

The Installation Dinner

The Installation Dinner was held at Salters' Hall on Tuesday 28th May 2002 following the Mid Summer Day Court at which Michael Houghton was installed as the new Guild Master.

Nearly one hundred Guildmen, Apprentices and their guests sat down to dinner. The official guests of the Guild included the Chief Commoner of the City of London, Mr J P Charkam, the Master Mercer, Mr Anthony Hodson with Mrs Hodson, Mr Mark Turner, the new headmaster of Abingdon School, Mr H J Ball, President of the Old Mercers' Club, Mr Tim King, President of the Old Abingdonian Club and Mr Charles Lucas, President of the Old Dauntseians' Association. Private guests included the Masters of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, Masons and Scientific Instrument Makers Companies and a Past Master of the Broderers Company.

Senior Warden Michael StJ Parker deputised for the Junior Warden elect at short notice and proposed the toast to our guests in his usual inimitable style.

The Chief Commoner was kind enough to reply and told us much about his work and of the new Bill currently going through Parliament for the enlargement of the voting franchise in the City.

The Master Mercer proposed the toast to the Guild and our new Master and commented upon his early days at school and summarised the work of the Mercers' Company in the field of education.

The Master thanked the members of the Guild for electing him and outlined his plans for the social programme before wishing everyone a safe journey home.

The Alms dish was passed as is tradition at the Installation Dinner and Guildmen and their Guests generously donated £553 for the Master's chosen charity, the Crusaders, with which he has been involved since his days at school.

Annual Meeting

The fifty third Annual Meeting was held at Guildhall on Thursday 21st March 2002. At the Court Meeting the following officers had been elected for the year 2002/2003:

Guild Master: M J Houghton
Renter Warden: A S Macpherson
Junior Warden: M J Cumbergen
Apprentice Warden: A C McMillan
Senior Court Assistants: M StJ Parker and R A Lawman
Honorary Clerk: N J Watson
Hon. Asst. Clerk: R J C Davey

The following Guildmen were proposed, seconded and elected to the Court at the Annual Meeting:

Court Assistants: D J Harvey and H J Ball

Abingdon Asst: S M Hills

Collyerian Asst: R T Smith

Dauntseian Asst: R J Slade

Pauline Asst: A I F Mackenzie

Social Court Asst: D M Williamson

Hon Auditor: K Hubbard - Brown

Guildmen and Apprentices enjoyed supper at Barracca Restaurant after the meeting.

Accounts

At the Annual Meeting the Honorary Assistant Clerk reported that the accounts were as follows:

General Fund:

At Barclays Bank: £5993.93

On deposit with the Chelsea

Building Society: £700.00

Life Subscriptions: £4300.00

C G O M Charitable Fund:

Charities Aid Foundation Bank:
£5011.72

Please see the separate report on the Charitable activities.

The Trustees are Past Masters Richard Davey, Neville Watson and Howard Worth.

The C G O M Charitable Fund

During the year the Court requested the approval of the Charity Commission to broaden the scope of the fund, which was approved. The fund had been solely for the benefit of Guildmen and their families who had been in distress and was rarely used. Approval was granted for the fund to make contributions to projects by Apprentices which have a charitable and/or educational content. The Master made an appeal for contributions, principally by Gift Aid. This method is tax efficient both for the donor and the fund. The Trustees wish to thank the Guildmen who generously responded to the appeal. They were, however, a little disappointed that only fifteen Guildmen responded. Those of you who did not will find a Gift Aid Certificate enclosed with this newsletter and the Trustees urge you to complete this. **However modest your donation it will be greatly appreciated and enhance the work and reputation of the Guild.**

For your information the income into the Trust in the last year was as follows:

Covenanted Donations	£880
One off gifts	£520
In memory of Arthur Hall	£190
Interest	£249
Tax refunded	£361
Total	£2200

The Trustees decided that for this year they would distribute monies from Covenanted Donations and tax refunds only and keep the one-off gifts etc in the capital fund. This resulted in five apprentices being assisted with sums ranging between £100 and £250 for the following activities:

Assisting with Tearfund in the Third World

Cycling to Paris on behalf of the Royal British Legion

Work in New Zealand on endangered flightless parrots

Assisting with Raleigh International in Chile

Assessing the condition of reefs in Fiji
