

TYLERS AND

The Newsletter of The Worshipful

Number 14



BRICKLAYERS

Company of Tylers and Bricklayers

Spring 2003



THE COMPANY'S TRIENNIAL AWARDS – 2002

Every three years, the Company makes awards to projects that demonstrate excellence in the crafts of applied tiling or mosaics, roof tiling or slating and brickwork. To be eligible, a scheme – which may be new build or refurbishment – must be located within the area bounded by the M25 motorway and have been completed in the previous three years.

Nearly fifty nominations were received for the 2002 Awards – the highest number for many years – and the overall standard indicated that we would have a real competition on our hands. We were grateful to the Tile Association, the National

Federation of Roofing Contractors and particularly to the Brick Development Association (our partners in the Better Brickwork Alliance) for their help in attracting such a strong field.

The three-stage judging process ensured that any scheme chosen as an award winner would be worthy of that honour. First, the Company's Craft Committee selected 17 of the 48 entries – spread across the three Award categories – to be visited for initial assessment. These visits, by teams of Liverymen with construction expertise, were the second stage and resulted in a short list which the Judging Panel would visit to choose the Award winners.

ON-SITE ASSESSMENT TEAMS

These schemes were assessed over three days of visits by the following teams:

- Past Master Jeremy Stokes, Paul Cullen and Craft Committee member Tim Llewellyn
- Past Master Chris Stokes, Tim Walker (Craft Committee) and (young) William Fuller
- David McGregor, Ray Baker and Edward Turner (Craft Committee).

joined on each occasion by the Chairman of the Triennial Awards Committee acting as common denominator.

These teams, like the final judging panel later, assessed each

scheme on the quality of overall design, of workmanship and of materials, the degree of difficulty faced by the craftsmen and overall impression. They chose the following six schemes for the final short list:

- **Wimbledon Parkside** for overall quality of brickwork seldom found in a commercial housing development
- **The UCL Cruciform** Building, not only for the brickwork but also for the quality of the total re-roofing
- **The murals at the Thomas Coram Early Childhood Centre** (pictured above) for imaginative and skilful use of mosaic tiling

Triennial Awards - 2002



- **Alder Castle**
as an excellent example of the extensive use of prefabricated brick-faced panels
- **Southwark Cathedral**
Millennium Project where the assessors had noted the high quality of both the knapped-flintwork and of the tile voussoir arches
- **Newington Green**,
a scheme built to a tight budget where skillful craftsmanship brought the best out of relatively inexpensive materials.

The Judges who had kindly agreed to undertake the final phase of the judging process were: Bryan Jefferson CB, CBE, a former president of the RIBA and lately Architectural Advisor to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport; Bob Baldwin, President of the Guild of Bricklayers and a Freeman of the Company; Robert Howard, President of the Tile Association (now a Liveryman of the Company); Past Master Graham Bateman, Chairman of the Craft Committee and a fount of knowledge on roof tiling and slating, and the Awards Committee Chairman.

The quality of each of the short-listed schemes ensured that the Judges did not have an easy job. Nevertheless, they were unanimous in their choice of the three Award winners.

These were announced, following the presentation of the E and R Fuller Awards, at an impressively staged ceremony at The Painters' Hall on 9 July attended by nearly 100 members of the Company and guests.

The Company's awards of plaques, silver medals and certificates were presented to

those associated with the winning schemes by The Master, Peter Wallis, and Sir John Egan, President of the Confederation of British Industry, who later gave a stimulating talk on future developments in the construction industry to round off the proceedings.

SPECIAL AWARD FOR CRAFTSMANSHIP

Building owner
the Dean and Chapter of Southwark Cathedral
(Plaque and certificate)

Architect
Richard Griffiths Architects

Main contractor
Walter Lilly and Company

Brickwork subcontractor
FieldCrown Construction

Craftsman bricklayer
Dennis Carter
(Medal and certificate)

In addition to selecting winners in the three categories, the Judges made a Special Award for Craftsmanship to the Tile Arches at Southwark Cathedral Millennium Project. They had found it hard to believe that each of the tile arches - two flat and nineteen curved - had been built in situ. Every joint scrupulously radiates to the geometrical striking point of the arch shape. The high degree of accuracy in the setting of each tile could only have been achieved by a skilful and experienced bricklayer working with the aid of a fine string line secured at the striking point some two metres below with which to check the alignment of the tile while it was being tapped solidly into place.

