

## **The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators Evening Reception at the House of Commons – 10 October 2007**

A most enjoyable evening was had by over 30 Members of the Company and their guests at the House of Commons on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Our host for the reception was the former City water analyst, Philip Hollobone MP, (who is now the Conservative Member of Parliament for Kettering but still retains an active interest in the sector) and our caterers the House of Commons Banqueting Department, (who were most attentive, providing a delicious selection of hot and cold canapés and making sure our wine glasses were never empty).

The Master warmly thanked Philip on behalf of the Company and, by way of introduction to the Minister, indicated that our aim was to be an influence for the good in the water environment.

Philip had kindly arranged for Phil Woolas MP and Minister of State for the Environment formally to welcome the Company to the Palace of Westminster and to speak for some minutes. Mr Woolas' speech highlighted the environmental issues facing us in the UK on the provision of water supply and the need for long term solutions - sentiments that resonated strongly with the assembled party. The formal part of the evening was then rounded off with an enthusiastic toast from the Minister to the Company ("Root and branch, may it flourish.")

Philip then proved himself to be a delightful guide and took us on tours around both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, providing most enjoyable anecdotal comments en route. It was a real treat for us all to be able to go on the floor of the House of Commons, the official business for the day having finished a little earlier, and we soaked up the incredible atmosphere - and also the theatre - of our historic surroundings.

All too soon the evening was over. But the most convivial company of our Members and their guests, coupled with the warm welcome from the Minister in such a fabulous setting made for an evening that many of us will remember for a long time to come.