

## **Masters' Annual Reports**



### **Roger Hewitt 2010 to 2011**

It has been a great honour and a pleasure to serve the Company as your Master for the past year.

It has been a very active and interesting year during which I have represented the Company officially on over 110 occasions, ranging from church services, lunches and dinners, to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, the presentation of the Water Jug to the Lord Mayor at Mansion House, an inter-livery pancake race in Guildhall Yard, the Battle of Britain commemorative reception and fly-past at RAF Northolt, a visit to HMS Scott in Plymouth, an Engagement Day at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, the Tudor Pull, the departure of the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Magical Taxi Tour 2010, a visit to the Sea Cadets in Maidstone and a visit to the City Freemen's School in Ashted, Surrey to attend the pupils' prize-giving.

The white tie banquet at the Mansion House for the Lord and Lady Mayoress to meet the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the Livery Companies was a splendid affair, as were the Plumbers' Company and Information Technologists' dinners at Mansion House.

The Company's Annual Banquet at Stationers' Hall, the First Annual Livery Dinner at Brewers' Hall and the Master's Dinner at the House of Lords were also memorable occasions which I hope will be continued in future years as they are keystones of the Company's calendar.

My speakers included Liveryman Vic Cocker; Chairman of Ofwat, Philip Fletcher; Chaplain, Rev Dr Peter Mullen; former Lord Mayor and Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir David Brewer; the Earl of Arran; and Master Engineer, John Banyard.

I was especially pleased that the Lady Mayoress, Barbara Bear, was able to attend the Myddelton Lunch and to give a very entertaining address on her life in South Africa and her interest in water supply in Southern Africa.

I was a guest at a number of other Livery company and City functions, including several interesting lectures and tours. The Company reciprocated by inviting the Masters and Clerks of other Livery companies to our functions.

Company social events included the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London, a tour of the Old Bailey, a theatre trip to the Globe and a sponsored walk in aid of the WCT Bario Project.

My first engagement of the year was the Port of London Challenge, the first of several actually on the river. I am indebted to our Bargemaster, John Dwan, and the ladies from the Poplar Rowing Club, who are always so willing to crew the Company's cutter, the Water Forget-me-Not, and to do us proud on such occasions.

I attended a number of services at St Paul's, including the United Guilds' Service, the Musicians' Company Evensong, the Loriners' Company 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, the 357<sup>th</sup> Festival of the Sons of the Clergy and the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the Cathedral. I was also pleased to attend services at the Company's own church, St Michael's, Cornhill, including the Carol Service and New Year Service, the Consecration of the Bells, the Celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Chaplain, Peter Mullen, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible and the Company's Patronal Service.

The Company remains very active within the WET 10 and there was a discussion dinner in March at Glaziers' Hall with a very constructive debate prompted by speakers the Earl of Selborne and Sir Peter Mason.

An important objective of the Company is awareness of the heritage of water. In that context, Alderman Andrew Parmley, in the presence of our Court, unveiled a Blue Plaque to commemorate the site of the Conduit in Aldermanbury, serving the area of Guildhall. This plaque was the fruit of intense work by Past Master, Ted Flaxman, who is now moving on to a Blue Plaque to commemorate the Great Conduit in Cheap.

I was pleased to attend two meetings of the Past Masters' Committee and the Founder Members' Lunch at Butchers' Hall. The Past Masters are a key part of the foundation of the Company and I am grateful for their support and advice during my year.

No Master's year can be complete without the customary weekend visit to Ironbridge. Some 90 Companies gathered there in June and it was a unique opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones within the Livery movement.

Speaking of old friends, I must mention with great sadness the passing of Founder Member and Past Master, Chris Shirley, and Liverymen Keith Court and Mike Healey. They will be greatly missed.

On the financial front, the Company was to have been in deficit for the year, but I have been pleased, personally, to cover this shortfall and to place the Company in a cash-neutral position going forward.

Additionally, I am pleased to have been able to secure two matching donations of £50,000 each to the Water Conservation Trust from the Waste Management Industry Training & Advisory Board (WAMITAB) and the Environmental Services Association Education Trust

(ESAET). These donations are to be used to fund bursaries for MSc students and associated research projects at universities. The WCT will work with WAMITAB and ESAET to identify suitable candidates and projects.

Charitable giving is a fundamental part of the purpose of the Livery Company and movement and we are all rightly grateful for the work undertaken by the Water Conservation Trust. The development of WCT support for student bursaries and involvement in environmental projects with schools and other bodies is the practical example of the charitable function.

Our Company, being a young modern Company, has not yet accrued a large amount of regalia. I was therefore pleased to be able to present to the Mistress Water Conservator at the Installation Lunch on 6 July a jewel to be handed on each year to the partner of the newly installed Master.

Finally, I am grateful for the support of the Court, the Wardens, the Beadle, the Bargemaster and my Bailiff and, of course, all the Livery. The Master cannot function without the endeavours of the Clerk, to whom I am also most grateful. The Company has good heart and spirit and I look forward to seeing it prosper. May it flourish, root and branch, forever.

**Roger Hewitt**  
**Deputy Master**