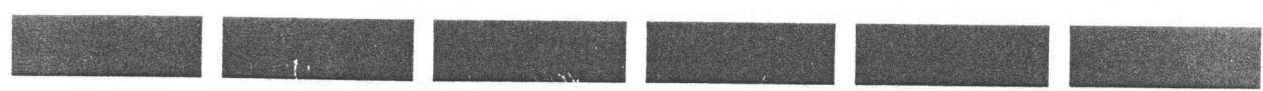


The Tylers and Bricklayers Company

Upper Warden's Newsletter

No.3

Autumn 1992



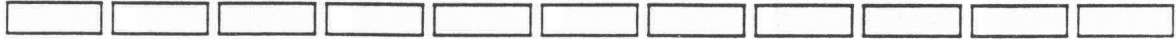
Message from the Master

I am very much looking forward to my year in office, and during the year will endeavour to increase our involvement with the Craft. There are three specific events so far which will enable us to do this, namely the Seminar on Tiling including a visit to the Building Conservation Trust "Care of Buildings" exhibition on 21 October, the visit to Rooftec exhibition in Birmingham on 12 November where I will be presenting medals to the apprentices and, next year the triennial Brickwork and Tiling awards which are the highlight of our Calendar.

The year 1992/93 will be the year in which we will be able to launch the Craft Trust, which was conceived under the Mastership of Paul Harris. This fund will enable us to sponsor tiling and brickwork awards, and generally promote the craft through charitable donations. During my Mastership, I will be seeking ways in which we will be able to raise funds for the Trust, and I do hope that you will be able to support this endeavour in addition to your support for our other Charitable Trusts.

I know that times are difficult for most of us, and often the cost of attending the Livery Dinner or other events is high, but an enormous amount of effort is put in to the organisation of our entertainments, and may I urge you to support them whenever you are able; it gives so much encouragement to those who give so much time to ensure that the standard of the event is high, and that the price is reasonable. For most of our entertainment, the Company provides a substantial subsidy, so it really is good value, and enables you to get to know you fellow Liverymen, which leads in turn to greater enjoyment. Whilst on this subject, I would mention that the Court Dinner will be held at the Bakers Hall of 4 February 1993, and that the Livery Dinner with ladies is on 22 April 1993 at the Skinners Hall. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs have accepted our invitation to dine with us, and I am very much looking forward to meeting you during my year, and if there are any suggestion you would like to make so that the Livery events will be more enjoyable or more interesting, please let me know.

Nick Carter, Master 1992/93



Visit to Marley Tile Works

The company were indeed honoured to have been invited by Marley Building Materials Limited to visit their tile factory at Beenham in Berkshire on the 28th April. The details of the programme had been organised by Mr. Bill Richardson of that company, who has subsequently applied to become a Liveryman in our own company.

On arrival, coffee was served, and an opportunity to meet our hosts was taken. After the introduction and the welcome by Mr. Bill Richardson, he then presented a paper on the history of roof tiles going back to Roman days. This produced a lot of interesting questions from the company, and generated a lively discussion on the subject.

After an excellent buffet lunch, a coach took us to the Beenham tile factory, where we were split into six groups of about five people. The whole principle of tile production and the concept of the layout of the factory was explained in detail by the group leaders. The subsequent visit and inspection of the tile making process was an eye-opener to all who were there.

On return to Padworth Court Hotel, tea was served, and past master Paul Harris took the opportunity of thanking our hosts for a most enjoyable day, and presenting to them a shield bearing the company's arms. Earlier in the day, Bill Richardson had presented to the company a bronze statuette of a tiler cutting a tile which is now amongst the company's treasures.

Newlyn Mason Elliott

Seminar on Bricks and Brickwork

A wing of Hampton Court Palace is used by the Building Conservation Trust, and it was here, surrounded by some of the finest brick buildings in the country, that members of the Livery and their ladies spent a day learning more about bricks and brickwork. It was well attended, and proved to be of real interest not only to those who had come out of curiosity, or to accompany their husbands, but also to a number who, at the end of the day, admitted their appreciation of brickwork had been increased.

There is always a risk that learning more about the technique spoils the appreciation of the work (like listening to the hi-fi instead of the music). But with so much brickwork surrounding us in our English towns and cities, knowing more about the history of bricks, how they are made, and how they are used, can only add to the enjoyment of looking at buildings. Also everyone with good brickwork to maintain has a duty to look after it and maintain it properly - repointing if necessary, but never allowing it to be sealed or painted.

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Two Hon. Freemen, Messrs Bob Baldwin and Reg Murphy from the Guild of Bricklayers, organised the seminar; they, together with John Dunsford, were also the speakers. The first lecture had the advantage of dim lighting of strange objects, and the title "The Mystery of Bricks". Bob Baldwin and Reg Murphy proceeded to stage a double act. The strange objects were shown to be the tools of the trade, and some of the secrets of their use was revealed, for example the left and right-hand winding of the line used to keep the brickwork level. Slides illustrated good practice, and some bad. For example, the importance of getting purpends straight and in line was emphasised. (Purpends are the vertical joints between the bricks). Knowing what to look for can seriously damage your enjoyment of apparently good brickwork!

