



Worshipful Company of
**Tylers and
Bricklayers**
Chartered in 1568

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 27 | JULY 2016

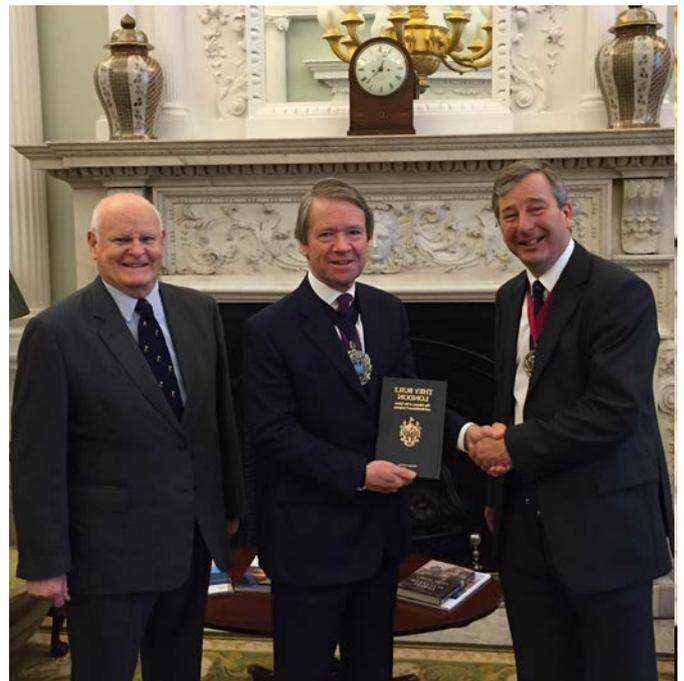
MASTER PIECE

Thomas White would have been delighted with the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the Company in celebrating his achievement in 1416 of being our first recorded Master. We have celebrated the 600th anniversary in style and it has undoubtedly raised our profile in the City.

The Company's history, *They Built London*, has been extremely well received since its publication at Common Hall. The depth and quality of Dr Penny Hunting's research has hugely impressed the many of us who have now read the book. This includes the Masters of Companies and others to whom we have sent copies and who have written to tell me so. Deputy Master David Cole-Adams, who masterminded the entire project so ably, and I visited Mansion House in June to present the book to the Lord Mayor, Alderman Lord Mountevans, who had kindly contributed a foreword. (See photo on right)

It was an honour and a pleasure to preside as Master at our celebratory concert and reception at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. To have over 50 livery company Masters and both Sheriffs present as our guests was a real tribute to the Company. The Aldermanic Sheriff, Charles Bowman, spoke with relevance and humour before the concert. We were blessed too by the School choosing some of its best students to play for us. The quality of their musicianship was outstanding. I was inundated with letters from our guests congratulating us on the event and saying how much they enjoyed the thoroughly convivial evening.

And the third celebratory event was our Annual Guest Banquet at Carpenters' Hall and the impressive exhibition that immediately preceded it in the Court Room. Liveryman Dr David Allen worked tirelessly and expertly in producing what must surely have been the best ever exhibition of the Company's treasures and records. It was truly inspiring to see such rare items as the 1589 Breeches Bible, the Clerk's Minute Book of the 16th and 17th centuries, and the record of the Master's meeting with King Charles I at Hampton Court in 1636, when he persuaded the King to back down on his plan to create a rival Company of Brick and Tilemakers.



And those were just three of the sixty exhibits on show. David was greatly assisted by Dr Peter Ross, Principal Librarian at the Guildhall Library, and Mr Howard Doble, the Senior Metropolitan Archivist. It was therefore fitting that they were able to join us at the Banquet.

Our principal guest was the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral, whose charming and amusing speech will linger long in the memory. With my family's historical connections with the cathedral, and with our fascinating visit there as a Company in November as the first of my Master's events, I was particularly delighted that he accepted my invitation.

