

## ALAN PARKER INSTALLED AS MASTER

On 6th September 2007, Alan Parker held his Installation Dinner for The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers. The dinner was held at The Apothecaries' Hall in Blackfriars. The Hall, formerly the guesthouse of the Dominican Priory of the Black Friars, was acquired in 1632. It was re-built on the same site immediately after its destruction in the Great Fire of 1666, making it the oldest extant livery Hall in the City.

The Master, his lady and his Wardens welcomed everyone to the Hall where a champagne reception was held in the pretty courtyard in the early evening sunlight.

The Beadle, John Sheen announced dinner was served and everyone took their places before the Master, his Wardens and his guests processed into the Hall. In his speech, Alan Parker welcomed new members to the Company, who had been sworn in after the Court Meeting before the dinner and also congratulated Neil McCulloch who had been clothed in the Livery. Alan went on to thank Patricia Stanley for her work during the past year as The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers first Lady Master.



Neil McCulloch and Alan Parker

turn, starting with The Master. The holder of the Loving Cup bows to the person on his left who then removes the cover with his right hand and holds it whilst the other sips from the Cup. The cover is then replaced and the Cup passed to the left. At all times there are three people standing, one drinking from the cup, one holding the lid and one guarding the drinker's back. There

A speech was given by Mr Paul Taylor RIBA, FRSA who is a Chartered Architect, a City of London Guide Lecturer and an Associate of the Institute of Tourist Guiding. The Cab Guide course run by the Education section of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers is growing ever more popular and Mr Taylor talked about Guiding and the benefits it brings during his speech. Alan Parker had been encouraged into becoming a cab guide thanks to Mr Taylor some years ago and their long friendship has grown since then. Mr Taylor continues to help with the course being run by the Company today.

At the end of the dinner, a Loving Cup was taken. This is an old tradition, said to date back to when King Edward the Martyr was slain by Elfrida. Each guest drinks in unity and friendship, something which those present can enjoy in beautiful surroundings of Livery Halls where these dinners are held. More experienced members of the Company are always on hand to offer help to those less sure and it is a lovely tradition to uphold.

The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers welcomed guests to this Dinner. Guests were from many different areas of the taxi trade, from taxi drivers to those involved in manufacturing the taxis to those providing services to the cab trade. The evening was enjoyed by everyone.

If you would like to know more about the Company please contact the Clerk on 01494 765922 who will be delighted to help you.



Jacqueline Quaile, Gavin Cooper, Matthew Cheyne, Richard Daniels, Peter Major, Kevin Molloy with the new Master Alan Parker

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