



WATERMAN HOY

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

Volume 4 – Issue 17 A Message from the Watermen's Hall Staff

The year is moving past fast and we are now contemplating the run up to Christmas. We do hope you will be able to join us for a Christmas Lunch (bookings open on the 1st November) and/or our Carol Service at All Hallows by the Tower.

Forthcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2019

- 7th Freeman's & Partners' Dinner
- 8th River Thames Lunch Club
- 9th Lord Mayor's Show
- 10th Merchant Navy Memorial Service
- 11th Havengore Memorial Service
- 15th Draw Off Walk

DECEMBER 2019

- 6th Court Visit to Hastings
- 10th Carol Service & Master's Christmas Reception
- 13th River Thames Lunch Club
- 17th/18th/19th Freeman's Christmas Luncheons

JANUARY 2020

- 8th Quarterly Court & Luncheon
- 10th River Thames Lunch Club
- 13th Court of Bindings

Refurbished Freeman's Room Launched 3rd October 2019



Photo: Jeremy Dale

During August the Company asked Court Assistant Annamarie Phelps to lead a small team to refurbish the Freeman's Room. There is new carpet and curtains, the lighting has been updated and the room has been redecorated. The lighting in the Cabinets displaying silverware and costumes has been upgraded. The overall theme is 18th Century Venetian Palace, elegant, fresh and bright. There is also a new state of the art audio visual system to attract outside clients and for use in training sessions with apprentices. It was finished on time and broadly within budget, largely paid for by a generous grant from the PQ Club.

The Master cut the ribbon and opened the new room at the 2nd October Quarterly Court. It has attracted some favourable comments. The Court thanks Annamarie for overseeing the work and the PQ Club for largely funding the project. There are still one or two changes to come including adding some new prints for the Hallway between the Court and Freeman's Room.

Colin C. Middlemiss

October 2019

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Freemen's and Partners' Dinner – Thursday, 7th November 2019

This dinner is open to all Freemen and their partners. The dress code is black tie and the cost is £80.00 per head including VAT. Please contact Martin at Watermen's Hall to book and pay.

Company Carol Service & Master's Reception – Tuesday, 10th December

The service at All Hallows by the Tower is open to all. Tickets for the Master's Reception back at Watermen's Hall are £50.00 per person. Partners and guests are welcome.

Freemen's Christmas Lunches – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 17th, 18th & 19th December 2019

Tickets are £79 per person. Freemen are asked to limit themselves to one guest initially to allow everyone who wishes to attend.

Court of Bindings – Monday, 13th January 2020

Any Freeman interested in apprenticing a young person training to become a Waterman and Lighterman should contact Kelly Lesurf, Training Administrator, at Watermen's Hall.

Burns' Night Celebrations – Tuesday, 21st January 2020

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

Doggett's Emblem & Rowing Awards Dinner – Tuesday 28th January 2020

This informal family evening is the Company's opportunity to acknowledge Mr Patrick Keech, winner of the 305th Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager and his fellow competitors, James Berry, Jack Finelli and George Gilbert. The Fishmongers' Company present all the competitors with Doggett's medals and the Company present lapel badges. The opportunity is taken also to acknowledge the winners of other rowing events over the last year, particularly the winner of the Ben Woollacott Memorial Sculls at Henley, Max Carter-Miller. All Freemen are welcome and Apprentices and young Freemen are particularly encouraged to attend this event.

26th Inter Livery Clay Shoot – Thursday 14th May 2020 – save the date.

At Holland & Holland Shooting Grounds – please contact Junior Warden Ted Gradosielski BEM if you want to join the Watermen's Company team - ted.grad@thechapelbarn.com

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



Photo: Jeremy Dale

staying in the fast but rough water. Finelli followed Keech on the inside. From the start, Gilbert was unable to cope with the challenging conditions and was soon passed by the umpire. Berry fought to the end but Keech kept his lead to the finish, in an unofficial time of 29mins 28secs.

The four scullers, Patrick Keech, James Berry, George Gilbert and Jack Finelli lined up just downstream of London Bridge at 1400hrs on 4 September. They were all first time Doggett's competitors. Doggett's is rowed now with the tide. However, the wind was blowing hard in the opposite direction to the tidal flow, stirring the water up and producing conditions what Tim Koch, a seasoned observer, described as 'brutal'. Patrick rowed as a child, but then gave up rowing for sailing. At Portsmouth University, he started rowing again, and on graduation went to Tideway Scullers at Chiswick, West London. Here he was coached by, among others, his brother Jack, who won Doggett's in 2017, and his father, Tim, who came second in 1983 and 1984. The race was probably decided when Keech decided to go inside the so-called Coin Street barges along the south shore where the water is slower but calmer. Perhaps going against conventional wisdom for the conditions, Berry decided to keep to the middle of the river and go on the outside of the barges,

Apprentice's Henley Sculling Weekend 11th -13th October 2019



Photo: Robert Treharne-Jones

A great weekend in Henley at this year's sculling training for the Company's apprentices. Thank you to everyone who came down over the weekend and assisted with coaching. 10 apprentices took part.

Apprentices, left to right, Artem Bondarenko, Joseph Baker, Charlie Irwin, Max Carter-Miller, Andrew Stones, Coran Cherry, Lucas Ansbro-Bennett, Scarlett Barnett-Smith, Oliver Scott and Leon Britton are pictured with The Master, Tony Maynard, Past Master & Rowing Officer, Simon McCarthy and Freeman, Joe McCarthy.

The winner of the Ben Woollacott Memorial Sculling Trophy was Max Carter-Miller and the most improved was Scarlett Barnett-Smith.