It may be a common cry of Masters but the year is whistling by. My Installation back in October and the lunch seem a while ago but they will always be a warm memory. The feeling of support from the room as I stood to speak was tangible and immensely reassuring. I thought Grocers' Hall was a wonderful location and they made us most welcome. I was extremely grateful to Bishop Knowles, my guest of honour, for his clever and humorous reply on behalf of the guests. (continued)

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The Worshipful Company of Tylers & Bricklayers

The Clerk: John Brooks
3 Farmer's Way, Seer Green, Buckingham HP9 2YY
clerk@tylersandbricklayers.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Liveryman David Williams
(Content compiled by the Upper Warden)

Formal Photographs: Michael O'Sullivan www.michaelosullivan.co.uk
Past and present newsletters are available online at:

www.tylersandbricklayers.co.uk

(Continued from page one)

My year has been further enhanced by having one of our liverymen, Dr Christine Rigden, as the Non-Aldermanic Sheriff. It was a privilege to lead the Company's delegation at the Presentation of Addresses in Guildhall Library, when we presented her with a gift of 12 champagne flutes engraved with the Company's badge. I saw for myself that the full dozen are still intact when she invited me to lunch with the judges at the Old Bailey! Caroline and I have had the pleasure of meeting her and Stephen on several occasions during our respective years. Ever cheerful, it is clear that she is thoroughly enjoying her time as Sheriff and serving in the role with distinction. Nowhere was this more evident than at our Crafts Awards Lunch at Trinity House, when she put the award winners at their ease and her speech reflected her sense of fun.

It has been the variety of events that has been a delight. From the pomp and ceremony of the Lord Mayor's Banquet in Guildhall, with trumpeters and musketeers, to SkillBuild at the NEC, when the Craft Committee Chairman and I, and our wives, watched all three of our crafts being performed to a high standard by the competing apprentices. Then, to mention but a few, there have been the United Guilds and Sons of the Clergy services in St Paul's Cathedral, the Corps of Royal Engineers Officers' guest night in their magnificent Mess, the two City of London Schools' prize-givings, as well as our own Craft Committee bricklaying day in Chatham with the opportunity to learn a little of 'the mystery'.

It is a great honour to be Master of this fine company. I am very grateful for all the support you have given me. As I move into the final months, I would particularly like to thank those serving on the Court, our various committees and charitable trusts for their hard work, the Stewards for their assistance at our functions, and last but by no means least the Clerk for his unfailing help and advice.

Tom Rider

FREEMEN WELCOMED TO THE COMPANY DURING PAST YEAR

Mrs Phyl Cook	Property Management	Miss Clare Banks	Professional Photographer
Mrs Juliet Gayford	Financial Services	Mr Charles Bird	Market Analyst
Dr Gerard Lynch	Brickmason Lecturer & Author	Mr Andy Mather	Solicitor
Mr Stephen Porter	Draughtsman	Mr Ian Wilson	Brickwork & Masonry Consultancy

ELEVATED TO THE LIVERY DURING PAST YEAR

Mr Frank Clarke	Master Craftsman	Mr Simon Hughes	Financial Services
Mrs Juliet Gayford	Financial Services	Mrs Phyl Cook	Property Management
Ms Emma Simpson	Brickwork Conservation.	Dr Gerard Lynch	Brickmason Lecturer and Author
Mr Alan Croucher	Federation of Builders Merchants		

The above lists show members welcomed into the Freedom or Livery since publication of the last newsletter

THE MASTER ELECT - DAVID SZYMANSKI



It's amazing how time flies when your year as Master approaches. It only seems a short while ago that I was being gowned as Renter Warden, and we are already well over half way through the current Master's year!

My time as Upper Warden has been very enjoyable, supporting the Master when required, getting more involved in Company activities, and continuing the chairmanship of the Finance Committee. Hilary is a great help and support, with observations and suggestions on the various decisions that have to be made.

Representing the Company at livery functions in support of the Master is a great privilege, as one gets to experience some wonderful occasions. Probably the most notable was the United Guilds Service in St Paul's, attended by both the Lord Mayor and the Bishop of London, who gave an inspirational sermon.

The Annual Guest Banquet was a super event, enhanced of course by the exhibition of Company treasures, which was undoubtedly a once in a lifetime event. Taking responsibility for the transportation of the valuable items from the Guildhall Library to Carpenters' Hall was both exciting and stressful!!

I started preparing for my year as Master immediately in the New Year, with our Clerk giving good advice on how to approach various issues, primarily the choice and booking of halls. This was completed in good time, with a combination of 'old favourites' and some different hall locations.

