



Letter from the Master



The Master and Court processing to the Installation Service *Photo: John Dewhurst*

THIS BUMPER ISSUE OF *The Owl* has been published to coincide with our Budget Banquet on 4th March 2014. This is one of the highlights of the Company's year, to which we invite Masters from a number of other Companies, particularly those in the Financial Services Group. It is a traditionally well-supported occasion and I very much look forward to seeing members and their guests in the grand setting of the Carpenters' Hall.

I and other Liverymen of the Company attended Common Hall on 30th September 2013 where we were delighted that Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE, well known to Tax Advisers as the wife of Past Master Nicholas Woolf, was elected Lord Mayor for the year 2013-14. Members of the Livery were also present at the Silent Ceremony held at Guildhall on 8th November where Alderman Woolf was admitted as Lord Mayor. We wish Fiona and Nicholas every success in what we are sure will be a truly memorable and exciting year for them. We are happy to publish a message from the Lord Mayor to the Livery and a report of the Company's float in the Lord Mayor's Show.

I am eagerly anticipating our Civic Luncheon at Mansion House on 29th April 2014, with the Lord Mayor as our Principal Guest. I hope that as many members as possible will attend this prestigious event.

We are members of a vibrant and active Company whose close association with the profession of Tax Advisers means that it draws its energy from people who are often lateral thinkers pursuing a career which is intellectually satisfying and requires energy and enthusiasm. In recent years we have also had to get used to being at the centre of much press comment and political controversy.

We do our job best if we always bear in mind the balance to be maintained between the legitimate interests of tax collectors and the right of the taxpayer (whether an individual or multinational corporation) to insist that tax be payable only when the law clearly provides for it. This does not mean that taxpayers can take their stand on the basis of technical interpretations of words in a statute without regard to the obvious purpose underlying the statute, but it does mean that taxpayers are entitled to expect clarity and certainty from the State when it makes demands for a share of their earnings or their estate.

Involvement with our Company provides us with an opportunity not only to promote our profession but also to contribute to the various charitable causes we support, primarily through the work of our dedicated Charities Committee.

Just as important in many ways is to take part in the social activities and outings organised by our energetic Social Committee, details of which are given in the Clerk's Bulletins.

Our Membership Committee's task is to look for ways of maintaining and increasing the numbers of our Freemen, drawing particularly from younger practitioners. We are also receiving several new enquiries from people living abroad who wish to become International Freemen.

In my first few months as Master I have been impressed by the strength and cohesiveness of the Livery Movement. To be a part of such a large and dynamic club creates many opportunities. I have become convinced that the ancient Livery concept with its ability to be adaptable and open to newcomers is a crucial element in the success of the City of London.

John Dewhurst
Master
February 2014

In this issue:

- Past Master's Notes
- Our affiliations
- The Lord Mayor's Message
- WCTA and the Lord Mayor's Show
- History of Tax group meetings
- Social events
- Admissions and Advancements
- Events Diary
- Congratulations



Past Master's Notes

THE LAST YEAR WAS an extremely busy and enjoyable one and it was a great privilege to represent the Company at a large number and variety of engagements. The Tax Advisers Company is well regarded in the Livery and our Master's Badge continues to receive warm praise wherever it is seen.

Especially memorable was the Red Cross fund-raiser in June where a number of Livery Masters were "jailed and bailed" at the Mansion House and transported to the Tower in a vintage bus accompanied by police officers in period uniform. The tourists at the Tower were treated to an unexpected bonus of gowned Masters with Ball and Chain attached being escorted by the Beefeaters. Bail was set at £1000 per Livery Master and release was only available once payment had been received and fingerprinting had been carried out.

At our dinners at Grocers' and Stationers' Halls and the Civic Lunch at Skinners' Hall we entertained guests, including Sheriff Pullman, and Masters, reciprocating the hospitality generously provided by their livery companies. Our social events were well supported; the tour of the Renaissance hotel at St Pancras being fully booked within hours. The informal new members' evening at Grays Inn was much enjoyed and many at my Master's weekend in Winchester said how much they had appreciated an occasion providing another example of fellowship within the Company.

