



# WATERMAN HOY

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

## Volume 4 – Issue 20 A Message from the Clerk

We do hope you are all keeping safe and well in these continuing strange times of covid-19. We are holding some events at Watermen's Hall where we have a Covid-19 secure risk assessed protocol in place. Other events have had to be postponed but will be held as soon as possible. The good news is that our classroom training for apprentices is continuing in the Hall.

## Forthcoming Events

(all subject to the progress of Covid-19)

### SEPTEMBER 2020

1st-30th Totally Thames Festival  
29th Watermen's Hall Reopening  
Lunch

### OCTOBER 2020

7th Quarterly Court & Luncheon  
9th River Thames Lunch Club  
20th Freeman's Benefactors' Lunch

### NOVEMBER 2020

10th Freeman's Connoisseurs Lunch  
13th River Thames Lunch Club  
14th Lord Mayor's Show  
19th Freeman & Partners' Dinner

## Introduction to the new Master Mrs Gina Blair Installation Date – 8th July 2020



*Photo: Colin Middlemiss*

When I look at the Past Masters before me, I am both humbled and enormously honoured to be serving our great Company as the 194th Master.

I was introduced to the Company by my late father Christopher Rawson who served as Master for 2 years in the early 80's. Having been admitted to the Company as a Craft Owning Freeman, I was elected onto the Court in 2011. I believe my participation and knowledge of most of the committees will stand me in good stead to support the Company at a time of uncertainty. Whilst I

lack the wealth of experience of so many Watermen and Lightermen who have been involved with the River, often for many generations, I am extremely fortunate to have Derek Mann as the Senior Warden to support me on the Apprenticeship and Training Committee. Together we shall ensure the Watermen's legacy handed down by my predecessors continues and flourishes on the River.

My background is more of a sailing nature with plenty of action racing yachts in the Solent and around Britain along with transatlantic voyages. As you all know, rowing is part of the Company's heritage, my capabilities lean more towards rowing from ship to shore in a tender often at tremendous speed when a Rum Punch is at stake!

After a decade of global travel, I started up and ran the successful catering company Nutty Capers keeping busy and out of trouble whilst giving me the opportunity to meet a wide variety of fascinating people and experience some magnificent venues in and around London.

I thoroughly enjoy the traditional side of our Company and all it stands for, but we must bring in 'tomorrow's generations' and that will be the theme during my year in office. Born and brought up in Chelsea I now share my time between London and North Wales where my 3 badly behaved dogs and my not so badly behaved husband, Steve, live. During my year as Master my consort will be my dear friend Honorary Court Assistant Richard Turk. We look forward to a tremendous year ahead seeing you at the Hall and afloat.

Colin C. Middlemiss

September 2020

## Forthcoming Events (all subject to the progress of Covid19)

With the departure of our Company Events Manager, Martin Laws, we have revised how we handle bookings for our own events. We now have a new email for bookings [events@watermenshall.org](mailto:events@watermenshall.org). A flyer will be sent out in plenty of time advising full details of the event and inviting you to book. As the numbers for attending have been reduced, all bookings will be on a first come basis. No booking will be confirmed until payment has been received. Once payment has been received you will receive a confirmation email with details of our protocols for social distancing attached. I am sure that together we can make this work.

### Totally Thames Festival – 1st-30th September 2020

Various events. See the website: [thamesfestivaltrust.org](http://thamesfestivaltrust.org)

### River Thames Lunch Club – 9th October, 13th November & 11th December 2020 - All fully booked. New dates 23rd October & 20th November

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

### London Open House – 19th September 2020 - Cancelled

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

### Court of Bindings - 21st September 2020 - Postponed

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 on [training@watermenshall.org](mailto:training@watermenshall.org).

### Watermen's Hall Reopening Lunch – 29th September 2020

More information to come – save the date.

