

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF COOKS OF LONDON

NEWS SHEET

Matters of interest to Members of the Company for the year to November 1989.

The Late Masters Report for the year

'I outline a few of the more interesting events during my year.

Undoubtedly the Royal Garden Party must take pride of place. We were lucky to be blessed with a beautiful day. The Queen and Prince Philip, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the 'Kents' were present, and spent several hours mingling and chatting.

The 375th Anniversary of 'Sons of the Clergy' at St Pauls was a splendid Service and ceremony attended by Prince Philip, the Archbishop of Canterbury, many Bishops, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, the Choirs of Canterbury, St Pauls and Ely providing wonderful choral music.

Many visits to other Livery Companies and to the Mansion House for the Lord Mayor's Dinner to Livery Masters and the Lady Mayoress's Soiree for the Court of Common Council et al.

Visits to Aldershot on many occasions were a source of great pleasure. Presenting the Trophies was an added pleasure. For me, perhaps, as an ex-naval person a two day visit to H.M.S. Raleigh at Plymouth was the most gratifying. It is most heartening to see how well the young Cooks of the three Services are being trained. I must mention that the R.A.F. hosted me on several occasions at Aldershot and Bentley Priory. Our interest in the Services training programme is much appreciated.'

Assistance of Cookery

Members of the Court attended the annual Luncheon and Prizegiving held at Innholders Hall on the 22nd February 1989 and the Master made the following presentations:-

City and Guilds of London Institute.: Basic Cookery to Amanda Jane Thomas, Student of Basingstoke Technical College, a Goblet and Certificate; to Kim Vanessa Chisholm, Student of Highbury Technical College, Portsmouth, a Goblet and Certificate, and to Mr Alan Humphrey of the College, a Bowl.

Royal Navy: Best Further Training Cook for 1988 to A/C J.G. Piper, a Goblet and Certificate.

Army Catering Corps: Apprentice, 1988, Prizewinners L/Cpl M.R. Barry and Pte L.M. Venier, Certificates.

Royal Air Force: Prizewinner Cpl E.J. Gibbons, a Goblet and Certificate.

Silver Jubilee Trophy 1988: College, Merton College, individual, Richard Taylor, and Trophy to Mr O. Gallucci.

The Silver Jubilee in 1989 was won by Southgate College, and the Trophy will be presented in 1990.

Past Master Graham Young gave great assistance in arrangements for the various competitions and also in judging. The Master attended on a number of occasions and in particular at the Army Catering Corps day, when the Duchess of York was present, and competitions were of a practical nature, including a Field Cookery Trophy and a Hospital Field Kitchen event. He also visited the Naval and Air Force Schools of Cookery.

Charities

The annual charity donation of £10,000 put up jointly by the Associated Companies was this year the gift of the Cooks. It was decided to make this to the P.M. Club, which is run by the Catering Trades Benevolent Association. Its premises are in Earls Court and it cares for young people in the Catering Trade who come to London.

On the 24th October 1989, the Company presented a Minibus to the Catering Trades Benevolent Association for the use of retired or disabled Residents at the Home run by the Association at Wimbledon. The Master with other Officers and Past Masters attended at the handing over ceremony at the Home, when the Mayor and Mayoress of Merton formally accepted the Minibus on behalf of the Association. The Company contributed £10,000 and a suitable inscription of the gift was placed on the sides of the vehicle.

Various other contributions were made to Charities including £350 to Westminster College for books and £50 to the Lord Mayor's 800 Anniversary Appeal.

Under the Will of the late Past Master Sidney Bishop, who died a few years ago, the Company was left a share in his Residuary Estate subject to the life interest of his Widow, Mrs Margaret Bishop, who died recently. The amount of the gift is not yet known but may be in the region of £50,000 less tax. The Court will consider in due course how to deal with the sum received, and it will probably be allocated to charitable purposes. It has been decided that the Charity Accounts should be audited by a Chartered Accountant and Liveryman A.M.T. Simmons has kindly taken on the job.

Annual Church Service.

The first reintroduced Service for the Company and their Ladies was held at St Botolphs, Aldersgate Street on the 26th April 1989 followed by a Buffet Lunch at Butchers Hall. There was a good attendance, but it is hoped that more will come to the next Service which will be held at the same Church on the 2nd February 1990. This will be a Candlemas Service and will be followed by a Buffet Lunch in Ironmongers Hall. Arrangements have been made by Past Master/ Mayoralty. Colin Cleugh.

The City of London Exhibition to celebrate 800 years of the Mayoralty was held on the 11th and 12th July 1989. The Company provided a Stand and this was organised by Past Master Graham Young. Four Students at Wimbledon Art College prepared a model and arranged for its construction. They also produced costumes as worn by medieval cooks, and a Coat of Arms of the Company on silk with other cookery items. On his visit the Lord Mayor showed great interest in the exhibit as did the public in general. The Master and other Officers also attended at the Stand.

