



The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers CITY OF LONDON

The Master's Report for 2011-12

It has been a great year for the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, and the Livery, and I have been privileged to be Master.

My year started with an excellent dinner at Ironmongers' Hall with Revd. Canon Dr. Giles Fraser as my principle guest. The City then came under attack from the 'Occupy' movement and the Media. This encouraged exposure of the enormous amount of charitable work undertaken by the Livery and the reinforcement of why we exist. The Companies promote their 'Trades', which includes, in the case of Tax Advisers, briefing the Lord Mayor on International tax issues. We support Members and others in need through our Benevolent Fund and Charitable Trust. The Master represents the Company and Tax Advisers in the City of London by attending many functions during the year.

The highlight of my year being to host a table at Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Luncheon at Westminster Hall. Our guests were a St John Ambulance Cadet, an Army Cadet Force Instructor, a volunteer from Tax Help for the Older Person and a representative from TaxAid.

All events were interesting and in the case of lectures informative and stimulating. These varied from a talk on 'Trading with China', through Conserving Water and Recycling Plastics, to the experiences of the Chief Test Pilot of Airbus. Our own lecture was held in the splendid surroundings of the Royal Institution on the topic of 'The History of the Tax Profession' This was presented by Professor Jane Frecknall-Hughes who revealed that our Profession is inclusive, being formed by Lawyers, Accountants and Tax Inspectors, whereas most Professions are a protection of professional rights and privileges, and therefore exclusive and only open to limited numbers within the activity.

Dining with other Livery Companies is an ideal way of getting to know other Masters and developing links with others within the Livery and the City. As we become more established within the City we have an ever expanding list of connections and therefore events for the Master to attend.

Our Budget Banquet was at Clothworkers' Hall with John Armit, Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority, as a topical principle guest. The event was so well received it proved difficult to persuade the visiting Masters and their Clerks to go home. The ceremony was enhanced by the splendid Guard of Honour provided by the Army Cadet Force.

We were honoured that the Lord Mayor was able to attend our Civic Lunch at Cutlers' Hall, the guests included Sir Pritpal Singh, Headmaster of Drayton Manor School.

In addition to our formal events the Social Committee under the leadership of Michael Godbee provided an interesting and well supported programme of events and visits. My Master's Day at a slightly wet Lichfield was most enjoyable with a guided tour of the City, and of the National Memorial Arboretum interposed with lunch and followed by a Jubilee Proms Concert in Lichfield Cathedral.

As Master I have represented you by visiting all of our affiliated groups. I presented the Tax Advisers award to the best technician of 101 Squadron at Brize Norton, the award to the outstanding crew member on HMS Bangor in Portsmouth Harbour, to the winner of the ADIT Prize and attended the Prize giving at Kings College London. Our involvement with City of Westminster (Prince of Wales District) St John Ambulance has enabled their new Unit Leader to increase the compliment of Cadets to 51, all provided with uniforms and equipment to learn vital skills of First Response. In addition to attending their enrolment ceremony I have visited a meeting to see how Cadets are trained. Together with the Upper Warden, Clerk and Marcus Fincham, we attended the Annual Camp of the City of London & North East Sector AFC held at Folkestone. The Open Day shows the work of the Cadets and the fun of being a member. We also got suitably wet attending the Drill Competition.

A Livery Company Master changes every year, the continuity is provided by the Clerk and Beadle. I have been fortunate to have the services of Paul Herbage as Clerk ably assisted by Ann Bailey and Stephen Henderson as Beadle. They have complimented the teamwork of my Wardens, Nicholas Goulding, John Dewhurst and Arnold Homer assisted by the Treasurer Kevin Thomas. This has made my year as smooth running as possible with representation at almost all events. In addition to my sincere thanks to those named above I also thank all Court Assistants, Past Masters and members of the Company, too many to name, who have worked tirelessly to make 2011-12 such a special year for me and my wife Cynthia.

I wish Nicholas and Amanda a super year and hope you will both obtain as much pleasure from being Master and Consort as Cynthia and I have this year.

Peter Gravestock