

Masters' Annual Reports



Marion Carter 2004 to 2005

The most important development to report in my year as Master is the granting to the Company of the Royal Charter of Incorporation. The Charter was presented to the Company by the Clerk to the Privy Council at a Reception at Goldsmiths' Hall on the 5 July 2005. This was a truly spectacular event attended by more than 300 people and a marvellous way to end my year as Master.

When I came into the Mastership I had as one of my objectives to extend our influence and increase awareness of the Company in the environmental community and in the city. The grant of the Royal Charter and in particular the reception at the Goldsmiths' Hall has raised our profile both in the city and with the professional environmental community. I know that the Company is working hard to exploit the opportunity that this has provided.

I was very grateful for the positive response to my appeal for charitable funds which exceeded expectations although more progress needs to be made by the Company in using these funds. I am sure that our new Master will accelerate progress.

There have been many interesting and enjoyable occasions during my year as Master. In particular I was able to see at first hand the activities of two of our military connections the Military Works Force and the AIDU at RAF Northolt. I was very disappointed not to be able to visit HMS Scott which has been involved in survey work in the Indian Ocean for the majority of my year of office. I particularly enjoyed the Trafalgar Day commemoration to which I was invited by the Maidstone Sea Cadets.

Another memorable experience was the journey by barge on the River Thames from Hampton Court to the Globe Theatre on the occasion of the Tudor Pull. The first half of the journey was in the Queens Shallop which being fitted with a canopy provided some degree of shelter against the elements it being a rather cold and wet morning. Fortunately the weather improved for the second part of the journey which was made in the Company Cutter, the Water Forget-me-not, which is a rather smaller craft in which you are not far from the water!

It has been most enjoyable and a great privilege to represent the Company in the city. I have been fortunate to enjoy the hospitality of a number of Livery Companies, to visit some magnificent halls and make some good friends with whom I shall certainly stay in touch.

Dr Marion Carter
Deputy Master