



WATERMAN HOY

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

Volume 4 – Issue 11 A Message from The Clerk

Our new Master, Dr Iain Reid will chair his first Court on the 3rd October. The new Junior Warden is Craft-Ownning Freeman Sir David Wootton who was Lord Mayor in 2011. He captained the Jesus College Rowing Club and maintains close rowing connections, introducing the Lord Mayor's Flotilla, in his year as Lord Mayor. At Court, George Hammond and Ted Manning will give their Declarations and become Court Assistants.

We hope we will see as many of you as possible at one of our forthcoming events in the run up towards the end of the year.

Forthcoming Events

OCTOBER 2018

- 3rd Quarterly Court & Luncheon
- 10th National Service for Seafarers
- 12th River Thames Lunch Club
- 14th Thomas Martyn Foundation Annual Service
- 16th Freeman's Lunch
- 27th Apprentices Thames Barge Driving Event

NOVEMBER 2018

- 9th River Thames Lunch Club
- 10th Lord Mayor's Show
- 12th Draw-Off Walk
- 13th Freeman's Lunch

Colin C. Middlemiss

SEPTEMBER 2018

Introduction to the new Master Dr Iain Reid, Installation Date – 11th July 2018



It is an immense honour and privilege to be elected to serve as the 192nd Master of the Company.

My link with the Thames started when I began to row, aged twelve, from the Emanuel School boathouse at Barnes Bridge - and where I first learned to respect the requirements of the working river. I continued rowing until my early twenties, but my rowing career was then terminated by overseas service in the Grenadier Guards. However, I continued to be involved in the sport, serving on various regatta and world championship committees. I was elected a Steward of Henley Royal Regatta in 1984 and served on the Committee of Management for nearly thirty years.

Having had a varied career (after the Grenadiers in advertising, film and latterly as an academic) I don't have the wealth of working river experience of many of my

predecessors, so I have been trying to make good that deficiency. I would like to thank all those who have been helping in my education – and I intend to continue learning so that I can serve and represent the Company to the best of my ability.

My academic field was industrial relations and my speciality was studying tight-knit, working communities which maintain excellence through good recruitment and the passing on of tacit knowledge - while continuously absorbing new ideas and methods. All that study now seems very relevant to the Company of Watermen & Lightermen; I set out to maintain those traditions that we all hold dear, while ensuring that the Company keeps its place in the leadership of all that is good about the River.

My objectives for the year? I want to continue Simon McCarthy's excellent work in drawing younger Journeymen Freeman into the heart of the Company so that we maintain our unique character and identity. Secondly, I want to make the working of the Committees and the Court more open to our Freeman. Sadly, I think there are too many Freeman who don't really understand all that the Company is doing to promote and maintain the reputation of the Thames; my aim will be to do more to educate and involve them.

Susan and I are looking to meeting as many of you as possible in the year ahead.

Photo: Scott Collier

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Quarterly Court & Luncheon – 3rd October 2018

Once Court members and their guests are accommodated, there are usually a few places available for Craft Owning Freemen 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.

River Thames Lunch Club – 12th October, 9th November & 14th December 2018

Open to all, both Craft Owning and Journeyman Freemen, Apprentices/Trainees, their guests and the general public. A five-course tasting menu with matching wines for £57.50 per person, including VAT. Book with our inhouse caterers, Cook and Butler on 020 7620 1818 or cookandbutler@btconnect.com

Thomas Martyn Foundation Annual Service – 14th October 2018

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 Freemen are welcome.

Freemen's Luncheon – 16th October & 13th November 2018

These luncheons are open to all Freemen and their business guests. Dress is lounge suits. Lunch is £79 per person, including VAT.

Apprentices Thames Barge Driving Event – 27th October 2018

Apprentices will drive Barges, including the *Apprentice Lighterman*, from Greenwich for the John Potter Cup.

Apprentice s/Trainees Draw -Off Walk – 12th November 2018

All interested apprentices and trainees should assemble at Teddington Footbridge at 11am.