John Dunsford, from Ibstock Brick, spoke on the manufacture of bricks, and of the many different types available. He showed how high quality and high output is now available from modern plant.

Colour and texture still depend on the clay and temperature and method of firing. The appearance of the finished brickwork depends mainly on the finish of the outside face of the brick. It may be given a rough texture, or have sand applied before firing.

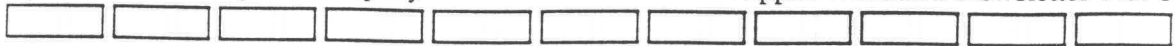
The illustrated lecture - Application of Brickwork - with its rather forbidding title, turned out to be a mixture of wit and wisdom, with the two initial speakers commenting in turn on a wide variety of building and situation where bricks have been used.

Questions came instantly with at least one 'lay' member of the audience fascinated by the use of moulds.

Lunch formed part of the event with an opportunity to see the Building Conservation Trust's exhibition "Care of Buildings" and then a tour of parts of Hampton Court Palace where the morning's speakers drew attention to the ways bricks had been used.

It proved a most enjoyable day. Some of those present had known little about the subject, and some knew a lot. Everyone learned something.

John Griffiths



Cartoon (reproduced from "Punch" circa 1949)



"Stella—just pop round to Mr. Muggs and ask him how I cast off."

Search for new premises

At a meeting of the Company's Executive Committee, Basil Holliday was instructed to set up a Property Sub-Committee with a membership not exceeding 4; this was subsequently endorsed by the Court. The current members are Michael Marshall, Sir Idris Pearce, Peter Nevard, and Basil Holliday.

Shortly thereafter, the Company were invited by the Joiners Company to take an underlease from them in forming a consortium of six Livery Companies for use of the Great Hall of St Bartholomews Hospital. Each Company would have had an office for the Clerk with part use of the Great Hall and Reception Rooms adjoining and on the floor below. The Great Hall and Reception Rooms would have been available for use by the Livery Companies on only a limited number of occasions, the use being shared with the Hospital.

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Apart from the question as to whether the Livery would wish to have a shared home for at least 25 years rather than continue to have freedom of choice for Livery functions, there were many inherent problems which seemed not to have been addressed, although the scheme had been under consideration by the Joiners' and Ceilers' Company for a considerable time. In particular, the accommodation on offer did not include a Wine Dispense or Staff Changing facilities, etc., and the Servery appeared to be suitable only for food cooked in the Hospital Kitchens or by outside Caterers at their own premises.

The court endorsed the recommendation of the Property Sub-Committee that the Company should not proceed with these negotiations, and similar recommendations about other specific properties. They also gave the Sub-Committee a Brief that properties should only be considered if:

- (a) the Company could acquire a freehold interest
- and (b) the premises are suitable for exclusive occupation by the Company
- or (c) the premises have up to 60% of the space available for letting to a viable and committed tenant
- or (d) the premises have space for one other committed Livery Company
- or (e) the premises are suitable for joint purchase with another Livery Company

The Sub-Committee invite members of the Court and Livery to notify them of any property coming on the market, and falling within these terms of reference.

The space required is around 400 square feet for the Company out of about 1,000 to 1,200 square feet, with a price ceiling of £200,000 to £250,000 for the freehold. The situations under consideration are fringe areas inside or outside the City, including Southwark.

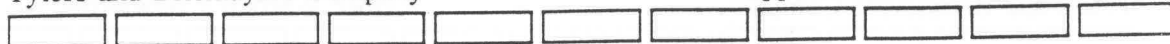
Basil Holliday

Livery Reception

On the evening of 30th June, the Company held its summer reception for the Livery and guests at The Old Charterhouse. The reception was well attended, in the splendid surrounding of the Elizabethan Great Chamber. Fortunately, the weather was kind, and many of the guests were able to walk outside onto the terrace overlooking the beautifully kept gardens where a Carthusian Monastery once stood.

The Master took the opportunity to mark the occasion with a presentation of the Company's Coat of Arms on a shield, and a scarf, to Mrs Margret Heath, Tony Rider's retiring secretary, in recognition of all her hard work for the Company.

The evening was a great success, enjoyed by all, and the location would make an excellent venue for a similar event in the future.



Incidentally, strictly speaking, the establishment is known as The Charterhouse, but all living Old Carthusians, including both the outgoing and the incoming Masters, and the Junior Liveryman, refer to it as "The Old Charterhouse", in recognition of the move to the new school in 1872.

The Charterhouse was founded in 1611 by Sir Thomas Sutton, as a place of education for forty scholars, and a residence for forty impecunious elderly gentlemen. I hope we didn't disturb them as they took their evening strolls in the garden.