Attending many dinners and receptions was most pleasant, but particularly worthwhile was visiting our affiliated



Installing the New Master.
Photo: Michael O'Sullivan

Army and St John Ambulance Cadet units and presenting awards. These organisations clearly provide their young people with lifelong skills and character building so that our grants to these units represent extremely good use of our charitable funds. One of the major Livery company functions is to support charitable works and our charitable funds are used wisely, but I shall not pass up this opportunity to encourage our members to give even more generously and so assist us to disperse funds widely in support of more of the many applications we receive.

It was an honour to be invited to the presentation by HRH The Princess Royal of a new Standard to 101 Squadron at RAF Brize Norton on the occasion of the retirement of the VC10 and the squadron becoming the second operator of the new

Voyager aircraft. Needless to say, we have requested an early opportunity to get airborne again.

I was very well supported by my Wardens and our Clerk, Paul Herbage, throughout the year and my thanks go to them and the Court and the Committees for all their hard work and support. I was also delighted to be advised by some of our more recent members that they wished they had joined earlier!

I know that John and Susan Dewhurst are having a very busy and exciting year especially as it aligns very closely with that of the Lord Mayor, Fiona Woolf, whose Consort is Past Master Nicholas Woolf. I wish all of them great success.

Nicholas Goulding

Our Affiliations

OUR SHIP, HMS BANGOR, was very active under Lt. Cdr. Toby Shaughnessy. In addition to operational and training commitments, she visited several Ulster and Scottish ports during which she welcomed some 7,000 members of the public. HRH Prince Michael of Kent honoured Bangor with a brief visit and he was able to see around the ship and be introduced to the crew.

Returning to Faslane in mid-June, Bangor was the envy of every other unit within the Naval Base when HRH The

Prince of Wales (the Duke of Rothesay) honoured the ship with a visit. A former minehunter captain, he was very interested in comparing his experiences with today's crew.

In November, Lt. Cdr. Shaughnessy and his crew deployed "East of Suez." We send our best wishes to them. Bangor began a major refit, due for completion in May 2014. We look forward to meeting Bangor's new crew when she returns to service.

We received the good news that 101 Squadron, our affiliated RAF unit, under Wing Commander Ronnie Trasler, is to

re-equip with new Voyager KC3 aircraft and we await news of the completion of this process.

Representatives of the Company attended the ACF London & NE Sector camp near Warminster and the most improved Cadet was presented with the new Honours Board for the first time.

The City of Westminster St John Ambulance Cadets are thriving and have in excess of 60 members and the Master and Clerk attended their awards evening in November.

The Lord Mayor's Message to the Livery Companies: The 686 Plan Has Gone Off Like A Rocket!

I am feeling energised from my experiences as Lord Mayor so far. It was a pleasure to host the Masters and Clerks at my Address to the Livery in November and to introduce my '686 Plan', named after me being the 686th Lord Mayor. The four programmes of the 686 Plan have all started with a bang!

The Lord Mayor's Appeal thelordmayorsappeal.org

With your help, the Appeal hopes to raise £2 million for Beating Bowel Cancer, Princess Alice Hospice, Raleigh International and Working Chance. As well as fundraising there is a strong commitment to mentor, raise the profiles of these charities and open up new sources of funding.

The first Appeal events, *Une Soirée Chablisienne*, where supporters of the Appeal tasted the wines of Chablis and later cheered me on as I was installed as an honorary *Pillier Chablisienne* by drinking a chalice full of Chablis while the Piliers sang; the Lord Mayor's Christmas Party and a wine tasting and dinner at The Mansion House co-hosted with *The Académie du Vin de Bordeaux* were all greatly enjoyed by Appeal supporters.

The Appeal programme has a lot more in store. On 14th April, Shakespeare's Birthday Party will be taking place in the atmospheric Middle Temple, where Twelfth Night was first performed! We will also have a Lord Mayor's Appeal



Day in the summer, when the Square Mile will be transformed by fundraising events, including a Human Table Football tournament in Guildhall Yard.