The relatively new tradition of the Installation being held at St Margaret's Lothbury will continue, but we will be able to return to Carpenters' Hall for lunch after two years away due to issues beyond our control. The guest of honour for the lunch will be Sir Neville Simms who has been a major figure within the UK construction sector for many years, including taking the chair of some very large companies.

In November we are organising a visit to Queen's College, Cambridge at the invitation of James Campbell who launched our '600 year history of the Company' book earlier this year. James is a recognised authority on bricks and brickwork in buildings.

Our traditional Carol Service will follow a similar format as previous years, with the service followed as usual by a reception at the University Club. A great way to end our year, prior to the Christmas and New Year festivities.

The 2017 Annual Guest Banquet will be held at Haberdashers' Hall, which is the newest hall in the City - and built out of brick. A stunning example of brickwork at its best - recognised on its completion by an award by our Company. Not to be missed! On the morning of the banquet, a number of liverymen will be engaging in a charity bike ride from the current Master's house in Tunbridge Wells to Haberdashers' Hall. The ride is about 41 miles and should be complete by early afternoon. I already have a number of volunteers who will make the journey, but I would be delighted to hear from anyone else who is interested. All entrants will have a target sum of £200 to raise, and we will decide on an appropriate charity prior to the event.

Other venues for the year include Bakers' Hall for Common Hall, Cutlers' Hall for the Masters & Clerks Lunch, Grocers' Hall for the Triennial Awards in July, and Vintners' Hall for the September Livery Dinner.

With my brickmaking background, it is inevitable that there will be a visit to a brickworks. Subject to final arrangements, we will be visiting H G Matthews near Chesham. Jim Matthews runs a very traditional brickworks with some modern adaptations. The product is extremely attractive and commands a high price. I recommend the trip to you all.

The major event planned for the Summer, from 21 to 23 June 2017, will be a visit to the Languedoc region of France where we have a property. This is a very laid-back rural area that has some hidden treasures. It will include visits to the old city at Carcassonne, restaurants and vineyards. This is the largest wine-growing region of France and the wines are deceptively good. The finale of the visit will be a T&B barbeque at Maison de la Source, Chez Szymanski.

Charter Day plans for August 2017 are in their early stages, but the location planned is Bath, with visits to the Roman Baths and the Pump Rooms. If you haven't been before, it is a real treat. If you have been before, it is well worth a second visit.

With strong links to our crafts of bricklaying and brickmaking I intend to provide the Company with the opportunities to further experience the beauties of these crafts. I trust that you will be able to join us at some stage during the year.

I have been able to take good advice from a number of very experienced liverymen who have spent many years in the City. One suggestion that will form the basis of my year is, 'To accept the tradition, and pass it on smoothly to my successor'. I will endeavour to do just that.

David Szymanski

THE UPPER WARDEN ELECT

THE RENTER WARDEN

Jeff Fuller



Catherine and Jeff Fuller

I am honoured to have been elected to stand as Renter Warden in this year when we celebrate the anniversary of our 600th Master and delighted that I should have been serving as a warden to the current Master. His father, Tony Rider, was the Clerk when I joined the Company in 1989.

Fortunately for me, the interview process for those joining by patrimony at that time, whilst serious, was a little less formal being accompanied by the Company's sherry and one of Tony's cigarettes! My association and knowledge of the Company does, of course, go further back with my first experiences of the T&Bs coming during my father's year as Master in 1981. Attending a number of events as a teenager brought me into contact with the traditions and work of the city livery companies something which I continue to find both impressive and intriguing. Although a number of companies may have lost some of their relevance in the modern world I am especially pleased to serve in a Company whose three crafts remain both relevant and important. I have served for over three years as Chairman of the Craft Committee, overseeing our links with the crafts and in particular supporting training and excellence through our Annual and Triennial Awards.

The forthcoming commemoration later this year of the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London is a perfect opportunity for us as a Company to reflect on an event which brought our crafts into pre-eminence - particularly as it has coincided with the celebration of the 600th anniversary of our first recorded Master - one Thomas White.

I am also a member of the Company's Wine Committee and can assure the Livery that we have laid down appropriate stocks to ensure these events can be suitably toasted!

