



8768

The Tylers and Bricklayers Company

Upper Warden's Newsletter

No. 5

Spring 1994

Message from the Master

I am writing this five months into my year of office having been installed as Master on 7th October 1993 when I became the sixth member of my family to be so honoured. At the Livery Lunch, which followed the Installation Court and Annual Church Service, the toast of the guests was responded to by Mr. Francis Baden-Powell, Master of the Mercers' Company. I had invited him to perform this function, because the Mercers Company had a few months earlier been the well deserved recipient of two out of the three of our Triennial Awards, namely for brickwork on a new building and for decorative wall tiling to an existing building. The Mercers' Company were, I believe, the first Livery Company to have received one of our awards, so to win two in a year when there were a number of high quality entries was quite an achievement.

My duties have taken me on a mini-tour of city halls having being entertained at the Mansion House and Guildhall as well as at the halls of the Mercers, Plaisterers, Ironmongers and we held our Court Dinner at the Innholders to which the Livery were invited.

In just over a months time we will be holding our own Livery Dinner at Skinners hall and this will be attended by the Lord Mayor, Mr. Paul Newall, the Sheriffs and their ladies. The Lord Mayor's theme is "The International City - The World is our Market" and I expect he will be expanding on that during his speech. It is customary for Lord Mayors to have an appeal for a specific charity and Paul Newall is no exception. His appeal is for St. Paul's Cathedral which is in need of a major programme of work to a cost of at least £12 million in the next 5 - 10 years. We will be responding to this appeal as generously as we can.

A Master's outside duties are not confined to being entertained by other City Companies and Institutions. So, for instance, in a few weeks time I am to attend a conference, which is to be a meeting of all the "Construction" Liveries to enable discussion to take place on the subject of Training and of the role that is being and might be played by Livery Companies.

Our Company plays only a limited role in training at present, but with the setting up of the Craft Trust, I hope we will be able to do much more in the future. The object of the Trust is to further education in the Craft of Tiling and Bricklaying - the Fuller family have responded magnificently to the appeal for funds, further details of which are elsewhere in the newsletter. I would like to see much wider support from the Livery for the Trust and I will be writing to those who have not already made a donation in due course. If in the meantime you would like to donate to the Trust please get in touch with the Clerk for a covenant form, if you have mislaid that sent to you last year.

I shall be attending the Livery Companies Exhibition which is to take place at the Guildhall over the three days 12/14 July. The purpose of the exhibition is to demonstrate to the widest possible public the Livery Companies support for trade and crafts, education, training and charitable and other activities and to project an accurate, up-to-date image, leading to a greater understanding of the value of the Livery Company's activities in the minds of the public.

We are to have a stand at the exhibition and that is being organised by Denis Munnery (member of the Court) and Liverymen Sandy Angus and John Griffiths. Do pay the exhibition a visit if you can and even better if you can spare a couple of hours or so to man our stand. Please let Denis Munnery know on the form that you will be getting soon.

I am enjoying my time in office and look forward to the months to come. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the remaining planned Livery functions - The Livery Dinner 27 April, The Painshill Seminar 24th May and Livery reception 16th June.

Chris Grellier, Master

Lord Mayor's Gala Evening - King Lear

This major event will take place on Tuesday 14th June at the Barbican when the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Trust will be staging the much acclaimed King Lear.

The Trust particularly wishes Livery members to have priority for this annual event in the RSC's calendar, which has been specially arranged to honour the relationship between the Corporation of the City of London and the RSC at the Barbican.

Application forms are available from the Clerk and should be returned by Monday 11th April.

E & R Fuller Award

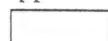
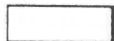
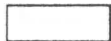
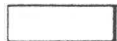
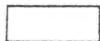
The Company, and in particular the Craft Trust, has recently benefited from the generosity of the Fuller family who have donated the capital sum of £20,000.

The money will be administered by the trustees of the Craft Trust and is intended to provide a substantial annual prize to be awarded on the recommendation of advice from Technical Colleges for outstanding achievement in the field of bricklaying. The prize will be known as the Tylers and Bricklayers E & R Fuller Award and will be evidenced by a specially commissioned document.

