



# WATERMAN HOY

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

## Volume 4 – Issue 13 A Message from the Clerk

The Court held on 9th January marks a half way point during the Company's year and for me this year seems to have passed by very quickly. The Master has been keeping a Blog which is available on the website. It is a good read and describes all the events and activities that the Master attends on behalf of the Company.

### Forthcoming Events

#### JANUARY 2019

29th Doggett's Emblem and Rowing Awards Dinner

#### FEBRUARY 2019

8th River Thames Lunch Club  
19th Annual Dinner at Fishmonger's Hall  
22nd Journeyman Freeman & Partners' Dinner

#### MARCH 2019

8th River Thames Lunch Club  
12th Freeman's Luncheon  
29th United Guilds Service & Luncheon

#### APRIL 2019

3rd Quarterly Court & Luncheon  
12th River Thames Lunch Club  
25th Freeman's St. George's Day Luncheon

Colin C. Middlemiss

**JANUARY 2019**

## Draw Off Walk – Monday, 12th November 2018



*Freemen joined up with the apprentices for much of the route.*

*Photo: Robert Treharne-Jones*

Every year the half-tide lock at Richmond is kept in the raised position for several weeks, meaning that the stretch of river upstream as far as Teddington empties completely at low tide in the annual Thames Draw-Off.

The procedure allows essential river works to be carried out, such as dredging and excavating, which would otherwise be impossible with normal water levels.

The draw-off also gives our apprentices the chance to get a unique perspective on this reach, by visiting the important landmarks and examining the river contours to see how it might behave at different stages of the tide.

Last November a small group assembled at Teddington, under the keen eye of our training officer, Alex Hickman, before walking three miles downstream to Richmond.

With Journeyman Freeman also on hand to answer questions the group visited Teddington Lock, which includes the largest and smallest locks on the entire river. They went on past the obelisk which marks the boundary between the jurisdiction of the PLA (downstream), and the Environment Agency (upstream), before passing Eel Pie Island, where many vessels had been left high and dry by the low water level.

But the river bed wasn't as exposed as it might have been, as a sustained period of heavy rain meant the landwater coming over Teddington Weir kept as much as six feet of water on the reach.

More light rain was in evidence as the group passed by Hammerton's Ferry on their way to Richmond Bridge, and ultimately to the lock, where they heard a detailed description of its operation, before making their way home.

*Robert Treharne-Jones 9 January 2019*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **River Thames Lunch Club – Fridays, 8th February, 8th March & 12th April 2019**

Open to all, both Craft Owning and Journeyman Freeman, 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](mailto:cookandbutler@btconnect.com)

### **Watermen's Company Annual Dinner @ Fishmongers' Hall – Tuesday, 19th February 2019**

Always very popular, the larger venue of Fishmongers' Hall enables Craft Owning Freeman to bring their business guests and/or their partners to this prestigious black-tie event. Please return your booking form and payment details to Martin.

### **Journeyman Freeman & Partners' Dinner – Friday, 22nd February 2019**

The Company wants to encourage Journeymen Freeman to come and use their Hall. This Dinner with three courses including wine is being subsidised by the Company. Tickets for the dinner would be £45 a head with Freeman invited to bring a wife, partner or guests. Dress code is jacket and tie.

### **Freemen's Luncheon – Tuesday, 12th March 2019**

These luncheons are open to all Freeman and their business guests. Dress is lounge suits. Lunch is £79 per person, including VAT. Please return your booking form and payment details to Martin.

### **United Guilds Service & Luncheon – Friday, 29th March 2019**

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 always full and it is an uplifting Service. A short stroll back to Watermen's for lunch. It is a lovely day out. Space is very limited in the Church and at the Hall so please indicate now if you want to attend. Court members have priority, then recently admitted Craft Owning Freeman.

### **Quarterly Court & Luncheon – Wednesday, 3rd April 2019**

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 per person, including VAT.

### **Freemen's St. George's Day Luncheon – Thursday, 25th April 2019**

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

### **Inter Livery Shoot – Wednesday, 15th May 2019 – save the date**

Further information in due course but, in the meantime, those interested should contact the organiser of the Watermen's Company team, Ted Gradosiolski on [ted.grad@thechapelbarn.com](mailto:ted.grad@thechapelbarn.com)



Photo: Mrs Jan Roberts

## Havengore Remembrance Service – 11th November 2018



At the Annual Remembrance Service held on the River on board the Havengore, the Master, Dr. Iain Reid, was supported by the Bargemaster, Robert Coleman (1996), and other Doggett's Coat & Badge Winners Alfie Anderson (2018), Chris Spencer (1987), Gary Anness (1982), Daniel Arnold (2010), Roger Spencer (1985) and Simon McCarthy (1984).

