Day
- Election of Sheriffs
- Worshipful Company of Plaisterers Gala Banquet
- Installation Court Lunch



About the new Walbrook Warden

Marion Carter has a first class honours degree in Geology and Chemistry from the University of Aston in Birmingham and a PhD awarded by the same establishment following three years research into the geochemistry of liquid waste disposal. She is a Chartered Geologist and a Chartered Chemist, a Fellow of the Geological Society, a Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a Fellow of the Institute of Wastes Management and a Fellow of the Institute of Quarrying.



Dr Marion Carter

Apart from a two year period in the 1970s spent as a Water Quality Officer with Seven Trent Water Authority she has spent her whole career as a consultant providing advice to the waste, minerals and other industries. She founded M J Carter Associates in 1983. With the ever increasing interest in the environment the company is now one of the largest privately owned environmental consultancies.

Marion has always taken an active interest in professional issues and has sat on the Councils of the Geological Society and the Institute of Geology. She has been a member of the Board of ESA the Waste Trade Association for many

years and at various times has been the Chairman of the Training Committee, the Planning Committee and the Public Affairs Committee. She has been a member of the NERC Council and is currently on the Board of the British Geological Survey. Recently she was invited to join the DTI Small Business Council.

Her interests include reading, walking and horse riding. She has a small herd of pedigree suckler cattle.



The Clerk's Column

The Clerk's Column is a new idea promoted by the Court that will hopefully allow the Clerk, with your assistance, to communicate with the membership. The object being that we together can address different issues relating to the activities of the Company. The Company after all is not just the Master, Wardens and Court, it is the Membership, Liverymen and Freemen alike and therefore your views and opinions are crucial.

Earlier this year with the knowledge that all the members of the Court were on email, with the Court's approval I started sending all Court correspondence out in a digital format. This new innovation has proved not only a great success but it has also reduced administrative work and has proved cost effective. It is hoped very shortly to extend this facility to the membership as a whole, either via email or by a password facility to the Company's Website and therefore with this in mind a questionnaire will be circulated to you all very shortly.

There has been a feeling for some time that some of our events could be cheaper and this unfortunately is due to location. In other words because the majority of our events

take place in the City, we are dictated by City prices. We have tried cheaper more cost effective events but surprisingly they have not been well supported! I therefore invite suggestions from you all as to future events either of a social or more formal nature, possibly near to where you live (preferably outside the Capital) for consideration. This after all is your Company and the Court and myself believe that this should not be an exclusive Company.



Ralph Riley

For your information the current events are listed on page 7 for not only the remainder of 2001 but also for the greater part of 2002 as it stands at the present time. Any ideas that you have to offer, I would be more than delighted to hear about. Likewise if you have an article to offer for future editions of the Conservator please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Ralph A Riley
Clerk**



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The Company's Barge Master

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The Barge Master David Latham is well known to many members of the Company through his long career in the water industry, with South West Water and then with Anglian Water, where he held various Directorships in both the UK and International businesses. But it is perhaps not so widely known that he has also had a very successful rowing career over many years.



David Latham

While still at school he participated in events on the River Dee, amongst other achievements stroking Kings School, Chester 1st VIII to victory in the 1961 North of England Head of the River Race. Going on to Kings College, London to take his degree in civil engineering he stroked the University of London Boat Club 1st VIII to victory in many races from 1962 to 1964 and represented Great Britain in the World Championships IV-1962 and the European Championships VIII-1963. He started coaching in 1966 and had crews winning such events as the Henley Grand Challenge Cup and also participating in the 1968 Olympic Games, From 1983 on-

wards he stroked various veteran crews on both the Dart and the Cam, and is currently Assistant Treasurer of the Cambridge University Boat Club and a member of the executive committee. (In providing us with details for this short account of his career he did not omit to mention that Cambridge beat Oxford this year!)

David has taken a keen interest in the Company's Cutter "Water Forget-me-not" since the inception of the idea, and has already played a major role in the initial kitting-out, arranging crewing, securing practical storage arrangements and in negotiating for the Cutter's use in training youngsters. We wish him well in this very worthwhile and appropriate extension of the Company's activities and interests.

The Company's Cutter- Water Forget-me-not

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After a winter hibernating in Mark Edward's Boathouse at Richmond the Cutter was ceremonially kitted out and took part in our first event, the now traditional Tudor Pull on Sunday 3rd June 2001.

