

In Celebration of the Life of Past Master Ted Jackson

It was with much sadness that the Company learnt in November 2019 of the death at the age of 80, of Past Master Ted Jackson. Dr Edward William Jackson was Master Water Conservator in 1999/2000, the year in which the Company attained Livery Status and became the 102nd Livery Company in the City of London.

The Lord Mayor presented the Letters Patent to a very proud Ted, as the Master, at a very impressive ceremony at the Mansion House on 25th January 2000. The Clothing Ceremony held at the Guildhall on 15th March 2000 was a great success with 107 Freemen being clothed in the Livery. Ted established number of Committees to guide the new Livery Company through its early years and his influence is still strongly felt in the Company.

Ted's daughter Rebecca read a Eulogy at his funeral and the following is an abridged version that records and celebrates his life:

"Dad was a firm believer in bullet points so you will forgive me if I start in a way I know he would have approved:

A few of his many achievements

- Taking his A levels whilst not attending a school
- Attaining a PhD without having done a first degree or MSc
- Winning the Queens Award for Export
- Turning companies from loss to substantial profitability
- Running the London Marathon, many half marathons and completing Tough Guy – he was definitely one of those!
- Cycling the 56 miles from London to Brighton for the British Heart Foundation on his 3-gear basket bike
- Becoming a Master PADI Open Water diver
- Holding the role of The Master of The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators
- Passing his Advanced Driving test
- Still boxing and going to the gym on his 80th birthday

Born in 1939 in Hull, he moved to Doncaster in 1946 and his sister Elizabeth was born in 1947 during such a cold winter that he used to steal coke to keep them warm! His love of sport stayed with him all his life and he attended many sporting fixtures of rugby, cricket, football and athletics with the highlight being watching Jonny Wilkinson's drop goal to secure the England's win of the world cup in Australia. Perhaps it was for the best that he missed out on witnessing their defeat to South Africa on the 2nd November.

His love of animals began in 1947 when he was allowed by the circus tamer to take their tiger for a walk. It was soon after this that he bought his first dog Mickey from the market with half a crown he found on the ground in the car park. Later in life his very large black Labrador Jordan held a very special place in his heart but Bella along with Dylan and Jasmine shared many happy walks with him more recently in and around Minchinhampton.

In 1952 he moved to Keighley and it was at Keighley Technical School that a maths master was the first to recognise his incredible intellect. This man later persuaded Dad's mother to sign the forms to allow him to continue education after the age of 15, and searched the streets to find his father and ask him to sign his application for an apprenticeship to the CEGB. On day release from the CEGB he took his Ordinary National Certificate but realising that he could do more he self-taught and took A levels at the Keighley Girls Grammar school just to be different!

In 1957 at the tender age of 18 he married his beautiful wife Ann who he spotted wearing a yellow dress at The Church Youth Club. He was fully embraced into her family and had incredible love and respect for his mother in law who was instrumental in setting him up on his journey in life.

Whilst at Bradford Power Station he took his Higher National Certificate and Diploma in Chemical Engineering. He then applied for a CEGB scholarship for people who had not had the opportunity to go to University. Having had a number of Papers published he was awarded a PhD in 1966 without having taken a 1st degree or MSc.

It was at this time that the family, now with three small girls, moved to London and he started his first job in the private sector as Deputy Technical Director of Permutit. The start of a highly successful career. At the age of 32 he had his first role as Managing Director in South Africa where he turned around a loss making company. This career took him to Brazil, to Libya, Tokyo, America, Russia, China, Malaysia, Burma, Korea, The Philippines, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong. The travel bug stayed with him for the rest of his life and the family will cherish special memories of holidays around the world with Mum and Dad.

In 1980 he moved with Mum to Australia. A move he always said was a brilliant career move but perhaps one that was not so good for the family. On his return from Australia, after 5 years, he continued to work for Portals Water Treatment which was subsequently taken over by Thames Water and then moved to Reliance. He later formed his own companies and was privileged to hold the role of Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators, after which he co-wrote a book called Sweet and Wholesome Water.

In 2000 he suffered a terrible accident in which he was stung by over 100 wasps leaving him having to regain his mental capabilities. Through sheer strength and determination and exceptional support from mum, family and friends he began the process of retraining his brain and rebuilding his life and entered what mum aptly calls their 20 bonus years. And he certainly made

the most of these. He spent many happy years living in Tehidy Cornwall near family and later moved to Minchinhampton where he and mum were so warmly welcomed into the most wonderful community.

Despite all of these wonderful achievements, to us his family and his friends his biggest gift was the love and support that he gave to each and every one of us. His love of his wife over their 62 years of marriage showed no limits. He was the most amazing father and father in law. His ability to connect with each of his grandchildren and great grand children on topics and interests closest to their hearts was second to none. He was always generous with his time, money and love and shared with us all his passion for life.

We celebrate the life of a man so dearly loved by so many. He will be sadly missed.”