EXCELLENCE IN APPLIED TILING

Building owner
Coram Family
(Plaque and certificate)



Special award for craftsmanship – the tile arches at Southwark Cathedral

Architect

Monahan Blythen Architects
(Medal and certificate)

Murals

Greenwich Mural Workshop
(Certificate)

Artist craftsman

Steve Lobb
(Medal and certificate)

The 2002 Triennial Award for Excellence in Applied Tiling went to the mosaic murals at Thomas Coram Early Childhood Centre.

There are two large mosaic murals in the Centre's reception area complemented by a series of mural vignettes. Glass mosaic is a notoriously difficult material to cut, especially into small pieces, so the cutting and fixing required great expertise. One of the large murals also incorporates tiles made from the hand prints of children at the Centre.

These were far thicker than the mosaics so their fixing called for particular care and skill.

'This was a superb job,' said the Judges 'and a pleasure to have seen'.

EXCELLENCE IN TILE OR SLATE ROOFING

Building owner

University College London
(Plaque and certificate)

Architect

HLM Design Ltd (Plaque and certificate)

Main contractor

Jarvis Construction (UK) Ltd
(Certificate)

Roofing subcontractor

Stirling and Johnson Ltd
(Certificate)

Foreman roofing slater

Rafe Thomas
(Medal and certificate)

Though originally nominated for its brickwork, the judges made The 2002 Award for Excellence in Tile or Slate Roofing to the UCL Cruciform Building.

The entire project was to convert a 19th century hospital, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, into a 21st century university facility. The roof slates and flax underlay were stripped from the building's four wings and central core, each with spires and ventilation flues. The original roof boarding was retained and replacement Vermont green slates laid in diminishing courses, with new decorative lead ridge vents.

The original roof boarding was retained and replacement Vermont green slates laid in diminishing courses, with new decorative lead ridge vents.

The Judges said 'This was clearly a challenging job, demanding, and receiving, craftsmanship of the highest order as can be seen



Award for excellence in brickwork – Peabody Trust at Newington Green

from the mitred and raking hips and valleys'. The remodelling and refurbishment of the entire Cruciform building was completed in around 18 months, a credit to all involved.

EXCELLENCE IN BRICKLAYING

Building owner

Peabody Trust
(Plaque and certificate)

Architect

Rivington Street Studio
(Medal and certificate)

Main contractor

Walter Llewellyn and Sons Ltd
(Certificate)

Brickwork subcontractor

Phase Brickworks Ltd
(Certificate)

Foreman bricklayer

Fred Quinton
(Medal and certificate)

The 2002 Triennial Award for Excellence in Brickwork was the most hotly contested – it went to the Peabody Trust Development at Newington Green.

Centrepiece of the scheme is a six-storey curved tower. Clad in a relatively economical brick, it displays exemplary control of gauge, plumb, level coursing and regular circular alignment. All

the bricklayer's skill and experience is needed to achieve the sweet curves called for in any radial brickwork. Curved timber templates for the various radii and plumbing points around the circumference are needed in the total absence of the line and pins used in straight walling. 'The design was sophisticated and challenging' said the Judges 'and the end-product was delivered to an impressive standard – a worthy winner'.

The next Triennial Awards, to be made in 2005, will be all the more successful if the number of nominations made by members of the Company matches, or even exceeds, those prompted by the allied trade bodies. If you spot a likely winner during the next two years don't assume that someone else will nominate it. Just ask for a nomination form, fill in the details while they are fresh in your mind (and remember, each nomination must be accompanied by at least one photograph) and send it to me.

It's never too early!

*Andrew Stroud, Chairman,
Triennial Awards Committee*

Company News



SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE MASTER - JOHN MARTIN

“.....may it flourish root and branch for ever”.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

The ancient and familiar words of the toast used by our Company (and many others in the City) speak of the past, present and future. Our roots go back a long way. The first recorded reference to the Tylers and Bricklayers is believed to be 1416 and our Charter was granted in 1568. A double celebration is on the horizon, with 600 years of history in 13 years' time (2016) and 450 years since the Charter in 2018. In the next two or three years the Masters who will be in office for these celebrations will be joining the Court and will, no doubt, want to decide how we should mark these significant dates.

CHANGES

If roots speak of the past, branches describe the present. They speak of the visible, organic development of the tree. The shape is constantly changing, and so is our Company. Over the centuries we have abandoned our livery uniform. We have sold our halls. We have changed our allegiance from its old Catholicism to embrace the Protestant ethic during the reformation whilst retaining the

Marian symbol of the fleur-de-lis in our crest.