Between outings the Cutter will be stowed with Cory Environmental of Riverside, Charlton, London SE7, who are located midway between the Dome and the Thames Barrier. It will be stored in a secure barn in a locked compound or in a wet dock if there is a short time interval between the Cutter's outings. Corys are not making any charge for stowage, but the Company will make a suitable donation to the Philip Henman Foundation, a Company of Watermen & Lightermen charity endowing 'after school' education among port transport workers.

The next outing of the Cutter will be in the Great River Race on Saturday September 15th from Ham House in Richmond to Greenwich. This is a handicap race with over 200 craft taking part and starts at 12.30pm. We expect the Cutters to start at 1.30pm arriving in Greenwich at 4.00pm. This is an event in which we can sponsor our crew and so raise money for a Company charity. We are entering the Lord Mayor's Regatta on Monday September 24th. Cory's have very kindly offered to sponsor our cutter in this Regatta which is being held to raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal 2001 in support of Barts Cancer Centre of Excellence. Cutters will board from Tower Pier from 5.00pm onwards and will proceed upstream at 5.30pm accompanied by the Lord Mayor in a Port of London Authority launch. At 6.30pm Cutters will race from the start at HQS Wellington to the finish at Fishmongers Hall. Each Cutter will be separately timed. Finally we hope to row the Master to the Globe on the occasion of our visit there on the Wednesday 12th September.

We are in the process of finding suitable schools in Greenwich who we hope will use the Cutter as a means of introducing girls and boys to the ancient art of rowing on the River Thames and we are making arrangements with the Maidstone Sea Cadets for them to row the Cutter from time to time.

We are also establishing a Committee to manage the use of the Cutter, to ensure it meets the objectives of the Company and is properly maintained. Will any keen boater, oarsman or sailor who is interested please contact the Company Barge Master David Latham or the Assistant Barge Master David Cowie.

**David Latham
Barge Master**





EVENTS 2001/2002

Michaelmas Lunch

Culters' Hall
19th September 2001

Election of Lord Mayor

The Guildhall
1st October 2001

Business Lunch

The Counting House
31st October 2001

Annual Dinner

Vintners' Hall
7th November 2001

**Joint Carol Service
(with the Feullers Company)**

St Michael's Cornhill
5th December 2001

Divine Service

St Michael's Cornhill
25th January 2002

Myddleton Lunch

Merchant Taylors' Hall
25th January 2002

**Joint Lecture
(with the Plumbers Company)**

Inst of Electrical Engineers
31st January 2002

Business Lunch

The Counting House
TBA

United Guilds Service

St Paul's Cathedral
15th March 2002

Election Court/Lunch

TBA
25th April 2002

Golf Day

Ellesborough
19th June 2002

Election of Sheriffs

Guildhall
24th June 2002

Maidstone Sea Cadets Formally Affiliated

As a result of the Water Conservators becoming affiliated with HMS SCOTT, a link was established with the branch of the Sea Cadet Corps who support and are supported by the Ship. The branch in question is the Maidstone Sea Cadets, otherwise known as T.S.SCOTT ("Training Ship" SCOTT).

However no formal affiliation with the Sea Cadets had ever been made. The Master decided that this must be put right and the Court of Assistants approved his recommendation that a formal affiliation should be established. Accordingly an Affiliation Document was prepared by Past Master Roy Harris and formally presented by the Master to the Commanding Officer of the Maidstone Sea Cadets, Lt Peter Lewis RNR, at a most enjoyable Affiliation Dinner. This was held on 17th March 2001 at the Unit Headquarters in Maidstone.



When presenting the Document the Master spoke of the excellent work carried out by Lt Lewis and his Officers and Instructors in the training and development of young people. He was pleased that the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators had been able to assist the Unit in a number of ways, especially in the recent search for new moorings along the River Medway. The Company was also pleased to fund an Annual Berth on

T.S.ROYALIST for the holder of the 'Best Cadet of the Year' prize. The Water Conservators greatly value their affiliation with the Maidstone Sea Cadets.



In reply Lt Lewis said how pleased the Unit was to be affiliated with the Company. He thanked the Master and the Company for their much-needed help and support. It was greatly appreciated and he hoped that the affiliation would go from strength to strength in the future.

