



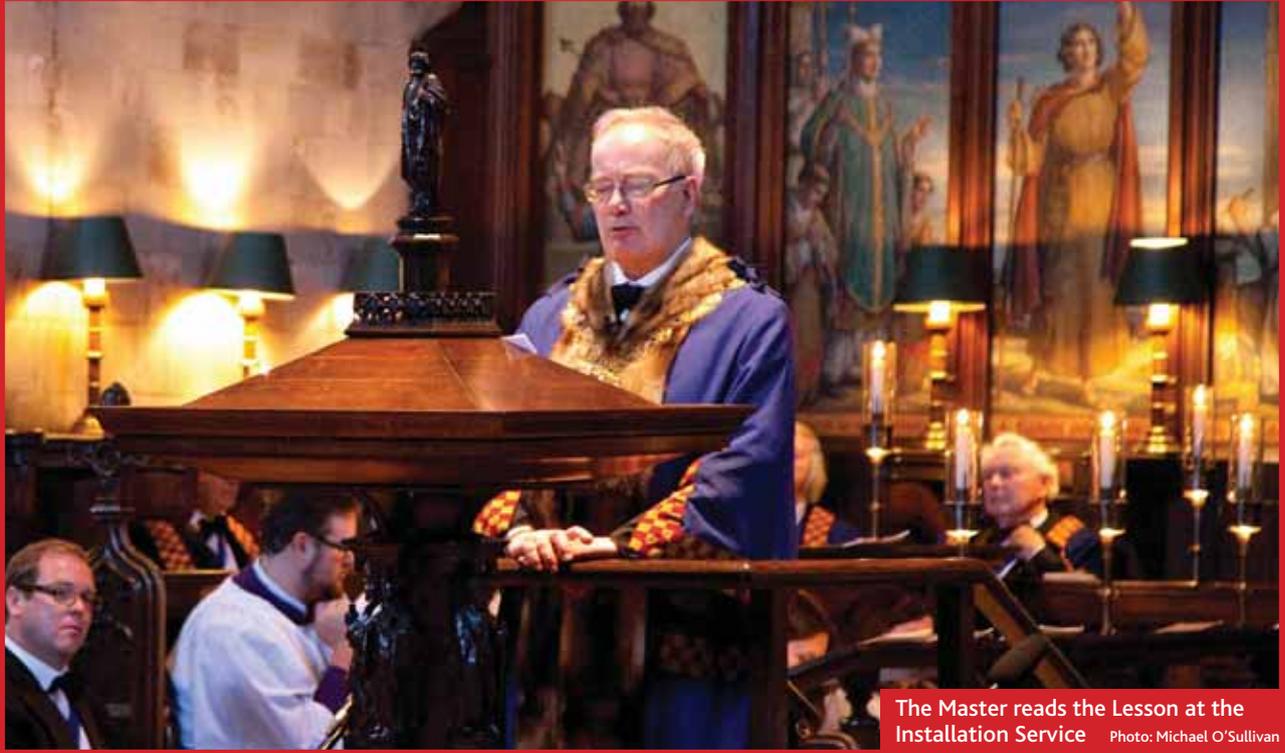
The Owl

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

Issue 11 Autumn 2014



Letter from the Master



The Master reads the Lesson at the Installation Service Photo: Michael O'Sullivan

I STARTED WRITING THIS the morning after my Installation dinner and both Caroline and I are still basking in the afterglow – thank you so much all of you who came and made the evening so enjoyable.

My first week included a concert and supper at the Mercers' Hall where, as previous Masters have found, our badge attracted a lot of attention; at least two other Masters admitted that ours is the badge they covet. I was also honoured to wear it at Common Hall with the stunning new chain made by Grant Macdonald. I assure Iain and Barbara Stitt that we did not steal the original chain which they had most generously donated. It was gratifying that, in her speech, the Right Honourable Lord Mayor Fiona Woolf CBE referred to her honorary membership and we heard so much justified praise of Nicholas, our Past Master and the Lord Mayor's consort.

I was delighted to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the ATT at the Tower of London because two of our members were the first recipients

of their Council Prize. Annie Bailey could not be there but sent a film of herself, with penguins, from the Falkland Islands. However, John Kimmer, who has just retired from the Court, was present with Eileen; a worthy winner and we hope that we will continue to see them both at our dinners and social functions.