In recent times, indeed within my own span in the Company, I have witnessed changes. The cost of functions has risen hugely and above inflation, as the Companies owning Halls have increased their letting charges, as VAT has increased its imposition on our costs and as wages to the domestic and serving staff have increased. From April the extra National Insurance costs borne by our caterers will trickle through to us and there is likely to be some marginal impact from congestion charging. These increases and other social considerations have affected our traditions. We no longer pass out cigars at the end of our formal meals. It is many years since our lady guests went home with a present from the Master. We have changed our ties from white to black, and we now invite ladies to many more functions than, say, twenty-five years ago and now welcome our first lady-Liverymen into the Company.

One change which may not be generally known is that every social function has to be self-funding (except for the hire of the hall). The Master is now personally responsible for any over-spend.

GOVERNANCE

The Court is currently considering what form of Governance may be appropriate for the next phase of the Company's life. At present we have some 40 members of the Court. As we all now live longer than our forefathers it is likely that this number will increase further unless some cap is imposed. Following robust debate, the Court has recently decided to make several changes to the Governance of the Company. The management of the changes will be important, and any changes will be handled sensitively to reduce to a minimum disruption and hurt.

CRAFTS, FELLOWSHIP AND CHARITIES

The common threads which link our historic roots to the current branches are our traditional support to the crafts, our fellowship and our support to charities. Elsewhere in the Newsletter work which our Craft Committee is doing to introduce the concept of Master Craftsman is described. I am delighted by this development which should raise the standard of workmanship and recognition of it.

Fellowship within our Company has to be experienced. Attending its functions is the only way of doing so but I continue to be disappointed that relatively few of our members in general attend any function at all.

APPRECIATION

One of the greatest pleasures I have experienced since becoming Master is the real gratitude of those young people who receive prizes from the Company. I attended prize-giving days of both the City of London School for Boys and later the School for Girls. The photograph below shows me with the two prize-winning young men.

From the eight prize-winning girls I received letters of thanks from each. These letters were of the highest quality and gave an insight to their many activities and interests, from playing musical instruments, help in the community, acting, travelling, and participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

THANKS

Our thanks as a Company are due to those of our members who help us in so many ways – who organise the links with our industries, who advise on our social functions, and to every member who contributes to the Charity Funds which are used to such good effect.

And so may we continue to flourish.....for ever !

The Tylers' and Bricklayers' prizes for mathematics were awarded to Bobby Friedman (left) and Neville Ghani of the City of London School



THE RENTER WARDEN - SANDY ANGUS

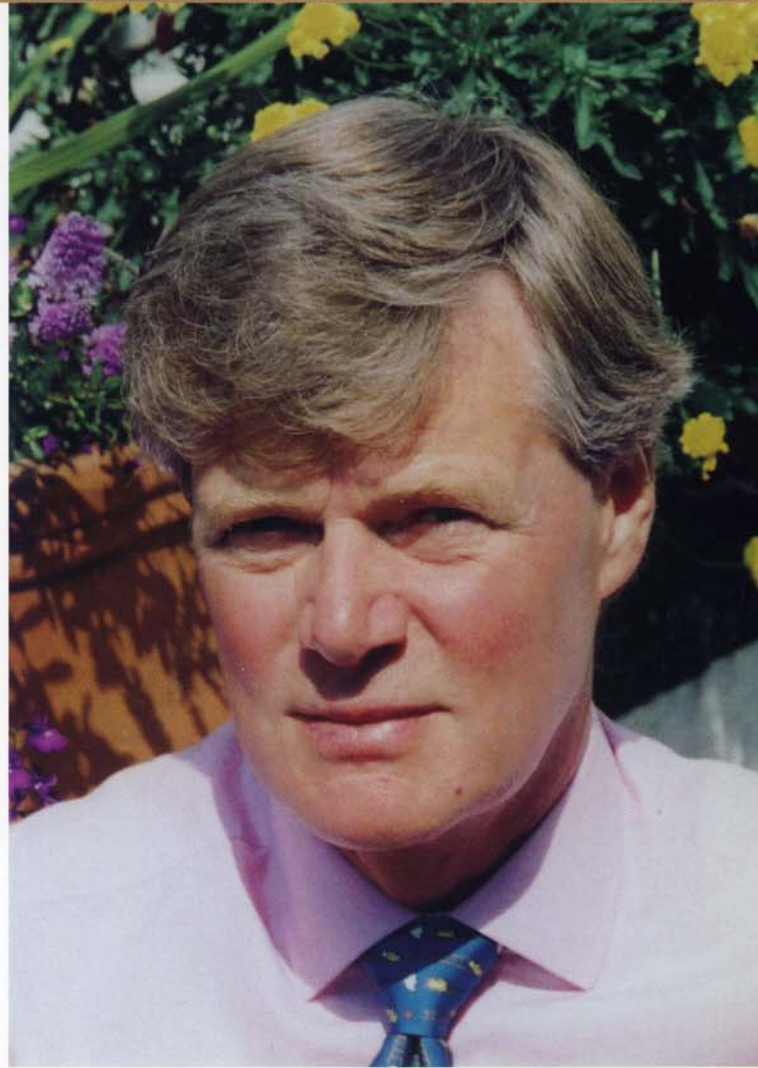
Following in the imprint of former Master Bryan Montgomery has been a feature of Sandy's life. Introduced into the Tylers and Bricklayers Company in 1978 by Bryan, it is typical that 22 years later he should be destined to follow him as Master.

