



The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers CITY OF LONDON

Master's Report for 2014-15

August is a quiet month in every Master's Year, at least as far as City events are concerned and for the Master of our Company a time for reflection and possible panic! My year is not quite over and, because the City comes back from holiday in September, there are a number of events to look forward to before I hand over to Anthony Thomas, not least the Master's weekend in Lille. At the same time I realise that I have been so busy that I have forgotten to deal with some of the "loose-ends". Writing the Master's Report cannot wait if I am not to be blamed for the late production of the Yearbook for 2015/2016!

The engagements still to come demonstrate the variety of events I have attended during my year. Each year there are important anniversaries to celebrate; in many ways the most important has been that of Magna Carta which led to a celebration at Runnymede attended by Her Majesty the Queen, members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and other distinguished guests. I look forward to attending a dinner at Guildhall to celebrate our victory at Agincourt together with Anthony while another reception at Guildhall before the end of my year is to celebrate the grant of a Royal Charter to the Worshipful Company of Insurers.

Other events have celebrated 500 years of the Innholders and 650 Years of the Plumbers where Past Master Erica Stary is about to take office as their Master. Each year there seem to be more events for Mistresses and Consorts which undoubtedly widen the social circle of the Master beyond the traditional groupings of which we are part. Caroline along with other of our ladies hosted a lunch at the Innholders Hall and attended the Burns Night ball in aid of their charity, sadly on her own as I was ill and had to miss both that and dinner with the Chartered Accountants.

For once I will record our formal events in reverse order since our Civic Lunch coincided with the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and was held on HQS Wellington. We take the opportunity to present cheques to a number of the charities we regularly support including the Hackney Carriage Drivers' day trip to EuroDisney with disabled children; attending the send-off will be my last external act as Master. One of the greatest pleasures as Master is to see at close hand the charitable work of the City and of the Company. The giving of time is as important as the giving of money and I would urge all members to consider what more they might do and, in particular, to make sure that their standing orders to the Company's charities are up to date.

Our Budget Banquet at Painter-Stainers was well-attended and we all enjoyed the Black Country humour in our Upper Warden's speech. Arnold Homer retires from the Court after many years of support, greatly appreciated by myself and my predecessors and by the whole Company.

The Installation Banquet was held at Cutlers' Hall and, like the other functions had for me and I believe most of our Company a relaxed “family” feeling. The companionship of the Company is very precious and enhanced by a lively social programme.

The Christmas carol service was followed by supper at Haberdashers Hall, another event which we share with other Liveries. Conducted by our Chaplain, the Reverend Dr Martin Dudley whose twenty years of service at St 42 Bartholomew the Great will be celebrated on September 9th with a service and dinner. The formalities of the City include the Common Hall election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and I shall be attending the presentation of a Shrieval chain to the incoming non-Aldermanic sheriff, Dr Christine Rigden by our own Honorary Liveryman and late Lord Mayor, Dame Fiona Woolf. Congratulations to her and Past Master Nicholas Woolf who have been made Honorary Fellows of the Chartered Institute of Taxation. We welcome our close association with both them and the Association of Taxation Technicians; as I am not myself a member the opportunity to get to know them better has been yet another highlight of my year.

I am expecting to attend six events in the first two weeks of September, not including the Master's weekend and our committees and I reckon that has been the usual average. It has been tremendous fun and thanks are due to you all but particularly to the Court, my Wardens and, in particular, our clerk Paul Herbage. I was delighted that Paul was made an Honorary Liveryman of our Company at the Election Court.

Michael Godbee

John Dewhurst