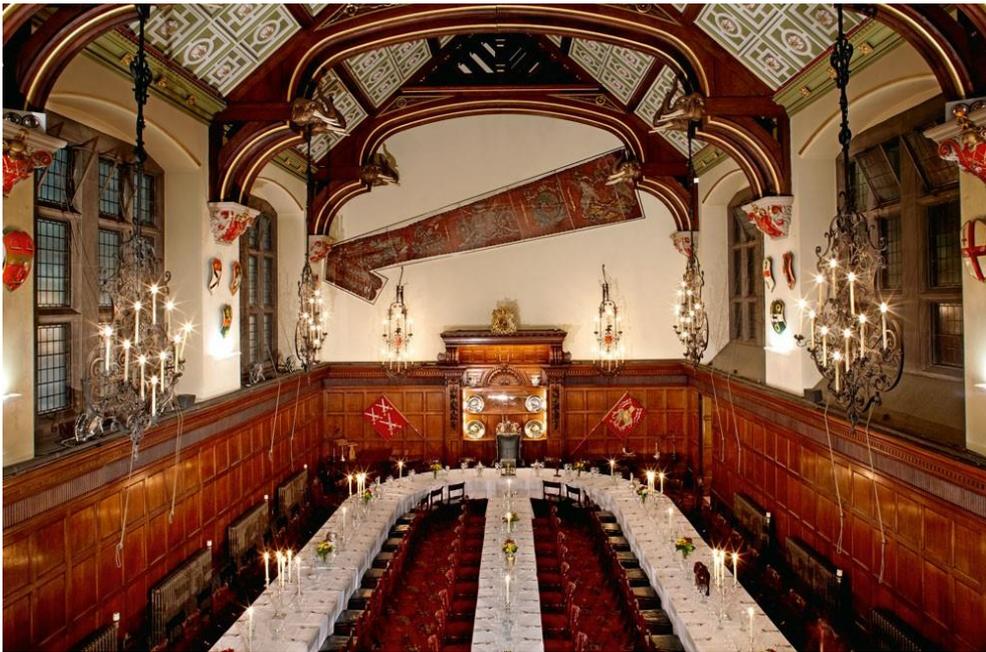




Worshipful Company of Water Conservators
Annual Banquet

*11th November 2021,
Cutlers' Hall*



As a member of the Water Conservators' Company you are cordially invited to attend the Annual Banquet at Cutlers' Hall, one of the most beautiful Halls in the City of London

*This prestigious event, which is always highly enjoyable, is open to all Freeman and Liverymen together with their partners, colleagues and friends. Guests will enjoy a three-course dinner with wine. Musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama will provide accompanying music and at the end of the evening and there will be the traditional offering of a Stirrup Cup.
6.40pm for 7.15pm, Carriages at 10.45pm*

Guest Speaker – Martin Salter

Dinner Jacket / Mess Dress with decorations and miniatures.

Our Speaker

Martin spent 12 years in local politics, serving as a councillor and Deputy Leader of Reading Borough Council, before being selected as the Labour candidate in Reading West for the 1997 general election. Martin gained the seat from the Conservatives with a majority of around 2,800 against former MP Nicholas Bennett.

In Parliament, Martin served on the Select committee on Northern Ireland through the period of the Good Friday Agreement. He was also a member of the Modernisation Select Committee between 2001 and 2005, before joining Home Affairs Select Committee in 2006. Martin was the Chair of the South East Group of PLP between 1999 and 2003, was the Deputy Convenor of Labour's Parliamentary Campaign Team between 2003 and 2005, and was twice elected by fellow MPs as a member of Labour's Parliamentary Committee between 2005 and 2008.

He was briefly Parliamentary Private Secretary to Education Secretary Jacki Smith and served as the Parliamentary Spokesman for Angling and Shooting from 2002. He lists his interests as fishing, football, cricket, gardening, walking and campervaning.

On 10 February 2009, Martin announced that he would be standing down from the Commons at the next general election to "spend more time with my fish!".

After leaving Parliament in 2010 Martin took a sabbatical in Australia, where he produced an influential report entitled 'Keep Australia Fishing'. In 2012 Martin returned to the UK to work with the Angling Trust as their National Campaigns Coordinator, and currently serves as the Trust's Chief Policy Advisor in a part time role. He maintains a blog on the Trust website called Fighting For Fishing, devoted to the preservation of angling interests and fish habitat conservation in the UK and worldwide.

He is currently President of Reading & District Angling Association and a Trustee of Aspire 2, a local charity that provides outdoor education and enrichment activities for children from challenging backgrounds.

History of the Cutlers' Company



Cutlers are known to have been practising their craft in London from at least the 2nd or 3rd century AD. Indeed, the word 'cutler' is derived from the Latin 'cultellarius' through the Old French 'coutelier' and signifies a maker or seller of knives and weapons with a cutting edge. Although Cutlers traded in all manner of cutting instruments, it was their skill at producing fighting weapons that brought them wealth and prosperity. From earliest times until the end of the 16th century, with wars in France and internal civil wars, the demand for edged weapons was both constant and profitable. Only later did the emphasis shift from implements of war to cutlery and other domestic wares such as razors and scissors.

It is known that a Gild of Cutlers existed in the City of London in the 13th century, comprised of cutlers who had settled in the vicinity of Cheapside. As was the case with the other trade guilds of the day, its function was to protect the interests of its members, to attend to their welfare, and to ensure that high standards of quality were maintained. The first Ordinances were granted in 1344 by the Mayor and Aldermen, which gave the Gild power of search and assay of all manner of cutlery.

The cutler was not simply an artisan but a designer and assembler of parts who produced the finished article, which he then sold in the market place. The blades were made by the bladesmith, and the scabbards or sheaths by the sheathers, whilst the skills of other trades such as the gilders and furbishers and grinders would be used to produce the finished article. Eventually, all these subsidiary crafts were absorbed into the Cutlers Company and by the 16th century the Company controlled the entire trade.