



WATERMAN HOY

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

Volume 4 – Issue 6 A Message from The Clerk

Another Company year passes and we have a new Master, Simon McCarthy with, as Senior Warden, Dr Iain Reid and Junior Wardens – Tony Maynard, Mrs Gina Blair and Sean Collins.

Whilst the Hall is remaining open during office hours we have a few repairs to do and some of us are taking a break before we start again in earnest in September.

Forthcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2017

1st-30th Mayor's Thames Festival
8th Apprentices Down River Trip
8th River Thames Lunch Club
9th Great River Race
10th Steve Faldo Memorial Race & David Pope Challenge
16th Open House London
22-24th Apprentices Henley Sculling Weekend

OCTOBER 2017

4th Quarterly Court & Luncheon
11th National Service for Seafarers
13th River Thames Lunch Club
15th Thomas Martyn Foundation Annual Service
18th Freeman's Luncheon
21st Apprentices Thames Barge Driving Event

NOVEMBER 2017

10th River Thames Lunch Club
11th Lord Mayor's Flotilla & Show
14th Freeman's Luncheon

Colin C. Middlemiss
August 2017

Introduction to the new Master Simon McCarthy HMW

I am delighted to be elected the 191st Master of the Company and look forward to representing you in the coming months.

As a fifth generation Waterman, my personal journey began in 1979, when I was apprenticed by my father, Peter. Starting my apprenticeship at Cherry Garden Pier, I kept up my commitment to rowing from Globe and Poplar rowing clubs, which saw me represent Great Britain in World Rowing Championships from 1980 to 1984. A change of career led me to work for a number of years as a Foreign Exchange Broker in the City of London but the River Thames, and rowing in particular, continued to feature significantly in my daily life. In 1984, I won the Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager, a race which I



remain passionate about and, today, work to ensure its preservation. Building on my rowing success, subsequent careers have seen me working to develop grass-roots rowing, coaching internationally and establishing London Youth Rowing from the Royal Albert Docks. In 2005 I was appointed as the Watermen's Company Rowing Officer and in the same year received an appointment to Her Majesty The Queen as a Royal Waterman.

My desire for the coming year is see increased involvement with our Company by the younger generation afloat. With the Thames seeing a number of new projects, it is vital that the Company engage with and promote the opportunities available to young people. I hope too, to encourage a new generation to make life-long relationships with the Company and to work with us to ensure its future.

I am thrilled to report that my term as Master has got off to a flying start. Success in the Barge race with the Company's new barge, the Apprentice Lighterman was followed by a win in the Port of London Challenge. On 25th July, 2017 Jack Keech became the 303rd winner of the Doggett's wager, in a dominant performance.

Finally, together with my wife Sally, I am looking forward to the year ahead and hope to meet many of you along the way.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Great River Race – 9th September 2017

The Great River Race again will be run upstream from the Millwall Slipway opposite the Docklands Sailing Centre, Westferry Road, London E14 3QS, departing 12:40, to Ham, Richmond. Running the Race upstream means that all crews will have the benefit of the prevailing flood tide. A good view can be gained from anywhere on the banks of the River. Look out for the “Jim Holt”.

Steve Faldo Memorial Barge Driving Event – 10th September 2017

Race Start: Tower Bridge at 16:30, Finish: Westminster Bridge at 17:30 (approx) The Thames Watermen's way of commemorating the anniversary of the Marchioness disaster, the race takes its name from Steve Faldo, who was the Captain on board on that fateful evening. The event commemorates the skills of the traditional Thames Watermen and Lightermen who used to move freight around on the River Thames by barge under the power of oars or ‘sweeps’ and riding the strong tidal currents of the River Thames alone. The barges used today can weigh up to 30 tonnes and no more than three crew members can row at any one time, using 20-foot oars to row along the river. The annual Steve Faldo Memorial Barge Driving Race is a great Thames spectacle, and tests of the barge crews’ navigational skills.