Bob Fuller is a Master Builder, as was his brother Jack who died in 1969 and there are currently three generations of Fullers who are Liverymen.

The family building business spans five generations and their recent work has included the rebuilding of the city church of St. Andrew's Undershaft damaged by the IRA bomb.

This award will ensure that their memory lives on and on behalf of the Company the editor takes this opportunity to thank the Fullers most sincerely.



CL 0805163 1

**Going, Going, Gone!**

The company's wine committee have taken a fresh look at the wine stock and in conjunction with our wine merchants, Messrs. Mayor Sworder recommended the disposal of certain older lines and items where insufficient stocks were held. A novel auction procedure amongst Liverymen produced the desired result and the surplus stock was all sold for £2,834. The proceeds are being used to purchase younger wines for laying down.

Terracotta!

Blessed with a fine Autumn day a party numbering some 23 people including Liverymen, wives and guests were treated to a wonderful day out starting at the Building Conservation Trust offices at Hampton Court.

Liveryman John Outram gave us a stunning insight into his architectural ambitions and achievements using not just one but two slide projectors at the same time! Some of us at least now understand more about the use of columns and light and how terracotta can successfully be employed in ornamental attributes to building design - if only it was cheaper to produce!

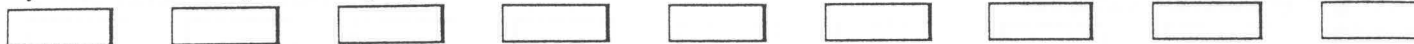
This was followed by an equally lucid and informative talk from Mr. Hollis and Mr. Maddock of Ibstock Hathenware. Also accompanied by slides, the production process and practical use of terracotta was revealed. Although mostly used in restoration of important buildings, it is a medium equally at home in the cladding of modern structures and can be combined with brick, stone and even dare we say it, concrete!

Following an excellent lunch the party moved off by coach at 2.00 p.m. to the Watts Gallery and Chapel. Here we were addressed by the curator and given a private viewing of the masters paintings and sculptures. We stood in awe pondering how somebody could produce so many large (often colossal) works of art in one lifetime. In particular, the plaster moulds for the, about three times life size bronzes of Lincoln and Physical Energy left us feeling exhausted just looking at them!

The Watts Chapel, built about 1903, was a fine example of brickwork produced from local brickworks (since closed) and combined with superb ornamental terracotta friezes, cornices and other delights.

Our thanks for such a lovely day go to John Griffiths for organising everything so well.

0805163	G
Class	



Triennial Awards for Tiling and Bricklaying – 1993

City Livery companies, institutes, architectural and building associates, the press and the Livery were all informed about the awards before Christmas in 1992. With only a month to go before entries closed, what looked like being a poor response was turned after a little exhaustion into a good entry.

By the time of closure of entries – a very good selection of worthy subjects was collected, with drawings, photographs etc. for the first stage of the Assessment.

The awards are for buildings within the Greater London area and preliminary judging is made by groups of assessors – all members of the company, who put forward the best examples from the East and West divisions.

A final adjudicating committee of three from the Livery plus The Master, Chairman of Awards and the Clerk joined the adjudicators as bystanders on a visit to sites recommended for the final inspection. Their unanimous findings of winners were sent to the Press and the awards were presented by our Master at our summer reception for the Livery, their ladies, friends and families of winners at Carpenters Hall on 1st July.

The Livery were especially pleased that their fellow Livery company The Mercers received two awards – one for brickwork and the other for decorative tile flooring and walling. The church at Brentford was of outstanding quality for design and craftsmanship of slating.

At the summer reception Professor Douglass Wise opened the evening with a very good speech – telling us all how important it was for Liveries like ourselves to encourage the skills of the craft they promote. Our Master replied with an excellent description of the tiling, slating and bricklaying of the winners – and hoped that numbers of the Livery and others would find time to visit these sites and see the craftsmanship for themselves.

Our next awards are in 1996 – Your Court, do sincerely hope that all Liverymen will now be looking for suitable buildings, that they think could or should be entered. So please do mention our Awards to landowners, developers, architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, builders and craftsmen of the tiling, slating and bricklaying trades. A visit to a site by a member of Tylers & Bricklayers is often much appreciated by those on the site.

