



## **MASTER'S WELCOME TO GUESTS – 100+ LUNCH – FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 – IT HALL**

“Fellow Masters, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A warm welcome to you all for our annual lunch for those Livery Companies numbered in the order of precedence 100 and above.

Firstly, there is one person who sadly is absent today, and that is Robert Woodthorpe Browne, one of our Past Masters, who died last November. Today would have been Robert's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and I know that he would have been here to celebrate it with us. Robert was a great friend and support to me throughout my time as a World Trader, and someone who I could turn to for advice – and trust that advice. I would like you all to stand and join me in drinking a toast” to the memory of Robert.”

There is another toast I would like to make at this stage, and that is to the newest member of the 100 club, The Worshipful Company of Nurses, who became Livery Company 111 last week. Their newly installed Master, Liz Bardolph, is unable to be with us at the last moment due to an unexpected family bereavement in South Africa, and John, please pass on our sympathy. We are delighted to welcome the Immediate Past Master of just a few weeks, Julia Mingay and Clerk, John Allen, are attending this lunch as their first official outing as a Worshipful Company. Ladies and Gentlemen, please rise and join me in a toast “to The Worshipful Company of Nurses”.

Many thanks to our caterer, Cook and Butler, for generously providing the champagne for the toast – and of course for today's delicious lunch.

Some of you may have already met Julia – reading her CV left me feeling so breathless that I nearly had to call 111 for medical advice. Julia is one of the eight founder members of the Company. She began her working life as a Registered Mental Health Nurse at Barts' and is now a Lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery, and Palliative Care at King's College London as well as being a keen gardener. And there is so much more in between. The Nurses' Clerk, John Allen, is a well-known figure around the Livery, and is a retired Chief Inspector, formerly from the Royalty Protection Department. Welcome to you both. We are delighted that The Nurses have joined us, and we are now truly the Modern Great Twelve.

Ladies and Gentlemen, now that you know something about Julia and John, I'd like to introduce you to all to them. Please put up your hand when I mention your name.

Company 100 is the Information Technologists, and their Master is Rob Veersists , and Clerk is Susan Hoefling. I will be kind to them- after all, they are our landlord, and Rob is speaking after me. Thank you to Alan O'Connor, their beadle and hall manager for all your help today, and always.

We are Company 101, the company with global vision, and in accordance with the advice I was regularly given before I became Master, keep friendly with your Clerk. Thank you to Gaye Duffy for organising today's lunch.

Next on the list is Company 102, the Water Conservators. We have a last-minute apology from their Master, Colin Drummond, who in his capacity as an NHS Trust chair, has been summoned to

an urgent meeting. However, we are delighted to welcome their Clerk, Christine Duthie. The Company looks at the many ways that water affects our lives, and with a hot summer forecast, I am sure that despite all the rain earlier in the year, we will be exhorted to conserve water.

Company 103 is the Firefighters, who do the opposite –they actively use water in order to perform a great public service. We are pleased to be joined by their Master, Stephen Sanders, welcome Stephen.

Company 104 is the Hackney Carriage Drivers who have sent their apologies. I suspect they didn't want to lose fares on this pre-bank holiday weekend Friday.

Chris Sutton is Master Management Consultant, Company 105, who can proudly boast that he has heard the Lord Mayor's nun joke more times than I have. He is accompanied by his Clerk, Julie Fox, and you all must know Julie – if not, where have you been?

Welcome to Company 106, The International Bankers. Julia and John, you, and Liz, will always recognise their Master, Jason Van Praagh, by his sartorial elegance which he owes to me, having taken my advice on the correct apparel to wear at the numerous occasions we get invited to. A warm welcome Jason, and to your Clerk, Carole Seawert.

Company 107 is the Tax Advisers, and I welcome Bob Harland, their Master. The Company is very much a quasi-professional body for tax advisers. Bob decided it was tax efficient not to bring his Clerk along today. From his badge, we can see that it is tax efficient to put savings into gold.

We always feel safe with Company 108 around us, the Security Professionals, who advise how to apply advanced technology to mitigate risks and enhance protection. Welcome to Paul Millar, their Master and Adrienne Harper, their Clerk.

The Educators are Company 109. Their Master is Caroline Haines, and their Clerk is Christian Jensen, welcome to you both. The Educators promote the profession of education and training as a profession in its widest form. The first official engagement I undertook as Master last November was a riverside tree planting that they organized in memory of the late Queen.

The Arts Scholars are Company 110, and many congratulations to their new Master, Graham Barker, who is still in his first 24 hours of office. Welcome to your first official engagement. Their Clerk is Alan Cook, and with Graham's elevation, the confusion surrounding which Alan Cook is their Master and which Alan Clark is their Clerk has gone.

Julia and John, this is part of the circuit your Company has joined. I will leave you to brief Liz, and you can borrow this speech. We all enjoy these occasions when we get together, and we look forward to getting to know you and your Company.

I would ask all members of the Worshipful Company of World Traders to stand, and to join me in the toast," to our Guests.

Thank You."