Born into a family who had been in the tea industry for nearly 100 years in South India and Ceylon, an upbringing far from home and parental care was a life style which is not easily understood today. Being on your own from the age of 5 gives you every opportunity to find out what works and what you need to do to survive in some quite harsh environments. Only going home every three years or more doesn't exactly make for a conventional upbringing.

Turning down a place at Edinburgh University to study medicine Sandy spent his time travelling and working, ending up in Tehran where he taught English, sold advertising space and wrote the daily horoscope for the Kayhan Journal, the only English speaking newspaper. A variety of highly paid dirty jobs followed such as building the Victoria Line, mixing the carbon and rubber at Firestone Tyre Company, before returning to his travels. He found himself living in Libya at the time of King Idris where coincidentally Bryan Montgomery was visiting Tripoli on a Middle East trade mission. They met after a church service where Bryan read the lesson. And who said going to church was not a life changing experience.

Sandy went to live in South Africa and it became the first country in which a Montgomery exhibition was run outside the UK and was the precursor to the creation of world wide interests which have evolved over the years. The company became a trail blazer around the world in helping to create new exhibitions and markets, tying together the exporting opportunities for international companies around the globe. The building industry remains at the heart of the Montgomery empire and Interbuild, which was first run in 1895 at what is now the BDC in Islington, is its flagship event.

Sandy continued to follow Bryan through a range of company and industry positions becoming Chairman of Andry Montgomery in 1998 and President of the Union des Foires Internationales in 2001. With five children and three grandchildren his interests include skiing, climbing, running (London and New York marathons), Cresta running, and most things that add a little frisson to life. He is also chairman of an international charity dealing with the affects and eradication of malnutrition in Third World countries. Running round the world at 'break neck' speed, (he broke his neck whilst surfing in Costa Rica in 1999), he continues to remain as physically active as time permits in a relentless schedule of travel and other commitments.



50 YEARS IN THE COMPANY – PAST MASTER BRYAN MONTGOMERY

Bryan joined the Company in 1952, took the Freedom of the City and was elected a Liveryman at a Court Meeting at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, becoming Master in 1980.

In 1965, he was appointed as the Company's representative on the Brickwork Committee of the City & Guilds of London Institute. Through this connection, he was appointed to the Court of the Institute and subsequently onto their Executive Committee.

For two years he was Chairman of their International Committee and in recognition of his long service to the Institute, Bryan was recently installed as a Fellow of the City & Guilds of London Institute Honoris Causa.

The Company is most appreciative of all that Bryan has done to promote the work of Craft training and we congratulate him on this singular honour.

MASTER CRAFTSMAN AWARDS



The Chairman of the Craft Committee, Past Master Graham Bateman, reports on progress of the Company's support for this new enterprise.

The subject of training, recognising and awarding a qualification for Master Craftsman was raised at the last meeting of the Better Brickwork Alliance and I agreed to investigate the problem.

The background to entry into the construction industry until 1990 was that if you wished to be a Craftsman you had to serve a 5 year training period and qualify using standards set by The City & Guilds of London. However, the

Thatcher Government was aware that we could soon become part of the European Community and the training standards of the other partners were more structured than our own. Many relied heavily on vocational skills, which carried no qualification.