Carol Service

Once again we were transported into the spirit of Christmas at St. Margaret's Lothbury on the 9th December for the carol service. Joined by the Glovers company there was excellent support for this popular occasion – only a very few empty seats!

The choir, as usual excelled themselves with superb singing of "In the Bleak Midwinter", "A Maiden Most Gentle" and other delightful renderings. I'm sure all who were present thoroughly enjoyed the lovely carols and lessons, followed by excellent eats and drinks served in the newly renovated area, which was most impressive.

We were all reassured to hear that St. Margaret's Lothbury would continue to be maintained in the church reserve list.

The date for this year will be the 15th December.

A Dip into History

At the Court Dinner a couple of years ago an eminent Past Master, having listened more or less indulgently to a number of what he clearly thought were impertinent questions addressed to the officers of the Company, craved the Master's attention. He wished to point out that the so-called Mystery of Tylers and Bricklayers was what went on at Court Meetings.

It has apparently always been so. The Guildhall Library has, on loan from the Company, many of our early records. Among these are minute books which provide a valuable insight into the Mystery. Matters taxing the Court in early days were as varied as they are, no doubt, today.

Topics range from comments on the quality of the catering and entertainment at functions through the acquisition and disposal of silver plate, guns and property to the discipline (or lack of it) of members of the company.

An entry in 1868 noted that members of the Livery petitioned that "no singers be engaged for the future for Court dinners" - it is not clear whether this represented a qualitative judgement on the music or a complaint about the 5 guineas cost tag. It is interesting to find that the onset of the 1890 depression saw the Court economizing by dining at the Cafe Royal on 5th November! The contents of a report prepared by the City Medical Officer of Health as to why the son-in-law of the Father of the company had died and other members of the Court and their guests had been attacked by typhoid fever after the July Court meeting in 1900 were "never to be revealed". There is no accompanying reference to the Cafe Royal or other eating establishment.

Given that the officers of the Company were charged with upholding craft standards, it is hardly surprising that disciplinary matters often came before the Court. The fact that, in 1622, Mr. Wiggitt "paid a fine for not finishing his own work with hair contrary to an order of the Company" suggests either an unholy alliance with the Barber Surgeons Company or that bricklayers took as long about their work as they do today.

The records are littered with notes of receipts of fines - for poor workmanship, for use of bad language and for absence from Court. 1642 was a particularly bad year. A Mr. Francis Norfolk "was fined 5 pounds for laying a slander and aspersion upon the whole Court in general but especially on the younger men of the same Company" and Mr. Roger Williams was similarly treated "for revealing secrets of this house and for laying some aspersions upon the court".

In 1623, one Mr Waite, when "chosen to be Upper Warden against the next year ... utterly refused to hold his place he is fined five pounds and hereafter to be chosen again at the pleasure of the Company". A minute dated Midsummer Day the following year notes that "Mr. Waite brought in a silver bowl and gave it to the company in regard that he hold not his Upper Warden's place". Did he have to do a newsletter as well?

Perhaps the last word in connection with discipline should be left with the Clerk of 1628 who reported the misdeeds of one John Needler: "having in open Court of Assistants stricken his apprentice - upon the latter telling him that he was full of lice - did submit himself for contempt and was fined six shillings and eight pence which he accordingly paid". He presumably pleaded poverty as the reason for lack of cleanliness thereafter.

Another hardy perennial has been the collection of unpaid quarterage. As early as 1653 we see that two members of the Court were appointed as Collectors and Gatherers of Quarterages and the arrears thereof". They were to be allowed two shillings and sixpence for every 20 shillings recovered. Nice work if you can get it!

A Fascinating Day is Being Planned – Tuesday 24th May 1994

The leaflet enclosed with this newsletter gives a good idea of the wonderful setting for this year's Livery Seminar.

Painshill Park includes some excellent examples of brickwork which form the original walled gardens and it is these which we shall use to illustrate this year's seminar subject.

Previous seminars at Hampton Court have been on bricks, on tiles and on terracotta. This year we look at the care of brickwork and in particular of the joints between the bricks.

The talks in the morning are meant for everyone with a brick house, or garden wall, to look after, no matter how old or how new the brickwork. How was it built, what tools were used? What about damp and dampproof courses? How do you deal with a damp wall? And then the vexed question of paint and coatings. Should you re-point and, if so, how do you make sure that the job is well done and what should you use?

