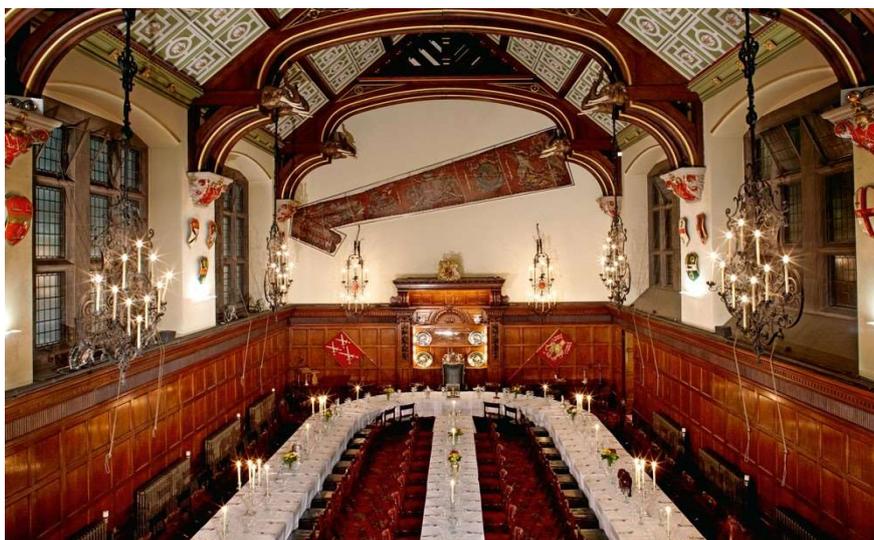




*Promoting a diverse and sustainable environment*

*Worshipful Company of Water Conservators*  
***Annual Banquet***

*10<sup>th</sup> November 2022,  
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 is open to all Freemen 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*

*there will be the traditional offering of a Stirrup Cup.  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm, Carriages at 10.45 pm*

***Guest Speaker – Rt. Hon John Gummer, Lord Deben***

*Dinner Jacket / Mess Dress with decorations and miniatures.*

## *Our Speaker*

*Lord Deben is Chairman of the UK Government Committee on Climate Change and was the longest-serving Secretary of State for the Environment of the UK (1993-97). Lord Deben's 16 years of top-level ministerial experience also include Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Minister for London, Employment Minister and Paymaster General in HM Treasury, experience which helps him to champion an identity between environmental concerns and business sense. He set up and now runs Sancroft, a Corporate Responsibility consultancy working with blue-chip companies around the world on environmental, social, and ethical issues.*



## *History of the Cutlers' Company*



*Cutlers are known to have been practising their craft in London from at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, comprising 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 marketplace. 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.*