

The Annual Dinner - 12 October 2015

The 2015 Annual Company Dinner was held at Plaisterers' Hall on Monday 12 October. The Plaisterers' present hall (the first two halls were destroyed by fire in 1666 and 1882 respectively and the third destroyed by bombing in 1940) at One London Wall was opened in November 1972, with décor of the neo-classical style created by Robert Adam in the 18th Century. We dined in sumptuous splendour in the 'The Great Hall' which is the centrepiece of the building.

It was a truly memorable evening. Smoked duck, guinea fowl, pistachio olive oil cake, coffee and petit fours served with a variety of fine wines was followed by the Ceremony of the Loving Cup. Our Master, Stuart Seymour, addressed us to highlight the outstanding work undertaken by our Company, his oration peppered with references to recent Welsh triumphs on the battlefields of the Rugby World Cup – how sweet the victories. The response was made by Sheriff Dr Christine Rigden who treated us to an insight into the work of the City of London Corporation and her work as a Sheriff – it was both witty and informative in the same measure. We are also very grateful to Ultimate Security Services Ltd for their generous sponsorship of this event.

A total of 181 Liverymen, Freemen, Members and Guests attended. The Principal Guests were:

- Sheriff Dr Christine Rigden.
- Mr Timothy Doyle, Master of the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners.
- Lieutenant Colonel Paul Holder RLC, Master of the Worshipful Company of Carmen.
- Colonel David Neal, Deputy Provost Marshal (Army), Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army).
- Group Captain Kevin Bailey, Provost Marshal Royal Air Force.
- Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hawkins, Commanding Officer 101 Engineer Regiment.
- Zoe Brown, the 2015 Sheriffs' Award Winner.

We were also delighted to welcome Honorary Liveryman Lord Imbert CVO QPM DL to the dinner.

Two presentations were made during the Dinner:

2015 Sheriffs' Award

The City of London Sheriffs' Award for Bravery is awarded annually to the individual who without thought to his or her own safety has acted to confront danger to another person or their property and to celebrate such selflessness as an inspiration to other citizens. The Award is a highly prestigious one with the winner receiving a trophy, a framed certificate and a cheque for £2,500, and, by order of the Sheriffs his or her name is permanently inscribed both on an Honours Board and in a Book of Honour which are on permanent display at the Central Criminal Court - The Old Bailey.



The award was presented by Sheriff Dr Christine Rigden to this year's winner - Zoe Brown from Manchester.

On New Year's Day Zoe was at home with her partner Matthew and their baby when she heard banging on the window of the house opposite. She saw a man was trying to climb in whilst shouting at the occupant, his partner. The man said that he

was locked out and then started to kick the door, eventually forcing it open. Zoe heard the sound of a woman screaming, which continued, so Zoe went to look and saw a female being dragged along by her hair. Zoe immediately ran into the house and pushed the man away from the woman, helped her to her feet and took her outside. The man went back into the house and came out brandishing a knife threatening Zoe's partner, Matthew who had come to help. Zoe, with no regard for her own safety, launched herself at the man and knocked him to the floor. The couple then managed to restrain and disarm him. Shortly afterwards police arrived and arrested him. Zoe's selfless action put her own life on the line to protect others and was an outstanding example of the intent of this award. After the presentation Zoe said; "I just did what anyone else would have done."

Provost Marshal (Army) Sword

In 2011 as part of the 500th Anniversary of the Office of Provost Marshal (Army), WCoSP Liveryman, Brigadier Eddie Forster-Knight CBE presented a special sword to the Company and asked that the sword be awarded annually to the individual, who in the eyes of the Master and the Court, has achieved most to promote and support the work of the Company in that year, excluding the Master and Clerk. This year the sword was presented by Colonel David Neal, Deputy Provost Marshal (Army) to Court Assistant Trevor Vaughan MBE