Draw Off Walk Friday, 15th November 2019

All apprentices, trainees, Freeman and friends are invited to attend this year's Draw Off Walk. Please meet at 11:30am at the Middlesex side of Teddington footbridge. This is an ideal trip to observe the river level lower than usual as the Richmond curtains remain raised allowing the level to drop well below the 1.72m maintained mark. This year we will be stopping in at Richmond Bridge Boathouses and Mark Edwards MBE will be giving us a talk about Wherries and Skiffs. We will be allowed to explore the boatyard and watch traditional boat building in action. The walk will finish around 2.00pm at Richmond Lock.

Requirements:

Please make your own travel arrangements. You will need to bring with you a pen, paper and a camera. Packed lunch is optional, as there are places to grab something to eat in Richmond. If you would like to come along, please contact Alex Hickman or Kelly Lesurf at Watermen's Hall.

Annual National Service for Seafarers - 9th October 2019

This annual Service celebrating Seafarers was started by Capt. R. Hubbard in 1905 when he suggested in a letter to newspapers that on the centenary of the death of Nelson, it would be a fitting occasion for the inauguration of an annual seamen's service at St Paul's. Some 114 years later the Annual National Service for Seafarers was held at St Paul's on 9th October. There were 22 seafarer/waterways' organisations each represented by a Flag Bearer Party who process at the beginning and end of the Service. It is an uplifting occasion with St Paul's filled to capacity. The Company has the privilege of having our Flag carried by two apprentices accompanied by our Bargemaster, Robert Coleman. The photo shows our two apprentices Mason Knowles and Scarlett Barnett-Smith.

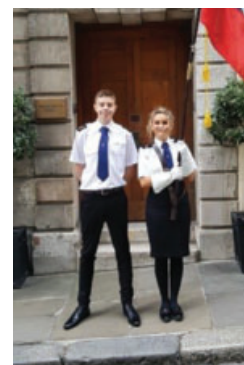


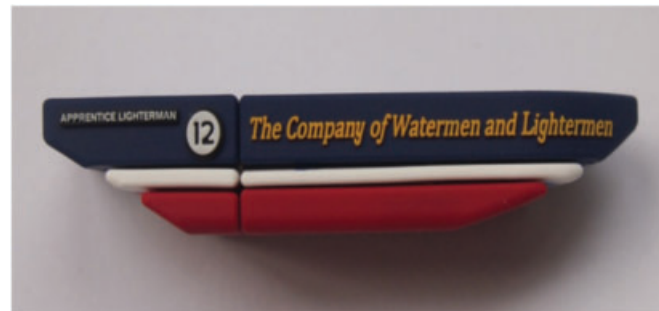
Photo: Kelly Lesurf

Open House at Watermen's Hall Saturday, 21st September 2019

Watermen's Hall opened its doors to the public as part of Open House London. Over one hundred people came to be shown round the Hall travelling from as far away as Tasmania. Many had Watermen and Lightermen ancestors and were delighted to be able to see where their family members had started their careers. Four guided tours took place under the guidance of the Assistant Clerk who was supported this year by Senior Warden Gina Blair and Honorary Court Assistant Darren Knight.



Watermen's Shop



16GB USB in shape of
"Apprentice Lighterman" - £10.00

2019 Christmas Card
£15.00 for pack of 20 cards

Both plus packing and postage if required.

Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

Journeyman Freeman **Terence McCarthy** passed away 13 Jun 2019 aged 82 years. Terry was bound on 8th April 1952. His master was Charles Frederick Clack. Terry gained his Freedom on 15th April 1958 and worked for General Lighterage both before and after serving his National Service. He transferred to stevedoring in the 1960s before managing several pubs in the East End after leaving the River. He served for many years on the Almshouses Committee.

Journeyman Freeman **James John Hughes** passed away on the 15th July 2019 aged 84 years. James was born in Stepney on 8th June 1935. He was bound on 12th September 1950. His master was his father John Edward Hughes. James gained his Freedom on 12th November 1957 and worked for Union Lighterage during his career on the river.

Journeyman Freeman **Cornelius Henry Andrews** passed away 3rd August 2019 aged 97 years. Connie was born in Rotherhithe on 5th December 1921. He was bound on 14th December 1947. His master was Frank Hull. Connie gained his Freedom on 14th December 1943.

Journeyman Freeman **David Howard** passed away 18th August 2019 aged 76 years. David was born in Gravesend on 19th May 1943 and bound to the Company on 14th April 1959. His master was James Edward Howard. David gained his Freedom on 11th May 1965.

Craft Owing Freeman **Captain Kim Milnes** passed away 2nd September 2019 aged 65 years following a motor cycling accident. Kim was a Master Mariner and later ran the lighterage operation at Cory Environmental. He became a Craft Owing Freeman on 19th October 1994 and became inactive on 26th November 2013.

Craft Owing Freeman **Peter David Thatcher Roberts** passed away 22nd September 2019 aged 85 years. Peter was born in Beckenham in 1934. He became a Craft Owing Freeman on 20th October 1971 and was Master of the Company in 1993-1994. There will be a memorial service at St. Giles Church, Shipbourne (near Tonbridge, Kent) on 27th November 2019 at 2:30pm.

Craft Owing Freeman **Michael A Woolf FRICS** passed away 15th October 2019 aged 82 years. Michael was born in Hackney in 1937 and became a Craft Owing Freeman on 14th October 1998. He was a well-known character on the river, a pier owner and Chartered Surveyor specialising in river works licences and permissions.



The Newsletter of The
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and Lightermen of
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