The Master also took the opportunity to present the prize certificate for 'Best Cadet of the Year 2000' to Able Cadet Keiron Crosbie.



Also present were Past Masters Bruce Hewett and Roy Harris with their wives; Lt Jason Aldwick RN (representing the Captain of HMS SCOTT); Lt Deirdre Lorimer RNR (under whose direction the cadets prepared a first-class meal); CPO Andrew Lorimer RNR; POs Pauline and Mick Austin-Morgan; PO Samantha Forde; Civilian Instructor Bill Christie and Administrative Officer Eila Tucker.



Company *events*

Golf Day

On the 20th June, in glorious sunshine occasionally broken by a few high clouds the Water Conservators and their guests took to the fairways of Ellesborough Golf Club intending to break all records. As usual they failed because of those cruel borrows on those immaculate greens. Nevertheless some reasonable scores were achieved with the Master Mr Nick Paul leading the way. We were indebted to Tony Nockles for organising the event as he has done for the last three years and wish him well in recovery from a nasty bug he picked up which ruined his day.

As well as the Master who took home the Bill Smith Cup we congratulate Doug Smith on winning the Dewplan Trophy and indeed all who took part in this important annual event.

We were delighted that Jean Jones who was attending for the first time featured on the prize list, taking over the family mantle from David who had a bad day on the greens.

After a convivial evening the Master presented with panache the prizes, including that donated by himself to the winner of the Dewplan trophy.

In all aspects a splendid day.

The prize winners were:

A M Team competition

Nick Paul	20 pts
Ted Horlick	14 pts
Judy Paul	13 pts

Guest winner	John Lawrence	34 pts
Runner up	Jean Jones	33 pts
Third place	Peter Coxall	25 pts

Dewplan Trophy

Doug Smith		31 pts
Runner up	Roger North	29 pts
Third place	Chris Shirley	28 pts

Nearest the pin Judy Paul

Bill Smith Cup Nick Paul 53 pts



Past Master Chris Shirley presenting the trophy to the Master Nick Paul

To round off the evening Ken Piddington distributed at random some knick-knacks left over from the prize giving.

We look forward to next year when the Water Conservator's Golf day will be at ELLESBOROUGH on WEDNESDAY the 19th JUNE 2002

The Master visits HMS SCOTT

On 19th July HMS SCOTT docked at Swansea after a long stint overseas. The following evening an Official Reception was held on board by the Commanding Officer,

Commander Jamie McMichael-Phillips RN, for the Lord Mayor of Swansea (the Ship is affiliated to the City) and our Master, Peter English MBE, and his wife plus other dignitaries.

The Master was accompanied by Past Master Bruce Hewett and his wife as well as Lieutenant Peter Lewis RNR and Lieutenant Deirdre Lorimer RNR of the Maidstone Sea Cadets. In spite of torrential rain all evening, the Reception was thoroughly enjoyed under cover by the 60 or so guests.

The next day the Master and his wife were shown round the Ship, always a worthwhile and very interesting experience in view of HMS SCOTT's high tech capabilities. The possibility of an official visit to the Ship by a party from the Water Conservators later this year was discussed with the Commanding Officer. He is certainly keen to organise such a visit - subject to operational commitments and the Ship staying long enough in port!

Our thanks are due to Jamie McMichael-Phillips and his officers for the kind invitations to the Reception and for their generous hospitality.

The Election Court Lunch

The Election Court Lunch was held at Tallow Chandlers' Hall on 25th April 2001. The Principal Guest was Sir David Howard, Bt (The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor), who was accompanied by the Aldermanic

Sheriff, Mr Richard Agutter, and the Brigadier Neill O'Connor, The City Marshal. Other Company guests included the Masters of the Engineers' Company (and his Clerk), the Fuellers' Company and the Information Technologists' Company.

The Lord Mayor replied to the silent Civic Toast (which was given by the Master) and proposed the Toast to the Company. The Master replied on behalf of the Company and was able to announce the results of the election of Officers for 2001/02, (Prof Gerald Noone - Thames Warden, Dr Kevin Bond - Fleet Warden & Dr Marion Carter - Walbrook Warden). The Master also welcomed Frank Jones and Alan Paxton who had been Clothed in the Livery at the Court Meeting earlier. He concluded by presenting the Lord Mayor with a copy of the Company's "The History So Far!" plus a cheque towards the Lord Mayor's Appeal (the Bart's Cancer Centre of Excellence). Alderman Richard Agutter replied on behalf of the Guests.

