

The Tylers and Bricklayers Company



Upper Warden's Newsletter

No.4

Spring 1993



Message from the Master

My year in office seems to be passing all too quickly. The only slow thing about it has been the formation of the Craft Trust which at long last is now up and running. I mentioned at the Livery Dinner that we have received a very generous donation from a group of Liverymen and I urge you to read the Upper Warden's article in this issue on the subject of Benevolence and to act upon it!

The year commenced with the Court Dinner which was attended by 48 Liverymen and was a lively and enjoyable evening at the Bakers Hall. At the Court Dinner I am not required to make a formal speech, but I am required to answer questions from the Livery which made the evening an interesting and entertaining occasion.

One of the most colourful events of the year is the United Guilds' Service at St Paul's. This year the sermon was preached by the Bishop of London and the singing was outstanding. The pageantry of this event is awe inspiring and it is a marvellous spectacle to witness St Paul's crammed to the gunnels. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at the Carpenters Hall.

The highlight of my year in office thus far has been the Livery Dinner, with ladies, which was held on Thursday, 22nd April 1993. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their ladies joined us together with the Masters and their ladies of the Joiners and Ceilers, Fan Makers, Pavois, Plaisterers and Masons. There were 155 present and it seems that everyone enjoyed themselves enormously.

The Lord Mayor responded to the Civic Toast and Liveryman John Martin proposed the Toast to the Guests which was responded to by Eric Harrison who is Master of the Charterhouse. A number of people commented most favourably on the venue which was the Skinners Hall. *[It was indeed a glittering occasion - Editor]*

Our next event is the Livery Reception and Presentation of Tiling and Bricklaying Awards on 1st July 1993. We have received many more applications than usual and the quality is extremely high. I do hope that you will make every effort to attend the Award Ceremony.

I announced at the Livery Dinner that at a recent Court Meeting it was decided that the Company will accept nominations for the Freedom of the Company from ladies who wish to be associated with the Company, either as a result of patrimony or from ladies who are associated with our Craft. We have already received three nominations.

DINNER AT THE MANSION HOUSE

The refurbishment of the Mansion House is due to be completed in August and the Lord Mayor has written to the Livery Companies offering each Livery Company the option on ten tickets for a Dinner on 13th September. The tickets will cost £100 each as the event will be in aid of the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal. However, this will provide us with the earliest opportunity of viewing the refurbishments. If any Livery Members are interested in attending, would they please let the Clerk know as soon as possible. We have provisionally reserved a table and so an early response would be appreciated.

Nick Carter, Master 1992/93

MAINTENANCE AND FURTHERENCE OF THE CRAFT

Seminar on Slating and Tiling

The second in a series of annual events took place at Hampton Court Palace last October when members of the Livery and their guests attended a seminar on slating and tiling.

The object of these seminars – the next will be on terra-cotta – is to give an opportunity to hear experts talk on subjects appropriate to the Livery. The first in the series had been on bricks and brickwork.

Hampton Court Palace is a popular venue, which formed a fitting background, being in itself a wonderful example of the use of bricks and tiles and indeed some terra-cotta.

The events themselves have taken place in the wing of the Palace operated by the Building Conservation Trust with its *Care of Buildings* exhibition for householders.

The event was organised by Liveryman Graham Bateman and the principal speakers were Mr Gerald Emerton who spoke from experience of his own roofing company and Mr Ken Gunn who spoke as a member of the EEC Committee looking into the 'harmonisation' of standards for roof coverings. (*A word processor spellcheck stopped at 'harmonisation' and suggested 'hallucination' as a replacement.*)

Gerald Emerton set the scene by looking at the history of traditional roof coverings. He concentrated first on the economic use and distribution of slates and tiles for various



building types from the Romans to the present day. He showed how the influence of geology and then the development of means of transport had both produced the pronounced vernacular pattern which is still readily recognisable today and his excellent illustrations showed how much of the regional and local character of our buildings comes from the use and retention of these traditional materials.

He traced the development of tiles and slates through the effects of the Norman Conquest, the building and subsequent Dissolution of the Monasteries and loss of the abbeys, through the changes in agriculture to the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution.

In sharp contrast to the mellow roofs and gentle presentation of the first speaker, a video then showed how the development of new techniques, avoiding the use of mortar, could speed up the completion of a roof by a well-organised team.

The second speaker, Ken Gunn, showed the dilemma of an industry based on traditional materials and local requirements being moved into international trade and international standards. He cited the Italian delegation walking out of a meeting which was requiring that the soft clay tiles in southern Italy should in future have to be made frostproof to withstand North European winters.

The second part of Mr Emerton's presentation took up the effects of the Industrial Revolution on the production of and need for more and more roofing materials. He showed examples of some spectacular, recently completed roofs which illustrated both the quality of materials now available and the competence of present day craftsmen.