If life has taught me anything, it is that the more one puts in the more one gets out. I would urge our Freemen to obtain the Freedom of the City of London, to attend our events and, thus, become entitled to become Liverymen. You are threatened with jail if you attempt to attend Common Hall before becoming a Liveryman and the pageantry makes it well worth attending even if the vote is (almost invariably) a foregone conclusion. I also recommend attending a "City Briefing" as described on page 4.

Finally, please do not expect to follow me on Facebook and do not even think about tweeting me (whatever that is). I am very traditional when it comes to social relationships and like to meet face

to face. I am hoping in my year to meet with many of you, to make new friends and deepen existing friendships. I am confident that joining in our Company's activities will help you to do the same. The "Comitas" part of our motto is dear to my heart and, if we all devote our energies to that, we will also find ourselves engaging more with the "Civitas" and "Caritas", that is the Civic life of London and our charitable work and giving.

Michael Godbee
Master

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Past Master's Notes

TO BE MASTER TAX ADVISER is an honour and a privilege. The role of Master is principally one of keeping the profession of tax adviser at the forefront of the minds of the City and Corporation of London and, particularly nowadays, defending the integrity of tax practitioners and promoting the importance of their work.

Some older Livery companies have lost their original purpose and devote their energies primarily to charitable work. Our Company derives much of its vitality from the fact that its membership is drawn overwhelmingly from members of the tax advisory profession whose services are very much in demand. Our links with the CIOT and the ATT are integral to what we do and who we are.

The Master's year begins as close as possible to St Matthew's Day, 21st September, the start of one of the busiest periods for the Corporation of London and the Livery movement. Great activity into December is followed by a lull over Christmas and much of January, then intense activity from February to July. It is an extraordinary and rewarding experience.

Our Dinners and social functions are not only most enjoyable, but create and maintain companionship and a strong sense of camaraderie within the Livery movement – one of the reasons the City works so well. We held four well-attended formal events: the Installation Dinner at Barber Surgeons' Hall; the Budget Banquet at Carpenters' Hall (at which Principal Guest, Lord Lawson of Blaby, was admitted as an Honorary Freeman); the Civic Luncheon at Mansion House (at which Lord Mayor Fiona Woolf was our Principal Guest and was admitted as an Honorary Freeman and Liveryman) and the Court and Charities Luncheon at Founders' Hall at which we entertained and presented cheques to representatives of RAF Brize Norton; the London North-East Sector of the Army Cadet Force; Tax Help for Older People and TaxAid and to the Master Hackney Carriage Driver, for the Disneyland Children's Trip.

Our Charities, Social and Membership Committees, whose members are enthusiastic and proactive Liverymen, are fundamental to the successful operation of the Company. A report on our charitable activities forms a supplement to this issue.



Deputy Master and Mrs Dewhurst
Photo: Michael O'Sullivan

Our splendid outings included the amazing Hindu Temple in Neasden, the Birmingham Royal Ballet, the Underground and Crossrail works at Tottenham Court Road and an early morning visit to Covent Garden Flower Market arranged by the Mistress Tax Adviser. We also had a float in the Lord Mayor's Show in November 2013 which was accompanied by an impressive number of hardy, enthusiastic and suitably waterproofed Freemen and Liverymen.

We have begun to admit as Freeman tax practitioners who live abroad, starting with a distinguished Dubai-based Australian tax lawyer. Our September Court admitted a record nine new Freemen including an Austrian tax specialist and in October 2014 a tax specialist from Canada was sworn in.

In addition to the Committees, our special purpose working parties perform valuable work. The Lord Mayor's Briefing Group provides information to the serving Lord Mayor on the tax regimes of the various countries on the Mayoral itinerary. I have been extremely lucky in that most of my year has run in parallel with the Mayoral Year of Lord Mayor Fiona Woolf, well known to many Tax Advisers

as wife of Past Master Nicholas Woolf. These briefings have been particularly well received by Fiona.

After much hard work, our Ceremonial and Regulations Group obtained approval from the Court of Aldermen for our new, more modern set of Ordinances. Our History of Tax Group staged two very well-attended lectures during the year.

I wish to record my thanks to our Clerk, Paul Herbage, MBE, CStJ, who, in a highly professional manner, has guided me throughout the year. I also owe a profound debt of gratitude to my wife and Mistress Tax Adviser, Susan, for her unfailing support.

Now that the year is over, I feel tremendous optimism for the future of the Company which maintains a high profile in the modern Livery movement and is attracting new members both here and abroad. I wish my successor, Michael Godbee, and his wife Caroline everything of the best for an exciting and productive year in 2014/15.