The Tudor Pull

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In days of yore a common means of transport around London particularly up to the Royal Palaces at Richmond and Hampton Court was by boat on the River Thames not forgetting their use as ferries to cross the river. The small one-man wherries were used in the same way as the taxicabs of today. The larger and usually privately owned boats were rowed by watermen and could have up to eight men rowing in the Royal Barge, for minor Royals, six and for the lessor rich mortals, four. These more elaborate boats were called shallops and were the equivalent to a present day fast limousine. The great livery barges were used for entertaining and in the great river pageants of the City.

The monarch had the most splendid of the fast shallops with appointed men to row and crew it. The Queen today still has 24 Royal Watermen with a Barge Master to organise their ceremonial duties. The advent of the train, motor car and the many bridges across the Thames gradually lead to the demise of this form of transport, but as late as 1914 the Royal Barge would convey King George V and Queen Mary from Henley Station to the Royal Regatta Enclosure.

Over the years use of the rowed shallop even for ceremonial occasions gradually ceased and nowadays when the Queen travels on the River Thames she does so still in a craft called a Royal Barge but it is mechanically propelled. However she is still accompanied by her Barge Master and Watermen in ceremonial dress as a guard of honour. It was after one of these occasions that the Duke of Edinburgh asked one of the Royal Watermen, Kenny Dwan, elder brother of John, could he actually row. History does not record Kenny's reply but as a former Olympic single sculler in the 1968 and 1972 Games his response can be imagined!

This incident stirred the Company of Watermen and Lightermen to action. The outcome was a ceremonial row from Hampton Court to the Tower of London. This event generated so much publicity and interest that it was decided to hold it annually and it is now known as The Great River Race. But the Royal Watermen are not allowed to race - too undignified, so a second event was started which would be a ceremonial row. It was at this time that the Water Conservators became involved.

The purpose of this second event was to draw attention to better use of London's river and to raise

money for charity. To give extra emphasis to the wide usage of the river the Water Conservators present at Hampton Court a 'Water Stele' to the Royal Barge Master for his Royal Watermen to convey to the City. A stele is an upright slab or pillar bearing a sculptured design or an inscription usually commemorating some event or someone's life.



The Water Conservators stele takes the form of a section of an elm water pipe containing a model boat and mounted on a plaque. The idea of a stele came from an event in the 1980's when a replica of a Greek Trireme (a 35 metre long wooden craft rowed by 200 oarsmen in three banks) was rowed up the River Thames to the Palace of Westminster in celebration of 2500 years of democracy to present to Parliament a stele commemorating this event. So was born the Tudor Pull. It is held annually in June and each year attracts more cutters.

This year the Master was on board from Richmond to the Globe, so we were flying our 'Master on Board' flag from our stern mast. Unfortunately our pennant wasn't ready. It is hoped to have it ready for our next event in July. John Dwan a former Doggets winner in 1977 and GB international oarsman organised and stroked the four-man crew.

Members of the Company and their

wives enjoyed a fine day on the River Thames as spectators. Together with members of the Watermen and Lightermen's Company, they embarked on the Silver Dolphin from the Globe Pier in time for a leisurely lunch during which they were conveyed down river for a short distance before proceeding up river to meet the Queen's Barge and its escorts at Putney.



The Master being rowed down river

The event continues to gather support with nine escorting cutters including the Fishmongers Company, the Glaziers Company and Trinity House. The Lord Mayor of Westminster joined the spectators for the latter part of the event and in his presence our Master, Nick Paul, carried out the concluding ceremony of handing over the 'Stele' for safe keeping for another year.

Members do please come along to the events we take part in and support our Cutter. The Tudor Pull in particular is a great day out for spouses and families.

Installation Lunch

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This year's Installation Lunch was held at Merchant Taylors' Hall on 4th July 2001. The Principal Guest was Mr Alderman Michael Oliver who is currently the Senior Alderman below the Chair and therefore his name will be going forward at Common Hall on the 1st October for the Election of Lord Mayor for the year ensuing.

