

# **TOAST TO THE GUESTS: WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WORLD TRADERS INSTALLATION DINNER, GOLDSMITHS HALL.**

## **THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

Master, Warden, distinguished guests, fellow liverymen, ladies and gentlemen.

I have the honour to propose the toast to our guests this evening, and I am delighted to say We - Are - Back.

As a lawyer, the first thing that I do when drafting a document is to define my terms. So I looked up my two volume Shorter Oxford English Dictionary for the word "guest". It is defined as "One who is entertained at the house or table of another". My remarks are addressed to all of those here tonight who are not members of The Worshipful Company of World Traders. You are our guests. We are here to make sure that you enjoy yourselves with us as we promote, in the words of our motto, Commerce and Honest Friendship with All.

Like our Master, I am a Yorkshireman, so I'm very pleased to welcome Mary's family, the Goold family, who have come from God's own country.

On behalf of the Company, I'd like to welcome our Chaplain, Reverend Katherine Hedderly, who looks after our spiritual needs – Katherine, we are always pleased to see you at our events.

World Traders have always had a close association with the three branches of the armed forces. We respect and value these relationships enormously. The armed forces are a vital, integral and pivotal part of this country. We have celebrated with them. We are grateful for their presence and for all they do for this country. We are delighted to welcome representatives from those sections of the forces that we as world traders are affiliated with.

From the Royal Navy, we welcome Commander Peter Barfoot, who has been in Command of HMS Dauntless since January. He describes this as his dream job. With him from HMS Dauntless is Lieutenant Commander Matt Bray, who is Senior Warfare Officer. We will be delighted to strengthen our ties with you. We also welcome Commander Greg Young, Commanding Officer of HMS President, and here as a guest of Past Master Sue Hughes. We look forward to renewing our ties with HMS President.

From the Army, we are delighted to welcome Major Simon Bedford-Smith, who is second in command of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Rifles. Simon has been mentioned in dispatches for gallantry. Among

his many world-wide deployments, Simon has been involved in training the Afghan Special Forces, and has worked with Iraqi Special Forces.

From the Royal Air Force, we welcome Wing Commander Hannah Bishop, who is here with her husband, British Airways Captain Scott Bishop. Hannah is a qualified helicopter tactics instructor and assumed command of No 28 (AC) Squadron at RAF Benson last November. Many World Traders have spent an enjoyable day on our annual outings to RAF Benson and have been fortunate to be taken up by helicopter for a bird's eye view of the Cotswolds.

We salute you all, and those who serve under you. We are delighted to see so many guests of World Traders here tonight. In the words of William Shakespeare, I bid you all a Hearty Welcome.

Those words are taken from *The Tempest*, and who better to lead us through a storm on the high seas than our guest speaker, The First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin.

Admiral Sir Tony Radakin was commissioned in 1990. His operational service has involved the Iran/Iraq Tanker War, security duties in the Falklands, NATO embargo operations in the Adriatic, countering smuggling in Hong Kong and the Caribbean, and three command tours in Iraq. He is a law graduate and a Barrister, has an MA in International Relations and Defence Studies, and has graduated from several service and combined U. S. courses. One of his recent tasks was to appoint James Bond, well, Daniel Craig, an Honorary Commander of the Royal Navy. He is married, with four sons, and is a keen and adventurous sportsman on land and water.

He rose to be Chief of Staff of the Joint Forces Command, then Second Sea Lord, before being appointed First Sea Lord in 2019.

A few weeks ago, he was appointed Chief of the Defence Staff, a role he takes up at the end of November. On behalf of our Company, many congratulations and good luck in your new role.

Last month Sir Tony was involved with putting the AUKUS pact together. This is the British and American agreement to help the Australians build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines. Clearly, Sir Tony, you are a world trader. In a comment column for *The Times* when the pact was announced, you wrote that "Global Britain needs to keep sailing out into the world with shared purpose and vision ...to preserve our collective security and prosperity ." To us as world traders, these are wise words indeed.

On Sir Tony's appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff, *The Times* said that your friends describe you as "a really good bloke" and the article went on to say that you are known as "radical Radakin"

in the navy because of how you have transformed the service. We look forward to hearing from you shortly and we welcome you as our guest speaker tonight.

**I ask Liverymen, Freemen and Journeymen of the Company to rise and drink the toast to our Guests.**

**The Guests.**

Thank you.