A scheme was devised so that 5 stages of competence could be applied to all UK industries and named National Vocational Qualifications. The construction structure is:

CRAFT

- NVQ Level 1
Leading labourer
- NVQ Level 2
Craftsman
- NVQ Level 3
Leading Craftsman

TECHNICAL

- NVQ Level 3
Supervisor/Technician
- NVQ Level 4
Manager
- NVQ Level 5
Consultant

The craft apprenticeships were reduced to 3 years and at the end of the training they achieve either a Level 2 or Level 3 National Vocational Qualification in their craft. Some outstanding apprentices receive further training for competitions but there are no qualification available for higher skills to be recognised. The present NVQ structure designates Level 3 as the highest craft award and Level 4 is only available for Administration Managers.

Recently this omission has also been recognised by The Worshipful Company of Plumbers and in conjunction with their Institute and The City and Guilds Institute of London, they have devised a qualification structure that will award a Master Craftsman Certificate in Plumbing. However, their craft is not only skillful it also requires a high degree of technical knowledge which can be previously tested through their own Institute.

I have had meetings and discussions with Mr. Ian Frith, Senior Awards Manager for City and Guilds, and Mr. Geoffrey Marsh of the Plumbers Company, to devise a Master Craftsman skills award that would be acceptable to C & G for our three craft skills with three different methods of entry.

The City & Guilds have already agreed that they are prepared to grant their Licentiate qualification (LCGI) to those craft apprentices who achieve a Level 3 NVQ. They have now accepted that to create a new level of Master Craftsman, the Tylers and Bricklayers Company should set the standards we consider appropriate to enable our Company to offer this new craft qualification, which is outside the C & G present remit, by combining their LCGI qualification with our Master Craftsman award. We will have to control a Master Craftsman register, monitored and maintained by the Craft Committee and supported by the

Craft Associations who will assess the main skills award. These draft arrangements will be discussed and agreed at a joint meeting with the three associations.

The Draft Award proposes a Trainee Route consisting of:

- A 3 year craft apprenticeship completing with a Level 3 NVQ in our crafts.
- A Candidate can then make direct application to the City & Guilds confirming their qualification and requesting to be given a Licentiate of the City & Guilds of London (LCGI).

The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers will then require the following additional criteria to be met to make an Award of 'Master Craftsman' and allow candidates to use the title, LCGI Master Craftsman Bricklayer (etc). Our requirements will be:

- The candidate to be over 26 years old and to provide a portfolio of evidence to their Federation Craft Committee for approval and containing the following information
- They have held a supervisory position for 3 years (certified by their employer).
- A copy of their Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) card at the agreed skills level.
- Evidence of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- Interviewed by a Trade Association assessor to confirm their skills level as a Master Craftsman. (To this Trainee route, a number of higher practical craft skills will be added for assessment).

They can then make direct application to our Company for Master Craftsman status.

Alternatively, the Draft Award proposes a route based upon Practical Achievement provided that the applicant:

- Has completed an earlier 3 year apprenticeship in the craft.
- Is over 30 years old.
- Holds or has held a senior position in management or teaching for at least 5 years.
- Can submit supporting references from a senior employer or referee.
- Can show evidence of CPD.

- Has been approved by his Craft Associating Training Committee, and has made an application to the City & Guilds for recognition and the award of LCGI.

The City & Guilds are becoming involved in Skillbuild and have been impressed with not only the standard obtained by the craft winners but also with their one year period of intense training prior to representing the UK in the Skill Olympics. They are prepared to offer direct entry to those representatives if they gain in excess of 500 points and will award them their LCGI. They can then make direct application to our Company for Master Craftsman status.

The Court has agreed that we should continue to develop this qualification and enlist the co-operation of the Associated Trade Associations to find a suitable procedure.

Opposite:
Creating a smooth eyebrow roof line is one example of the Master Tiler's skills (Photo courtesy of Marley Roofing)

Right:
Laying the tight joints of the gauged brickwork in this Cloister's niche and entryway clearly demonstrate the Master Bricklayer's skills.



Company News

Electronic Communication

Just imagine for a moment the Master is on his cruise ship off the coast of East Africa and wishes to include in the latest newsletter a photograph of himself relaxing on deck. He flashes it to the Upper Warden, who incorporates it in the newsletter and the next day it arrives on the doormat of every Liveryman.

