



WATERMAN HOY

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

Volume 4 – Issue 16 A Message from the Clerk

Welcome to the New Company Year with our new Master, Tony Maynard. Unusually, we also have two new Wardens as, for a couple of Court Members, the time is not right for them to move forward towards becoming Master. The new senior Junior Warden is Craft-Owning Freeman Derek Mann and the most junior Junior Warden is Ted Gradosielski BEM. We also have a new Honorary Company Fundraiser, Honorary Court Assistant David Beard.

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 calendar year.

Forthcoming Events

JULY 2019

29th Port of London Challenge

SEPTEMBER 2019

4th Doggett's Coat & Badge Wager

13th River Thames Lunch Club

14th Great River Race

21st London Open House

22nd David Pope & Steve Faldo

Barge Driving Events

26th Freeman's Connoisseurs Lunch

OCTOBER 2019

2nd Quarterly Court & Luncheon

3rd Party on the Thames

9th Annual National Service for Seafarers

11th – 13th Apprentices Sculling Weekend at Henley

13th Thomas Martyn Foundation Annual Service

Colin C. Middlemiss

July 2019

Introduction to the new Master Tony Maynard, Installation Date – 10th July 2019

It's both an honour and a privilege to have been elected the 193rd Master of the Company.

I was bound as an apprentice to the Company by my father George Maynard in 1983, being descended from a long line of both Waterman and Lighterman stretching back to the 18th Century.

My first job was on board passenger vessels, from Charing Cross Pier to Greenwich, for one of our Past Masters, Robert Crouch. In 1988, I became fully qualified to work as both a Waterman and Lighterman and so became a Journeyman Freeman of the Company.

In April 1989, with two partners, I formed a company to offer both sightseeing cruises and private hire vessels on the Thames. We still operate the same company today, albeit having grown quite considerably over the years, having just celebrated our 30th year of business.

My wife, Sue Maynard, who is an integral part of the operation of our business, also comes from a similarly long line of Thames Waterman, her father being Eddie Jones. We have three children and our son Charlie is currently the Captain of MV Thomas Doggett, the newest passenger vessel on the River Thames with a capacity of 526 people.

In January 2018, I was appointed as one of the twenty-four Waterman to Her Majesty the Queen. These days this is a ceremonial role rather than the physical rowing task of years gone by. However, on special occasions, Royal Waterman can still be seen rowing the Royal Barge Gloriana in their traditional red uniforms but perhaps, more frequently, can be seen acting as footman at State visits, Royal Weddings and Jubilees. At a Coronation, Royal Waterman walk behind the Royal Barge Master guarding the Regalia when it is brought from Buckingham Palace to Westminster and returned; a reminder of the days when it was brought from the Tower of London by boat.

I became a Craft Owning Freeman of the Company in 2006 and was invited onto the Court in 2007. I have served on various committees during this time, most recently as Chairman of the Apprentice and Training Committee where, along with our training officer, I was charged with facilitating the training of our bound apprentices so they ultimately achieve their Boat Master's Licence.

My main focus for the coming year, will be for the good of our apprentices and to continue to assist our Training Officer, Alex Hickman, with the excellent work that he does. Also to encourage more Journeymen Freeman to become Craft Owning Freeman, with a view to joining the Court and perhaps one day becoming Master of the Company.

I am now very proud to have the opportunity to represent the Company of Waterman and Lighterman as Master during 2019-2020.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Port of London Challenge – Monday, 29th July 2019

Start at HQS Wellington 18:30 - No canopy, 6 oared for cutters or skerries, coxswain & passenger. Anyone interested in rowing should contact the Company Bargemaster, Robbie Coleman on 07710 466040.

Doggett's Coat & Badge Wager – Wednesday, 4th September 2019

This year the wager will be run in the early afternoon to suit the tide. The Company will have a following boat (information and a booking form attached).