The office of Renter Warden may seem a little incongruous in a Company without any property holdings. But as we have recently seen in the excellent exhibition of the Company's treasures, superbly organised by Liveryman David Allen, the Company still has many valuable possessions. Notwithstanding my long association with the Company, it has been a most pleasant surprise to undertake the annual stock-take and come to know many of these items in more detail. Sadly our limited storage facilities and the fragility of some items makes it difficult to store these safely. Several items have now been removed from the vaults at Carpenter's Hall to enable better storage for the Company's silver. I have also temporarily returned the beautiful pair of port decanters kindly gifted to the Company by my father Peter and his cousin Hugh in their years as Master. It is understandable that most caterers are reluctant to serve or wash these but I very much hope to find an occasion to use them in my year of office if elected as Master - even if I have to wash them up myself!

I also hope that we can find additional storage in the City to enable all our possessions to be safely stored. If anyone knows of a spare square metre or two in the Square Mile available at an affordable sum then the Court would, I'm sure, be interested in receiving details.

Away from the City I am a practising Chartered Surveyor, a director of three businesses and a trustee of two charities. I am married to Catherine who lectures at the University of the Arts London where she runs the Contour Degree Course. Catherine is a liveryman in her own right being a member of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters. In common with the Master and his lady we also celebrate our Silver Wedding anniversary this year. We live in Southwold in North Suffolk and have one son Jack who is 17 and approaching his final year at school. He hopes thereafter to study Politics and History at University. Being a keen historian, Jack is interested in the City livery companies and their traditions and has already attended a number of livery events including the first bricklaying day at Chatham. He still proudly owns the T-shirt which boasts a fair proportion of the mortar used that day! Catherine and I both hope that Jack will continue his interest and join the Company by patrimony in due course.

If elected, I shall be extremely privileged to serve as Master of the Company in the year when we celebrate the 450th anniversary of the grant of our Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I in 1568. I would hope to continue to develop our strong links with our three crafts and to maintain our long tradition of good fellowship. Catherine, Jack and I will also look forward to supporting the new Master and his lady in the coming year.

Jeff Fuller

LATE NEWS: *It is with much sadness that the Company learned of the death of Past Master Christopher Grellier on May 28th at the age of 87. He was Master in 1993-94. Due to the timing it has not proved possible unfortunately to include a full Obituary in this issue and we now plan to do so in next year's newsletter. ED*

NEW COURT ASSISTANTS

PROFESSOR JOHN B SCHOFIELD MB BS, FRCPath



Consultant Cellular and Molecular Pathologist, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and Kent Cancer Centre; Visiting Professor, School of Physical Sciences, University of Kent; Co-Director, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Clinical Research Network

I am a diagnostic cancer pathologist with a strong interest in clinical research, which has led to a number of contributions to the medical literature. As co-Director of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Clinical Research Network, I provide support to 18 NHS Trusts, the Universities of Kent, Surrey and Sussex and the National Institute of Health Research.

Outside work, my interests include applied arts and architecture, particularly 18th and 19th century. I am an active member of the Furniture History Society, the Silver Society, the Victorian Society and the Georgian Group. I am a Yeoman of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, and a member of the General Committee of the Reform Club.

This Company is very important to me. I became freeman in 2007 at the invitation of Past Master Dr George Bird, and liveryman in 2008. I have greatly enjoyed the fellowship and activities; as an admirer of architecture and applied arts, I am constantly fascinated by the 'art and mystery' of our linked construction fields, and support the considerable charitable work the Company undertakes.

I was delighted to be asked by the then Master, Roger Westbrook CMG, to join the Court of Assistants in 2015, and I am now taking a particular interest in communications and events. Supported by my wife Helen, a medical virologist working in pharmaceutical industry, and my two daughters Emma and Lucy, I have already attended many wonderful and memorable events in the City of London and outside.

RICHARD UZUPRIS



My links to the Company go back, somewhat tenuously, to the early 1980's when I was employed by a small stockbroking firm (later to become Greig Middleton, where I became a director and then Gerrards) working with Julian Gordon.

At that time the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers was one of our advisory clients and as this was before nominee accounts were common. Any dealing activity generated much paperwork requiring many signatures - thus I was introduced to the then Clerk, Tony Rider and indirectly, Ian Lockhart. Many years later Julian became Master and through him my interest in the Company was rekindled.