Alderman Michael Oliver proposed the toast to the Company and the newly installed Master of the Company, Mr Peter English, MBE responded on behalf of the Company and also proposed the Toast to the Guests. He paid tribute to the contribution made by the previous Master, Nick Paul, who had been earlier installed as Deputy Master and welcomed the 3 new Wardens (Prof Gerald Noone - Thames Warden, Dr Kevin Bond - Fleet Warden and Dr Marion Carter - Walbrook Warden). He also welcomed 3 new Court Assistants (Ken Clarke, Peter Matthews and Hugh Speed) and the new Bailiff (Jane Plant). He concluded by introducing Peter Smith, who had been clothed in the Livery, and Karen Morgan and Ken Idle, who had been installed as Freeman, at the Court Meeting earlier in the day.

Conservancy Day Mansion House

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The 14th July is an important date in the Company's calendar as it marks the anniversary of the day when in 1197 King Richard I sold the conservancy of the River Thames to the Corporation of London.



The Master presenting the Jug to the Lord Mayor

To mark this event, the Master accompanied by the Clerk and the Clerk Emeritus went to the Mansion House and presented to Sir David Howard, Bt (The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor) an engraved glass jug containing Thames water.



NEW MEMBERS

Colin Brade
Process Engineer
Monsal Ltd

Eric Coombes
Head of Water Resources
High-Point Rendel

Ken Idle
Managing Director
Lancashire Fittings Ltd

Alan Paxton
Business Development Director
MJ Gleeson

Peter Smith
Chief Executive
Biwater Plc

HONORARY FREEMEN

Hugh Millais

Col Mike Reynolds

MEMBERS IN HONOURS LISTS

Ed Gallagher - CBE

Mike Garrett - MBE

John Hills - MBE

Port of London Challenge

.....
In its first race on Thursday 19th July the "Water Forget-me-Not" handsomely won the Port of London Challenge in the fast time of 17 minutes and 30 seconds over the three-mile course with the runner up being some two minutes behind (ie the best part of 600 yards).

The race was rowed from London Bridge to HQS Wellington at the Temple and back. There were 11 entries starting in two ranks five minutes apart and each crew is separately timed. "Water Forget-me-Not" started in the second rank and had caught crews in the first rank by the turn (the halfway point). Our crew was ably coxed by Graham Smith stroked by Johnny Dwan with support from David McArthur, Robert Dwan, Dean Barlow, Peter Hammond and Liam Carns. Our passenger was Xanthe Dwan, daughter of Johnny. Most of the crew were from Poplar Blackwall and District Rowing Club. Our big fear on the night was the crew from Westminster School rowing for the Fishmongers but in the end they were a hollow threat.

Our next race will be the 22-mile Great River Race and Water Forget-me-Not will be crewed by young apprentice watermen.

Conservancy Day Crow Stones

This year, the Court had decided that the Conservancy Day celebration should be on 12th July 2001 and marked by a visit to the Crow Stones, which mark the historic limits of the conservancy of the Thames at the mouth of the river. The intention was to view the remaining original stone that is now located in Prittlewell Park at Southend-on-Sea, followed by a visit to the replacement stone at Chalkwell beach and then a boat trip to view the remaining stone on the south side of the estuary.

The Master was accompanied by his wife, together with the Clerk and his wife and the Clerk Emeritus and immediate Past Master and his wife and members of the court and company some of whom were accompanied by their wives. We

assembled at Porters, which is the Civic House and Mayor's Parlour for the borough of Southend-on-Sea. The visit to Porters and the Crow Stones was hosted by Councillor Howard Briggs, the Worshipful Mayor of Southend-on-Sea, and the Mayoress. Prior to the visits, refreshment was provided at Porters. During discussions with the Mayor, I discovered that he had been educated at Westcliff High School for boys, prior to attending university to become a dentist. As I was also educated at the same school, but five years earlier than the Mayor, we spent some time down memory lane recalling teachers and events that united us. We also discovered that the Clerk Emeritus and other members of the Company had strong links to the High School and others had also been pupils.

Although the weather had improved on the day of the visit, the trip by boat across the estuary had to be abandoned due to a strong wind and rough sea. The trip was replaced, at the Mayor's invitation, by a conducted tour of Porters.