Open House – 16th September 2017

The Open House London event is fully inclusive and admission is free for all Open House London events each September. You will need to find out which buildings are opening / walks and talks planned in order to plan your visits. To pre-order a copy of the programme for this year's event, visit www.open-city.org.uk Watermen's Hall is participating on 16th September only – entry is by ticket, booking essential.

Henley Sculling Weekend – 22nd, 23rd & 24th September, 2017

Apprentices and Trainees are invited to come and improve their sculling skills. Their families and Freeman are all welcome to come and support our Henley Sculling Camp. More experienced apprentice and trainee scullers may be selected to compete for the Ben Woollacott Memorial Sculls Trophy. Booking information is available now.

Quarterly Court & Luncheon – 4th October 2017

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.

Thomas Martyn Foundation Annual Service – 15th October 2017

Today this Foundation makes financial grants to children of Licensed Watermen and Lightermen. In 1718 Thomas Martyn established a Watermen's School at Putney for the children of Putney Watermen. The School continued until 1911 when it was closed. This Annual service commemorates Thomas Martyn's gift. Its Annual Service of Thanksgiving takes place at 16:00 hours at St. Mary's Church, Putney Bridge. All Freeman are welcome.

Freemen's Luncheon – 18th October 2017

This luncheon is open to all Freeman and their business guests. Dress is lounge suits. Lunch is £79 per person, including VAT. This lunch will celebrate those benefactors who have so generously helped the Company in times past.

Lord Mayor's Flotilla and Show – 11th November 2017

Although the Company is not participating with a float this year, the Show is a great spectacle to watch from the Lord Mayor's arrival by water at HMS President from Westminster Pier starting at 0830hrs. Watermen's Hall will not be open but there are plenty of places in the City open especially for this event for refreshments.

Court of Bindings – Friday, 23rd June 2017



Twelve new apprentices and trainees were bound to the Company, alphabetically:

Trevor George Bailey-Fogah, William Thomas Blunden, Derek Thomas Brand, Benjamin Albert Brown, Alexander John James Collier, Jack Croucher, Dean Brian Hetherington, Robert George Hunter, Joseph David Thompson, Billy James Welsh, Craig Steven White and Nicholas James Zabilowicz.

Court of Admissions – Monday, 10th July 2017

Eleven new Journeymen Freemen were admitted to the Freedom, alphabetically:

Joe Richard Darby, Thomas Mark de Wit, Thomas Frederick Gibbons, Terence Anthony Gooch, Paul Graham Hastings, Joy Elizabeth McGlinchey, Jamie Lee Miles, Matthew John Priest, George Benjamin Thomas Surry and Luke Terry by Servitude and Jack James Patrick Keech by Patrimony.



Thames Barge Driving Trust Event – Saturday, 15th July 2017



Photo: Colin Middlemiss

The Master, Simon McCarthy, and Celia Carlisle, General Counsel for sponsors Tideway, congratulate the “Apprentice Lighterman” crew: Billy Blunden, Louis Pettipher, Ben Folkard, Jamie Turner and Ralph Humphrey.

Photo: Nick Tennant

With the pressure on the *Apprentice Lighterman* to deliver a win, the day dawned for the Thames Barge Driving Event. This year Freemen were encouraged to join the Committee Boat *PV Elizabethan* to watch the event unfold. The PLA Barge *Blackwall* had a five minutes penalty as the Winner of the 2016 event to give the *Apprentice Lighterman* a head start. At the finish with a time of 1 hour 41 minutes and 20 seconds *Apprentice Lighterman* passed the finish line at Westminster followed by *Blackwall* in second place. Next year it will be our turn to have a five minutes penalty!



Other Rowing Results

Admiral of the Port Challenge – 19th June 2017 – the Company’s crew finished equal third.

