Speech at Lady Day Court lunch 2020

Wardens, visiting Masters, fellow liverymen, ladies and gentlemen

Change is inevitable as has been proven over the centuries and however much we would like life in general to remain unchanged so we can remain in our individual comfort zones, that is not the way things pan out.

We wish our lives and those of our families to get better and so we must adapt to change in order to achieve that goal but in this process, we must retain the best of what has been achieved and discard that which has failed or outlived its usefulness.

The livery in general and our individual companies in particular are no different. We have existed for many centuries while other bodies and institutions have withered away but throughout that time, we have retained the best of our traditions while looking to a brighter future.

We have adapted to changing times and events but we have maintained the best of our traditions and as a result of this gradual evolution we continue to be relevant in the modern society in which we live.

As a Company we have raised our profile within the City to a much greater level than has been the case for many years. We have continued to attract new members most of whom have made an immediate impact on the life and affairs of the Company and we are a healthier Company financially.

This morning we have worked through a full agenda at Court. We have elected a new full Court Assistant and 4 new interim Court Assistants and we have also confirmed Past Master Andrew Bowles as Chairman of the Membership & Development committee in succession to Past Master David Blake, who retires at Common Hall in June. At this juncture, I pay tribute to David who has worked tirelessly as MDC Chairman. Our membership processes have developed and improved under his leadership and we are all most grateful to him for all the hard work he has undertaken to achieve this.

We have also sworn into the Company? new liverymen and I would ask them to stand when I announce their names so we can all recognise them and welcome them into our ranks. [Names]

I also take this opportunity to thank our clerk, Giles Clapp and his assistant, Mrs Jolanta Glas. The office runs smoothly and efficiently under Giles’ stewardship for which I am most grateful.

This is my last Court lunch before I hand over the reins to my successor at Common Hall on June 16th. I shall have more to say on that occasion but I would just like to express my thanks to you all for being part of such an enjoyable and happy experience both for me and for Brenda.