



*The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers*  
CITY OF LONDON

### **Master's Report for 2015-16**

I think it would be fair to say that it has been quite an extraordinary year and I have managed, quite exceptionally to get to the end of it being lighter in weight than when I started in September 2015. It was certainly a year when eating and drinking at so many functions became almost part of everyday life. One function after the next, and being faced with yet more food was tempting indeed but, rather like the Lord Mayor, being cautious in portions eaten was probably wise.

There have been so many functions, and all of which to be fair were enjoyable in their own way. Meeting other Masters and their clerks was hugely enjoyable and our company is fortunate to have Paul Herbage as Clerk and an amazing Beadle in Stephen Henderson. It would have been quite impossible to carry out the role without their total commitment and support. I suppose starting off with the 600th Battle of Agincourt banquet in Guildhall immediately following the installation banquet was a good indication of what lay ahead. The election of the Lord Mayor is worth a mention and being processed with all the other Masters in their regalia was a special experience.

I have been so fortunate to have had Michael Godbee, the Deputy Master, to act as my alternate. He has been very supportive and has deputised for me for which I am grateful. Given the number of events the Master is expected to attend then an alternate is crucial. Being represented at City functions by the Master is hugely important and to be seen to be present. A failure to attend would certainly be noticed!

The events at St Paul's for evensong, and being there for the 74th Service of the United Guilds Service later in the year were impressive occasions. The evensong was a delightful event. The UGS sermon was certainly well worth listening to as it was delivered by the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Richard Charters, the Bishop of London. Another event which was personal for me and very worthy of attending was the memorial service for one of our Honorary Liverymen, The Lord Howe of Aberavon, a delightful man who I have had the pleasure of knowing for some considerable time. The service was very well attended and even included the then Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer including previous Prime Ministers and Chancellors.

Masters of a considerable number of the Livery Companies visited Treloars in Alton, a college for disabled students. It was a long day but very worthwhile and I was delighted that one of the senior leadership team were our guests at the Civic and charities lunch. The Lord Mayors Banquet was held in March at Mansion House, a white tie occasion and attended by most of the Livery company Masters or Prime Wardens and their consorts. A very pleasant evening and a most enjoyable one. Our Budget Banquet was also held in March at Vintners' Hall. The principal guest was the Rt. Hon David Gauke MP, who spoke and is now Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Other guests included Lord Hughes, a Justice of the Supreme Court and Edward Troup, the newly appointed Chairman of H M Revenue and Customs.

A special occasion for me personally was seeing Past Master Erica Stary elected as Master Plumber at the church of St. Magnus the Martyr. Her election as Master Plumber is evidence of the strength of the Livery movement. I am pleased to say that her involvement with the plumbers has been very successful and Erica had an excellent year.

Other occasions to which I was invited were events held by the Chartered Accountants, Arbitrators, Educators, Marketors, and Founders and making friends at each of these events. The Trial of the Pyx at Goldsmiths' Hall was historical and included participation by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne.

Events outside London which I managed to represent the Company were at the Brigantes Breakfast at Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield and the ACF camp visit in Norfolk. The last official function for me were the events to commemorate the Great Fire of London and pleased to report that our company supported these and all were successful, including the burning of the specially built construction on the Thames.

It was a pleasure during my year to welcome new members of the Company and those advanced to Livery, especially good friends Paul Aplin and Keith Gordon [advanced to Livery] and good friend Ian Mayes QC the current Master Security Professional who was admitted right at the end of my year.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has been supportive of me during the year. This includes all Freemen and Liverymen, but also the Court and Ann Bailey for her administration work and finally the Chartered Institute of Taxation for all their help. I am grateful to them all and wish my successor Kevin Thomas an excellent year ahead.

*Anthony Thomas*  
30 October 2016.