



Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Michaelmas Court Lunch

Monday 27th September 2021

Trinity House



You are cordially invited to attend the Michaelmas Court Lunch of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators, at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3N 4DH

The guest speaker is

Alderman & Sheriff Elect Alison Gowman

Reception drinks will be served from 12.15 to 12.40pm followed by Lunch and the traditional offering of the Stirrup Cup.

History of Trinity House

Henry VIII and Pilotage

It is often stated that the origins of Trinity House date back to a charitable guild of sea Samaritans established by Archbishop Stephen Langton in the 12th Century. The first official record is the grant of a Royal Charter by Henry VIII in 1514 to a fraternity of mariners called the Guild of the Holy Trinity, .. "so that they might regulate the pilotage of ships in the King's streams". At the time of inception, this charitable Guild owned a great hall and almshouses, close to the Naval Dockyard at Deptford on the River Thames. In 1604 James I conferred on Trinity House rights concerning compulsory pilotage of shipping and the exclusive right to license pilots in the River Thames. Until the responsibility for District Pilotage was transferred to Port and Harbour Authorities under the 1987 Pilotage Act, Trinity house was the Pilotage Authority for London and over 40 other Districts, including the major ports of Southampton and Harwich.

Today the Corporation is comprised of a fraternity of approximately 300 Brethren drawn from the Royal and Merchant Navies and leading figures in the shipping industry. Its Master since 1969 has been the Duke of Edinburgh.



Trinity House, headquarters for the lighthouse service, was built in 1796. It has a unique and elegant suite of rooms in a tranquil city location overlooking Trinity Square and the Tower of London. The present building was designed and constructed at the end of the 18th century and, in contrast to the Livery Halls more commonly associated with the City of London, has the look and feel of an elegant private residence. Furthermore, Trinity House reports not to the Lord Mayor of London, as the City Livery Companies do, but to the sovereign.



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