A visit to the Palace was followed by tea. Next October the plan is to look at terra-cotta with a visit to the fascinating Watts chapel followed by a cream tea.

John Griffiths, Liveryman

Master Class in Conservation Tilework

At the end of February, I had the privilege of representing the Master at a lecture given by Past Master Dennis Williams to members of the Edinburgh School of Architecture.

At the outset, he emphasised the importance of understanding and applying the codes of practice for wall and floor tiling and cited, as an example, the problems that could arise with fully vitrified stoneware tiles when a fixer of low standard was let loose with this material. There is no short cut to sound practice to avoid tile failure.

Next, Dennis Williams turned to terra-cotta and the remarkable durability of the product when the material has been quarried from sites, for example, in Italy where the clay has been washed and weathered naturally for hundreds of years. This is in sad contrast to

imports in recent years of Mexican terra-cotta which is unsuitable to a northern European climate and usually gives rise to permanent maintenance problems.

Dennis Williams spent the rest of his excellent lecture talking about delftware which he regards as his specialist field. In tracing its history, he mentioned the Delftfield pottery at Glasgow which began in 1748 with John Bird from Lambeth as its first manager. Dennis Williams' own family have been involved both at the Mortlake and Rotherhythe delft factories since 1633 and accurate records of standards and tests on tiles appear in the Court Minutes of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company and are signed by his ancestor, John Williams, Master of the Company at that time.

With the help of slides, examples of restoration and conservation work in Scotland were shown; and particular reference was made to the House of Dun near Brechin, a worthwhile visit not to be missed if you happen to be in that area. Dennis Williams concluded his lecture by showing four delftware skirting tiles dating from the 15th century and recovered from the Convent of Santa Maria in Cadiz when it was being demolished. The quality of the tiles is a magnificent achievement, having regard to the technology available at that time.

The Editor

Visit to Red Bank Terra-cotta Works

Not only did Red Bank provide the excellent terra-cotta shields of the Company Coat of Arms presented to the ladies attending the dinner at the Skinners Hall on 22nd April, but they also invited the Livery to a works visit on the chosen date of 6th May.

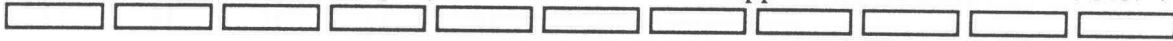
The party of 14 headed by the Master were welcomed by Mr Capo Bianco, the Chairman of the company: there then followed a slide and video presentation on the subject of terra-cotta and the part played by Red Bank in satisfying the increased interest in this type of product.

After an excellent lunch guests were given a conducted tour of the works. This included the details of slip moulding and hand turning of specialist products. Probably the most interesting part was the visit to the workshop where the moulds had been produced by a young lady sculptor: the company appreciated the detailed explanation of the method of production. In the same workshop were being produced moulds of even more intricate design to match existing terra-cotta work which, in one way or another, has been damaged in the course of time.

In conclusion, having thanked our hosts for a most enjoyable day, the Master presented a Company plaque to the Chairman of Red Bank.

Newlyn Mason Elliot, Liveryman

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Class	



The Triennial Awards

After numerous telephone calls and reminders to the building and construction industry and a collective jogging of the Livery's memory at the Court Dinner in February, nearly 40 entries have been received. The standard is high according to drawings and photographs received.

The first stage of the assessment has been to split the entries down the middle of the Greater London Authority – east and west. The western area has been assessed and the best have been put forward for final judgement by the professionals and experts.

Presentation of the tiling and brickwork awards takes place at the Livery Reception on Thursday 1st July. This is the Company's red letter day and a most important occasion for the Livery when members and guests can meet the winners including the owner of the building, the architect, the builder and the craftsmen concerned. I do hope that we shall have a good audience of Liverymen and guests at this most important function.

John Mathews, Past Master

"The Lyf So Short, The Craft So Long To Lerne"

Chaucer, The Parlement of Foules

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

It is likely that few members of the Company will have seen, let alone studied, the Form of Indenture by which an Apprentice is bound to a Master in accordance with the Custom of the City of London. It is less likely that anyone would have signed as either an Apprentice seeking training in the craft or as a Master if he had read the document first or taken legal advice.

The Master undertakes to provide the Apprentice during the term of the Indenture with Meat, Drink, Apparel, Lodging and all other Necessaries. Among other things, the Apprentice promises not play at cards, dice or other unlawful games nor to haunt taverns or playhouses. He also agrees to a state of celibacy during his period of Indenture! Tylers and Bricklayers who took on apprentices apparently added an extra clause prohibiting matrimony for the duration. This restriction was tempered with humanity as can be seen in this extract from the Company records of 23 April 1642 which reads:

"This daie upon the humble peticon of Thomas Steer Bricklayer thereby intimating that he had served by Indenture of Apprenticeship the full terme of eight years with Robert Barton Cittizen and Bricklayer of Lond, but before seven years expired the petitioner inadvisedly happened to marry with a maid both deaf and dumbe whereby he hath lost the benefit of his Freedom by Service. It is ordered by this Court of their especiall favour

that the said Thomas Steer whall be admitted into the Freedom of this Citee by Redemption."

