



Headlines from the Hall

Livery Dinner Report

5 July 2018

Dear Merchant Taylor

The oath of a Liveryman requires his or her presence once a year at the Hall at a dinner "about midsummer", and this year it took place on Tuesday 3 July. The evening is specifically to provide the Livery with the latest information concerning the Company, to introduce the Livery to the next year's Leadership and provide an opportunity to offer appropriate thanks, greetings and farewells.

Peter Magill - Master

In his speech the Master presented his report, his last speech to the Livery before he hands over to the Master Elect, Duncan Eggar, on 16th July. He focused on the highlights of the Company's year, its sound position, its charitable giving, and its people. More detail is available [here](#).

The Master welcomed new Liverymen, who had been sworn in prior to dinner, namely:

Mrs Annette Bull
Miss Lissa Gillott
Major James Harbord
Rear Admiral Nick Harris
Mrs Eva Lang
Alderman Nick Lyons
Mrs Rebecca Stewart
Mrs Jemma Swift
Mr Tim Vallings
The Honourable David Wakeham



He thanked the Company Officers and the Catering Company for their part in running the Company, and the membership for their time and effort in participating in all its committees - and their significant contribution to the LFF (£154,000 this year). He talked of the grants the Company has given its schools, and the new Almshouses which will be unveiled next week. The Master announced that the total of grants made this year to charities and education amounts to over £1,000,100.

The Master thanked his four wardens: Edward Charlton, Lady Harding, Peter Watkins and Robert Temmink QC, and also the Mistress, Pam Magill, and he talked about how very much he has enjoyed the honour of his Mastership.

Rear Admiral Nick Harris CB MBE

A Liveryman traditionally offers the Company's thanks to the Master, and this year it was the newly-admitted Liveryman Nick Harris, the outgoing Clerk, who also steps down on July 16th. Describing himself as a 'proud, flattered new Liveryman', he very modestly spoke about how Clerks 'don't usually come out in public'. He referred to the 12 Masters he has worked with, and praised the Master for his leadership. He noted the Master's affection for his chosen charity, For Jimmy, and his good relations with its two founders, the Mizens. He jokingly likened the Clerk's negotiating role to that of Sir Humphrey in *Yes Minister*, talking of the privilege of the position – the events attended, and the people encountered and concluded by praising the 'fantastic, voluntary, unsung and unpaid expertise' offered by the Company members to so many extraordinary causes.



The Master paid copious compliments to the outgoing Clerk, crediting his past over 12 years in guiding the Company to its current position. Peter also thanked Jenny Harris for her significant contribution and support to the Clerk and the Company, and wished them both a long and happy retirement. There followed a long standing ovation, and a presentation of a gift from the Livery, the Freemen and Apprentices.



The Master introduced the Master Elect, Duncan Eggar. The Eggar family has long been associated with the Company; the Master Elect's grandfather was Master in 1942/43. He is a governor of MTS Northwood and has also been chairman of the Company's Housing and Care Committee for a number of years as it has overseen the construction of the new almshouses in Lewisham.

Duncan Eggar, Master Elect

The Master Elect addressed the Livery, introducing his new wardens:

First Upper Warden - John Sichel

Second Upper Warden - Harry Parshall

Upper Renter Warden - Peregrine Massey

Under Renter Warden - Michael Cole-Fontayn

He focused on the themes of **relevance**, and making the Company more inclusive and understood; on **giving**, however large or small; **involvement**, through charity visits, our schools and our sporting activities; and the need for **two-way communication** between Members and the Company.



He pointed out the staff in the Great Hall: Membership & Communications Officer Kym Ash; Charities Officer Giles Hutchinson; Education Officer Diana Watson; the new Communications Manager Georgina Annett; and the new Clerk, Rear Admiral John Clink CBE (pictured below).



Thank you to the Master, Peter Magill, and to the Clerk, Rear Admiral Nick Harris CBE MBE for their marvellous work and all they have done for the Company. We wish them good health and happiness, and we turn to the next chapter in the Merchant Taylors' story.

**To find out more, or to add an MT event to these listings, please contact
Georgina Annett at gannett@merchant-taylors.co.uk or on 020 7450 4452.**

Merchant Taylors' Company

30 Threadneedle Street

London

EC2R 8JB

0207 450 4448