The Power of Diversity thelordmayorsappeal.org

This programme aims to capture the benefits of diversity for the innovation that City businesses need to seize the opportunities of the "new normal". The year's programme includes five Power of Diversity breakfasts, as well as two major conferences taking place this summer.

I am also thrilled to announce that three tfl buses operating across London from Westbourne Park, Bow and Shepherd's Bush have been wrapped – thanks to our corporate sponsors and Sir Peter Hendy, the Transport Commissioner – to promote the Power of Diversity programme and the Appeal.

The Charity Leadership Programme cass.city.ac.uk/lmclp

This began with two City's Giving Lectures, highlighting challenges and opportunities impacting for charities. During 2014 there will be three receptions providing the opportunity for charity Chairs, Chief Executives, funders and leaders to network and share experiences and knowledge. Each of the receptions will have a social focus; the first, on 3rd March at Mazars, focuses on Social Welfare.

Tomorrow's City tomorrowcompany.com/city

In keeping with my role as Lord Mayor to promote the business and financial service sectors, the Tomorrow's City programme sets out how the City can best ensure its future success through long-term value creation. The opening events have focused on forward looking financial services regulation, integrated reporting and new models of long-term finance for infrastructure.

I hope you will join me for some of the evening events at The Mansion House and breakfasts at my home law firm, CMS, which will be continuing the dialogue of this programme.

Your Support

If I have a single objective, it would be inclusiveness and Liverymen have so much to bring to the party. It has been a joy to see so many of your friendly faces over the last two months, and I hope to greet many more of you over the coming year.

Thank you for all you have done to support me as Lord Mayor and The Lord Mayor's Appeal. There is certainly more to come!

Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London

“The float of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers – would you believe it?”

THAT WAS HOW THE BBC TV COMMENTATOR covering the Lord Mayor’s Show introduced our float. Well, we did believe it and, in spite of the pouring rain, 40 members of the Company, with cadets from the ACF and St John Ambulance, welcomed the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf, CBE, and her consort, Past Master Nicholas Woolf, by taking part in the Show on 9th November, 2013.



This was the culmination of many months of work and planning by a team consisting of Assistant Clerk James Dixon, Liveryman Anne Fairpro and Creative Director, Community Artist Amanda Callis, founder of Cool it Art, led by Court Assistant Morag Loader. Very careful planning ensures that the Show runs with the clockwork smoothness that the City expects. The Pageantmaster has to approve detailed plans of proposed floats well before the Show and it was an anxious time for our team waiting to hear if our float would be accepted. The suggested theme for the Show was “The Energy of Life” and our float bore the message “Green Taxes Make the World Go Round” demonstrating how tax and tax reliefs interact with the environment. The float carried a sculpture of our Owl perching on top of the World, both “upcycled” from recycled carrier bags by Amanda, who also sourced Fairtrade hoodies bearing our float slogan for our

members marching with the float. They carried placards illustrating green taxes and they and the watching crowd were serenaded by the Silk Street Jazz Band who travelled on the float playing tunes with a green theme.

On the day before the Show, the Globe and Owl were winched down from Amanda’s flat, where she had been constructing them for two months, onto a lorry supplied by Furnells Transport, driven by the ever-cheerful Ray and Brian. On the morning of the Show our members met at Founders’ Hall for a substantial breakfast before making their way to Aldersgate Street to join the float. While final preparations were made, many mingled with other participants, including the exotically dressed Caporales San Simon who brought a bright splash of Bolivian colour to the grey London streets.

Just as the Parade started the threatened rain began, but undaunted, our members donned plastic ponchos and, with our accompanying cadets, set



off behind the Master, Clerk and Beadle, resplendent in their gowns to celebrate the New Lord Mayor. The Parade was one of the largest ever with some 7000 participants and a record number of floats. The procession took an hour and a quarter to pass in front of the crowd, estimated at half a million strong. The Lord Mayor and her consort were at Mansion House to receive the cheers and good wishes of the Tax Advisers who continued to The Royal Courts of Justice and, after a short break, the Parade returned to Mansion House. Members then went to Founders’ Hall to dry out, enjoy a hearty lunch and swap stories of a truly memorable day.

