



WATERMAN HOY

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

Volume 3 – Issue 21 A Message from The Clerk

Christmas is approaching and we are looking forward to seeing you at either one of our Christmas Freeman's Lunches or the Company Carol Service on 8th December at All Hallows starting at 18.00.

All of us here at Watermen's Hall wish you the compliments of the season, hoping you all have a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER 2015

- 8th Company Carol Service at All Hallows and Master's Christmas Reception
- 11th River Thames Luncheon Club
- 14th Ladies Christmas Luncheon

JANUARY 2016

- 6th Quarterly Court and Luncheon
- 15th River Thames Luncheon Club
- 27th Burns Night Celebrations
- 29th Court of Bindings

FEBRUARY 2016

- 1st Doggett's Emblem and Rowing Awards
- 12th River Thames Luncheon Club
- 16th Annual Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall

MARCH 2016

- 11th United Guilds Service and Luncheon
- 18th River Thames Luncheon Club
- 27th Mellon Boat Race

APRIL 2016

- 6th Quarterly Court and Luncheon
- 8th River Thames Luncheon Club
- 12th Ladies Dinner
- 17th Tudor Pull
- 19th Freeman's St. George's Day Luncheon

Colin C. Middlemiss

December 2015

Lord Mayor's Show 14th November 2015



This year's Lord Mayor, Alderman The Lord Mountevans coming from a maritime background with Clarksons invited the Company to join together with the Royal Greenwich Museum's National Maritime Museum and have a float. The Company last entered a float was in the 1970s. Traditionally the Company's Doggett's Winners row the Lord Mayor down to HMS President and then accompany the carriages round the City. The National Maritime Museum has a Samuel Pepys' Exhibition at Greenwich. Samuel Pepys recorded some of his journeys to Greenwich by River and so the theme of float took shape. Thames Clippers and Sean Collins kindly agreed to help fund the entry of the float. The Company put on a running buffet in the afternoon inviting Freeman to

come and watch. Though damp it was a great day and a privilege to take part in the 800th Lord Mayor's Show.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Company Carol Service and Master's Christmas Reception – 8th December 2015

We will again join together with the Bakers Company for the Service at All Hallows by the Tower, which will ensure we fill the Church with the singing of our carols. After the Service which starts at 18.00 we will return to Watermen's Hall for the Master's Christmas Reception. Friends and family are all welcome and tickets are available on a first come first served basis at £45.00 – contact Martin martin@watermenshall.org

Quarterly Court Luncheon – 6th January 2016 and 6th April 2016

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 Lunch. Please let Martin know if you would like to apply for a place on a first come, first served basis. Lunch is £70 per person, including VAT.

Burns Night Celebrations – 27th January 2016

This popular event always sells out fast. Please book early with Martin at Watermen's Hall to avoid disappointment.

Court of Bindings – 29th January 2016

Any Freeman interested in apprenticing a young person training to become a Waterman and Lighterman should contact the Clerk at Watermen's Hall.

Doggett's Emblem & Rowing Awards – 1st February 2016

This informal evening, when the achievements of our rowers in the previous year are acknowledged, is very much a family event, when all are welcome. Booking information will follow in the New Year.

Watermen's Company Annual Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall – 16th February 2016

Always very popular, the larger venue of Fishmongers' Hall enables Freeman to bring their guests to this prestigious black tie event. Booking information will follow in the New Year.

United Guilds Service & Luncheon – 11th March 2016

This St Paul's Cathedral Service was introduced just after the last World War to lift the spirits of Livery Companies and Working Guilds. St Paul's is full and it is always an uplifting Service. A short stroll back to Watermen's for lunch. It is a lovely day out. Space is very limited in Church and at the Hall so please indicate now if you want to attend.

Ladies Dinner – 12th April 2016

This event is for Freeman and their wives or partners together with any guests you would like to bring as couples. It is a black tie dinner. Booking information will be available nearer the time.

Freemen's St. George's Day Lunch – 19th April 2016

To celebrate our Patron Saint come to the St George's Luncheon. Open to Freeman and their business guests. Booking information will be available nearer the time.