Although I have never been employed as a tiler or bricklayer, I have some experience of both as, armed with only a Readers Digest DIY manual and the requisite tools, I successfully built a single storey extension on our first house. Sadly my trusty Spear & Jackson trowel is now, like me, a little rusty.

Private client stockbroking has been the focus of my career since 1968, prior to which I was employed by Royal Exchange Assurance in their actuarial department, with the odd interruption to pursue other interests, mainly motor trade related. I retired in 2014 from Charles Stanley, following a spell at Barclays Wealth in their Court of Protection team. Over the years I have witnessed three stock market crises and many smaller blips and survived by heeding the advice of one Corporal Jones! The mid 1970's collapse was probably the worst with the market falling to levels not seen since the retreat from Dunkirk in WW2.

I am married to Janet and have one daughter and two grandchildren. I enjoy watching most sport, particularly cricket and rugby (I am a member of Southend Saxons RFC) and a long-suffering Charlton Athletic supporter.

THE COMPANY'S CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

Support of charitable causes is one of the four core values which underpin the role of the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company and all liverymen are encouraged to participate in this element of our activities.

The Company's Charitable Trust enables gifts to be made to a number of causes with the emphasis on those with connections to the City of London and activities involving young people.

The Craft Trust focuses on the crafts of tiling and bricklaying and our associated Regiment, the Corps of Royal Engineers. There is also a small Relief in Need fund which offers financial help to the elderly and needy of the Company or their close family. The Relief in Need Charity provided a charitable donation to one person and details of the grants made by the Trusts over the past 12 months are listed below:

The causes we have supported through the Charitable Trust:

The Amber Trust
Freddie Farmer Foundation
City of London Endowment Trust for St Paul's Cathedral
The Brunswick Club Trust
St Margaret's Church
Guildhall School Trust
Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy
City of London School for Boys
City of London School for Girls
City of London Freeman's School
City of London Police Widows' & Orphans' Fund
St Paul's Cathedral School
Canterbury Cathedral Trust
Mudchute Association
Keepout
St Luke's Parochial Trust
Lennox Children's Cancer Fund
Kids N' Action
DreamArts
Child Autism UK (formerly known as Peach)
RampAge Holiday Project
London Air Ambulance
Tower Hamlets Mission
BounceBack Foundation
London Wheelchair Rugby Club

Who to help!

The Trustees of the Charitable and Craft Trusts meet annually to review the increasing number of requests for help that arrive during the course of the year.

The total value of grants made by the Trusts is based on donations received from liverymen together with interest on bank accounts and dividend income from the Company's stocks and shares.

CHARITABLE TRUST

The Charitable Trustees agreed some time ago that three yearly donations of £500 per annum should be paid, thus spreading the assistance.

In addition to some 15 City based organisations that receive regular grants from the Company and are listed earlier in the feature, the Trustees try to split grants between City related, medical, youth, community and general charities. In June 2015, the Charitable Trust had to choose just four charities to assist from 33 equally deserving organisations.

The Trustees, with agreement from the Court, agreed that new grants should be paid to five charities: London Air Ambulance, Tower Hamlets Mission, Bounce Back Foundation, London Wheelchair Rugby Club and Canterbury Cathedral Trust.

Here follows a summary of the applications received from the successful charities:

Canterbury Cathedral The Canterbury Journey is a broad programme to protect the cathedral's iconic fabric and open up new opportunities for learning through its hidden collections, objects and treasures. The cathedral's over-arching aim is to improve the experience for anyone who makes their own Canterbury Journey – whether in person or online and regardless of age, background or motivation. This programme will see the cathedral embark on its own journey of physical transformation through heritage conservation works, landscaping, improved access and a new Welcome Centre with a dedicated community space.

Together, these projects will encourage visitors to explore the stories of the cathedral and provide the resources for people to orientate themselves and plan their own meaningful journey.



Alongside these new initiatives, the Canterbury Journey will also see a renewed investment in extending the cathedral's current offer to local schools and other community groups, as well as continuing to provide first-rate trade and craft apprenticeships.

