

## MYDDELTON CELEBRATIONS

Our annual celebration of our grant of Livery in 2000 took place on 25 January. This we link to commemoration of Sir Hugh Myddelton, founder of the New River Company and, in 1613, the first person since Roman times to bring piped water to the city of London.

As usual and proper the day began with a Church Service, this year at St Giles Cripplegate. In this, Master, Wardens and Members of the Company dedicated themselves anew to the service of God, the City and the Company. In total over 50 attended and it was particularly good that Philip Fletcher, Chairman of OFWAT and our guest of honour at the Lunch, was able to join us for the Service and our subsequent procession to Ironmongers' Hall.



*Procession from St. Giles to  
Ironmongers' Hall forming up outside*

The Chaplain, though away from his beautiful home church, preached a fiery and inspiring sermon which by public demand has been posted on our web site.

Our Lunch was particularly well attended with a total of some 110 members and guests. This continues the strong trend in attendances at recent formal Company events. We were especially pleased to welcome Guy Myddleton, a direct descendant of Sir Hugh as a guest.

(Readers with an acute eye for detail will note that the conventional spelling of the Myddelton family

name has changed over the centuries; others may recollect the recent correspondence in the Company on the inconsistent spelling of family names in early centuries!). Other guests included David Rooke, President of CIWEM, Professor John Sumpter and Dr Mark Scrimshaw of Brunel University, and Brad Tucker our bursary student in Water Sciences at Oxford University.

During the lunch I was delighted to announce on behalf of our Charity, the Water Conservation Trust, a new three year bursary funding agreement with Brunel, the fourth university with which we have such an agreement. At the same time I formally launched our *Giving Company* appeal, to warm applause from a generous audience; our aim is for everyone to be giving regularly to the Water Conservation Trust, even if only a small amount.

Highlight of the event was Philip Fletcher's speech which focussed on Sir Hugh Myddelton and his New River Company. Philip set Sir Hugh's work in the context of current priorities in the water industry (and vice versa). He came up with many insights as a result of which Sir Hugh will be seen as a living predecessor of ourselves and not just as a shadowy founder figure. It was particularly good that Philip, arguably the most important single person in our industry, was able to spare time in the run up to the current Periodic Review, for such a fine speech and for staying on afterwards to talk to us individually.

It was after 4.30 pm when the final guests departed, a measure of how greatly the event was enjoyed.

Colin Drummond

Master