### Quarterly Court & Luncheon – 7th October 2020

Lunch is £75.00 per person, including VAT. Due to restricted numbers, the lunch is open to Court members only and they will not be able to bring guests. Court members, please book your place by emailing [events@watermenshall.org](mailto:events@watermenshall.org)

### Freemen's Benefactors' Lunch – 20th October 2020

There is no doubt that the Company enjoys what it has through the generosity of past Freemen. This Freeman's Lunch is to remember those Freemen and commemorate that generosity. Open to all Freemen.

### Freemen's Connoisseurs Lunch – 10th November 2020

Responding to Freemen enquiring whether the Company might occasionally offer a very fine dining alternative to the traditional Freeman's Lunch, the Kitchen Committee is putting on a Connoisseurs Lunch on 10th November. 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 Freeman's Lunch but has not yet been set.

### Freemen & Partners' Dinner – 19th November 2020

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.

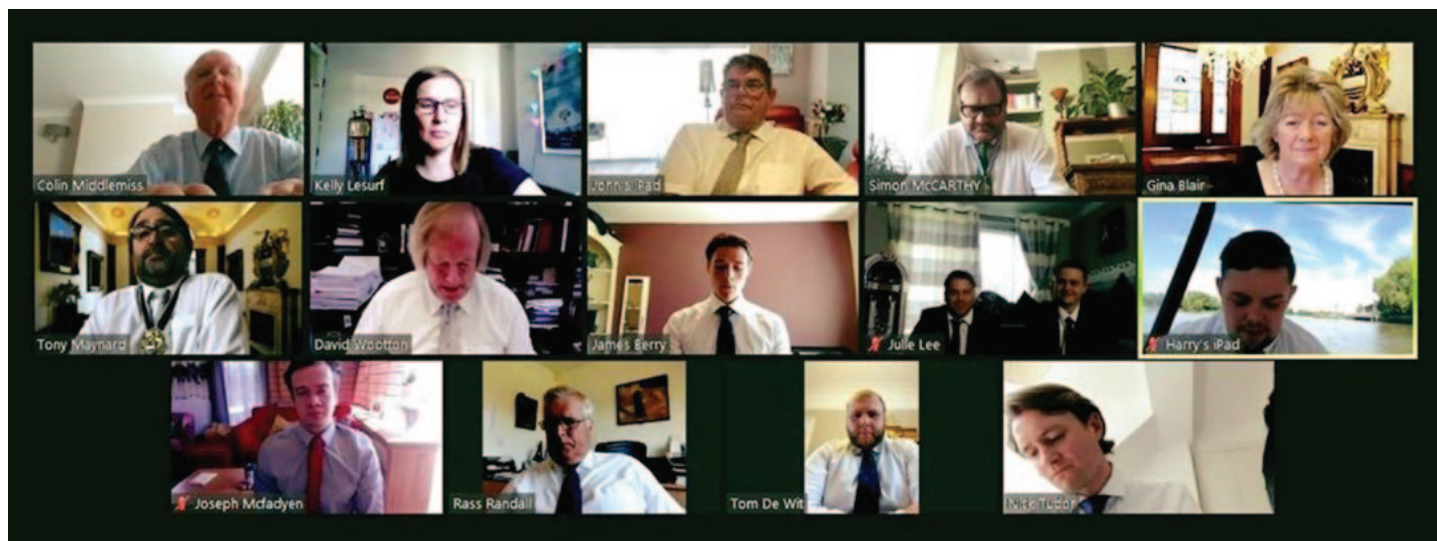


## Watermen's Company Court joint lunch with the Innholders' Company Tuesday, 3rd March 2020

The Watermen's Company and the Innholders' Company Courts hold a joint lunch annually, taking turns to host at their own Halls. This year it was the Innholders turn and our then Master, Tony Maynard, is pictured with the Innholders' Master, Keith Harrison.

The Company has a relationship with the Innholders' Company as both reached their 500th anniversary in 2014.