Bounce Back Foundation Bounce Back has built up experience working within prisons and in the community throughout London and the Home Counties since 2010. It provides holistic support, training and employment to prisoners and adult ex-offenders over the age of 18 who are at the crucial transition point of reintegration into the community after a custodial sentence.



To achieve its aims, it provides bespoke vocational training, mentoring and other holistic support on the skill shortage area of painting and decorating both within prison and in the community. To date Bounce Back have supported over 350 participants with over 65% progressing into employment.



Tower Hamlets Mission Tower Hamlets Mission is a registered Christian charity which serves the homeless who are chronically addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. The charity does this through three projects, Charis Primary Programme, Second State and the Terrace. Their aim is to break the cycle of chronic addiction definitely and to rebuild purposeful, stable lives through the provision of high quality medium to long term comprehensive residential therapy and rehabilitation.

The service is open to all immaterial of their ethnic origin, background or religion. Many of those coming to Tower Hamlets Mission are ex-offenders and some are ex-servicemen. Most have lost touch with their families and are encouraged to restore the family link.

London Wheelchair Rugby Club People with disabilities face many daily challenges. Spinal injury or limb loss means having to learn new ways to cope with the most menial of tasks.



“Rehabilitation through sport brings huge benefits, not just physically but psychologically too.”

Not only is sport a great way to get fit and be part of a team, it is also a great confidence booster which in turn helps to overcome the many daily life challenges they continually come up against.



London Air Ambulance London’s air ambulance is the world leader in pre-hospital care. It treats more victims of critical injury than any other air ambulance service in the world. Their pioneering Standard Operating Procedures are adopted by other pre-hospital care providers, enabling them to develop their skills and expertise.



The London Air Ambulance write to say:

“I am pleased to announce to the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers that our second emergency medical helicopter is now operational for London. The G-LNDN registered MD902 Explorer is available to deliver the London’s Air Ambulance advanced trauma team to critically injured patients, and is here just in time to cover for our current helicopter (G-EHMS) which has gone offline for its annual maintenance.”

A student from DreamArts says:

“Just to let you know that our Dream Arts Gala was a huge success. I gained skills in the technical side of singing. Performing on a West End stage made me feel amazing.”



HOW YOU CAN HELP THE TRUSTS

It’s really quite simple!

You can complete a gift aided Standing Order Form for the Charitable Trust, Craft Trust or Relief in Need Charity, all available on request from the Hon Secretary.

Even a minimal donation of £120 per annum will go a long way to help increase the funds that the Trustees can grant to the increasing number of requests for help and by agreeing to Gift Aid your donation it can be increased by 20%.

Lesley Day, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Trusts and Charity, would be delighted to assist any Freeman or Liverymen who would like to make a donation to the Trusts and Charity.

Contact Lesley via: charities@tylersandbricklayers.co.uk

CRAFT TRUST

The causes we have supported through the Craft Trust:

Ironbridge Museum Trust

The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment

CRASH

Construction Youth Trust

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

Save Britain's Heritage

Winners of Skillbuild Competition

Winners & Participants of the World Skills Competitions

Corps of Royal Engineers – Craft Awards

Whilst the Craft Trustees do not have quite so many charities to consider, nevertheless, it is important that they provide grants to deserving organisations. The Trustees and Court agreed that grants should be paid to Save Britain's Heritage and the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. Here follows just part of their submissions for assistance.

Save Britain's Heritage

Castle House, Bridgwater was built by John Board in 1851, a successful local builder and manufacturer of bricks, tiles and 'modern' cements. Castle House was purchased by the Trust in 2002 after the threat of demolition had encouraged English Heritage to upgrade the building from Grade II to Grade II*.

Save have performed initial assessments and the first stage of emergency repairs. This includes work on high level masonry and structural support. The next phase in the development of this project is low level stabilisation, and work to the masonry and decorative concrete.

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum was founded by Dr Roy Armstrong in the mid-1960s and has grown to become one of the most important collections of vernacular buildings in Europe. Located within West Dean Park at the heart of the South Downs in West Sussex, it is open to the public throughout the year. It is one of the region's top visitor attractions, receiving around 140,000 visitors annually.

The museum brings together a collection of 50 original historic vernacular buildings from across the South East of England. The buildings, which have been rescued from their original settings, tell the story of rural living in the region over 700 years.

