

Past Master Ted Flaxman

It is with much sadness that the Company has learnt of the death of Ted Flaxman. Ted was a founding Member of the Water Conservators and was Master for the year 1996/97.

He had a distinguished Civil Engineering career working with consultants Binnie & partners where he was a Partner in their Victoria-based office in London. He was passionate about the use of technology and was the founder of ISTT (The International Society for Trenchless Technology), was its first Chairman (and subsequently Chairman Emeritus). He organised the first trenchless conference in London, "No-Dig 1985", and was dedicated to the advance of trenchless construction for the public benefit.

Ted remained on the Court of the Company until 2001 and was responsible for the very successful Water Conservators float in the Lord Mayors Show in November 2000, which celebrated our granting of Livery. Ted generously donated the Master's Chain of Office to the Company at this time. In 2004 he published "Sweet & Wholesome Water – five centuries of water-bearers in the City of London" jointly with Past Master Ted Jackson. This paperback is still available on Amazon. He was also responsible for the development of blue plaques to record the historic importance of water conduits in the City – the first of these was erected at Aldermanbury in 2010, the second in Cheapside (to mark the "Great Conduit") in 2014 and the third in Fleet Street (to mark the "Fleet Conduit") in 2018. Further plaques are planned to continue this excellent work.

Ted and his wife Joan had three children Peter, Penny and John who remember his great sense of humour and his preferred epitaph "Ted Flaxman, fled taxman 2020"!

He will be much missed.

