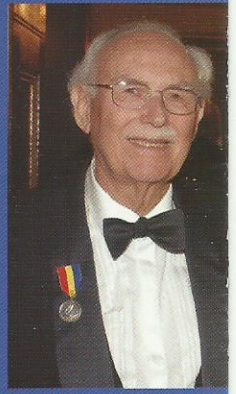


MIDSUMMER BANQUET

AT FISHMONGERS' HALL



Liverymen Alan Paul and Kathleen Duncan Mrs Ficker with her daughters Isabel and Linda and Jeanette Holmes His Honour James M

Photos: Peter Holland

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A STEWARD

The moment when one is tapped on the shoulder and asked to become a Steward of the Company for the year ahead is a very special moment – but what does it involve and why is oneself so honoured? The invitation is followed by a formal letter from the Clerk and it begins to be possible to believe not only that it is to happen after all but to get answers to at least some of one's questions – who and why me?

Each year, there are four Stewards

appointed, of whom two may be considered in due course for further elevation to the Court and two who are deemed to have contributed to the work of the Company and have earned such an appointment but who, for a variety of reasons, are not eligible to go forward for such election. A Steward serves for a year, then reverts to becoming a normal Liveryman, albeit with the addition to their Livery Medal ribbon of a silver lyre to mark their year of service and, of

course, a star in the Year Book! For the year of office, the Steward wears a blue gown and has a neck ribbon with a Company medallion and carries the wand which marks their office.

The Stewards attend all Court Meetings (although normally not allowed to speak!) and are in attendance at all Court dinners and the Installation and Midsummer Banquets, as well as being present to support the Master at other formal events and functions.