The national significance of the museum's collection is recognised through its designated status. It has received many awards in recognition of its heritage and its work, and achieved the prestigious Grand Prix award from Europa Nostra in 2011 in recognition of its exemplary training centre for historic building conservation.

Within the collection the museum has many brick and tile-roofed exhibit buildings. Within the building collection, the Brick Drying Shed built in 1733 came from the Causeway Brickworks in Petersfield. This area is used, as often as the museum is able, to demonstrate the art of hand-made brick making for their visitors.

THANK YOU!

Here are some more of the thanks the Company has received for its financial support:

"I would be grateful if you would pass on my sincere thanks to all at the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers for their continued generous support of the Guildhall School and our students." *Guildhall School of Music and Drama*

"Thanks to your generosity CRASH is able to continue to respond to the increasing requests for help it receives from homeless projects throughout the UK. The money you raised will be channelled into improving hostels, night shelters and move on accommodation. These facilities offer homeless men and women a safe, secure place to rebuild their lives and integrate back into society." *CRASH*

"The Trust works with young people to inspire them about careers in the built environment through our two programmes Budding Brunels and Budding Builders. Budding Builders aims to support young people on their journey to work in these trades and Budding Brunels provides guidance to students at school about the professions in the sector." *Construction Youth Trust*

"Your support is much appreciated and will go directly towards helping us achieve our twin charitable aims of education and conservation." *Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust*

"Thank you for putting your kind donation towards the purchasing of the handmade chestnut shingles being made by our local craftsman Ben Law for our Gateway Project." *Weald and Downland Open Air Museum*

"Thank you for the maths prize you kindly gave me. I really appreciate the encouragement to keep fighting the battle and not give up with the (maths) challenges, even when I see no way out." *Student, City of London School for Girls*

"This money will be used to provide respite breaks for families in desperate need of some time away from doctors, hospitals and treatment." *Lennox Children's Cancer Fund*

"Your grant will make a difference. On average it costs just £100 to provide a KeepOut intervention for a young person." *KeepOut. The Crime Diversion Scheme*

"Donations such as yours are a great encouragement to us as we strive to support the clergy in times of financial distress and hardship. It is wonderful to note that a charity founded in the City of London by members of the Livery is still so actively supported by the twenty-first century Livery." *Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy*

"Your donation is much appreciated. It helps the London Wheelchair Rugby Club provide all the necessary equipment, training and vital tournament fees for the amazing men and women taking part in this fantastic sport." *London Wheelchair Rugby Club*



BLOWING OUR OWN TRUMPET!

The T&B 600th Anniversary Concert

On Monday 18 April 2016, the Tylers & Bricklayers hosted a concert at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in the City to mark the 600th anniversary of the first recorded Master of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers in 1416.

The evening started with a champagne reception in the foyer outside the magnificent Milton Court auditorium, opened in 2013.

The Master welcomed the masters, wives and consorts of more than fifty other livery companies who joined us for the celebration. After a short speech of welcome from the Master, the Aldermanic Sheriff, Charles Bowman, resplendent in white tie, replied on behalf of the guests, congratulating the Company on its significant anniversary.



The concert was given by students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and comprised four elements: a brass quintet, a solo violin, solo piano and a soprano and tenor, singing both solo arias and duets.



The concert started appropriately with a fanfare by James Maynard performed by the brass quintet, followed by lyrical pieces by Dvorak and Bach.

Two performers stood out: Katie Smith on trumpet for her superb control and assured playing and the aptly named Matthew Horn, playing the French Horn.



The second performer above was Katya Poplyansky on violin, accompanied by Melanie Jones. Ms Poplyansky played a piece by Saint-Saens with brilliant virtuosity, her eyes closed throughout, the spotlight falling on her fingers as they moved across the strings of the violin. She is surely a star of the future.



The dramatic piano playing of Sophia Dee showed a clear contrast to the melodic violin. A moment of calm was followed by a performance of astonishing panache and energy. The second piece - *Prelude Feux d'artifice* by Debussy - showed all the technical fireworks of the title, with the performer's hands flying over the keyboard at such speed that it seemed possible that a third hand might be at play, and ending with a flourish.

