

To All Members of the Fletchers' Company
From Bob Hall, Master

2 August 2010

Following my note of 24 April, I am writing to let you know how matters stand on three issues which are of much importance to our Company:

Michael Johnson's successor

A panel was set up by the Court of the Company to identify Michael's successor. There were 36 applications and, out of a shortlist of 5, Georgina Butler was recommended to the Court. The recommendation was agreed, and Georgina, having accepted our offer, will start with us as our new Clerk on Monday 27 September 2010. She will be joining the visit to Rome from 23 to 26 September, which will be a very good opportunity for those coming to Rome to start to get acquainted.

Georgina's career has mainly been in the Diplomatic Service. She has worked in the United Nations in New York, the European Commission in Brussels and was Deputy Head of the Latin American and Caribbean Department at FCO. From 2002 – 2006 she was HM Ambassador and Consul General to Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Georgina graduated in law at University College London (and appointed a Fellow in 2003). She has a wide network of contacts in the UK and overseas (particularly USA, Central and South America, Europe and North Africa). Her broad experience includes work in political and economic roles, service delivery (consular and commercial assistance), human and resource management, press/public affairs, research and academic liaison, and aid and development work.

The panel considered that of all the candidates Georgina showed the degree of enthusiasm, creativity, energy, competence and personality that will help our Company, in a very positive way, to address the various significant challenges which face us over the next three or four years.

I do hope that when you have had the opportunity to meet Georgina you will agree. We look forward to a productive and innovative period in the history of our Company.

Alderman and Sheriff David Wootton (Master Fletcher 2005/6) and the Mayoralty

The City's delicate process by which candidates for office become identified has moved perceptibly forward. The final election body (the Court of Aldermen) has indicated that if David were to be identified by Liverymen, when assembled in Common Hall in September 2011, as one of two candidates for the office of Lord Mayor of the City of London for the year commencing November 2011, then it would support David. This is excellent news for our Company, and (without presuming anything) we extend our congratulations to David.

The mayoralty will of course be a very busy time for David and Liz. It also has implications (practical and financial) for our Company in terms of participation in the

Lord Mayor's Show on 12 November 2011 and contribution to various charitable activities in 2011/12.

It is proposed to hold a meeting at the Hall on Tuesday 19 October 2010, starting at 6.00 pm and lasting about 2 hours, at which plans for the Company's involvement in 2011/12 will be outlined for full discussion and expression of views by everyone. I do urge you to make a note of the meeting now.

Andrew McMillan is chairman of the Mayoralty Preparation group, and he will circulate to us all more details about the meeting in due course.

Saying farewell to Michael Johnson

I know that, as a Company, we will want to record in an appropriate and fitting way our gratitude and respect to Michael and Pippa. In view of Michael's treatment programme, the opportunity to do this will not be likely to arise until February or March next year. I do hope that you will be able to join an occasion then, because we really do want to bid farewell to Michael and Pippa in style and numbers.

Best wishes

Bob Hall