Max Carter, Junior Liveryman

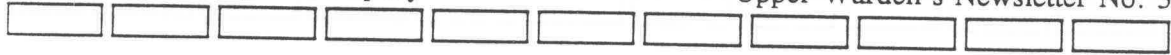
The Rev Canon Arthur Leyland Bird, died 15th September 1992

Born in 1902, the son of a curate, he was educated at Marlborough before going to Queens College, Oxford, where he spent just a year. It was then that he discovered his true vocation, and, after Theological College, was ordained in 1927, had a spell as a curate, and then joined the Bush Brotherhood, which took him to the backwoods of New South Wales. Whilst in Australia, he met and married Dulcie, and not long after, they sailed for England.

Following a short spell as a curate he was then appointed vicar of Burgh Heath, where he served for 21 years before moving to Walton-on-the-Hill.

Having been admitted to the Livery in 1925, he became Master in 1951, with his brother Brian as Upper Warden, and his cousin Pelham Bird as Renter Warden. He was appointed Chaplain in 1968, and served for twenty years before retiring in apparent good health at the age of 86 in 1988. He became Father of the Company in 1978, thus setting up a record for the appointment of 14 years. Altogether a magnificent tale of service to the Company.

His funeral at his old parish church at Walton-on-the-Hill on 22 September had all been arranged by Leyland himself. One of his special bequests was to the organist, providing he played "Jesu, joy of man's desiring" in which case he got £25. The congregation was tickled to hear him play it twice, just to make sure! Leyland would have loved that - he had a great sense of humour.



David Parry-Crooke, died 12th January 1992

In recognition of David Parry-Crooke's unstinting work in making the arrangements for the company's principal functions during many years, the Court unanimously decided to make a presentation to him on the occasion of his retirement through ill-health.

It was unexpected by him, and afforded him a considerable amount of pleasure when he received his gift of a silver miniature double-ended brick axe, mounted on a plinth. The gift was cast and crafted by Jonathan Swan, a Lewes silversmith.

It took pride of place among his possessions until he sadly died a few months later; it will now become a family heirloom.

Paul Harris, Past Master

We first met at Radley. After leaving and going briefly to Oxford, David joined up, and went to India where he was commissioned and joined the 19th King George V's Own Lancers. He served with them in India, and the Arakan Campaign of 1945. After demobilisation, he decided to become a planter in Malaya. While I too served in the Indian Army, our paths never crossed, and we didn't meet again until I joined the Livery, and, to my surprise, found David and his brother Michael had been members for some years.

David was a very loyal member of the Tylers and Bricklayers, and he much enjoyed his year as Master, and afterwards as the organiser of our major functions. Anyone who knew him realised that he didn't take the job lightly - he was a stickler for etiquette and good manners, and anyone who stepped out of line soon knew about it! I think he had one of the most caustic senses of humour of anyone I have ever met, and when in good form, he was unbeatable.

I knew him best over the last 10 years, as we both lived in East Kent. In certain respects he was an eccentric, and certainly a throwback to his Suffolk forebears; it was fitting that his ashes were placed in the family vault at Darsham Church, near the fine house where he was born and lived until the war.

Two events cheered him enormously during his final months - firstly the presentation of the silver brick axe to commemorate all his efforts for many years for the Livery, and secondly (as I related to the Livery at our January Supper) the visit made to him after Christmas, when he was in hospital, by Bernard Wetherall, Speaker, who had served with him in the Cavalry Regiment and been his friend ever since.

I think that all who knew David will long remember him

Michael Marshall, Past Master



The Paul Harris Golf Trophy

The annual competition of the expert and not-so-expert T&B golfers was played at the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club on 17 September, with seven Liverymen taking part. Dick Gilbert Scott was the winner by a whisker from Dan Mathews with Peter Newbold a close third.

Paul Harris after presenting the winners cup produced to the surprise and amusement of everyone, a new trophy fashioned in concrete by a student of Building Crafts Training School in the form of an arm holding a brick axe, as in the Company crest. This was to be the Booby Prize for the lowest score. It was awarded to your editor.

In the evening, we were joined by three liverymen and five ladies for an informal dinner in the club dining room. This marked the end of a thoroughly enjoyable day for which we have Dan Mathews to thank.

Company Crest

It may have escaped your notice, as it had mine until very recently, that the hand holding the brick axe in the Company crest is set the wrong way round on the arm. If you have an explanation for this - true or false - please write to me at Charters, Cucklington, Wincanton BA9 9PT so that I can reveal those that I consider the most creditable or amusing on some future occasion. That the arm belongs to a cack-handed golfer will be unacceptable!

The Editor

I am indebted to all the contributors, and I am sure that my successor as Editor, the new Upper Warden, will be grateful to receive news in the form of article or reports from Liverymen. Please write to Peter Dickens at 17 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EN3 6AU

My thanks also go to Liveryman Piers Nicholson for his invaluable help in the design and production of this newsletter, and for arranging its printing.

C.G.H. Grellier