

Preserve Harmony



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NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

THE MASTER ELECT

THE COMPANY'S NEW MASTER, from 6th November, is Anthony Burnett-Brown. Anthony lives in Lacock Abbey, near Chippenham in Wiltshire. Best known today as the home of William Henry Fox-Talbot, pioneer photographer (and Anthony's great great grandfather), Lacock Abbey itself features on some of the earliest extant photographs, taken in the 1830s and 1840s. The Abbey and the

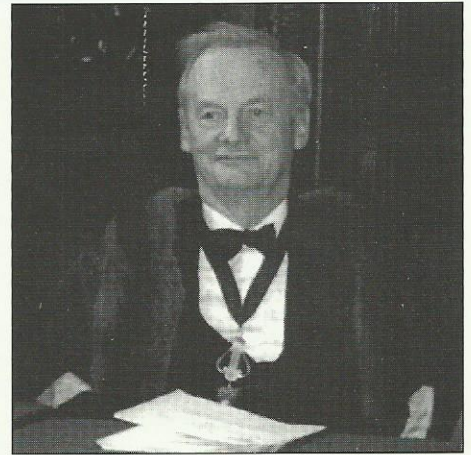
village of Lacock were given by the family some years ago to the National Trust.

After his education at Eton and a period of National Service, Anthony went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford to read Mathematics and spent his professional life as an actuary with the Clerical Medical and General Life Insurance Company.

Both his grandfather and his uncle were members of the Musicians' Company and his uncle was on the Court. Anthony is also a Liveryman of two other City Companies, the Goldsmiths and the Actuaries (he is currently Almoner of this latter Company). Anthony's wife Petronella Dittmer, a professional musician, is also a Liveryman of the Musicians' Company, maintaining the fine family tradition.

He always had a great interest in music and has sung in a number of different choirs over the years, starting with his school Music Society (did he sing on the famous recording of *The Eton Boating Song*, popular for many years in the 78 era? Ed.) and later with the Oxford Bach Choir. Subsequently he performed with the Collegium Musicum in London and with many smaller Madrigal and Motet groups. He continues to enjoy singing in his church choir and, although he claims to play the piano strictly for his own enjoyment, he occasionally helps out on the organ if the church organist is unable to play. He is also a Lay Reader and has been a churchwarden for over twenty years.

One of his other great interests is sailing; sailing dinghies, on the Broads, in the Channel on various chartered boats and then in a 29-footer which he and a friend built together. They cruised in this vessel in



The Master Elect. Anthony Burnett-Brown. Photo: Peter Holland.

the Baltic and to the Morbihan but, like so many busy men, always seemed constrained by lack of time. Since his retirement in 1990, Anthony has bought a rather larger boat but even now is not able to find sufficient time to sail her as much as he would like.

Anthony is also a great walker and while at Oxford climbed with the Oxford Mountaineering Club. More recently he has done a lot of hill-walking, particularly with Bristol Actuarial Society Walking Club (which, he assures us, is a more energetic body than it sounds).

In recent years too, Anthony has been involved in helping to run a number of charities, particularly those connected with blind people; he was for some years governor of Worcester College for the Blind.

With these wide-ranging and energetic interests, it seems possible that our new Master may make special demands on members of the Musicians' Livery. Perhaps if *Climb evr'y Mountain* is thought inappropriate for the Livery to sing at one of our gatherings (despite Lacock Abbey's original purpose as a nunnery), maybe *A Life on the Ocean Wave* will find a place on a suitable occasion. We wish him a happy and enjoyable year in office.

WANDERING MINSTRELS

The Company is on the move. As from 16th November the new offices will be:

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The nearest tube is Mansion House.