The original Crow Stone in Prittlewell Park

The planned visit to Prittlewell Park, to see the original Crow Stone, was enhanced by the opportunity to visit

the remains of the old priory and walled flower gardens adjacent to the Crow Stone. The park, gardens and old priory are very well maintained and well worth the visit. The Crow Stone was, however, not so well preserved. It was very difficult to decipher the words carved into the stone, which has been exposed to the weather for over 500 years. We all agreed that a plaque was needed to explain the origins of the Crow Stone and its significance to the River Thames and the City of London. The Master agreed to support the concept of a plaque being provided, subject to the approval of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.



Members by the Crow Stone on the beach at Chalkwell

We were then taken by coach to the sea front at Chalkwell, a suburb of Southend-on-Sea, to inspect the replacement Crow Stone. Fortunately, the tide was out so that we were able to walk across the sand and inspect the Crow Stone, which is located about 50 metres seaward of the beach. A brass plaque has been attached to the Stone in order that the inscription on the stone can still be read, although the original wording is well weathered. Although the weather was changeable, with short heavy showers, we managed to make both

visits during periods of bright sunshine, which the Mayor assured us was typical of the estuary.

We returned to Porters for an excellent lunch, hosted by the Mayor and the Mayoress. After lunch, the Master presented the Mayor with an inscribed cut-glass jug on behalf of the Company to commemorate our visit and he invited the Mayor and the Mayoress to join us next year when we plan to visit the Stones, which mark the upstream historic boundary of the Thames Conservancy. The mayor was delighted to accept our invitation and those of us with strong links to Southend-on-Sea look forward to further opportunities to travel down memory lane.



Water jug presented to the Mayor of Southend-on-Sea

After lunch, we were given an excellent guided tour of Porters, accompanied by the mayor and the Mayoress. The original house dates from the late 15th century, but has been significantly extended over the years to provide increased accommodation for its owners. Since it was purchased by the former Southend-on-Sea Corporation in 1932, it has been refurbished to its original form by removal of some dividing walls. Prior to its acquisition, it had

remained a private residence for nearly four hundred years. In 1506, it was sold to William Browne, son of Sir John Browne, Lord Mayor of the City of London in 1513. The house and buildings with the estate, which at that time extended to the shore of the estuary, were purchased in 1868 by Mr James Heygate. His son, Sir William Heygate, was Lord Mayor of London in 1822. The present house, together with one acre of land, was purchased in 1912 by Sir Charles Nicholson who remained in residence until he sold the house to the Corporation. The house has had many notable guests, including Benjamin Disraeli in 1833 and 1834. The present house is very well maintained and contains many of the treasures of the Borough Council.

**Arthur G Boon
Court Assistant**

The Charitable Trust Fund

The Trust continues to provide support for individuals and their dependents from the water industry. A major focus this year has been to expand the number of beneficiaries of the trust. The Clerk has therefore been investigating other benevolent organisations who may have links with former professionals from the water industry. Some progress has been made.

During the year we have had continuing commitments of £2,242 on a regular basis and have donated £500 to the British Legion, and £500 to SSAFA. We have also made two further payments of £190 and £1,700. The fund continues to be robust and at the end of the year is worth approximately £152,000. The fund increased overall by £3,000 as a result of our investment income

and interest earned.

We will continue to increase the number of people we can help, and increase our income and efficiency. This year we have only had one meeting, the rest of the business being conducted by phone and email.

We are also considering changing the name of the trust to make it more acceptable to those applying for assistance. Anyone with any bright ideas please contact Lorna Walker - so far we have only had one suggestion!

The Water Conservation Trust

The Trust has recently provided funds for the following :-

- Shoals of Capricorn Project
- Water Champions Venture
- National Curriculum Website
- SEMAT Programme
- University of East London
- Place on CIWEM Young Members Study Tour for Military Works Force
- Tony Drake Scholarship
- Company's Thames Cutter
- The Lord Mayor's initiative on "Conservation"

The Trust has agreed to fund a pilot educational project with schools. The aim is for schools to have Water Conservation projects with prizes given by the Trust. It is hoped that each school will have to aid them a Member of the Company who lives near or is linked to them through their family. These Members will be known as "School Water Conservators". This pilot will start at the commencement of the school year.