River Thames Lunch Club – Fridays 13th September, 11th October, 8th November & 13th December 2019

Open to all, both Craft Owning and Journeymen Freemen, Apprentices/Trainees, their guests and members of the public. A five-course tasting menu with matching wines for £57.50 (increasing to £60.00 from January 2020) per person, including VAT. Book with our inhouse caterers, Cook and Butler on 020 7620 1818 or cookandbutler@btconnect.com

Great River Race – Saturday 14th September 2019

Always a spectacle, view from anywhere along the River between Millwall Slipway, opposite Docklands Sailing Centre, Westferry Road, London E14 3QS (first boats away 10:50am) and the finish at Ham, Richmond. The Company plans to enter with Watermen's Cutter "Jim Holt".

London Open House – Saturday 21st September 2019

Entry by booked, timed ticket only. See <https://openhouselondon.org.uk/> for booking instructions.

David Pope & Steve Faldo Barge Driving Events – Sunday 22nd September 2019

The David Pope Challenge Race starts at Waterloo Bridge at 12:30 and finishes at Tower Bridge at 13:30 (approx.) and is rowed in memory of Dave Pope who tragically lost his life at work. The Steve Faldo Memorial Race starts at Tower Bridge at 14:00, finishing at Westminster Bridge at 15:00 (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. These annual events are a great Thames spectacle and test of the barge crews' navigational skills. There will be a following boat – more information in due course.

Freemen's Connoisseurs Lunch – Thursday, 26th September 2019

Responding to Freemen enquiring whether the Company might occasionally offer a very fine dining alternative to the traditional Freemen's Lunch, the Kitchen Committee is putting on a Connoisseurs Lunch on 26th September. Planning is underway, but it will offer 7 courses each with an accompanying wine. Wine buff, Past Master Jeremy Randall has offered to introduce each wine. Numbers attending will be limited to 60 and the price will be higher than for the normal Freemen's Lunch but has not yet been set. Express interest in attending to Martin Laws martin@watermenshall.org

Quarterly Court & Luncheon – Wednesday, 2nd October 2019

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.

Party on the Thames – Thursday, 3rd October 2019 – save the date.

Organised by the Ladies Committee on behalf of the Watermen's Company Charities. More information to come.

Annual National Service for Seafarers – Wednesday, 9th October 2019

The Service was first held in 1905 the centenary of the death of Nelson as a Service to commemorate seafarers. It brings together the whole of the UK's maritime community. Complimentary tickets to attend this Service are available through the Company during August, if you are interested apply to the Clerk at clerk@watermenshall.org

Apprentices Sculling Weekend at Henley – Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October 2019

The Company's charities will again sponsor a weekend of sculling training and practice for apprentices and trainees. This weekend is particularly aimed at preparing apprentices and trainees to participate in sculling events and, eventually, Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager. Freemen and families of the participants are welcome to attend. More information to come in due course. Initial enquiries and expressions of interest to Kelly Lesurf, Training Administrator, by telephone or training@watermenshall.org

Thomas Martyn Foundation Annual Service – Sunday, 13th October 2019

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 Benefactors Lunch – Tuesday, 15th October 2019

There is no doubt that the Company enjoys what it has through the generosity of past Freemen. This Freemen's Lunch is to remember those Freemen and commemorate that generosity. Open to all Freemen, more details and a booking form to follow.

Beating of the Bounds Thursday, 30th May 2019



The Master Dr. Iain Reid, Clerk Colin Middlemiss, Bargemaster Robbie Coleman, Doggett's Men Dan Arnold and Louis Pettipher and Beadle Tony Parker took part in the Beating of the Bounds Ceremony, when local school children "beat" the boundaries of the Parish of All Hallows by the Tower.

Photo: Eddie Hardiman, All Hallows by the Tower

Thames Historic Barge Rowing Event – Saturday, 6th July 2019



Won by the "Apprentice Lighterman" crewed by Freeman Bradley Willcox (captain), Louis Pettipher and James Berry and Apprentices Oliver Scott and Andy Stones. The prizes were presented by Admiral the Lord West.

