

PETER'S ADDRESS

Good afternoon Common Hall.

Thank you so much for the honour bestowed upon me today of becoming Master of this proud and ancient company.

I'd also like to thank all of my family and friends for the support they've given me over the number of years that I have served on the Court and every bit of help and encouragement that they have given to me - especially my wife, Jenny who is, with me, looking forward to representing the Livery in the year ahead. We will do our best.

Of course, additionally, I wouldn't be standing here today without the many hours of work put in by Court members who have worked tirelessly for the Company over these tough years. There is no doubt that, going forward, I will have a good team to continue the good work and, of course, the Court does not work without the hard work of our Clerk, Carla and her office team, united totally in doing everything they can to make our Livery a better, stronger Livery. Thank you to every one of you.

I have been privileged to serve under many distinguished and able Masters who have led the Livery through difficult times and I would like to mention my direct predecessor, Gwyn Howells, who has undoubtedly worked as hard as it is possible for any Master to work and represented the Livery in the City in a distinguished and honourable way.

Thank you Gwyn - and thanks too, to Gwyn's Consort, Virginia.

I would also like to announce the Master's charity for this year which is highly personal to me, supporting the highly advanced cancer research treatment carried out by Marc Mansour which is currently achieving great results, under the banner of University College London Hospitals (UCLH).

Additionally, exciting events planned to raise funds for the Hall this forthcoming year include the November Great Gatsby event and the Master's Fundraising Dinner at Guildhall in April.

The privilege of becoming Master is wonderful, thank you. However, I am not the Livery, the court are not the Livery, YOU are the Livery.

YOU are the beating heart of the Livery. Every single one of you. You have kept Butcher's Hall going through such challenging times and I am delighted to say that, thanks to all of you and the immense work of the Court, Clerk and her team, we are in a much stronger position financially. It is all of you who have welcomed guests, attended events, come to lunches, made donations, taken part in the 200 Club and raffles – this has all been YOU.

YOU, every single one of you, have created the true spirit of this great Livery and with your help and energy, I look forward to a financially stable year, of even more improvement and fun and bringing even more diversity to our numbers. Thank you in advance for all that you will bring to the year.