

WCHCD HOLDS INSTALLATION DINNER

Michael Davies has been installed as Master of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers for the forthcoming year. His Installation Dinner took place at the Armourers Hall in Coleman Street on 10th September. The installation of Michael and his Wardens was carried out in a short traditional ceremony just prior to the dinner. The Upper Warden is Jim Rainbird, whilst Brenda Bartlett is Lower Warden, with Eddie Crossley taking office as Renter Warden. Andrew Overton is now the Deputy Master, having handed over the office to Michael Davies following his year as Master. Michael said: "It is a great honour to become Master of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers and I am looking forward to the year ahead."



Michael Davies and Jim Rainbird

The WCHCD is held in high regard throughout the City and proves that the lifeblood of the City's traditions is as important as ever in today's tough economic times. The charity works carried out by Livery Companies, of which the WCHCD is the 104th to have received Livery status, involve



The Master and Eddie Crossley

much hard work in raising sponsorship and The Magical Taxi Tour is supported by many of the other Livery Companies. Michael is well known in the trade for his work in the insurance industry, insuring taxis from Protector's offices in Red Lion Square. He has always felt that taxis are a



Michael Davies and Brenda Bartlett

unique vehicle when it comes to insurance and together with his staff he works hard to provide the insurances required by the trade. Michael's guest speaker was Garath Hughes, City Manager ACII Chartered Insurer for Aviva. He entertained



Rev Dudley receives his new badge from The Master

guests with his speech, explaining some of the anomalies of the insurance business.

The Honorary Chaplain of the Company is the Reverend Dr Martin Dudley CC and during the Dinner he was presented with a new badge of office. Martin attends many of the Company's dinners and is Rector of St Bartholomew's, the church which is closely affiliated with the Company. It was here that a thanksgiving service was held earlier this year to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Company receiving Livery status.

During the Stirrup Cup following the Dinner Michael thanked everyone for their support at his Installation Dinner. His duties this year will be full and varied representing the taxi trade across the City.

SPARKLING TAXIS SET A MAGICAL SCENE

A hundred of London's iconic cabs and their drivers will be leaving Canary Wharf on 2nd October as The Magical Taxi Tour gets underway. The day before, the drivers of the taxis taking part will be polishing their cabs ready for their VIP passengers. The sparkle of the cabs and their beaming headlights will be matched by the excitement on the faces of those children taking part in this charitable event, with sparkling eyes and beaming smiles the order of the day. Sick and terminally ill children from London hospitals are set to enjoy the trip of a lifetime to Disneyland Paris, complete with full medical teams as back up and of course mechanical back up for the cabs – just in case!



With the convoy reaching around three miles long as it heads out of the City of London down

towards Dover, where a P&O Ferry will sail to Calais with the convoy on board, the invaluable support of police from both the UK and France makes quite a sight to see and many pedestrians and motorists along the route will be surprised and wave to the procession of London cabs. The Magical Taxi Tour is undertaking its 16th trip this year, having spread its magic to thousands of children over the years. London's Mayor has just announced that there will be a Disney theme to Christmas in London this year, with lights, films and many events planned but for those involved in The Magical Taxi Tour the magic will come earlier!