



The Master Fruiterer: Dennis Micheal Surgeon

Dennis Surgeon was born in 1944 and attended Highlands High School for boys in Romford Essex. (The spelling of his second fore-name 'Micheal' is not a typo.) He was installed as Master Fruiterer on 25th January 2017, the Feast of The Conversion of St Paul, the Fruiterers' Company Patron Saint.

A true 'fruiterer', he started his working life with R.H. Harriman in Spitalfields Market in 1959 and went on to work for J and J Adams in the London Fruit Exchange. From 1962 he spent the rest of his working life in the Old Covent Garden market and Nine Elms as a fruit importer retiring in 1998. He is the third generation of his family to be involved in the fruit industry following his father and grandfather who both worked in Spitalfields Market. His son Matthew has continued the line, resulting in a family connection with the fruit trade of over 120 years. In 2000, post retirement, he trained as a toastmaster to keep busy and is now Chairman of the Institute of Toastmasters of Great Britain.

Both parents were born in the square mile of The City of London and it therefore gave him great pleasure in to obtain the Freedom of the City of London in 1999. He was admitted to the Freedom of The Fruiterers' Company in 2001 and was Clothed in the Livery in 2002. He spent nine years on the Fruiterers' Company Membership and Communication Committee, serving as Chairman for seven. He was appointed an Honorary Assistant to the Court in 2010. Within the City he is involved in wider Livery charity work through the bi-annual Red Cross Christmas Market and since 2016 he has been a member of the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch Committee.

Dennis is married to Janet and they celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on the 12th September 2016 They have three children, two boys and a girl. Their eldest son James is sales director of a large electrical company, their second son Matthew is a director of a large fruit importing company in Kent and their daughter is a television presenter. Dennis and Janet are blessed with seven grandchildren.