Apprentices Thames Barge Driving Event – 31st October 2015

Hon Court Assistant John Potter provided the Pocahontas as a following boat for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the TOW Barge Driving Event on 31st October with a special barge drive from Greenwich to Westminster with each of the three barges crewed by 5 apprentices grouped into "towing and pushing" skippered by Freeman Roy Gould, "river tours" skippered by Freeman George Williams and "multi cats" skippered by Freeman Graeme Faulkner. Hon Court Assistant John Potter provided an Apprentices Barge Driving Cup for the winning team – "towing and pushing".



Photo: Darren Knight

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| 1st | "Towing & Pushing" team: Jack Finelli, Max Goodwright, Shane Pink, George Surry and Terry Gooch on the "Balfour" | 2nd | "Multi-Cats" team: Mathew Brookes, George Gilbert, Bradley Laws, Max Miller and Richie Gilbey on the "Benjamin" | 3rd | "River Tours" team: Adam Green, Dave Simmons, George Collins, Tom de Wit and Greg Ketchell on the "Shell Bay" |
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Havengore Service of Remembrance – 11th November 2015



This was the seventh annual River Thames Act of Remembrance starting with a River parade from Tower Bridge (opening for the occasion) to the waters off the Palace of Westminster. There the Master and Wardens along with other guests observed the two minutes silence as part of a solemn service followed by the laying of a specially constructed

dissolvable wreath on the waters of the Thames. The Havengore with her long history in the service of the Port of London particular her role in Sir Winston Churchill's State Funeral was a most appropriate vessel to perform the task and Mr, Christopher Ryland, her owner, kindly agreed to provide her for the event.

Apprentices Henley Sculling Weekend 2nd – 4th October 2015

The sun shone, the waters were calm and the River was busy full of boats of all sorts. 15 apprentices and some 13 Freeman arrived looking forward to some fun as well as seeing serious improvement in the sculling of the apprentices. On the Friday evening Senior Warden John Salter lent a boat for a curry supper. Saturday was taken up with coaching beginners to the more experienced. 2015 Doggett's Winner Louis Pettipher and contestant Dominic Coughlin came to offer their support stressing how important it was for the continuation of the race, for apprentices to enter when their turn came. On Saturday, Jonathan Steel and the Remenham Club allowed use of their facilities for an excellent dinner.

Following four heats the result of the Ben Woollacott Memorial Sculls was:

- 1st Jake Berry
- 2nd Joe Putnam
- 3rd Jack Finelli
- 4th George Collins

Most improved scullers were James Berry and Joe Putnam



Photos: Darren Knight



WATERMEN'S SHOP



Christmas Cards are now available from Watermen's Hall at £15.00 per pack of 20 cards (plus £3.00 postage and packing per pack, if required).

The 2016 Company Diary is also now available to purchase for £15.00 (plus £1.00 postage and packing per diary, if required).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As from the 1st January 2016 the new annual subscription rates for Craft Owning Freemen will be £399.00. For Journeymen Freemen wishing to become Craft Owning Freemen the rate will be £200.00. Reductions on the annual subscription for those over 75 years are available on request. All the above include VAT at the current rate. Please note these rates are the same as last year and the Company will do all it can to hold them at this rate for the next year.

Subscriptions will be collected by direct debit in February 2016. If you do not pay by direct debit an administration fee of £35.00 + VAT will be levied. Payments by credit cards have a levy of 3%. For a direct debit form please contact Carol at the Hall.

carol@watermenhall.org

Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

Craft Owning Freeman, **Robin Anthony Hulf** passed away on 12th November 2015 aged 71 years, following a long illness.

News

On 23rd November 2015 Capt. Colin Chandler, Consultant to the Company, was presented with the Merchant Navy Medal by Admiral the Right Honourable Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC PC ADC, at a ceremony at Trinity House, having been nominated by the Company, the Passenger Boat Association, the Merchant Navy Training Board and the Maritime Skills Alliance.



A model of HMS Victory is currently on display in the Silver Room, on loan from the Furniture Makers' Company during their Hall's refurbishment.



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

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