



INSTALLATION SPEECH given by Michael Shapiro

WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2022

THE MANSION HOUSE

Wardens, My Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Liverymen, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is the first occasion since the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth that we as a Company have been together. We remember Her late Majesty with thanks for her devoted service to the Nation and the Commonwealth and recall the words of The Dean of Windsor who said at her committal:

“In the midst of our rapidly changing and frequently troubled world, her calm and dignified presence has given us confidence to face the future, as she did, with courage and with hope.”

I would ask you all to rise for a short period of silence to reflect on her long life of service.

Thank you.

My Lord Mayor. We are honoured to have you as our guest this evening. Thank you for proposing the toast to our Company and for your kind words about us and for your gift to me. I will always use the coasters with a full glass of amber liquid on top.

We have listened with interest to your comments and observations about world trade, the City of London, and the financial services industry, and how it has all impacted on your year as Lord Mayor. I know how keenly you have championed your theme of People And Purpose by your support of future generations and driving social mobility at all levels. On behalf of us all, thank you.

I would like you to accept this on behalf of the Company for The Lord Mayor’s Appeal.

I am delighted to welcome so many of you here tonight, especially my mother and our sons, and thank you Court Assistant Nick Mayhew for your erudite welcome to our guests.

Our Immediate Past Master, Mary Hardy, ably supported by her husband, Past Master Mark Hardy, deserves our thanks for ensuring that our welcome back to the real world has been such an interesting year. As some of you know, I went I straight into the Senior Warden's chair and Mary has trained me well over the past 18 months, thank you. My only concern is there have been rather too many emails over the past few weeks saying, 'this is one for Michael's year'. Mary, I know I can always turn to you for advice. On behalf of the Company, I would like to thank you for your gift of the Master's new Gown. We wish you and Mark well for the future.

Events like this don't just happen and when I say none of it would have happened without our Learned Clerk, Gaye Duffy, I mean it. Gaye's knowledge of the City and its practice and procedure is encyclopaedic, and her organisational skills are legendary. She manages to deal with me with a perfect balance of patience and humour, so thank you Gaye.

I am told that behind every Master there is a Consort ... to deal with the IT difficulties, to check that the big diary is up to date, to listen to drafts of speeches and to help put studs into dress shirts. To my consort and wife, Jill, thank you for taking on this role and I know how much you, and your Mastercard, are looking forward to the year ahead. I hope that we can still have the odd date night away from the Livery over the next twelve months.

I want to especially thank Rabbi Helen Freeman for saying Grace before Dinner tonight – your presence here is very important to me.

I would also like to thank all the staff of The Mansion House, and also Rod our Beadle, Andy our photographer, our own Freeman Wil White for the video and everyone else involved in making this a memorable night.

Recently, the Company has been honoured to have our own Past Master, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, chosen to be Lord Mayor of The City of London for 2023-24 subject to formal election. Michael is unable to be here this evening as he is at Davos in the Desert, so I will leave my further remarks until he is with us all at our next great event. We congratulate him.

We also congratulate our long-standing member, Liveryman Sarah Leonard, on her marriage over the summer to Josh. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Goodhew.

Why do we have world trade? Aside from the obvious of the buying and selling of goods, services and skills, it helps to make the world go round and to build up international friendships. I was moved on a visit to New York by a simple stone memorial at the World Trade Center which has on it a quote from Minoru Yamasaki , the architect who designed the twin towers in 1964 “ Paramount in importance is the relation of world trade to world peace.” Let us hope that the world remembers this.

All members of the company here have a connection with or an interest in world trade. We aim to foster that connection with our events. My theme for the year is The Richness of World Trade. I will be looking at some of the less obvious aspects of world trade but those that do make a difference to the bottom line of UK plc.

We will be going on some early evening visits round the City seeing places that relate to world trade and its history, with a speaker relevant to the theme and place, with supper afterwards. Our first business lunch is on 30th of November at the Barbican restaurant, when the Bank of England’s Agent for London and The South East will be talking about the impact of the latest Bank of England figures on world trade.