### Court of Bindings Monday, 14th January 2019



*Photo: Martin Laws*

Sixteen new apprentices and trainees were bound to the Company (in alphabetical order): Thomas Allen, Sam Barrow, Anthony Cook, Michael Creasey, Stuart Freeman, Daniel Gilbert, Tyron Hillhouse, Andrew Keywood, Skyla Merriman-Thomas, James Miles, Christopher Murr, Sam Neicho, Christopher Rogers, Paul Sawkins, Oliver Scott and Nicholas Tudor.

### Can you identify this Coat & Badge winner?

This is an unidentified image from the Company's photograph collection. The coat could be a Kingston or Richmond Coat – the style resembles examples of these which the Company holds in its Collection of Uniforms, Coats and Badges. The Company has produced a booklet on its collection of 40 Uniforms and Coats and over 60 Badges, the 2nd Edition of which, with additional coats and updated information, is available to purchase for £10.00 (plus p/p if required).



## Annual Subscriptions

As from 1st January 2019 the annual subscriptions for Craft Owing Freemen will be £425.00 per year. For those under 40 this will be £215.00. For those over the age of 75 this will be £215.00 on application. All the rates above are inclusive of VAT at the current rate of 20%.

For those Freemen who do not pay by direct debit an administration fee of £35.00 + Vat will be levied. To request a direct debit form please contact the Assistant Clerk. The direct debits will be collected in February 2019.

## Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

*Journeyman Freeman* **Bruce David Copping** passed away on 25th September 2018 aged 78 years. Bruce was born in Deptford on 24th May 1940 and bound on 13th December 1955. His Master was Jack Hardee Pearman. Bruce gained his Freedom on 13th February 1962. During his career he worked mostly for Braithwaite & Dean as a Lighterman and Tug Captain, until around 1980 when he became a publican in Dartford and Sidcup. Bruce had been living in Spain for the past several years, where he passed away. Many thanks to Ken Hawkrige and Eddie Smith for providing this information.

*Journeyman Freeman* **John Charles Pullen** passed away on 14th November 2018 aged 83 years. John was born in Gravesend on 15th December 1934 and bound on 9th September 1952. His master was Charles William Wenban. John gained his Freedom on 9th January 1958 and worked for many years as a dock pilot at Gravesend, following a long family tradition. Many thanks to Michael Wenban for providing this information.

*Journeyman Freeman* **Edmund Andrew R BIRTHRIGHT** (known as “Bunny”) passed away on 3rd January 2019 aged 87 years. Bunny was born in Gravesend on 14th January 1931 and bound to the Company on 12th December 1950. His master was Thomas Henry Livermore. Bunny gained his Freedom on 12th February 1957. Bunny’s funeral service will take place at Shorne Parish Church at 11:30am on 21st February 2019 and refreshments afterwards at the Masonic Hall, Gravesend.

*Journeyman Freeman* **Roland George Hastings** passed away 5th January 2019 aged 88 years. Roland was born on 30th September 1930 in Kingston and bound on 11th September 1945. His master was James Whittaker. Roland gained his Freedom on 11th September 1951. Prior to his death, Roland was a long-term resident of the Company’s Almshouses at Hastings and was well liked by everyone. Roland’s funeral will take place on Friday 1st February with the service starting at 12:00 in the community centre at Watermen’s Close. This will be followed by a committal service at Hastings Crematorium, The Ridge, Hastings TN34 2AE. Refreshments will be available afterwards back at the community centre.

*Journeyman and Craft Owing Freeman* **Kenneth Charles Everest** passed away 14th January 2019 aged 86 years. Kenny was born in West Ham on 10th June 1932 and was bound on 11th February 1947. His master was Charles Thomas Everest. Kenny gained his Freedom on 2nd March 1954 and won Doggett’s Coat and Badge Wager in the same year. He was appointed a Queen’s Waterman on 6th March 1974. Kenny’s funeral service will take place on Wednesday, 6th February 2019 at 1.00 pm at Upminster Crematorium, Ockenden Road, Upminster RM14 2UY.

*Journeyman Freeman* **Derek Field** passed away on 22nd November 2018, the day of his 89th birthday. Derek was born in 1929 in Poplar and bound on 9th August 1949, his master was Joseph Martin. Derek gained his Freedom on 9th November 1954. Derek was a long-term resident of the Company’s Almshouses in Hastings prior to his death. Many thanks to Martin Hackett, the Warden there, for this information.

**Note:** If you hear a Waterman or Lighterman has passed away, please encourage a family member to notify the Hall. If wished, we can put a notice in the next “Waterman Hoy” but we cannot accept Facebook or hearsay as notification.



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and Lightermen of  
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