They were all heart!

David Cole-Adams, Liveryman and Archivist

BENEVOLENCE

Charitable Giving

Some Livery Members may not be fully aware of the Company's charitable activities, the importance of this work and, in the great tradition of City Livery companies, the ongoing obligation on members to give this their fullest financial support. Briefly, the Company's charitable activities comprise three separate trusts, the General Charitable Trust, the Relief in Need Charity and, most recently, the Craft Trust.

The objectives of the General Charitable Trust are the support of City Institutions and appeals, the building industry and building conservation appeals and either individual or group projects involving young people. Examples of recipients are The Lord Mayor's Annual Appeal, obviously, St Paul's Cathedral Trust and the Building Industry Youth Trust. Funding is received from the Company and Members of the Livery. In the last three years some 18 individual charities have benefited from this fund.

The Relief in Need Charity is funded by corporate and trust donations which are then capitalised and the investment income is first applied to provide relief to Members of the Company and their families and those engaged in the building industry who have fallen on hard times. Subject to this, the income is used to help people entering the building industry to earn their own living. For example, two years ago a grant was made to the chosen UK apprentice bricklayer preparing for the International Apprentice Competition in Amsterdam.

The Craft Trust is the brainchild of Past Master Paul Harris and its purpose is to further education in the crafts of tiling and bricklaying. This may take the form of promoting and financing study courses, awarding scholarships, funding an annual public lecture and presenting awards for tiling and bricklaying. Funding will come from the Company, the Livery and commercial sponsorship. This is a new and exciting development in the Company's charitable activities which has received a flying start due to the fulsome generosity of certain members.

How can you help this most important and worthwhile activity? Well, there are four ways of doing this. First, by straightforward donation. Secondly, by Deed of Covenant – these are four-year agreements which are allowable for higher rate tax to the Covenantor

and where the charity can recover standard rate income tax on the covenanted sum. Thirdly, by Gift Aid which governs lump sum donations and where the Budget has reduced the minimum amount from £400 to £250 with immediate effect. Again, the charity can reclaim the missing 25% from the Inland Revenue. There is no upper limit on the amount donated in this way. Fourthly, by pay roll giving which is wholly allowable for tax and where the Budget has increased the tax relief limit from £600 to £900 p a. If you are an employee or a member of an occupational pension scheme, why not become a 'GAYE' and give as you earn. Further details may be obtained from the Clerk.

The Editor

"Charity Never Faileth" Or Does It?

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

On the subject of payments for charity, the case of Emma Long deserves some study. In February 1870 she "had been in receipt of Parochial relief for many years and was now in a state of poverty and distress and an unfit object to be an Inmate of the [Company's] Almshouses". The Master and Clerk were "to make the necessary arrangements for such removal". Recognizing the threat, she rallied and in May 1870 "appeared in slightly better circumstances". The Court deferred action but the improvement was shortlived. In August 1871 the Clerk reported that she had been removed and that it had been arranged that she should receive from the Court half a crown a week. Unfortunately, in September 1872 "the Clerk reported that Emma Long, a pensioner of the Company was now in the Stand Union Workhouse. It was determined that the payment of 2/6d per week should be stopped".

David Cole-Adams, Liveryman and Archivist

FELLOWSHIP – HOSPITALITY

Carol Service

The Carol Service at St Margaret Lothbury was well supported and honours were about even whether we outnumbered the Glovers or not. The service was conducted by the Rector, Tom Farrell, and our Chaplain, Archdeacon Cassidy. The Master, Upper Warden and Renter Warden each read a lesson and the carols were sung with enthusiasm. The choir was superb and we had the added bonus of magnificent floral decorations because there had been a wedding in the church earlier that day. The eats and drinks in the vestry that followed were most enjoyable and gave a good start to the festive season.

The Editor



Obituaries

The Rev Chandos Morgan, CB, 1920–93

On the morning of my installation as Master in October 1988, I arrived early in London and called in at St Margaret Lothbury for a trial run of reading my Lesson. Chandos was already in the Church and, although busy, his reaction was immediate and typical – "What a marvellous idea! You get up there and read it and I will stand at the back of the Church and see whether I can hear you."

His enthusiasm was always refreshing, and for all Tylers and Bricklayers who attended services, he was synonymous with St Margaret's. Such an invigorating effect did he have there – "like a large gin and tonic", as one member of the congregation put it – that it is difficult to believe that this, his last ministry, only spanned five years.