John Dewhurst
Deputy Master

Congratulations

We offer congratulations to Past Master Nicholas Woolf, Chairman of the St John Of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, who has been appointed a Commander of the Order of St John; to Court Assistant Dr. David Southern on his appointment as Queen's Counsel; to Past Master Alderman Ian Luder on his Installation as Master of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars, who received their Letters Patent as a Livery Company in July 2014, and to Past Master Erica Stary who has been elected Upper Warden of the Plumbers' Company.

ON SHROVE TUESDAY, the Master, Middle Warden, Hon. Treasurer and Liveryman Victoria Lloyd represented the Company in the Inter-Livery Pancake Race in Guildhall Yard; the starting gun being fired by the Lord Mayor's Consort, Past Master Nicholas Woolf. Although Tax Advisers did not win any races, they and their supporters had a great deal of fun and enjoyed lunch afterwards in the Guildhall.

In April, Tax Advisers visited the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, the Hindu Temple at Neasden. This recently completed landmark building was designed and constructed entirely according to ancient Vedic architectural texts, using no structural steel. The history of the Temple was explained to us and we were given a tour, admiring the intricate carving, much of which done by craftsmen brought over from India. We also learned something of the Hindu religion and attended one of the services conducted by the Temple's priests.

Also in April, Tax Advisers toured the £billion rebuilding of Tottenham Court Road Station, part of the Cross-Rail project. Donning hard hats and luminous jackets and trousers we marvelled at this

Social Events



project, most of which is, and will remain, hidden from public view underground. In May an intrepid party led by the Mistress Tax Adviser had an early morning tour of the New Covent Garden Flower Market in Nine Elms.

The Master's Weekend in September included a tour of London places with First World War connections; a visit to the Handel House Museum, including a recital, and a luxurious Thames Dinner Cruise with entertainment by students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The weekend concluded with a Reception and Sunday Lunch in the Princess Marie Louise

Room at the Oxford and Cambridge Club.

Tax Advisers did well in Inter-Livery Sports competitions coming 31st out of 123 teams in the Clay Pigeon event, John Taylor taking equal 10th individual place, and taking 4th place out of 24 in the Lord Mayor's Golf Competition. We were also well represented at the United Guilds Service at St Pauls and at the various fund raising events for the Lord Mayor's Charities Appeal, such as the "Powerful Women" Opera Night at the Guildhall in September.

Ian Somerville

A City Briefing – What's it all about?

I joined about seventy other Liverymen and Freemen for a "City Briefing" at Guildhall. After a brief tour of the Roman remains underneath Guildhall, the briefing began with an introduction by Nigel Pullman, Chairman of the Livery Committee, who explained Livery origins from the early days of the Guilds; their care for their members (a number of Livery companies still maintain almshouses across London) and the revival

and modern relevance of our Livery companies.

John Bennett, the Chief Commoner, was a mine of information about Livery Company traditions, voting rights and general activities and the efforts of various Livery companies to promote apprenticeships and training. We also learnt about the City Corporation, its Sheriffs, the Court of Common Council and the way in which the city is developing.

After an interesting and lively debate (including a question about the number of women in Livery) we had a chance to

mingle with other Livery members and enjoy a buffet.

I can commend a City Briefing evening to anyone who has not been; even those who had spent their lives in London learned much that evening about how the City functions. We left Guildhall with a 'goody bag' containing the new City Livery Companies book, a small guide to the City of London Corporation and a copy of City View containing informative articles about the uniquely diverse organisation that promotes and supports the City.

Sue Christensen

Our Affiliations

HMS Bangor has had a major refit and a new motto "Tenax Propositi" - 'Tenacious of Purpose.' In May, the Captain, Lt Cdr Mike Carter Quinn, invited Court Assistant Ian Somerville and his wife to represent the Company at an Affiliates' Dinner at Faslane. In July and August Bangor spent two weeks in Glasgow entertaining 18,000 members of the public and BBC Weather Presenter Carol Kirkwood. Against a backdrop of lights and fireworks, Bangor also had a starring role in "Sound to Sea," a nautical musical extravaganza, part of the Glasgow 2014 Culture programme,

hosting opera singer Marie Claire Breen and The Treacherous Orchestra and performing herself; turning through 360 degrees without moving a single inch forward or backwards, a very impressive manoeuvre that delighted the huge audience of spectators. (innerear.co.uk/cryptic-presents-sound-sea/ at 58 minutes)

On a more sombre note, Bangor had the honour of participating in events commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the sinking of HMS Royal Oak in Scapa Flow. These included wreaths being laid from Bangor and her divers assisting with changing the Battle Ensign on the sunken ship. Bangor then sailed to Germany,

transiting the Kiel Canal, to have her magnetic signature checked, before returning to Faslane.

