

Gathering on 19 November

A number of Company committees meet in the City on 19 November, and as there is a tendency to go on to a wine bar afterwards anyway Renter Warden Stephen Rigden is making arrangements for us to go to The Dickens Inn, St Katherine's Dock, London, E1W 1UH where there is room for other constructors to join us for a glass and a bite. Details to be published when known, but see if you can keep an hour or two in the early evening, say 1800 – 2000, free on 19 November.

Lunch and Carol Service 9 December.

The Constructors' Court meets at Vintners' Hall on 9 December, and this will be followed by lunch and then our annual Carol Service at St Lawrence Jewry. **The Master invites members and their guests to come for lunch and the Carol Service.**

The Vintners' Company is one of the Great Twelve Companies, and their Hall is full of wine memorabilia, and is a splendid place to have a pre Christmas lunch with friends and colleagues. The cost for lunch will be £65.00 per head which includes wines and VAT.

We will be sitting at round tables of 10. If you want to arrange with others to make up a table of ten, that will be fine. Alternatively I will put you and your guest(s) and anyone else you want to be with onto one of the livery tables, (subject to being able to make the whole jigsaw fit together!). 12.45 pm for 1.15 pm.

The Carol Service will be in the traditional style of carols and lessons, with anthems from St Lawrence's excellent choir. The Service starts at 4.00 pm and is open to all members and their guests whether or not they can attend the lunch, and of course there is no charge.

However, we will be taking up a collection for CRASH, the construction industry's homeless charity, and if you are not going to come to the Service you are still invited to contribute. A cheque should be made out to CRASH and sent to me. If you are coming to the Service, CRASH gift aid envelopes will be available in the Church.

To come to lunch please use the application form. It would be helpful if you are only coming to the Service if you also used the form so we can be sure to have enough service sheets and so on. If you find on the day that you do have time to come and sing carols with your fellow Constructors after all, then just turn up.

Closing date for lunch applications Tuesday 25 November. All applications will be acknowledged.

New Members' Lunches.

The Master invites members who joined in the last 12 – 18 months (or so) to join her and one or two of the Wardens for an informal lunch on one of the following dates in 2010: 20 Jan 10 at Butchers' Hall; 6 April 10 at Watermen's Hall; and 9 Jun 10 again at Butchers'

....New Members' Lunches

Hall. The aim is for new members to get know some of their fellow Constructors, and it will just be a small group of 10 or 12. A number of members have received an email with this information and have already "booked in" for the date of their choice, and others will do so; this note is a reminder and a safety net in case I have missed anybody out.

The cost will be in the region of £50 per head; the cost will be split between those attending, and I will invoice afterwards.

Call or email me to make a booking; I need your bid not less than one month before the date of each lunch.

Affiliation to a Cadet Detachment.

Some time ago the Court decided that it would be a good and useful thing for the Company to establish an affiliation with a Cadet Detachment of any Service in the London area. Cadets do so much good in some of the most deprived areas of cities, offering young people chances to develop and learn that will not ordinarily be available to them through their homes or schools.

The Court feels that the Company might be able to offer welcome support, in the form of taking an interest in the detachment's activities, perhaps some career advice for those considering work in the construction industry, and probably some modest funds to facilitate competitions, prizes for achievement or to help cadets who lack funds for local travel or face some other obstacle to playing a full part in the activities.

If any member has an association with cadets, or has an interest in being part of the Company's move in this direction and a few ideas, please contact me.

Charitable Giving

The Company's Charitable Trust distributes funds to a number of educational and benevolence recipients. A large part goes towards funding our scholarships, and several trade training and educational prizes. Other beneficiaries are charities connected with construction or the City of London.

Other than return on invested funds, the Charitable trust's only source of income is the membership of the Company. New members are encouraged to make a regular contribution to the Trust's capital of perhaps £100 or so, more if it can be afforded, gift aided to maximise value. Many members have already put these arrangements in place.

I will be sending forms to recently joined members in any case. Anyone else wanting the forms please get in touch.

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