



Report from the Court meeting on 17 January 2023

Members Attending: The Master (P Nash), Upper Warden (D Adams), Renter Warden (C Brooks) Immediate Past Master (N Jones), Past Masters Rae, Brunner, Lockyer, Cartwright, Paterson-Fox, Hodkinson, Wadsworth, Burgon and Woolf, Senior Assistant Raine and Assistants Rivers, Shouler, Wingrove, Wheeler, Cooper and Reynolds.

Item 1. The Charge for new Liverymen

- After the last meeting of the Court, 'fine-tuning' of the Oath of a Liveryman was agreed by the Court by email exchange, and this was used to bring in new Liverymen at the end of the January Court and henceforth.

Item 2. The Master's Report

- The Master thanked the Court for the privilege of being able to serve the Company as Master and promote the Company over a wide range of engagements. A list of engagements had been circulated.

Item 3. Committee Reports (see separate individual Committee Reports, but of particular note):

- **F&L:**
 - The Carpenters redevelopment project which will require a move of the Company Office has been put back, most likely to 2026/27 so that there was no immediate need to seek relocation.
 - The Master was pleased to announce that the next recipient of the company's Top Award, the St Michael Medallion, would be PM Prof Cartwright, which was warmly applauded by the Court (who had previously given their consent).
- **Finance:** The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 29 September 2022 were formally approved by the Court, *nem con*.
- **Membership:**
 - An inaugural Young Members' Workshop was held. Asst. Shouler was thanked for facilitating the event. There were a good range of attendees. There is a strong sense that the new Apprentice Scheme is starting to gain traction. A need to have a greater understanding of the communication networks of younger plumbers had become apparent. More meetings are planned along with dialogue with the Worshipful Company of Constructors, which has its own apprentice scheme.
 - Asst Wingrove is the new liaison with Corporate Members. The committee had held a useful feedback session with existing

members and was actively considering ways of attracting new members.

- **Education & Technical:**
 - Richard Soper, Ed & Tech Committee Chairman, is no longer a member of the Court. The Master drew attention to the Annual Lecture to be held at the Royal College of Physicians on Monday 15th May. The subject is “Who needs university when apprenticeships are better”. The three speakers are Carl Arntzen (CEO of Worcester Bosch), Neil Collishaw of BPEC and Lvy. Kevin Wellman for CIPHE.
 - Bursary applications for 2023 are strong. It is expected that awards to the 2022 winners will be made at the 2023 Annual Lecture or the Installer Show at the NEC in June.
- **Social Committee:** There is now a strong cohort of Stewards. Asst. Reynolds was thanked for producing ‘The Stewards Year’ which provides a detailed guide to Stewards for each regular Company event.
- **The Charity:**
 - The Charity aims to increase grant giving from over £50k in 2021/22 to £70k in for 2022/23
 - The Charity will hold a Webinar on 9 March, to present some of the work of grant beneficiaries to the Livery.

Item 4. Livery Climate Action Group: Following consideration of a paper from the Master, the Court unanimously approved joining the Livery Climate Action Group.

Item 5. Coronation Planters: Their Majesty’s were graciously pleased to accept the gift of two planters for Sandringham to celebrate the Coronation in May. Design work is underway. The planters will be made at the Plumbing Museum in Amberley.

Item 6. Gift of Gold Cufflinks: PM Brunner presented the Master with a pair of gold cufflinks depicting the Company logo that had been given to him 25 years ago. They will be passed on to successive Masters.

Item 7. Livery Admissions: Eileen Tipping, the 95 year old mother of Senior Steward, Malvern Tipping, was admitted as a Freeman of the Company. The following Freemen were clothed as new Liverymen: Barbara Cooper, Philip Hurley, Michael Spencer, Greig Walker and David Williams.

Name
Sandra Raine
Senior Assistant
22.02.23