



## **Mr Alderman and Sheriff Michael Bear Sheriff of the City of London 2007/2008**

Mr Alderman Michael Bear took office as Sheriff of the City of London on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007. As one of two Sheriffs elected annually into this ancient office, which dates back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Michael Bear shares responsibility for the smooth running of the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey and for the provision of facilities there for HM Judges to administer justice. However his principal duties are supporting the Lord Mayor directly on many visits and official functions which he undertakes throughout his year of office, both at home and overseas.

Michael Bear was born in Nairobi, brought up in Cyprus and educated at Clifton College in Bristol. He studied Civil Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa and an MBA at Cranfield University. He has held senior positions in both the property and construction industries. Over the last 33 years he has worked first in the international construction industry, including China and West Africa, for Balfour Beatty. In the City he was responsible for bringing the development at Spitalfields to a successful conclusion as Chief Executive of the Spitalfields Development Group. He is Regeneration Director at Hammerson plc and since 1993 Managing Director, Balfour Beatty Property Limited, working on their development and PFI/PPP projects. In the City he has assisted a number of UK and overseas companies to relocate and expand their businesses in new City and City Fringe

He has served on the Court of Common Council as Member, Deputy and Alderman for the Ward of Portsoken and has served on many committees. He is a keen supporter of the Livery movement and serves on the Courts of both the Paviers' Company and the Chartered Surveyors' Company.

His voluntary work includes charity projects in South Africa, Bangladesh and throughout the UK. He is a Director of CRASH, Spitalfields Market Community Trust, The Drinking Fountain Association and is a Governor of the Sir John Cass Primary School and the London South Bank University. He served as Chairman of the public/private City Challenge Programme in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and as a Director of its successor body, Cityside Regeneration.

Michael Bear married Barbara Sandler in 1979 and they have two children, a daughter and a son. Barbara Bear is a Freeman of the Musicians' Company and plays an active role in the senior citizens clubs and well being clinics in the Ward of Portsoken and the City Fringe. She is a qualified teacher, musician and therapist in Complementary Medicine and is also an amateur artist.