



# SHILSON AND THREADER



## WHAT ARE BRIDGE MASTERS?

Bridgemasters have been elected by the citizens of London since 1282, originally for the purpose of administering the Bridge House Estates (now the City Bridge Foundation). Since 1916 the office has been 'of an honorary character', to perform such duties as the City Bridge Foundation Board may reasonably require. In practice it has been, and remains, a sinecure and **no duties have been required or performed—until now.**

## WHAT IS THE CITY BRIDGE FOUNDATION?

The **City Bridge Foundation** ('CBF') is one of the UK's largest charities. Founded in the eleventh century, the charity has legal responsibility for maintaining and supporting the five City of London bridges: Blackfriars, Millennium, Southwark, London and Tower. It does so at **no cost to the taxpayer**. Since 1995, it's given away surplus income to charities within Greater London—that's over **three-quarters of a BILLION pounds** to date.

## WHY VOTE FOR US?

The City Bridge Foundation Board wants to realign the ancient office of Bridgemaster with the values of the charity. CBF will therefore be asking the Bridgemasters to **promote its charitable objects, aims and activities**, both on behalf of the charity itself and of the City of London Corporation as its Trustee—so **it needs Bridgemasters who can do that effectively**. We want to use the role to encourage understanding amongst the Livery of the charity's strategy and operations and to foster interest in its philanthropic work, as well as to engage the wider public with the long and fascinating history of the bridges and how they are managed.

## WHO ARE WE?

**DEPUTY DR GILES SHILSON** is, since 2021, the **Chair of the Board of the City Bridge Foundation**. He is a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers and has been a **Common Councillor since 2009**. He spent eight years on the City's Policy & Resources Committee and has also served as Chairman of the Board of the Barbican Centre, Chair of Governors of the City of London School and Vice-Chair of Gresham College. A former barrister, for the past fifteen years he's worked in the not-for-profit sector in Chief Executive and Chairman roles. He is nominated by **Sir David Wootton** and **Deputy Chris Hayward**.

**SUE THREADER** is a **member of the CBF Board**. A Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers and a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, she is a bridge specialist and in her day job she has spent the past eighteen years as **Chief Executive of the Rochester Bridge Trust** (another mediæval bridge charity). She is nominated by **Professor Gordon Masterton** and **Russell Race**.

## WHY IS THE ELECTION BEING CONTESTED?

CBF recently reformed its governance and identified the Bridgemasters as a potentially brilliant link between the charity (and the Corporation as a whole) and the Livery. Today is an opportunity to **elect two people who are actively involved with the bridges and the charity**, in order to make it an active and relevant role. We gave one year's notice of our intention to stand, presented our plan (endorsed by the CBF Board) to the Livery Committee in February, and are now trying to make it happen. So... **WE NEED YOUR VOTE!**