



## Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers Message from the Master

Dear All



What a special Installation, although I'm sure every Master says that. Presenting the Prime Warden William Knocker and the Renter Warden Peter Rawlinson with their Badges was something of a challenge. Luckily, I'd brought my special little red stool to stand on. Here's Past Master John Hitch's view of the Installation Ceremony!

Over half of the Livery and 70 guests attended the Dinner at Stationers' Hall. With 150 in the Great Hall there was a definite buzz in the air.

The Immediate Past Master, Alderman & Sheriff Dr Andrew Parmley played "(Wo)Men of Harlech" as we processed into the Hall and the Hon Chaplain, Philip Need, sang a wonderful Grace which I just have to share with you all. It's so good, I think it should become the Glass Sellers' Installation Grace which we all could sing.

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone.  
Here is our new Master  
Glad and full of cheer,  
We ask you, Lord, to guide her  
Through the coming year.

Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
But now it's the Glass Sellers  
Whose music fills the air.  
Bless, O Lord, our table,  
All we drink and eat,  
As we bring our hopes and  
Lay them at your feet.

The Mistress and Renter Warden continued the Festive theme in his speech welcoming the Guests when he pointed out that on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, there sat down to dine:

- 10 Other Company Liverymen
- 9 Livery couples
- 8 Brace of Past Masters
- 7 Court Assistants
- 6 Company Freemen
- 5 Submariners
- 4 OBEs
- 3 Men of the Cloth
- 2 MBEs
- and A Master with a bright chain

The Master Air Pilot, Dorothy Pooley and Master Painter Stainer, Colin Goodman were both Company guests. Liveryman Raymond Layard's Guest was the Master Tyler & Bricklayer and the Master Musician, Kathleen Duncan OBE, was a guest of Past Master Philip Feather. I've known Kathleen and Dorothy for over 10 years so it was wonderful to see them in the Hall. My own guests included the Immediate Past Master Plaisterer, De Bradshaw (who has also just completed an application form to become a Glass Seller) and Past Master World Trader Mei Sim Lai, OBE DL. Without doubt, there was plenty of "bling" in the way of badges.



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Past Master Philip Feather was joined by his fiancée Barbara and I'd like to wish them much joy and happiness on their wedding day, planned for next February, and in their future life together.



One of the highlights of the evening, however, happened at the end of the Court meeting when Liveryman Piers Northam presented a unique gift to the Company.

Many of you will remember Past Master Paul Northam and his wife Nan and I recall enjoying many a Dinner sitting next to Paul.

In making his presentation [abridged below], Piers said:

*"At Mum's funeral in January, we laid out much of her jewellery and asked people to choose something to have to remember her by ... it has given me huge pleasure to see these pieces worn – and with evident enjoyment – and to have people say that they think of her fondly as they do.*

*So it is in this light that I wanted to make this gift to the Company: it's a brooch, which can also be worn as a pendant, which Dad and I designed for Mum's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It features the Glass Sellers' emblems, engraved by a seal-engraver onto an oval of glass and set against mother of pearl. It's a piece that she enjoyed wearing – most often to Livery events of course – but at other times too. ....*

*It is now my hope that it might be made available to the Master and Wardens or their lady partners so that it can continue to be used and enjoyed – and that in so doing, people might have a fond thought for Paul and Nan. I was particularly keen to present it this evening as Gwen takes up her role as Master for the coming year. Dad was always keen to broaden the vision of the Company and to support and encourage women to join the Livery and he would have been thrilled to see our second lady Master installed this evening. What's more, I think the brooch will suit Gwen rather well – an observation that wouldn't have been wasted on either Paul or Nan."*

His words reduced me to tears but I'm pleased to say that by the time I came to speak at Dinner I'd regained my composure and read out the words written inside the presentation box:



**Presented to the Company by  
Liveryman Piers Northam in memory of his parents  
Paul & Nan  
and in thanksgiving for all the pleasure that involvement with the  
Company gave them;  
for friendships formed, for hospitality enjoyed and for good  
fellowship"**

I can't think of a better way to end this Message and I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to our various Dinners and events during 2015.

*Gwen*

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