Just suppose the fellow passengers on the cruise ship ask him to present a lecture on famous Tyler and Bricklayer Ben Jonson – his Life and Works. The Master may have not read any Jonson for forty years but, within a few hours, he has dived into the archives of several American universities and prepared a slide show with quotations, pictures and an analysis of whether a man with

the felons' brand on his thumb should have ever joined the Livery. Finally, before retiring for the night, the Master emails the whole Livery the text of his next speech and it is read by the Junior Liveryman who is having a breakfast business meeting in Seattle a few minutes later.

Just imagine. But none of the above is either speculation or imagination, because it is all with us today, here and now. Although the Master may not have in reality been called upon to search the web for arcane historical facts, he already keeps in touch electronically from wherever he is, and it is already true that much of the internal communication within our Company is being carried out electronically. To be on

an email address is to be able to outperform and outdo conventional postal and telephone connections in terms of rapid group communication and lends itself in particular to an organization such as ours. If you have an email address, we would very much like to include it in the White Book and enhance our channels of communication further.

City Livery Companies already have an established presence on the Web, and just under half have their own website. These provide an introduction and brief history in most cases, and some more comprehensive sites provide details of officers, charitable activities, awards and more. These sites act as a window for the

world to look in on our functions and activities. For some Livery Companies, websites have encouraged enquiries and contacts from all over the world. This will be one of a number of considerations if the Tylers and Bricklayers is to develop its presence on the web.

Court Assistants Dr George Bird and Piers Nicholson



THE CLERK - BARRY BLUMSOM

In December 2002, Barry Blumsom was appointed by the Court as Clerk to the Company.

Prior to this he served as an officer with the City of London police for over 32 years during which he undertook a wide and varied range of duties. These included Royalty Protection, public order, criminal investigation, and community liaison. The role of community liaison officer included looking after St Paul's Cathedral and going into the City of London schools to give drug awareness and life skills lessons.

Barry is a keen sportsman who has represented the police in seven different sports and he has undertaken several organisational roles including those of Secretary and Treasurer to the City of London Police Golf Society.

We extend a very warm welcome to Barry, and to his wife Janice. We look forward to seeing them both at our Company functions, and to representing the Company in the City that he knows so well.

The Company's Arms

Then...



As noted earlier, the first record of the Tylers and Bricklayers is in 1416 with the Charter granted in 1568. Here is the earliest known representation of the Company's Arms, granted in 1569, and reproduced from a 17th century manuscript by kind permission of The Queen's College, Oxford.

...and now



The Better Brickwork Alliance Awards

Our annual Company 'Best Practice Award' competition, sponsored by the Construction Industry and judged by the Guild of Bricklayers, required Level 3 NVQ apprentices at various UK Building Colleges to construct a set piece of brickwork within a time limit. The winners were...

NORTHERN SECTION

Mark Ford (Barnsley College)

SOUTHERN SECTION

Craig Greenleaf
(Reading College)

Craig (left) has subsequently been selected to represent the UK in

bricklaying at the 2003 Skill Olympics, Switzerland.



The Stokes Awards

At a Court Luncheon on March 20th, 2003, the Master presented the Stokes' Royal Engineers' awards for 2002 to the Senior and Junior Sapper prize winners...

BEST CLASS 1 BRICKLAYER

Lance Corporal
Matthew Howarth

BEST CLASS 2 BRICKLAYER

Sapper David Rimmer

Each award winner received a cheque, a framed certificate, and a silver medal commemorating the award.

The E & R Fuller Award

At an annual competition held in February, set and judged by the Guild of Bricklayers, the awards to the winning Senior (NVQ Level 3) and Junior (NVQ Level 2) bricklaying apprentices from London and South East of England Training Colleges went to...

SENIOR AWARD

Craig Greenleaf

JUNIOR AWARD

Ryan Stevens.

Company News



PHILLIP GARDNER VC MC 1914 - 2003

It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent death of Liveryman Philip 'Pip' Gardner VC MC. Past Master William Fuller pays tribute to a very brave and modest gentleman...

Philip John Gardner who died on 16th February was arguably the most distinguished Liveryman in our ancient company's long history. Born on Christmas Day 1914 Philip was admitted to the Livery in 1958 but although he joined the Court in 1978 it was on the understanding that he would not be expected to undertake the burdensome duty of Master.

Most Liverymen will have seen the obituaries of this remarkable man which appeared in the national press and many will have read his biography "One Man's Desert" which was published in 1986. It was typical of Philip that he only gave permission for the book to be written after several increasingly pressing appeals, such as his modesty.

