

Installation Court Lunch 2nd July 2014

The installation of the Company's 26th Master was marked by glorious July sunshine. One hundred and nine guests gathered at Carpenters Hall on the 2nd July for the Installation Lunch.



After a toast to The Guests proposed in the traditional manner with water by The Fleet Warden Keith Tozzi, the Response was delivered by Dr Piers Clark, Commercial Director, Thames Water, who addressed the subject of Innovation in the Water Sector.

After stating in general terms that innovation in the water sector was never more important than now, Piers Clark went on to focus on three areas and challenges.

The first observation was that on the cusp of going into the next 5 Year Plan, now that almost all the cost efficiencies had been squeezed out of the system by the various water utilities, innovation was the only way to achieve greater cost savings.

The second observation focussed on the coming competitive market for water which is due in 2017. The separation into wholesalers and retailers would itself stimulate competition and thus innovation in the industry.

Piers Clark's third observation concerned the phosphorous challenge. We all require phosphorus as human beings in order to exist; the world is running out of this resource. The best way to resolve this crisis lies through innovation at the hands of the water industry.

In his Reply, Roger North, the newly installed Master of the Company, thanked Piers Clark for his insights into innovation in the water industry and thanked the Deputy Master, Ivor Richards, for the distinction with which he had led the Company during his year as Master.

Roger North then went on to outline his priorities for the coming year. He intended to support the three objectives of the Company - namely promotion of the development of the water and environmental sector, education in the water sector, and charity.

The Master described the social and technical working groups that he had set up, and expressed the expectation that the events organised by these working groups would lead to good networking opportunities for members of the Company. Future events would include an event on Future Proofing Cities and Water, and an event on the Thames Tunnel Project.

The Master then summarised the activities of the Water Conservation Trust, and highlighted that since the start of the universities programme, the Company had awarded around 50 bursaries, and would in addition be funding around £150,000 of bursaries over the next three years.

After describing the steps that he had taken to re-energise the Company's affiliations with the military, the Master welcomed his new team of Wardens, together with the representatives present from each of the Company's four Corporate Members.

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the Lunch left it sustained both physically by the excellent meal that was presented, and mentally by the exciting prospects and opportunities that lie ahead in the coming year.



l to r: Thames Warden Peter Hall, Master Roger North, Fleet Warden Keith Tozzi & Walbrook Warden Mike Williamson



The Master with Prize Winners for outstanding Masters Dissertation Awards Caroline Freeman from Aberystwyth University and Kevin Wheeler from Oxford University

Court Assistant, Mark Lane