Most of his earlier career had been spent in the Royal Navy, which he entered as Chaplain in 1951, serving first at HMS Pembroke, Chatham. His love for the sea was rewarded by 15 of his 25 years with the Navy being spent afloat, notably in the cruiser "Ceylon" during the Queen's first visit to Australia, the aircraft carrier "Theseus" during Suez, and later the carrier "Ark Royal". He also served at Devonport, Faslane and at the Royal Naval Air Station, Yeovilton. He was appointed Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon of the Royal Navy from 1972 until 1975 when he retired to become Chaplain at Dean Close School, Cheltenham before becoming Rector of St Margaret's.

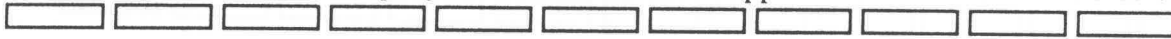
Although our paths never crossed during my time in the Navy, we were to meet frequently in my year as Master for, on his retirement from St Margaret's, Chandos became Chaplain to the Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Collett. By this time, his health was already failing but his outgoing personality and energy were still all-captivating and I deeply regret that he was never well enough to join us for dinner after our mutual year had finished.

Chandos's life and character were celebrated at an inspiring Thanksgiving Service held at St Margaret's in February. Conducted by the Bishop of Sodor and Man – at one time a junior naval Chaplain under Chandos – with an address by Sir Christopher Collett and accompanied by superb music, the Church, packed with friends, had never seemed more sublime – a just tribute to a remarkable man.

David Fuller, Past Master

Arthur William Williamson, Liveryman, 1978–1992

It was with great regret that I learnt recently that Arthur Williamson ("John" to his many friends) died after a short illness last October. He joined the Livery in 1978 during my Mastership and he was always a very loyal and regular supporter of our Livery functions.



He was known for an habitual and infectious smile wherever he went and he made many friends in our Company. Like me, he was a Builder and Quantity Surveyor.

To his wife, Paula, and to his family, we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

John E Dove JP, Past Master

Appointments

Liveryman Geoffrey Armitage is to be congratulated on his election as High Sheriff of West Yorkshire for the year 1993/94.

Golf

The Prince Arthur of Connaught Golf Cup

Prince Arthur of Connaught was a member of the Coachmakers and he presented a cup to be played for once a year at a near London [City] golf club. The competition is over 36 holes and takes the form of two-ball bogey foursomes – two pairs from each Livery Company with the best combined scores to be the winners of his cup.

Tylers and Bricklayers have qualified and entered for some time and have been successful on a number of occasions. We were runners-up in 1966 and outright winners in both 1973 and 1984.

The competition used to be played over the east and west courses at Wentworth, but is now played over the old and new courses at Walton Heath. This year our team includes Dick Gilbert Scott (*Captain*), Peter Newbald, Martin Christmas and Bob Lloyd Jones. Good luck to them in the competition!

John Mathews, Past Master

The Paul Harris Golf Trophy

To save having to polish a trophy which had come into my possession, I suggested that the golfing cognoscenti in the Company should compete for it annually.

The number taking part has steadily grown each year, as has the attendance at the excellent supper afterwards of wives and non-participants. Thanks to John Mathews and the hospitality of the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, it is always a most enjoyable occasion.

All golfers are welcome too participate, irrespective of skill or athletic ability. All that is required is to give Past Master John Mathews your name and to indicate that you would

like to take part.

This year's event will take place on Thursday, 9th September, competitors meeting at the Club shortly after mid-day and usually teeing off at about 1.30 p.m.

Paul Harris, Past Master

Captaincy

While dealing with golf matters, Graham Bateman is to be congratulated on his Captaincy of the Addington Golf Club this year.

Editor

Food for Thought

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Attention to the needs of the inner man has always been of prime importance. A minute dated 10th August 1621 notes that "It was put to hands whether the Master and Wardens should hold their dinner as usually has been or give a piece of plate. And there was 23 hands it should be kept and 6 hands it should not be kept". Ten years later (to the day), it was ordered by the greatest part of the Company and most of the voices then present that the house shall allow 10 pounds towards the Master's dinner and every other man of the Livery shall pay 2/6d for himself and his wife whether they come to the said dinner or not and the Master and the Wardens to pay their ordinary allowances of £3 a piece towards the same".

Perhaps the application of this degree of differential between the rates paid by the Master and Wardens and the others and charging those who don't attend would help boost finances today; but such a move might not be universally popular!

David Cole-Adams, Liveryman and Archivist

The Editor

I am indebted to all the contributors, particularly David Cole-Adams, our Archivist. My thanks also go to my secretary, Lorna Lewis, for her invaluable help in the design and production of this newsletter.

If I have included something which should have been omitted or omitted something which should have been included, please forgive me.

Peter V Dickins