The company would like to thank



Morag, James, Anne and Amanda and her colleague, Edward Adlington, for their hard work in organising and preparing the float; the Silk Street Jazz Band for their lively musical entertainment; CIOT and ATT for their financial support; Furnells Transport and drivers Ray and Brian; the ACF and St John Ambulance cadets who paraded with us; the catering team at Founders’ Hall who looked after us so well and the Master and all the members who took the message “Green Taxes Make the World Go Round” to the City.

The Pageantmaster has already asked when the company will be next entering its own float in the Lord Mayor’s Show – perhaps in 2020, the 25th Anniversary of forming the Guild?

And the Owl? – after the Show he and the Globe were taken to Woodfield School, Hemel Hempstead, where the children love them.

(photos Amanda Callis & Ian Somerville)



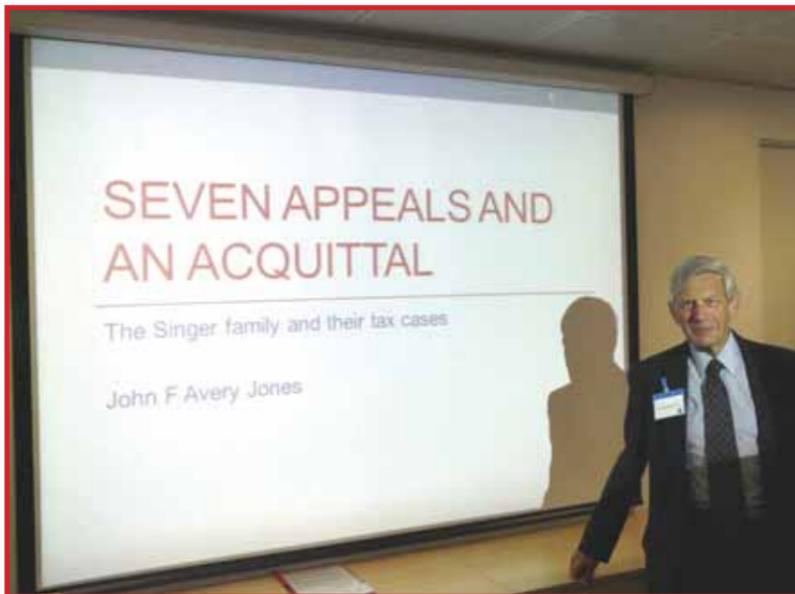
History of Tax Meetings

"Seven appeals and an acquittal" – 1 October 2013

John Avery Jones managed to weave together sewing machines, sex and tax in his fascinating and entertaining talk on the Singer family and their eight tax cases, five of which went to the Court of Appeal and two to the House of Lords. In one the family was described as having "done much to elucidate the law of Income Tax in England by its struggles to pay no more than the amount that it justly ought to pay".

The cases (most of which the taxpayers won on technicalities) were interesting, as was John's potted history of the Singer family. Isaac Singer was extremely wealthy as a result of inventing the Singer sewing machine, and had a complicated private life, leaving on his death 22 surviving children. It was four children of his second marriage, Mortimer, Washington, Winaretta and Paris, who were the main characters in the cases.

Mortimer and Washington were philanthropists, landowners and racehorse breeders. Paris was also a philanthropist,



had an affair with Isadora Duncan and, in reaction to the Revenue's litigation, emigrated to the US. Winaretta was probably the most colourful; as Princesse de Polignac she was a noted patron of the arts, and also a key figure in the tax litigation.

Why did they enter into lengthy and expensive tax litigation. In John's view, the size of the assessments, coupled with the

deteriorating tax landscape at the time, meant that they were unlikely to accept a situation where they felt that the Inland Revenue were being unreasonable. Also, the costs of taking the cases were little more than petty cash for the family.