Thames Historic Barge Driving Event – 30th June 2018



Photos: John Adams

Result:

- 1st MBNA Thames Clippers' "Balmoral"
- 2nd PLA's "Blackwall"
- 3rd Watermen's Company's "Apprentice Lighterman"



Doggett's Coat & Badge Wager – 4th September 2018



Photo: John Adams



Photo: Robert Treharne-Jones

This year's competitors were Alfie Anderson, 23 (representing Poplar, Blackwall and District Rowing Club) and George McCarthy, 24 (representing Globe Rowing Club). Following the Draw, which took place at Watermen's Hall on 12 July, Anderson rowed in orange from Station 4, while McCarthy wore green on Station 3. It was an extremely well fought race with both competitors putting their heart and soul into it with Alfie Anderson being the eventual winner in a time of 25mins 27secs and George McCarthy the runner up in a time of 25mins and 46secs. Well done to both rowers.

Rowing

Port of London Challenge – 9th July 2018

The bargemaster, Robert Coleman, put together a crew of apprentices: Max Carter Miller, Lucas Ansbro-Bennett, Mathew Brookes, Billy Welsh, Lucas Britton, Robert Coleman, Cox: Sam Miles, Passenger: Max Bennett (Lucas brother, not bound) who all acquitted themselves admirably.

Great River Race – Saturday, 8th September 2018



The bargemaster, Robert Coleman, assembled a crew to row the "Jim Holt" consisting of: Ben Bartlett, Daniel Bartlett, Daisy Bartlett, Ben Gliniecki, Nathan Evans, JP O'Donnell and Louis Pettipher.

Photo: Robbie Coleman

City of London Sheriffs' Row – 18th September 2018



The Master welcomes the Watermen's crew, which rowed the "Jim Holt" from Westminster Boating Base, at the finish at HMS President: Craft

Owning Freeman Chris Gooderidge, Derek Whyatt, Sue Perry-Whitehead (passenger), Nick Paul (cox) Tony Bull (leader) & Philip Foster, Past Master Jeremy Randall and Geoff Probert (Phyllis Court Rowing Club).

Photo: Carole Bull

Volume Six of the Company History 1921 ~ tba

The Editorial Panel will soon commence work on a new volume of the Company history, picking up from Volume 5 which ended in 1920. The first five volumes of the history did not include illustrations due to lack of photographic material from the earlier periods, however, it is hoped to include photographic images in Volume Six and we would ask Freeman if they have digital images (or can be scanned digitally) and would be prepared to offer them for consideration for inclusion. Please bear in mind that this is the history of the Company and not a social history, so events should be relevant and identified. In the first instance, kindly contact Susan Fenwick on admin@watermenshall.org.

Watermen's Shop

The Company's Collection of Uniforms, Coats & Badges – 2nd Edition

The 2nd Edition of this booklet is now for sale, priced at £10.00 plus £2.25 p/p (if required). Since the 1st Edition was published in 2012, the Company has been fortunate enough to receive two new uniforms into the collection, now a total of 40, and gathered more information. If unable to come to the Hall to collect your copy, please return the attached Order Form with your payment (no price increase since 2012).



Christmas Cards

The Company's Christmas Cards are now available at £15 per pack of 20 cards (plus £3 p/p if required). This year's card features the print "The Lower Pool" by Charles Edward Dixon, which hangs in the General Office. If you can't collect, please complete and return the attached Order Form with your payment.



Watermen's Company "Roll of Honour"

With the centenary of the end of WWI approaching kindly note that Company's Roll of Honour may be viewed on the Company website at <http://watermenscompany.com/the-company/roll-of-honour-2/>

Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

Journeyman Freeman Allan Gordon William Donald passed away 13th July 2018, aged 92. Allan was born in the Medway area in 1926 and was bound to James Tester on 8th September 1942, gaining his Freedom on 12th October 1948.

Journeyman Freeman Charles Albert Woollacott passed away 21st July 2018, aged 85 years. Charles was born in Bermondsey on 22nd November 1932 and bound to the Company on 14th September 1948. His master was George Edward Jones. Charles gained his Freedom on 14th September 1954.



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

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