

The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers

CITY OF LONDON



MASTER'S REPORT 2021/22

There is only one greater privilege than being the Master of our company for a year and that is to be Master for two years! My second year in office was a complete contrast to my first year, most of which was during the Covid restrictions.

My installation held at Vintners hall on St Matthews day was the first real opportunity to see so many of our friends since the Budget Banquet in 2020. The dinner, preceded by a service at St James Garlickhythe, was a great success. During dinner we were entertained by a brass quintet with a diverse range of music.

A number of City initiatives began after Covid and as a Company we decided to become part of the livery Climate Change Action Group, and also give our support to the Pollinating London Initiative. I think that both of these will be important for the wellbeing of the City.

In December we held our Advent carol service in the church of St Bartholomew the Great, followed by dinner at Butchers' Hall and we were entertained to an evening of magic and sleight of hand. This was a welcome evening of laughter and friendship.

My thanks to Past Master Michael Godbee for involving me in the Sheriffs' Challenge and introducing me to our school, Mulberry UTC. We attended their heat of the debating competition together. I was sorry to see that Mulberry did not get through to the final but they acquitted themselves well. It is clear that participation in such events is really important to the students and apart from the research they need to do on the chosen topic, it also gives them an opportunity to stand up and speak confidently in public. The finals, held at the Old Bailey, were most impressive.

At the end of February Ian and I were invited to attend the World Traders' Tacitus Lecture at Guildhall and we were honoured to be included in the guest list for a small dinner with Professor David Olusoga afterwards. He is a most charismatic and powerful speaker and we very much enjoyed meeting him in person.

Our Budget Banquet in March was held at Saddlers' Hall. My guest speaker, Judith Freedman, from

the world of tax spoke eloquently about her own experiences in tax and she enjoyed meeting members of the company and also members of the HAC who provided our stair guard.

On April 1st the United Guilds Service was held once again after being missed for two years. A wonderful, colourful event which was followed by a splendid lunch at Plaisterers' Hall.

The beginning of June saw the country coming together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a weekend of pageantry and colourful events. A once in a lifetime opportunity to mark such a remarkable achievement.

In the following week we held our Civic and Charities Lunch at Apothecaries' Hall, arguably the prettiest Hall and courtyard in the City. It was a fine summer's day and we were able to take full advantage of the outdoor facilities. Sheriff Nicholas Lyons, our guest speaker, spoke about the City and his charity work as a Sheriff and I was privileged to present cheques to our various charities including Tax Help for Older People, TaxAid, The Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme.

The following weekend was the first of the Livery Masters Weekends to be held away from Ironbridge The Masters year group headed to Sheffield where The Cutlers of Hallamshire had arranged a full programme of events. It was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

A few days later I took part in The Becket Pageant for London in Guildhall Yard, this was accompanied by the Livery Fair, and members of the cast came from a wide range of Livery Companies. A fine example of what can be achieved as a common goal.

On 8th September the sad news reached us that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away and the City fell silent as it went into mourning. Events were put on hold or cancelled entirely. In the days that followed the funeral we received an invitation from the Master Mariners to go on board HQS Wellington on the evening of 24th September to watch the Reflections Flotilla as a tribute to Her late Majesty's long reign and also to honour King Charles. This was a most moving evening and we had a spectacular view of the 150 or so vessels from the deck of HQS Wellington. The centrepiece, The Gloriana, was particularly impressive and was rowed by Ben Fogle and past winners of the historic Doggett's Coat and Badge races. I think that this is the event which will stay longest in our minds from my second year in the chair. In memory of our late Sovereign we arranged for trees to be planted by the Woodland Trust in a forest close to Balmoral.

The following day I joined the Woolmen and drove sheep over London Bridge to mark the end of my 2 years in office.

I would like to thank the Deputy Master, Wardens, Court, Committee Members, Clerk and Beadle and particularly the Consort Tax Adviser for their support during my second year.

I wish my successor, Bob Harland, and his consort, Jane, an excellent year ahead and hope that he enjoys his year in the chair.

Sue Christensen