After his education at Dulwich College, Philip joined his family engineering firm J. Gardner & Co. Ltd from where his father sent him to Hong Kong at the early age of 19 to supervise the local design, manufacture and

installation of ductwork in the headquarters of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. This prestigious posting and the great responsibility which went with it was evidence of Philip's remarkable ability to manage effectively.

During the War, Philip served in the 4th Royal Tank Regiment in North Africa, winning the Military Cross in June 1941 for extricating his surviving stranded troops from a disabled tank through a minefield at night. Within six months, in November 1941, he had again displayed, according to the London Gazette in its understated prose, "courage,

determination and complete disregard for his own safety (which) enabled him, despite his own wounds and in the face of intense fire at close range to save the life of his fellow officer". This resulted in the award of his VC: the citation ends in a characteristic piece of now redundant English understatement "and in circumstances fraught with great difficulty and danger". This definitively heroic deed was witnessed from a few hundred yards away by his entire regiment.

Philip was captured after the surrender of Tobruk in 1942, interned in Italy and Germany

and following his release from the prisoner of war camp at Brunswick he, along with colleagues, was responsible for raising the money from fellow prisoners of war to found the Brunswick Boys Club, a flourishing institution in Fulham which the Tylers' and Bricklayers' continues to support through its Charitable Trust.

Philip Gardner was a friend for whom I was privileged to have worked for 24 years. A man

of the utmost integrity, he was always interested in the well-being of his employees with whom he had corresponded throughout the War. His life and work reflected his selflessness: one time Governor of Dulwich College and President of the Alleyn Club, Officer of the Royal Tank Regiment, Secretary of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, President of the Brunswick Boys Club and an enthusiastic member of the Livery (and who also made a very

generous contribution towards the costs of the new edition of the Company's history).

Philip was a strong Christian family man, a selfless, generous, sensible, brave, courteous and unfailingly cheerful man who was utterly without pomposity or self aggrandisement. A man who in his extraordinary modesty would only say of the actions that won him the Victoria Cross "Anyone would have done the same thing". To paraphrase Rudyard Kipling:

Philip was indeed a man who could walk with both Kings and Queens without losing the common touch.

Philip was married for 63 years to his beloved wife Renee who has moved to Canada to be near their son Simon and his family.

1972 – Philip Gardner with H R H the Duke of Edinburgh at the inauguration of the new Brunswick boys club building

The Charities

The Company's Charitable Funds are reviewed by Past Master Nick Carter, Chairman of the Trustees

The Company has three charitable funds. These are **THE GENERAL CHARITABLE TRUST**, **THE RELIEF IN NEED TRUST** and **THE CRAFT TRUST**.

It is the two former Trusts which I am going to write about in the hope that it will encourage members of the Court and Livery who do not presently contribute towards the Charitable Trusts to do so. I am extremely grateful to those of the Court and Livery who do make a regular contribution to the Funds and to those who have made substantial capital contributions to enable the Company to fulfil an important role in its objectives.

May I first of all say the objectives of the all Livery Companies are to foster fellowship, to encourage the craft and contribute to charity and consequently in fulfilling this last objective, a large number of charities rely on the generosity of the Livery Companies for their operating costs.

In the main Charitable Trust, this objective is related directly to the City and its connections, the conservation of buildings within the City and youth.

Our support for youth is generally

through the educational establishments within the City where funds are sought and generally distributed in the form of bursaries to enable young people to study or as prizes. We support the City of London School for Girls, which was founded by one of our Liveryman forebears, The City of London School for Boys, The City of London Freeman's School and the Construction Industry Trust for Youth. We also support the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. For the past three years we have sponsored a student and at the Dinner with Ladies last year the sponsored student, a clarinist, Zurine Perez-Aransaez, performed for us. It was touching to see in her CV that the Tylers and Bricklayers were mentioned as sponsors ahead of the Spanish Government! In addition, we give to The Brunswick Youth Club Trust in Fulham, which was founded by Liverymen Pip Gardner and Edward Newbald after the war and is thriving today as witnessed in a visit last year.

We support a number of churches in London. St Paul's Cathedral Trust and St Margarets Lothbury, where we hold our services, are

the main beneficiaries and we give on occasion to individual appeals for restoration such as Southwark Cathedral where some of our Liverymen have been closely connected with former construction projects at the Cathedral. We have made a contribution to our Chaplains renovation project of St John's Worlds End.

