

Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Myddelton Lunch Report, 2017

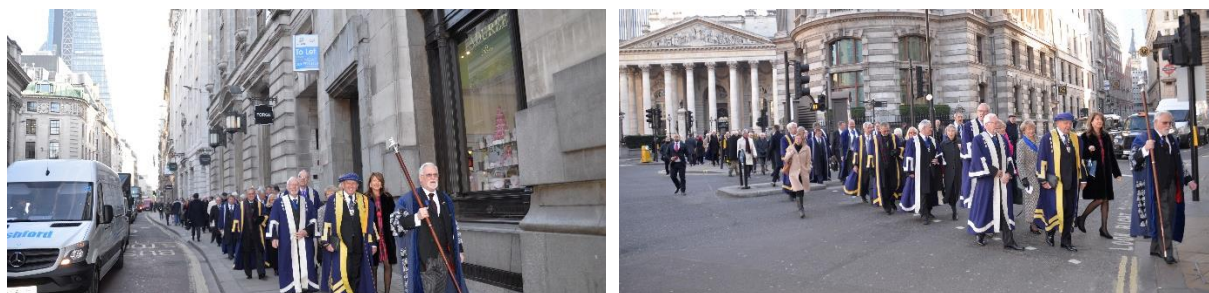


Once a year the Company celebrates the granting of Livery in the year 2000, which made the Water Conservators the 102nd Livery Company in the City. Before this celebration Company members also have the opportunity to attend a service in which the Company Cross is re-dedicated, this year at St Michael's, Cornhill, conducted by our Chaplain, the Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin who was supported by the Rector of St Michael's, the Rt Revd Dr Stephen Platten.



The Master, Wardens, Clerk and Beadle at the entrance to St Michael's, Cornhill

Following the Service, the Master, Wardens, Past Masters and Members of the Court processed, with some enthusiasm, in full regalia to the Mansion House. This caused considerable interest from passers-by who were intrigued by the whole event!



The Beadle leading the charge for lunch at Mansion House

The Myddelton Lunch is arguably our most prestigious event of the year and is attended by the Lord Mayor. The lunch is named after Sir Hugh Myddelton, who brought fresh drinking water to London by constructing the New River, which was completed in 1613, and still serves around 2 million people with fresh water. The Myddelton family crest is a wolf head, and forms part of our Company Crest.



Our Company has a close relationship with the Hugh Myddelton School in Islington and Court Assistant Rob Casey (who is a Governor of the school) arranged for a group of pupils to form a guard of honour for the Lord Mayor on his arrival and they played a specially written piece of music on their wide range of musical instruments.



The Lord Mayor, Court Assistant Rob Casey with pupils from Hugh Myddelton School,

This year in particular it was special as it was held at Mansion House, the residence of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley, who happens to be a member of our Company. After an excellent lunch in the beautiful Egyptian Room, the formal proceedings began.



The Master, Lord Mayor and Master's Consort, and Wardens, Clerk, Beadle, partners and principal guests





The Egyptian Hall, Mansion House, and 170 Water Conservators and guests.

Following on from the loyal toast and a toast to the Lord Mayor, the Master took the opportunity to welcome the guests and explain what a unique Lord Mayor we have this year – he comes from an unusual background being both an accomplished musician and teacher. Prior to proposing a toast to the guests, the Master presented the Lord Mayor with a cheque for £1,000 in support of his three charities for the year, and a leather covered copy of the Company's recently published History for the Period 2000-2015.



The Lord Mayor delivering his response with typical (for this Lord Mayor at least) humour.



The Master's final act for the event was to present Past Master Colin Bland with his certificate of Honorary Liveryman, a status previously bestowed on only two other people by the Company, and the first time from within the Company. Colin Bland has a long and successful history with the Water Conservators. He was first elected as a Court Assistant in 1989, was elected as Walbrook Warden in April 1995 and was installed as Master on 1st July 1998.

Following a very successful year as Master, he continued to give his time unstintingly for the Company. He edited the Company newsletter (The Conservator) for many years and served as Chairman of both the Past Master's Committee and our charity, The Water Conservation Trust, until his retirement in the autumn of 2016.

In recognition of this unique service, the Court at its meeting in December 2016, unanimously agreed to Colin's appointment as an Honorary Liveryman of the Company.



The Master presenting Past Master Colin Bland with his Certificate of Honorary Liveryman

A departing collection raised some £1,270 in support of Treloars, a charity of an earlier Lord Mayor, Sir William Treloar, who founded a hospital and school for sick children. Treloars today is a leading school for physically handicapped children.

Court Assistant David Richards