## Court of Bindings – Monday, 18th May 2020 – via Zoom



*Photo: Kelly Lesurf*

For the first time in the Company's history, a virtual Court of Bindings was held on 18th May 2020 and three new apprentices were welcomed into the Company. A “presentation of the indentures” ceremony will be held at the Hall when possible. May we wish you all good luck in your careers on the River Thames.

**Company Court Members:** The Master, Tony Maynard; Master-Elect & Snr Warden, Ms Gina Blair; Jnr Warden, Sir David Wootton; Past Masters, Jeremy Randall & John Salter and Past Master & Rowing Officer, Simon McCarthy

**Company Staff Members:** The Clerk, Colin Middlemiss, Training Officer Assistant, Nick Tudor and Training Administrator, Kelly Lesurf

### **Apprentices Bound:**

Billy Lee - Master: Joseph Mason-Lee  
Joseph McFadyen - Master: James Berry  
Harry Tutt - Master: Tom de Wit

## Apprentices Training Day - Monday, 17th August 2020



*Photo: Kelly Lesurf*

First socially distanced classroom session for some of our apprentices since March, with all Covid-19 guidelines in place. Here's to a new way of teaching for the foreseeable future at Watermen's Hall. This class was led by Training Officer Assistant Nick Tudor.

## Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

*Craft Owing Freeman* **John William Deaton Everett FRICS** passed away on 16th February 2020 aged 87 years. John was born in Chertsey in 1932 and was admitted to the Craft Owing Freedom on 17th January 1990. He became an inactive Freeman on 11th January 2017.

*Journeyman Freeman* **Alfred Ronald Davey** passed away on 24th February 2020 aged 83 years. Alfred was born at Custom House, West Ham South, on 16th August 1936 and bound to the Company on 12th July 1955. His master was Patrick Ling. Alfred was granted his Freedom of the Company on 12th July 1960. Waterman's Licence No: 72310, Lighterman's Licence No: 82389. Alfred worked for Cory Lighterage for many years, retiring in 2001.

*Craft Owing Freeman* **Tim Hall** passed away 20th February 2020 aged 93 years after a short illness.

*Craft Owing Freeman* **John A Pleace** passed away 17th February 2020 aged 76 years. John was born in Windsor in 1943 and became a Craft Owing Freeman in 2002.

*Court Widow* **Diane Turk** passed away in February 2020 aged 74 years. Diane was the widow of the late Past Master Michael Turk and the mother of Court Assistant Richard D Turk.



**Terence John Brooker** passed away 24th July 2020 aged 79 years. Terence was born in Watford on 24th October 1940 and apprenticed by his father, Alfred John Brooker, on the 13th December 1955. He worked initially for Sun Tugs and then Darlings Lighterage Company.

*Journeyman Freeman* **Robert Alan (Bob) Haseltine** passed away 20th July 2020 aged 84 years. Bob was born in West Ham on 27th March 1936. He was bound to the Company on 29th April 1952. His master was Charles Henry Newman. Bob gained his Freedom on 14th May 1957 and worked for Vokins and Co, among others, finishing his career on the Woolwich Ferry.

*Trainee* **Artem Bondarenko** passed away 6th August 2020 aged 24 years, the result of a road traffic accident. Artem was born on 14th May 1996 in Cherkaska, Ukraine. He was bound on 10 June 2019; his master was Steve Livett. Artem had thrown himself into the activities the Company arranges for apprentices and trainees, attending the Henley Sculling Weekend in September 2019 and the Draw Off Walk from Teddington to Richmond on 15th November 2019 and had expressed an interest in rowing in Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager.

*Journeyman Freeman* **Anthony Philip Law** passed away 19th August 2020 aged 85 years. Tony was born in Stepney in 1935 and bound to the Company on 13th June 1950. His master was Douglas Cyril Kadwill. Tony gained his Freedom on 14th August 1956 and worked at Silvertown Services and BP Oil on the river tankers.

## Watermen's Shop - Ascot Promotions

Time to think about winter warmers.

We are adding beanie hats and jumpers to our existing stock. Full details will be circulated as soon as possible.



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

**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  
alex@watermenshall.org

**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