

Senior Warden's Mansion House Banquet Speech 26th January 2011

Master, fellow Warden, My Lords, Sheriff, Ladies & Gentlemen.

Master, may I, on your behalf, welcome all those here tonight. It is my honour on behalf of the Company to extend our grateful thanks to all those who have made it possible for us to enjoy again the great privilege of holding our Annual Banquet in this magnificent setting. This is one of the great dining experiences with splendid victuals, fabulous architecture and the benevolence of the Lord Mayor of this historic and venerable City.

We are all honoured to be able to welcome such a distinguished Civic Party and Official Guests; we also take great pride in welcoming our characterful Chaplain, the **Reverend George Bush**, who initiated proceedings with customary wit and masterly punmanship, in which he never fails us.

Master, may I start by welcome the Civic Party.

Present tonight with us as Duty Esquire is Mr Neil Chrimes, Head of Programmes; Mr Chrimes, we welcome you.

We also welcome **Sheriff Fiona Woolf and Mr Nicholas Woolf**, Sheriff Woolf graciously representing the Lord Mayor who is presently abroad promoting, tirelessly as always, UK plc.

Sheriff Woolf is a solicitor of considerable distinction, (inter alia) having worked on reforms in the energy and infrastructure sectors in over 40 jurisdictions and having acted for 25 governments as well as for the World Bank. She was awarded a CBE in 2002 for her contribution to the UK's knowledge economy and invisible earnings. Mr Nicholas Woolf is the Immediate Past Master Tax Adviser.

Sheriff Woolf and Mr Woolf - we are delighted to have you with us and we very much hope that we might be able to welcome you again in the future.

We also welcome **Mr James Macnamara**, Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants, who is accompanied by his Clerk, and **Mr Graham Clay**, Master of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries, who is accompanied by his wife Lindy. Both Masters are highly distinguished in their respective fields.

We also welcome **Sir Robert Carnwath**, (accompanied by Lady Carnwath) and **Dame Janet Smith** (accompanied by Mr Robin Mathieson); both Sir Robert and Dame Janet are distinguished Lords Justice of Appeal. Sir Robert has been a judge since 1994 and was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 2002; he is a musician (piano and viola) and sings in the Bach Choir. Dame Janet is perhaps best known for the Harold Shipman report and she has been a judge since 1992 and became (in 2002) only the 4th woman to sit in the Court of Appeal.

We also welcome District Judge Stewart who sits in Kingston County Court.

We are also very pleased to welcome **Mr John Tsatsas**, President of the LMAA with which this Company has enjoyed a symbiotic relationship for 30 years; we need mention only the late Clifford Clark to demonstrate the strength of the relationship. By very good fortune, the Company's 30th Anniversary on 17th March this year falls upon the day of the LMAA's Annual Dinner.

In what may be a breach of protocol (for which I make no apology), I welcome one particular guest of a Member - Miss Bea Stevenson of Tower Hamlets Education/Business Partnership. The Company is proud that its members now support schools projects in under-privileged parts of London through Livery Schools Link, which has absorbed the Lord Mayor's Financial Literacy Initiative. We will welcome volunteers from among our members.

Last and by no means least, I welcome **Sir Nigel Davis, graciously accompanied by Lady Davis**.

Sir Nigel sits in the Queen's Bench Division as the Hon. Mr Justice Davis; he was called to the Bar in 1975 at Lincoln's Inn, took silk in 1992 and became a High Court Judge in 2001. His caseload includes crime, judicial review, contract and negligence cases. Sir Nigel is a keen sportsman including squash, tennis, cricket and hill walking, the last of which he and Lady Davis both enjoy.

Sir Nigel, we look forward very much to your address.

Finally, on the Master's behalf I recognise that it is you, ALL the guests of ALL the Members of the Company that bring colour to our celebration and I therefore extend a warm welcome to you all with a particular welcome to the many new Members attending the Annual Banquet for the first time.

Please will all MEMBERS of the Company be upstanding and join me in raising a glass in a toast to all our guests.

OUR GUESTS