More detail on these cases can be found in John's article "Seven appeals and an acquittal: the Singer family and their tax cases" [2008] BTR 56.

Caroline Turnbull-Hall

"Scotland and the British Fiscal State, 1707-1800" – 11 February 2014

In a very topical talk, Julian Hoppit, Astor Professor of History at University College, London, presented his researches in the archives of Scottish revenue officials (including Adam Smith) for much of the first century after the Act of Union in 1707.

In 1707 the per capita burden of taxation in England and Wales was ten times that of Scotland, and Scotland's share of the combined revenues of the two former nations was just 2%. Scots were not expected to contribute to the existing national debt, and were excused immediate payment of the same rates of customs and excise duties (whisky being a notable exception), but the rates were expected to converge within seven years. In fact, even by the century's end Scotland's 15% of the British population



paid only 6% of all excise receipts.

Much of the revenue raised in Scotland also stayed there, to pay for the separate legal and church systems and its higher management costs: by 1800, these were 25% of the indirect tax take in England and Wales, but 41% in Scotland (96% at the Union). Progress towards a common fiscal system was extremely slow.

Proposals to extend malt duty to Scotland almost derailed the Union within six years and caused riots 15 years later. It suited the Jacobites especially to attack the fiscal effects of the Union, and evasion by smuggling was prevalent among all classes.

After the failure of the 1745 rebellion the London government purged 44 Jacobite officials from the Edinburgh tax administration, and many English commentators decried what they saw as the lax and costly state of Scottish tax collection. However, Scottish intellectuals such as David Hume and Adam Smith criticised the quadrupling of the national debt since 1707, most of it held by creditors in London. Hume declared, "national debts cause a mighty confluence of people and riches to the capital, by the great sums, levied in the provinces to pay the interest". In 1776, Adam Smith wrote that the system of funding debt by taxation had enfeebled every state that had adopted it.

Over the century the Scots economy strengthened and Scottish excise revenues

grew from £200,000 in 1780 to nearly £1 million by 1800. Net tax remittances to London also increased markedly during Adam Smith's membership of the Customs Board. But what Professor Hoppit's figures showed was the dominance of London and the south east of England: by 1796 contributing £5 per head of gross excise collected, compared with £4 per head for the rest of the Kingdom. With its scattered population, poor communications and

harsh agricultural conditions, Scotland was inevitably less tax productive than England and Wales; in 1750 each Scots excise officer covered 43,000 acres compared to less than 10,000 in England.

By the end of the century Adam Smith and others had begun to persuade London politicians, such as the younger Pitt, that onerous taxation in Scotland, in support of ever-increasing public debt, led to evasion, even by the supposedly respectable, and that the economy could no longer depend

simply on customs and excise duties. Scotland and Scottish thinkers thus made a major contribution to the national taxation scene as their country became an integral part of the British fiscal state. Professor Hoppit left us with the thought that anyone trying to reverse that process today would face enormous problems.

David Williams

(photos: James Dixon)

Social Events



In June, the Social Committee offered two City Walks looking at the development of the City over the centuries and historic "firsts" that took place within the City. (Pictured at bottom of page).



We covered Tax Advisers rising to the challenge of the Information Technologists to "Come Dine With Me" in our last edition. We are pleased to report that the judges awarded the contest to our team; the excellent wines supplied by Court Assistant Alan Judes clinching victory by one point in a tightly fought contest. The event was not only very enjoyable, but raised over £1,000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Another one point victory was secured by "Overtaxed," our quiz team, Sue Christensen, Peter Gravestock, Trevor Johnson and Ian Somerville, who accepted an invitation from the Guild of Scriveners of the City of York to compete in their Annual Charity Quiz Night in February. (Pictured above). Sustained by an excellent Yorkshire supper of pie, chips and mushy peas, washed down by fine ale from the local brewery, "Overtaxed" won the Master's Cup by the narrowest of margins over last year's winners. Taking part in the Scriveners' Quiz was great fun. We enjoyed traditional northern hospitality, had the

opportunity to see the Historic City of York and helped raise a significant amount for charity. We hope to make this a regular event. Anyone interested in taking part in next year's quiz should contact Liveryman Sue Christensen.