Then for something completely different there will be guided tours of this amazing park with its theatrical effects, its grotto and the follies to suit all tastes.

The tours will vary in length and one will be by minibus.

We are sure the day will appeal to most Liverymen – and to their wives and guests.

Full details will follow, including a genuine warning – places are limited.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Golf**The Prince Arthur of Connaught Golf Cup**

Thoughts of Spring lead the editor to think more of golf and in May this year the Prince Arthur of Connaught Cup will be fought over again at Walton Heath. Each year a hundred Livery companies enter two pairs for this 36 hole competition.

Our team last year consisting of Dick Gilbert-Scott, Peter Newbald, Martin Christmas and Bob Lloyd-Jones came a very creditable 8th place and we are hoping for even better things this year. We are also hoping for better weather, rather than the torrential downpour experienced last time.

If there are any gentlemen bandits in the Livery on generous handicaps will they please make themselves known!

Paul Harris Golf Trophy

This event takes place in September each year at the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club and is open to all liverymen regardless of standard. We had a splendid afternoon last year but regrettably only four stalwarts took part! However, the evening numbers were much increased to about 15 who enjoyed an excellent and amusing supper in the club house. The trophy was presented to the winner, past master John Mathews and your present master was proud to collect the losers concrete brick axe (once again). We could do with more entrants this year so please check your diaries.

Obituries**John Pym 1908 - 1993**

John Pym fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects enjoyed a long career in practice chiefly in Kent, Surrey and Yorkshire during which he established himself as a leading force in issues of town planning. His chief architectural work after the war was the prolonged planning and execution of the Town Map of Catterick Camp in Yorkshire. He was master of our company in 1956/7 and was always an enthusiastic member who will be greatly missed.

Edward Newbald 1912 -1993

Edward Newbald joined the company in 1944 at the instigation of his father-in-law Liveryman and father of the company the late Eric Dickins. He became master in 1969/70 and took much enjoyment from contributing to the running of the company where he had many friends. A chartered accountant by profession he generously spent considerable time seeing our company's accounts were in order! He joined forces with liveryman Philip Gardner's firm in 1960. He was also involved with various charitable projects and in particular was a founding trustee of the Brunswick Boys Club. He unfortunately suffered a stroke on retirement at the age of 65 and shortly thereafter moved down to Hove for the benefit of sea air.

The Lord Mayor's Banquet

FIVE PENGUINS, AND MYRTLE, A TURTLE
WENT TO LONDON TO MEET THE LORD MAYOR.
HE'S INVITED THEM ALL TO HIS BANQUET
A SOMEWHAT UP-MARKET AFFAIR.

HE'D ASKED MYRTLE TO GET ALONG EARLY.
"TO MEET ROYALTY" HE TOLD HER. HE LIED.
AS SOON AS SHE GOT TO THE GUILDHALL,
SHE WAS HURRIEDLY BUNDLED INSIDE.

WHEN THE PENGUINS ARRIVED SOMETIME LATER
IN THEIR CUMMERBUNDS, TAILS, AND WHITE TIES,
THEY HAD TO SIT DOWN WITHOUT MYRTLE,
UNAWARE OF HER SUDDEN DEMISE.

SURROUNDED BY GOLD PLATE AND SILVER,
AND ENTHRALLED BY THE GLITTERING VENUE,
THEY FLAPPED WITH DELIGHT WHEN THEY READ
OF THE GOOD THINGS TO COME, ON THE MENU.

'TILL THEY FOUND, BY TRADITION THE SOUP,
THE LORD MAYOR HAD ORDERED WAS TURTLE.
THEY DILUTED THE BROTH WITH THEIR TEARS,
AS THEY SUPPED UP THE REMNANTS OF MYRTLE

THOUGH THEY FELT BEING HIS GUESTS, IT WAS THOUGHTLESS
BUT ACCEPTED HIS MOTIVES WERE GEN-OO-INE.
YET IF ASKED AGAIN, THEY'D DECLINE.
AS NEXT TIME THE SOUP MIGHT BE PEN-GOO-INE.

Anon