



# WATERMAN HOY

The Newsletter of The Company of Watermen and Lightermen of The River Thames

## Volume 4 – Issue 9 A Message from The Clerk

Writing this just after a sunny bank holiday, let's hope the sun continues. We have events on the River, in the streets of Billingsgate, the Mansion House, and at our beautiful Hall. We hope you will make the most of these opportunities to enjoy our River and the special spaces in the City of London.

## Forthcoming Events

### MAY 2018

30th Examining Committee

### JUNE 2018

8th River Thames Lunch Club  
9th Royal Greenwich Challenge for Watermen's Cutters  
11th Admiral of the Port's Challenge  
20th Knollys Rose Ceremony  
22nd Court of Bindings  
30th Thames Barge Driving Event

### JULY 2018

3rd Quarterly Court  
4-8th Henley Royal Regatta  
9th Court of Admissions  
9th Port of London Challenge  
11th Installation Court  
11th Annual Service  
13th River Thames Lunch Club

## Quarterly Court – 4th April 2018 The Master's Chair



The Master's Court Chair has been repaired and re-gilded, by Hare & Humphreys ready for the 4th April Court. The chair was presented by the Rulers of the Company on the 9th January 1800. The Names of the Rulers are inscribed on the chair. It was initially used by the Chairman of the Rulers until in 1827 when, by Act of Parliament, the Company was required to change to being ruled by a Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants. The first Master was Charles Theodore Hay, who founded Hay's Wharf, now Galleria.

*Colin C. Middlemiss*

Colin C. Middlemiss

**May 2018**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Examining Committee – 30th May 2018

Any apprentices/trainees who have, or will shortly, complete their time and have their full BML with the appropriate endorsements, are invited to apply to be examined for the Freedom of the Company. Please contact our Training Administrator, Kelly Lesurf, on 020 7929 7452 (Mon-Wed) or [training@watermenshall.org](mailto:training@watermenshall.org) to make an appointment and request the application form and other requirements.

### Knollys Rose Ceremony and Luncheon – 20th June 2018

The traditional ceremony of cutting of a rose by the Master usually takes place in Seething Lane Gardens. The Gardens are closed at present, undergoing a major overhaul, so the Garden at All Hallows by the Tower will be used as a substitute. The cutting ceremony takes place at approximately 11:00. This is followed by the procession to the Mansion House and the ceremony to present the rose to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Those attending need to be at the Mansion House by 11.30. After the ceremony, Freeman and their guests are returning to Watermen's Hall for lunch. The Luncheon is at 12.30 for 13.00 open to all Freeman, partners and guests. This is likely to be a popular event so tickets will be available on a first come basis. Dress is lounge suits.

### Court of Bindings – 22nd June 2018

Any Freeman interested in apprenticing a young person training to become a Waterman and Lighterman should contact Kelly Lesurf, Training Administrator, at Watermen's Hall.

### Thames Barge Driving Event – 30th June 2018

If you have never seen Lightermen row barges with a sweep (18-foot oar) then it is a sight to behold. A test of stamina like no other. The Barges start at Greenwich on a rising tide and are rowed all the way to Westminster. The Company's Barge – Apprentice Lighterman will take part. Having won last year's event, we will suffer a winner's penalty, giving our deadly rival the PLA's Blackwall a distinct advantage - game on. You can watch from the embankment or bridges or there is a following boat - contact Ann Robinson on [anne\\_gps@hotmail.com](mailto:anne_gps@hotmail.com) to enquire about tickets.

### Quarterly Court & Luncheon – 3rd July 2018

Once Court members and their guests are accommodated, there are usually a few places available for Craft Owning Freeman who would like to attend a Court Luncheon. Please let Martin know if you would like to apply for a place on a first come, first served basis. Lunch is £75.00 per person, including VAT.

### Henley Royal Regatta – 4th - 8th July 2018

Freemen are invited to spend Wednesday, 4th July at the Regatta. By special arrangement tickets are available at £25 per person to be a Guest Member for the day at Remenham Club. Lunch can be booked with the Club and there may be some car parking, all subject to availability. There is a blue booking form to complete and send back to Remenham. Please ask Susan Fenwick at [admin@watermenshall.org](mailto:admin@watermenshall.org) if you would like a form.

## Apprentices Down River Trip – 18th April 2018

Fantastic weather for the Down River familiarisation trip to Gravesend. A very healthy turnout of 24 apprentices and trainees plus other Freeman made for a really useful trip in the Lower Reaches aboard the "Pride of London" hosted by Steve Woollacott.

*Alex Hickman*



## Apprentice Barge Driving Race – Sunday, 29th April 2018 (postponed from 2017)



Apprentices assembled at Greenwich Pier for a briefing at 0830 before being ferried out to their barges. Each Barge had an experienced Lighterman as cox and was accompanied by a tug as a safety boat. The four Barges, including the Company's Barge – Apprentice Lighterman lined up off Greenwich Pier watched by the following boat PV Pride of London, courtesy of Steve Woollacott. Apprentice Lighterman got off to a good start and lead all the way to the finish, picking up the Winner's Cup donated by Hon. Court Assistant John Potter. There was also a cup for the youngest apprentice, donated by Journeyman Freeman Eddie Smith.