The Master and Clerk attended the 30 Years Dining in Night of 101 Squadron, RAF, at RAF Brize Norton. At our Court and Charities Lunch, the Master was pleased to present the Company award to Cpl Lorelei Golden of 101 Squadron.

The activities of Cadets from the City of Westminster St John Ambulance Brigade and the City of London & NE Sector ACF are reported in the Charities supplement issued with this edition of The Owl.

Ian Somerville

History of Tax Meeting

Classical Athens is famous for its oratory, architecture, democracy and philosophy. "How was this financed?" asked Peter Fawcett in a fascinating illustrated talk covering taxes, tax administration and tax policy. What Peter revealed was a sophisticated tax structure, with a number of elements familiar to us today, including evidence of an early tax treaty between Athens and the Crimea.

Athens levied taxes on wealth, imports and exports, silver, foreigners (often foreign grain merchants trading in the Agora) and there were also local and religious taxes. Peter explained that these taxes met the aims of a modern tax system, with the wealth taxes raising revenue and redistributing income and wealth, whilst import and export taxes helped to stabilise economic activities. In modern terms, Athens was effectively a

tax state, raising taxes to pay for public expenditure, although, as there is some evidence of state borrowing, features of a fiscal state were also present.

The evidence for Athenian taxes is found in the literature (for example Aristotle and Thucydides) and also in inscriptions, some of which were used by Peter to illustrate his talk. Most notable was a stele detailing the Grain Tax Law of 374BC, found covering the Great Drain in the Agora. It sets out, in 61 lines, the purpose of the tax along with administrative provisions; Peter pointed out that although sophisticated tax legislation it suffers from the age old problem of vague drafting!

This is an area of ongoing study as further archaeological excavations, particularly around the Great Drain, may yield details of more taxes. Peter gave us an insight into the fiscal system of Athens and, I am sure, whetted our appetite for more.

Caroline Turnbull-Hall

Diary 2014/15

Company events

2014

- 18th November Tour of BBC Broadcasting House and supper
- 16th December Carol Service followed by supper at Haberdashers' Hall

2015

- 12th February History of Tax meeting - Reform of the Japanese Tax System after 1945
- 3rd March Budget Banquet at Painters' Hall
- 18th June Civic & Charity Lunch
- 5th/6th September Master's Weekend in Lille

Livery events

2015

- 18th February City Briefing
- 20th March United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral
- 6th May City Briefing
- 24th June Common Hall for election of Sheriffs

Inter-Livery Competitions

2015

- 2nd February Guild of Scriveners of York Quiz (York)
- 17th February Inter-Livery Pancake Race
- 2nd March Inter-Livery Bridge Tournament
- 4th March Schools' Showcase Event
- 20th May Inter-Livery Clay Shooting Competition
- 21st May Prince Arthur Golf Cup Competition

Since the last issue of The Owl we have welcomed the following as Freemen of the Company:

March 2014

Nicola Jane [Nici] GOLDSMITH
James Stephen Charles QUARMBY
Sally JONES

May 2014

David RUSSELL AM RFD QC

June 2014

Omleen AJIMAL

September 2014

Rajesh GUPTA
Gottfried SCHELLMANN
Caroline Elizabeth ARTIS
Michael Philip RIDSDALE
Helen Victoria McGHEE
David William John SCOREY
Frederick Vaughan ROBINSON
Suzanne Margarete PEPPITT
Manesh SHAH

October 2014

Dr. Dean SMITH

We welcome as an Honorary Freeman:

March 2014

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Lawson of Blaby

We especially welcome as an Honorary Freeman and Honorary Liveryman

April 2014

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor,
Alderman Catherine Fiona Woolf, CBE

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

March 2014

Matthew John Edward PEPPITT

June 2014

Claire MORLAND

September 2014

Amanda Jane HARDY
Mark HOOK

The Court was pleased to elect the following Liverymen to become Court Assistants from the year 2014 – 15.

Susan CHRISTENSEN
Victoria Harriet Claire LLOYD

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