Port of London Challenge – 19th July 2017 - Winning Crew: Dan Bartlett, David Yeardley, Harry Joynes, Ralph Humphrey, Shaun Martin, Rob Blair, J P O'Donnell

Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager, Tuesday 25th July 2017



Competitors Perry Flynn, George McCarthy, Alfie Anderson, the Master Simon McCarthy, winner Jack Keech, Chairman of the PLA and Craft Owing Freeman Christopher Rodrigues CBE, Chief Executive Officer of sponsors Tideway Andy Mitchell CBE and the 2016 winner Ben Folkard.

Photo © The Fishmongers' Company



Former Doggett winners aboard the Watermen's Company following boat, the Mercia, from left Roger Spencer (1985), Louis Pettipher (2015), Bob Crouch (1958), Company Bargemaster Robert Coleman (1996), John Goulding (1955), Dan Arnold (2010), Chris Spencer (1987) and Jude McGrane (2007).

Photo: Nathalie Crouch

Ladies' Committee Swan Upping Cruise – 18th July 2017

The Swan Upping Cruise organised by the Ladies' Committee boarded at Windsor and spent a very pleasant day gently cruising along the Thames. Unfortunately, we did not see as much of the Swan Upping as hoped but this not spoil anyone's



enjoyment. The Ladies' Committee would like to thank Salter's Steamers for donating the use of the Hampton Court and all their crew on the day who worked so hard to give us the best of times. A special thank you to Senior Warden Iain Reid who supervised the drawing of the raffle prizes. A lovely way to have spent the day whilst raising funds for the Charity.

Watermen's Shop

New for Christmas, great stocking filler, 16GB USB sticks based on the Company's new barge "Apprentice Lighterman".



£12.00 each, orders now being taken.

Contact Susan at the Hall. admin@watermenshall.org

Red Freeman's Ties are now in stock, price unchanged at £21.00.

Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

Journeyman Freeman **Joseph William Arnold** passed away 13th February 2017 aged 95 years. Joseph was born in 1921 in Bermondsey and bound to his master James Joseph Arthur Arnold on 11th May 1937, gaining his Freedom on 8th October 1946.

Craft Owing Freeman **Professor Emeritus William Martin Hattersley** passed away peacefully on 6th May 2017, aged 89 years.

Journeyman Freeman **Brian Francis Parr** passed away 11th June 2017 aged 74 years. Brian was born on 27th May 1943 in Hampton and bound to his master George Francis Parr on 10th March 1959, gaining his Freedom on 13th April 1965.

Journeyman Freeman **William Henry Wenham** (born 22 October 1925 in Lambeth, London) passed away on 16 July 2017 aged 91 years. Bill was bound to Gordon Herbert Law on 12th January 1943 and made free on 13th January 1948. He worked for over 20 years as a Waterman/Lighterman along the Thames before taking up a Master's role on the pleasure boats operating from Westminster Pier. He also served as a marine superintendent for Taylor Woodrow in West Africa and for many years as tug and supply ship Master in the Middle East.

Craft Owing Freeman **Ronald M Collyer** passed away 14th July 2017 aged 72 years.



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

Contacting the Hall

Colin Middlemiss
(Clerk)
020 7929 7451
clerk@watermenshall.org

Carol Ratcliffe
(Assistant Clerk)
020 7929 7456
carol@watermenshall.org

Martin Laws
(Hall Manager and
Company Events)
020 7929 7453
martin@watermenshall.org

Susan Fenwick
(Administrator)
020 7929 7455
admin@watermenshall.org

Alex Hickman
(Training Officer)
07956 341482
alexhickman52@aol.com

Simon McCarthy
(Rowing Officer)
07968 593842
simon@simonmccarthy.com

Robert Coleman
(Bargemaster)
07710 466040
robbie@silverfleet.co.uk

Watermen's Hall
16 St. Mary-at-Hill
London EC3R 8EF
Tel: 020 7283 2373
Fax: 020 7283 0477
www.watermenscompany.com