### Results:

1st Apprentice Lighterman – Graeme Faulkner, John Donoghue, Jimmy Anderson, Jamie Hannay & Jeff Phillips  
 2nd Shell Bay – Mark Brookes, Max Carter-Miller, Lewis French, Glen Coombes, Mathew Brookes & Lucas Ansbro-Bennett  
 3rd Balfour – Alex Hickman, Tom de Wit, Andrei Beckwith, Charlie Eldridge, Adam Green & Tyler Willcox-Metcalf  
 4th Benjamin – George Williams, Ben Brown, Billy Welsh (Eddie Smith Cup for the youngest apprentice), Richie Gilbey, Warren Smith & Alfie Page

A souvenir of the event:

16GB USB sticks based on the Company's barge "Apprentice Lighterman" - £10.00 each. Contact Susan at the Hall on 020 7283 2373 or [admin@watermenhall.org](mailto:admin@watermenhall.org)



## Master's River Inspection – Friday, 27th April 2018



This annual event is organised by the Master to keep his Court informed about changes on and about the River Thames in order to keep their expertise up to date. The Company's Examining Committee is Chaired by the Master and includes Court Members and other Freeman.

20 Court Members travelled by Thames River Services to Greenwich, courtesy of Past Master Bob Prentice to look round the Old Naval College at Greenwich, run by the Greenwich Foundation. The Chairman of the Foundation, Tony Hales CBE, welcomed Court Members and personally showed them round the Painted Hall where the painted ceiling is undergoing restoration. Tony Hales personally entertained the Court to Lunch in the Admiral's House, a splendid building overlooking the Water Gates and the River Thames.

## NEWS

At the 4th April Quarterly Court, the Senior Warden, Dr Iain Reid was elected Master Elect. He will take office on 11th July.

Past Master Chris Livett has been appointed Her Majesty's Bargemaster following the retirement of Past Master Paul Ludwig. A suitable send off for Paul was organised at Watermen's Hall on Friday, 13th April.

**The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will replace the Data Protection Act 1998 and will become law on 25th May 2018.**

The GDPR updates data protection to reflect the digital age. This also brings in new rights for 'data subjects' and new obligations for any organisation acting as processors or **controllers**.

The Company of Watermen and Lightermen, Minorities Holdings Limited and Royal Benevolent and Educational Fund are registered as Controllers.

The Company's Data Protection policy will be published shortly on our website [www.watermenscompany.com](http://www.watermenscompany.com)

However, we need your permission to continuing using your email address to correspond with you and would ask that you email [carol@watermenshall.org](mailto:carol@watermenshall.org) to give us permission to continue to do so. If we do not hear from you by the 25th of May we will be unable to keep in contact.

## Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

*Inactive Craft Owing Freeman*, **Rodney Diran Scrase DFC** passed away 25th February 2018 aged 96 years. Rodney became a Craft Owing Freeman on 11th July 1979 and became inactive in 2017. He was the Director of the London Tourist Board in the 1960's, at the time of its formation. During the 1970's, under his guidance and with the Port of London Authority's participation, the River Thames Boat Operators were brought together, to encourage more investment in their Industry. Rodney organised what became annual visits abroad. First to Paris, then Venice, Stockholm and Vienna. All were well attended and very popular and informative. Rodney was an absolutely delightful man, extremely helpful and loved being involved in river activities.

*Past Master Emeritus Alan Woods*

*Journeyman Freeman* **Brian Thomas Gould** passed away March 2018 aged 80 years. Born in Limehouse on 14th August 1937, Brian was bound to Thomas Nelson Francis Gould on 9th September 1952, gaining his Freedom on 14th October 1958. He competed in the 1959 Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager, finishing 3rd.

*Journeyman Freeman* **Michael Richard John Fletcher** passed away March 2018 aged 73 years. Born in Loughborough on 2nd April 1944, Michael was bound to William Richard Carter on 10th April 1962, gaining his Freedom on 11th April 1967. He competed in the 1967 Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager, finishing 6th.

*Craft Owing Freeman* **Ronald Edwin Frost** passed away 22nd February 2018 aged 81 years. Ronnie was born in Richmond in the North Riding of Yorkshire on 19th March 1936 and became a Craft Owing Freeman on 11th July 1984. He was a former Smithfield poultry trader who became chief executive and chairman of Hays, a business services group that rose into the FTSE 100 under his leadership. Hays traced its origins to 1867 as the owner of the Hay's Wharf warehouse complex on the south bank of the Thames in London.

*Craft Owing Freeman* **Roger Gordon Hanbury** passed away 3rd May 2018 aged 65 years. Roger worked at the Canal and River Trust prior to retirement and became a Craft Owing Freeman on 6th January 2016.



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and Lightermen of  
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## Contacting the Hall

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