Christs Hospital

Adam Tinlin, who had been presented by the Company, passed his examination in/ January 1989. The Company now has a presentation of a girl aged about 11 in 1990 and, subject to the vacancy not having been filled, the Clerk will supply details to any Member interested.

Social Functions

A buffet Lunch was held at Innholders Hall, in conjunction with other Companies, in March after the United Guilds Service at St Pauls for Liverymen and their Ladies who had attended the Service.

The usual Livery Dinners were held in May to entertain the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and in November to entertain the Associated Companies. In October a Dinner was held in the Crypt of the Guildhall for all Members of the Company with their Ladies and which proved most successful. It is hoped to repeat this in 1990. It is also hoped that the Innholders Hall will again be available for use by the Company from October 1990, and that permanent facilities will then become available for safe storage of the Company's Plate. Although it is no longer intended to collect quarterage from Liverymen at the Dinners, they are advised that the Renter Warden has been instructed to collect a fine of £1 from any Liveryman not wearing his medal. This fine was fixed at 25p in 1813 and has thus been kept well below the rate of inflation.

Miscellaneous Items.

We are very sorry to report that Past Master John Wright, who was Master in 1979/80, died recently, and also that Liveryman Judge Edward Clarke died earlier in the year.

For many years Past Master Bob Price has acted as Treasurer of the Company. Unfortunately he has had to give up this Office due to indifferent health and Past Master John Balls has taken over.

The Company has the right to nominate a Member to the Court of the City University and Past Master Sidney Habbage has been appointed.

Major General J.F.W. Wilsey, who Representative Colonel Commandant of the Army Catering Corps, and Captain Stopford, Royal Navy, were made Honorary Freemen of the Company at the November Court Meeting.

In June 1989, the Army Catering Corps Golf Society held a 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot. Twenty one teams of three were invited, including one from the Company which was represented by Past Master Sidney Habbage, the then Warden and Liveryman Michael Messent. The annual golf match against the Corps was also held at the Berkshire Golf Club in August which was well supported by the Company and was followed by Dinner in the Mess. The Company did their best on both occasions, but it seems the Teams need more practice. Next year it is hoped to hold the Match at Swinley

Forest Golf Club and any Member who is interested in playing should contact Past Master Herbage.

A suggestion that Livery Functions should in future be held in dinner jacket rather than evening dress has been referred to the General Committee for discussion. In the past the feeling of the Court has been against change.

Functions in 1990

Details at present available and which are subject to alteration are as follows:-

Friday 2nd February, Candlemas Church Service as mentioned above.

Friday 16th March, United Guilds Service with Buffet Lunch at Bakers Hall.

Wednesday 9th May, Livery Dinner at Haberdashers Hall

Friday 19th October, Ladies Dinner in Crypt of the Guildhall.

Friday 23rd November, Livery Dinner at Innholders Hall.

City Livery Club

The Rules of the Club now permit Freemen and Freemaids to become Members as well as Liverymen. Application Forms are available from the Clerk if not already supplied.

The Master

It is the practice of some Livery Companies to give 'Pen Portraits' of the newly elected Master in their Newssheets. It has been suggested that we follow suit and hence the following:-

The Master was born in Peebles, Scotland in 1919 and was educated at the Royal High School of Edinburgh. He then attended Edinburgh University in 1937 and 1938. On the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Engineers and reached the rank of Captain.

He was in the fall of Dunkirk in 1940 but was able to return to England and became involved in laying mines and mine lifting. As a French speaker he was then attached to the Belgian Army for three years. He then became SORE (Int) with the Chief Engineer of the Rhine Army, and in 1946 and 1947 was R.T.O. at Calais.

In 1947 and 1948, he was back at Edinburgh University and gained a Second Class Honours Degree in Civil Engineering.

He spent two years on trunk road survey with Huntingdon County Council and then joined a Civil Engineering Firm, Mott, Hay and Anderson where he became involved in the Forth Bridge survey. With the same Firm he then became involved in many large engineering works and was Resident Engineer in most of the following:- Construction of two deep level Air Stations for Fighter Command, tube station enlargement at Notting Hill Gate, repaving Tower Bridge, repairing Billingsgate Wharf, rebuilding the High Level at Tower Bridge, Blackfriars Underpass, Smithfield and Spitalfield Markets, building Victoria Bridge over the Thames at Datchet. From 1969 to 1973, he was Resident Engineer on the rebuilding of the new London Bridge, and then in 1973 on the reengineering of Tower Bridge from steam to electric.

In 1975 he was forced to retire on the grounds of ill health and has since acted as Consulting Engineer to many Estate Agents reporting on the condition of old houses and on some new constructions.

He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1961 and became a Liveryman of the Cooks Company in 1964, being admitted on the same night as Past Master Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson and the Late Master. He joined the Court of the Company in 1983 and was voted Master Elect on the 14th September 1989.

He married Thelma Patterson in 1943 and has two Daughters. After a divorce in 1972, he is now married to Margaret Cox formerly of Forneth, Perthshire.

C.E.M.