Fortune also favoured Middle Warden Michael Godbee when he, as part of the Master's party, attended a dinner in aid of Treloar's at the Mansion House. Having chosen ticket 101, in recognition of our RAF affiliation, he won 1st Prize of a bespoke gold and silver necklace chosen by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths



September saw Liverymen Sue Christensen and Victor Dauppe bravely drive a flock of sheep across (a tightly fenced) London Bridge in the Woolmen's celebration of one of the ancient Livery Rights. (Pictured above). Other events in the year were a second tour of the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, a visit to the Donmar Theatre for a performance of Wesker's "Roots" and, with several other Livery Companies, the Annual Carol Service at St Bartholomew the Great followed by supper at Haberdashers' Hall.

(photos: Ian Christensen, James Dixon & Ian Somerville)

Diary 2014

Company events

4th March	Budget Banquet at Carpenters' Hall
11th April (tbc)	Neasden Hindu temple visit
29th April	Civic Lunch at the Mansion House
6th May	Covent Garden Market early morning visit
4th June (tbc)	Beating Retreat & supper
11th July (tbc)	City Walk
6/7th September	Master's Weekend in London
23rd September	Thanksgiving Service and Installation Dinner

Livery and Lord Mayor's Appeal 2014 events

4th April	United Guilds Service
10th April	Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch in aid of ABFI, Guildhall
14th April	Shakespeare's Birthday Party, Middle Temple*
6th June	The City Dip, Parliament Hill*
13th June	Human Table Football, Guildhall Yard*
22nd June	City Livery Concert, Barbican
24th June	Common Hall for Election of Sheriffs
11th July	City Giving Day various locations*
28th July	Lord Mayors Golf Day, Hadley Wood*
19th September	Lord Mayor's Opera, Guildhall*
29th September	Common Hall for Election of Lord Mayor
21st October	Inter-Livery Ball, Guildhall*

Inter-Livery Competitions

3rd March	Inter-Livery Bridge Tournament
4th March	Inter-Livery Pancake Race
15th May	Prince Arthur Golf Cup
21st May	Inter-Livery Clay pigeon shooting

*Lord Mayor's Appeal events www.thelordmayorsappeal.org

Please note these dates carefully as some are different from the recently published yearbook that contained a few errors.

ADMISSIONS & ADVANCEMENTS

We welcome the following as
Freemen:

June 2013
Christopher James SANGER

September 2013
Nigel JONES

December 2013
Samuel James RIPPON

We offer our congratulations to
the following Freemen who were
advanced to Liveryman status at
the respective Court meetings:

June 2013
Mohammed AMIN
Peter Steven ALLEN
Charles Esmond BEER

The Court were pleased to elect
the following Liverymen to become
Court Assistants from the year
2013-14, both have now taken up
their new roles:

Michael Frederick GIBBONS
Jean JESTY

Published by The Worshipful Company
of Tax Advisers

Clerk: Paul Herbage MBE CStJ
191 West End Road, Ruislip, Middx HA4 6LD
Tel: 01895 625817 Mobile: 07721 880138
Administrator: Ann Bailey adminwcta@ciot.org.uk
Website: www.taxadvisers.org.uk
Editor: Ian Somerville
Design: www.inspiration-by-design.co.uk

Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to the following:

Our Clerk, Paul Herbage, who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2013 for voluntary service to St John Ambulance in London. A well-deserved recognition of over 50 years voluntary uniformed service in the organisation.

Past Master Iain Stitt who has been elected to Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Institute of Navigation "In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the

corporate affairs of the Royal Institute of Navigation and his continued invaluable advice and assistance".

Liveryman Mohammed Amin who was voted Alumnus of the Year by Clare College, Cambridge. This award by the Alumni Council recognises outstanding contributions to society through exceptional contributions to a community, in the UK or abroad.