Photo: Colin Middlemiss

Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager Draw for Stations and Colours – Tuesday, 9th July 2019

From Left:
Patrick Keech, George Gilbert & James Berry

Photo: Kelly Lesurf

The draw took place at Watermen's Hall, results as follows:

Patrick Keech	Station: 1	Colour: Red
George Gilbert	Station: 3	Colour: Green
James Berry	Station: 2	Colour: Light Blue
Jack Finelli	Station: 4	Colour: Dark Blue

(drawn in his absence)

The race will take place on Wednesday, 4th September 2019.

Good luck to all four competitors!



Court of Bindings Monday, 10th June 2019



Eleven apprentices and trainees were bound at Watermen's Hall on Monday, 10th June 2019. In alphabetical order: Joe Baker, Max Baker, Artem Bondarenko, Brandon Cripps, Harry Dovydozas, Mason Knowles, Callum Paige, Henry Pelham, Andrew Stones, Andrew Stylianou and Max Turner.

Court of Admissions Monday, 8th July 2019



Eight new Journeyman Freemen took their oaths at Watermen's Hall. Many congratulations to you all. L-R: James Berry, Jack Finelli, George Gilbert, Joe McCarthy, Max Wilson, Andrew Coppin, Patrick Keech and Christopher Davis.

Photo: Alex Hickman

Admiral of the Port Challenge Thursday, 13th June 2019



Won by the Watermen's Company in the "Jim Holt", crewed by: Bargemaster & Cox Robbie Coleman, Passengers, the Master Dr. Iain Reid and Apprentice Charlie Irwin, Oarsmen Craft Owing Freeman Dan Bartlett, J P O'Donnell, Journeyman Freeman Alfie Anderson and Harry Joynes.

Freemen and apprentices/trainees who would like to row, please contact: robbie@silverfleet.co.uk

Photo: Hon Court Assistant Darren Knight

Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

Craft Owing Freeman **Ronald Clucas** passed away 28th May 2019 aged 88 years. Ronald became a Craft Owing Freeman on 18th January 1984.

Journeyman Freeman **John Richard Waterhouse** passed away 7th June 2019 aged 69 years. John was born on 31st May 1950 in Lambeth North and was bound on 13th July 1965. His master was Richard Waterhouse. John gained his Freedom on 13th July 1971. John's early career was with his father at Cherry Garden mooring and unmooring ships in the Rotherhithe area. In the early 1970s they operated two party boats in partnership with the Wilsons. From the early 1980s he worked with Graham Barnard doing cargo ships until July 2018. In the early 1990s he went to work on the Woolwich Ferry, until he retired from there aged 65.

Journeyman Freeman **David Thomas H Miller** passed away 18th June 2019 aged 89 years. David was born in Stepney in 1930 and was bound as an apprentice to the Company on 8th May 1945. His master was Joseph Henry Miller. David gained his Freedom on 13th May 1952 and remained active within the Company until very recently, binding his grandson Max Carter-Miller in 2015.

Journeyman Freeman **Michael Thomas Foord** passed away 8th June 2019 aged 81 years. Michael was born in Gravesend on 7th June 1938 and was bound as an apprentice to the Company on 6th April 1954. His master was Eric Samuel Longden. Michael gained his Freedom on 10th May 1960. He began his career working initially for Greenhithe Lighterage before taking up coastal work, returning to work on the Thames in 1992 until he retired from the River.

Craft Owing Freeman **Dr Diana Mary Henderson** passed away 10th April 2019 aged 72 years. Born in Guildford on 21st May 1946, Diana had a military career spanning some 30 years and became a Craft Owing Freeman on 4th April 2007.

Journeyman Freeman **Gerald George Fitzgerald** passed away 13th June 2019 aged 78 years. Gerry was born in Bermondsey on 22nd November 1940 and bound as an apprentice on 9th October 1956. His master was Charles Walter Beckwith and Gerry gained his Freedom on 14th November 1961. Gerry remained active in attending Senior Lightermen's events until recently.



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

Kelly Lesurf
(Training Administrator)
020 7929 7452
training@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