



Construction Liveries Group

Tuesday 22nd February 2011

Paviors' House

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman Michael Bear

Master Pavior, Masters, Fellow Alderman, Sheriff,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you Tom [Barton] and thank you Hugh
[Ogus, Chairman, Liveries Construction Group].

It was my privilege as Lord Mayor to open Paviors'
House before Christmas.

And it is a very great privilege to return for this
important event.

I am the first Lord Mayor from a property and construction background for over twenty years – I am a *very* civil engineer. So I take a close interest in the work of the Construction Liveries Group.

In fact, it is true to say that, with my construction background, buildings are in my bones – in fact, Barbara, my wife, tells me that talking to me is like talking to a brick wall.

I am proud to be the first Lord Mayor to attend this event. I am especially delighted, as the Paviers are my mother company.

And I know just how important the trades represented here today are to the success of the economy.

The City itself has been transformed in the last twenty years, to provide the buildings and facilities that meet the needs of a world leading financial centre.

And the City's pre-eminence could not have been achieved without the skills and expertise of the construction industry behind it.

It is only three years since the Construction Liveries Group initiated this award ceremony.

But it is already well established and well respected.

Last year Peter Cook, the Sheriff, speaking at this event, said that he hoped that it would go from strength to strength. And you have done exactly that in the last year alone.

And I am delighted to learn that the Construction Liveries Group hopes to extend its work to other sectors on behalf of the Livery Companies Skills Council.

Like many things in the City, these awards are an innovation rooted firmly in the past – in the historic principles on which the livery companies were founded:...

...from a time when a master would take on an apprentice to learn a trade for 7 years, supervised and supported by the company that oversaw that trade.

In this way quality was established, maintained and passed on. And this guaranteed quality is the foundation that made our City great. And helped Britain become a great trading nation.

This Award scheme has recast these principles to meet the needs of a modern age, a modern capital city and modern jobs.

The work of the Construction Liveries Group concerns that "living tradition": developing and nurturing expertise and skills; Passing them on to a new generation, but embracing change to meet the needs of changing times. With an unparalleled stamp of quality.

I support such initiative wholeheartedly. And I look forward to seeing it develop in future years.

So my congratulations to the Carpenters, Plumbers, Joiners and Ceilers, Plaisterers, Pavions and Lightmongers Companies for their initiative. Your work shows just how much can be achieved by livery companies working in collaboration with each other.

I hope others will be inspired by your work, and draw on the model of collaboration you have established.

My thanks to City and Guilds and the different trade and professional bodies for their own contribution.

And my congratulations to everyone here to be awarded their certificate – whether as an apprentice, a journeyman or a master.

Education and training is the foundation stone of any successful career and a successful economy. And here in the UK, technical education must be revived if we are to thrive in a global economy.

The skills you have learnt will stand you in good stead throughout your career, in the services you provide and in contributing to our national prosperity.

I hope that you will choose to pass them on and support many more generations of apprentices, journeymen and masters.

I hope as well you will remember the bond you have forged with the City of London through your participation in this scheme.

In my Lord Mayor's Banquet Speech I spoke about how the City had been practising the Big Society for hundreds of years.

How the work of the livery companies touched the lives of thousands of people every year.

And I set out my business theme for the year:
City of London: City of Choice.

I made a challenge to the City: how could we do more?

To help people make the best possible choices in their lives.

To help them develop their skills and expertise.

And to help them be successful members of a thriving economy.

It is through initiatives such as this that we can do more.

Your work clearly demonstrates that the livery companies remain the keepers of long held values and vibrant traditions. Values and traditions that can help to meet the needs of the modern world.

I look forward to seeing the fruits of further initiatives from the Livery Companies Skills Council, such as its support for the Romney Marsh Skills Festival – of which I am proud to be a patron

– and its contribution to the Skills Olympics later in the year.

I am delighted to present these certificates today. And I look forward to seeing this award scheme flourish.

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