There are two Funds within the City which are little known but do extremely good work. The Sheriff and Recorders Fund which is run from Old Bailey, assists prisoners' families and helps prisoners on release to find jobs and provides financial assistance particularly for young offenders in an effort to avoid a return to crime. The success ratio is extremely high and the work of the Fund is highly regarded.

The other is The Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, with which a number of our Liverymen are connected. This Fund amongst other activities looks after the families of Clergymen who have fallen on hard times for one reason or another.

Every year we consider a large number of requests for help and we carefully look at those which fulfil the criteria in which we operate. We always try to help as many as possible but it is extremely difficult, as our funds are limited.

We endeavour to meet with the beneficiaries to whom we give annually from time to time, thereby maintaining a close relationship and seeing the work that they do at first hand. The Trustees this year have visited St Paul's Cathedral and the Construction Industry Trust for Youth, which sponsors young people wishing to enter the building trade.

Every charity that we have visited has been able to demonstrate the enthusiasm and commitment that we would expect. Often we feel that our contribution is so small, although we are assured that it is the many small contributions that make up the whole and is the reliable basic income of the charity.

The Relief in Need Fund assists Members of the Company or their families in circumstances where the Trustees feel it would make a small difference to the lifestyle of a Member. The funds that we have for this purpose are very small and we would like to do more.

Only a small proportion of the Livery contribute to these Funds and the Master has written to everyone to encourage giving and the Trustees would be most appreciative of your support to enable the Company to enhance one of the main objectives of its existence.

Company News

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - HERE I COME!

Court Assistant Piers Nicholson walks 500 miles across northern Spain for pleasure

The Camino de Santiago is the name given to a network of ancient pilgrimage routes which converge on the city of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwest Spain. The 3 main routes, from Paris, Vezelay and Le Puy in France converge at St Jean Pied du Port in the foothills of the Pyrenees; from there, the Camino Francés goes the 480 miles to Santiago. A fourth route, from Nimes and Italy, joins up later on.

The pilgrimage evolved from the miraculous journey of the body of St James the apostle in a stone boat from Palestine to northwest Spain, where he had previously preached. The saint worked miracles, including rescuing a drowning fisherman; from this episode, the scallop shell became the badge of pilgrims on the Camino.

This long history gives the Camino its very special character. It has some stunning Romanesque buildings, including cathedrals, monasteries, and churches, along

the way. It passes through a wide variety of scenery from the foothills of the Pyrenees and the mountains of Galicia to the wide open spaces of the meseta and the wine-growing region of the Rioja. And the enduring tradition of hospitality to pilgrims in all the communities along the way gives the practical benefits of a network of "refugios" (very basic and extremely cheap sleeping accommodation) and specially subsidised meals for pilgrims.

People walk the Camino for all sorts of reasons, ranging from the purely religious to the strenuous walking holiday. I, like many others, did it as a big project to mark my retirement from my long-term job. And, again like others, I found that a spiritual component grew on me as the journey progressed.

There is nothing intrinsically difficult about the Camino. There are few steep gradients, and the path is mainly along minor roads or farm tracks. There are very



few sections with loose stones. The only difficult thing about it is that it is very, very long. So you learn more about your feet than you had ever imagined possible! And you are always juggling the necessity for each item in your pack against its weight – my pack started at 24 lbs. and ended at 13 lbs! At the beginning I was averaging 21 km/day, but towards the end, with the lighter pack, I was up to 32 km/day

By the end of a month of walking, you have had more concentrated thinking time than is possible in several years of "normal life". And you have learnt that many of the trappings of "normal life" have very little relevance to one's earthly happiness or spiritual salvation. On the Camino, one meets and talks to an incredible variety of people, old and young, male and female, rich and poor, from every nation of the earth. And you learn (or re-learn) the basic truths that the only really important things are to help and be helped, to like and be liked, to

love and be loved. To do the Camino, you need a "credencia" which is stamped at each refugio along the way. When you get to Santiago, you obtain a "compostela" which is a certificate saying (in Latin) you have done the Camino. In ancient times, it also forgave you all your sins, but nowadays you have to go on living with them. You can get more information from the confraternity of St James in London (0207 928 9988) or from the Picture Pages of the Camino at www.santiago-compostela.net which has plenty of pictures of what the Camino is actually like. Buen Camino

Piers Nicholson has recently joined the Court, and in 1999 designed the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Millennium Sundial outside the City of London Boys School on the Blackfriars walkway near the Millennium footbridge.



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