

2015 MICHAELMAS COURT LUNCH AT TRINITY HOUSE

The Michaelmas Court Lunch on 14 September 2015 saw a welcome return to the very elegant surroundings of Trinity House. The light and airy reception and banqueting rooms with magnificent views of the Tower of London and surrounds are hard to follow in the City.



*The Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin
& Sandra Williamson*

Following reception drinks, when members and guests were assembled in the dining room, the Master introduced our new Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, who proceeded to say Grace.

In a short diversion prior to the meal being served the Master presented a silver salver and bottle of Champagne to the Fleet Warden who had won the novelty dress prize in the inter Livery Pancake Race earlier in the year! We were then treated to an excellent lunch by The Cook and the Butler.

Following lunch the Thames Warden Keith Tozzi welcomed the guests. These included Stephen Hodkinson, Master Plumber, Paul Higgs, Master Launderer, Professor Tony Wilson, Master Scientific Instrument Maker and Murray Craig, Clerk of the Chamberlain's Cou

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*Tony Wilson, Paul Higgs
& Past Master Ivor Richards*



*Murray Craig &
Thames Warden Keith Tozzi*



*Carolyn Roberts &
Susan Jobling*

A special welcome was given to our guest speaker, Professor Susan Jobling, Director of the Institute for the Environment, Health and Societies at Brunel University. Susan's current research areas include exploring new methods and models to determine the safety of mixtures of industrial chemicals and how exposure to these chemicals may affect health and in particular reproductive health. Her work has influenced widespread controls on certain chemicals. Her passion for communicating scientific results and their interpretation to the lay public was evident in her subsequent speech. Keith then proposed the Toast with water to the Guests.

Susan welcomed the opportunity to speak to the Company about the role of Brunel University in engaging with the challenging problems of water. She spoke of the growing awareness and problem of endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals and illegal drugs finding their way into the aquatic environment, drinking water and the food chain. Through a multidisciplinary approach Brunel is aiming to reduce these pollutants through low cost engineering, energy and low tech treatment within households, possibly through toilet flush products or sustainable household water treatment.

Education is naturally a major role for Brunel and they aim to empower young people particularly to make change and be change makers through postgraduate training. Susan referred to the Masters level bursaries generously funded by the Water Conservation Trust and the opportunity for the Trust to contribute to the design of PhD projects.

Finally she spoke of the role of brokering relationships with the private and public sectors to bring about change. She would like to see Brunel's relationship with the Company evolve to include the possibility of it contributing to research and participating in workshops to establish the market for products that will save water and improve water quality. She was hopeful that "what started as a few drops of support could turn into a definite trickle or even a stream!" In conclusion she proposed the toast to the Company.



Responding, the Master, Peter Hall, thanked Susan for her speech. He said that Susan worked in an area which is an uphill struggle where dischargers and the regulatory system appear to conspire to ignore the results of research. He said that water companies are in a cleft stick, wanting to supply clean water and discharge safe waste water, but they are trailing in both commercial progress and the enormous capability of chemical analysis.

The Master also mentioned two sporting events in which the Company had participated. The first Lord Mayor's Go-kart event where a WET 10 team strongly supported by the Company came second and the Port of London Challenge which our ladies rowing team won by a huge distance even beating the Marshall's boat to the finishing line!

The Master spoke about the Trust's programmes with universities and schools and of the Trustees grateful thanks to WAMITAB and ESAET for their further donation of £100,000 for university bursaries.

The Master went on to introduce Stuart Herrity who was installed as a Freeman of the Company at the earlier Court Meeting and David Barrow, Richard Bennett, Bill Carmichael and Carolyn Roberts who were clothed in the Livery.



Stuart Herrity receives his Teardrop from the Master



Carolyn Roberts, David Barrow, Richard Bennett and Bill Carmichael being admitted to the Livery

In conclusion the Master referred to the collection following the previous lunch in July which was for the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Disney Trip. The collection raised enough money to sponsor our own cab taking terminally ill children on a three day visit to Disneyland.

The retiring collection which raised £750 was for the Water Conservation Trust.

Mike Williamson, Fleet Warden