We will be having at least one event in partnership with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We are members of the Financial Services Group of Companies, and we hope they will join us at some of these events. We will continue to be involved with the Livery Climate Action Group.

I am conscious of the costs of our events, and whilst we are privileged to be able to use the splendid livery halls round the City, this is not an option for our less formal events, so during the year we will be continuing to meet in restaurants and pubs either for or after events. I look forward to seeing you many of you there and of course at our annual cycle of functions over the year. An email is going out in the next week or so in Clerk’s Notes with many of next year’s dates so please read it and note your diaries when you receive it.

The Master’s overseas visit takes place in early June, and we are greatly looking forward to our trip to Tallinn, capital of Estonia. We have had a large number of members expressing an interest in coming on the trip and I will be sending out a newsletter to all of you shortly. I am grateful to the Estonian Ambassador (who was unable to be here tonight) and to Maarja Pehk, who is here from the embassy, for all their help and advice in putting the trip together. As usual, we will be having trade visits

when we will see how this small country has become a world leader in the digitised economy, and as expected of any World Traders' trip, there will be cultural and gastronomic experiences on the itinerary.

Our flagship event is the annual Tacitus Lecture now in its 36th year. This is believed to be the largest public lecture of its kind in the City of London. We have had some distinguished speakers over the years, and many of you will have been in Guildhall earlier this year to listen to a spell-binding lecture by Professor David Olusoga.

Due to the refurbishment of Guildhall in the early part of next year, our lecture will be held on Wednesday 17th of May.

I am delighted to announce that the Tacitus Lecture for 2023 will be given by The Right Honourable Roderick James Nugent Stewart, better known to most of you as Rory Stewart.

Rory is a distinguished academic, diplomat, author, broadcaster, and former politician. His present venture, GiveDirectly, takes him all over the world. We greatly look forward to his lecture. For a foretaste of what is to come, listen to his podcast *The Rest is Politics*.

But the Company is not just about events. Our education committee liaise with the schools that we support on a regular basis. Next year, we will be organising two World of Work conferences, one for year 10 and one for year 12. Students are helped to focus on their personal statements and CVs and assisted with interview and presentation techniques and skills. We have an amazing group of World Traders who devote time and experience to motivate these pupils, many of whom will be the first in their families to go on to higher education.

Our Charitable Trust aims to make a difference, particularly to smaller organisations. A recent donation which really caught my interest was to "Just to be a Child", where we have made a one-off payment towards their Library and Learning Centre in southern Kenya, to train their librarian and for the purchase of a 40 foot container for the stocking of the library .

Our membership committee is always interested in recruiting new members as we are going for growth and aiming for at least 300 members by the end of 2022. Many of our new members come from personal recommendations. Please do bring along

anyone you think may be interested in joining us – our informal drinks on the first Tuesday of each month at Tower Suites is a good place to start.

We are always looking for volunteers from the Company to help in everything the company does – I think of the words of the late President Kennedy in his inaugural speech “ask not what your Company can do for you – ask what you can do for your Company.” You don’t have to join a committee, you are welcome to offer to help, for example, organise an event or be a liaison officer for a school.

One of my aims in this year is to encourage more young people from age 18 to 27 to join our Company through our Journeyman scheme. I am really pleased to see so many of you here tonight. We are proud of the progress that you are all making in your careers. For you it means that you have a bank of experience to call on, for us it means that we have a bank of younger members who we look forward to seeing progress through the company.

There is a lot to look forward to over the next 12 months. I am honoured and proud to have been asked by you to become Master of the Worshipful Company of World Traders for the next year. Thank you all for your support and good wishes. I am not going to be like some of our politicians and make bold promises about how I will change the company. All I will say to you is - that I will do my best for the Company throughout the year.

I have been asked many times what I want from my year. My reply is always the same, for everyone to enjoy themselves with other members of the company, within the Livery, and the wider City, and, following the words of our company motto from Thomas Jefferson, in a spirit of Peace, Commerce, and Honest Friendship with All.

Thank You.