

# Myddelton Lunch

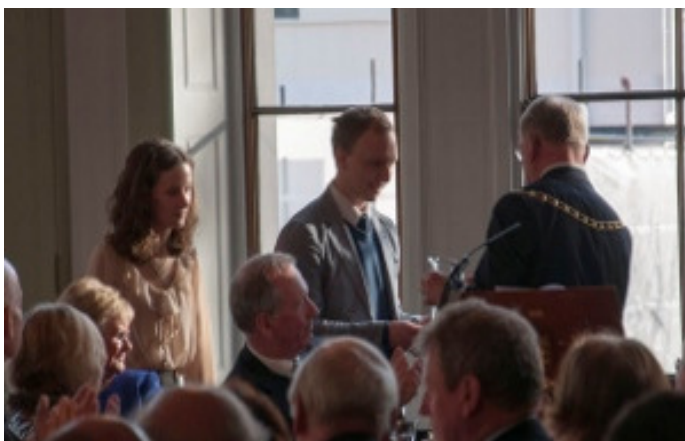
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

The lunch was preceded by a service conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin at St Mary-at-Hill to re-dedicate our Company Cross. The Master and court then processed to Trinity House.



This year the Myddelton Lunch celebrated the 15th anniversary of the grant of our Livery in 2000. The formation of our Company is down to the founder members who in 1988 formed the Guild. The Founder Master Mike McDowell and his successor Hugh Berridge have sadly passed away in the last 12 months but thankfully their legacy continues.

Our Principal Guest was Alderman Alan Yarrow, the 687<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor of the City of London, accompanied by The Lady Mayoress. The Lord Mayor's charity appeal (Mencap, Scope, The Royal Ballet School, the City and Guilds of London Art School and The Royal Academy of Arts) was boosted by a £1,000 cheque presented on behalf of the Company.



Rosanna Steadman from Queen Mary University London and Rory Cripps from Birmingham University were presented with a certificate, signed by the Master and an elegant glass jug suitably engraved.

Rosanna and Rory were winners of the *Water Conservators Dissertation Prize*, a prestigious award given for the best student that WCT support,

Other bursary students attending the lunch, included Lydia Dant and Gracey Remmington, both currently studying for a Master's degree in "Water Science, Policy and Management" at Wadham College, Oxford.

The Master welcomed guests including visiting Masters from World Traders and the Society of Young Freeman. Our most recent corporate member company - Ricardo AEA who kindly sponsored the lunch were also welcomed. We now have five Corporate Members in Huber, Aecom, Atkins, and Thames Water.



Our Principal Guest and speaker Lord Mayor Alderman Alan Yarrow firstly thanked the Master for the contribution to his Lord Mayor's Appeal. He then reflected that the Water Conservators are an engine for change in the water sector using insight and expertise to make water use more sustainable which, considering that London is now more populous than ever, means a lot of clean water and a lot of sanitation.



The Lord Mayor applauded us for working to make London sustainable and for our investment in education, so future generations have the skills to build on your foundations! He was particularly impressed that the Water Conservation Trust has raised and spent "a whacking great sum" of £245,000 since 2007 on bursaries and other support, with another £100,000 pencilled in over the next three years; all in support of students and institutions with links to the water, waste and environmental sectors.

He reminded us that City & Guilds is itself a Livery invention and with the UK flagging in STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and maths - all effort to shore up our sector is worth its weight in gold. The City and the UK are awash with opportunities in the STEM sectors, one of City's big successes is the establishment of the London Accord, which takes all the amazing research capacity in the City and harnesses it to explore environmental and social issues - like a long-range radar to spot upcoming hiccups - including the issue of water shortage.

The research so far has focused on four things:

One – people agree that the market is waking up to the fact that water resources affects business performance.

Two – the financial service sector has a role in providing the capital to fund critical infrastructure development. Including through environmental bonds.

Three – the insurance sector, in particular, has a big role to play in terms of changing people's behaviour. And,

Four – the potential development of water markets.

While not an expert, the Lord Mayor hoped they might be of interest to some of us and raised them to demonstrate the impact - and potential impact - of the City, helping people, society and the environment in a whole new way.

He indicated that projects such as the large offshore wind farm, London Array attracted hundreds of millions of pounds from Abu Dhabi and their commitment to investing in another wind farm off the coast of Norfolk. British environmental innovation makes people stand up and take notice. Our work with education, technology and social norms is helping the UK maintain its momentum right at the front of the environmental pack.

The Lord Mayor - a Liveryman of the Fishmongers' Company - concluded by giving the Master a fish cookery book, and to the Clerk, a long-handled coffee spoon topped with a very fishy-looking fellow.



The Master, Roger North responded by noting that the work of Water Conservators is very often related to eliminating or at least minimising the impact of naturally occurring disasters. In developing countries but also in the UK, we are not immune to the forces of nature with floods, storms and droughts.

"Water" remains a central environmental issue giving rise to considerable tensions and large parts of the world's population still do not have access to safe drinking water. The Master hoped that during the Lord Mayor's overseas visits he would have the opportunity to see some of the excellent work done by UK companies in our sector.

Finally the Master mentioned two historical links. First, the historic importance of the water conduits in this City didn't seem to have been recognised sufficiently, so our Past Masters initiated the provision of a Blue Plaque in Aldermanbury above the line of the "The Great Conduit" - the first public water supply into the City of London in 1237. Then in December last year we unveiled the second Blue Plaque (on the wall outside Tesco) to mark the Conduit's end in Cheapside, supplying the area around Guildhall.

In similar vein, he reminded us that the lunch takes its name from Sir Hugh Myddelton who in 1613 brought clean drinking water from the River Lea in Hertfordshire to London through an artificial 'New River' to the heart of the city at Clerkenwell.

With Court Assistant Nigel Cartright wielding the water carrier as deftly as ever - a retiring collection for the Treloar Trust which provides education, care, therapy, medical support and independence training to young people with physical disabilities raised in excess of £1,000 !