“The acclaim for Ms Dee’s playing was such that she returned to the stage for a curtain call. The final performance featured a number of well known arias and duets from both stage musicals and opera.”

The final performance featured a number of well known arias and duets from both stage musicals and opera.

A performance of *O Sole Mio* by Dominic Felix, a late but more than adequate substitute for the advertised performer who was ill, was greatly enjoyed by the audience who were invited to sing along in the final chorus, as was the Brindisi “drinking song” from *La Traviata*, sung by Mr Felix and Alison Langer.



The concert finished with a duet from *Oklahoma – People will say we’re in love* and loud calls for an encore were smilingly rebuffed.



The standard was uniformly brilliant and the audience was in awe of the technical expertise and musical prowess of the young performers. The evening was rounded off with a drinks reception outside the concert hall with an opportunity to meet our guests and catch up with old friends and colleagues.

Simon Martin

THE COMPANY'S TREASURE

It was early in 2015 that David Szymanski as Renter Warden, and I first unlocked a rather unprepossessing steel cupboard in the vaults of Carpenters' Hall to have a look at the Company silver and other artefacts. I had mentioned to the Master at the time, Roger Westbrook, that I had an interest in silver and he suggested that I may like to look at the Company silver, properly assess it and, where necessary, have it revalued.

This was the start of an adventure which two years later has led to an exhibition of treasures (the first since 1999) and some surprising discoveries along the way.

Most of the Company's silver is from the 19th or 20th century, with the exception of two or three pieces. But this was not always the case. Records show that in 1642 there was a quantity of silver and silver-gilt plate, including rare Stuart pieces, and others of even earlier dates. In June 1642, however, the livery companies of London were assembled at the Guildhall by the Lords and Commons loyal to Charles I to ask for a loan of £100,000. This was to help fund the Civil War and so, sadly, all our early silver was sold for a little over £170 and the money surrendered to the Crown.

Of the early silver remaining, there is a beautiful pudding trowel (below) made by William Plummer in 1770. It was the gift of Henry Wallis, the then-Master, along with Henry Holland, a celebrated architect, and John Watkins. One would like to think of this being used at livery dinners in the 18th century.



William Plummer Pudding Trowel

Much of the 19th and 20th-century silver was given by three families: the Birds, the Riders and the Fullers. This includes a cigar box presented by Colonel Charles Bird and inset with the South Africa War medal with bars, the medal having been given to the Company by Edward VII. Other notable Bird silver includes two finely decorated loving cups in silver-gilt. There is another loving cup presented by the Birds to mark Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee and this exceptionally fine rosewater dish and ewer given by the Reverend George Shephard Bird in 1904.



Rosewater Dish and Ewer

Other precious possessions are the silver-gilt cigar box given by Francis Rider and originally belonging to his grandparents, as well as the loving cup given by Master Thomas Francis Rider in 1907. The latter built the nave of Southwark Cathedral, which the Company had the pleasure of visiting in 2015.



Thomas Francis Rider Loving Cup

Two beautiful George III goblets by William Abdy were given by Edward William Jack Fuller and Robert Henry Fuller, both past masters. There is also the lovely Father's Cup presented by Henry Mansfield (Father of the Company) in 1934. The cup was made in 1754 by William Shaw and William Priest and bears the arms of Penistone Powney, MP for Old Windsor.



The shining example above is the loving cup commemorating Edward VII's coronation made by the renowned silversmiths Barnard of London. It was presented by Master Ellis Marsland and the Upper and Renter Wardens, George Brown and Alfred Stonor.

Amongst the modern silver are two rosewater dishes given by members of the Bird and Fuller families and made by Keith Redfern.

There is also a modern loving cup (the Montgomery Cup) given by Molly Montgomery in 1981 and made by Brian Leslie Fuller. Along with hallmarks, this cup has Fuller's personal mark of a dormouse underneath the foot rim. All the loving cups are still regularly used at the Master's Banquet in May.

Two of the most valuable and earliest items are the mace heads used by the Beadle on all ceremonial occasions. The earlier is dated 1660 and was presented in that year to the Company by Master Peter Mills, who was a surveyor of the City of London after the Great Fire. The larger mace head was made in 1705-06 from Britannia-standard silver. The mace heads serve as a link between the Company's history and the present day.

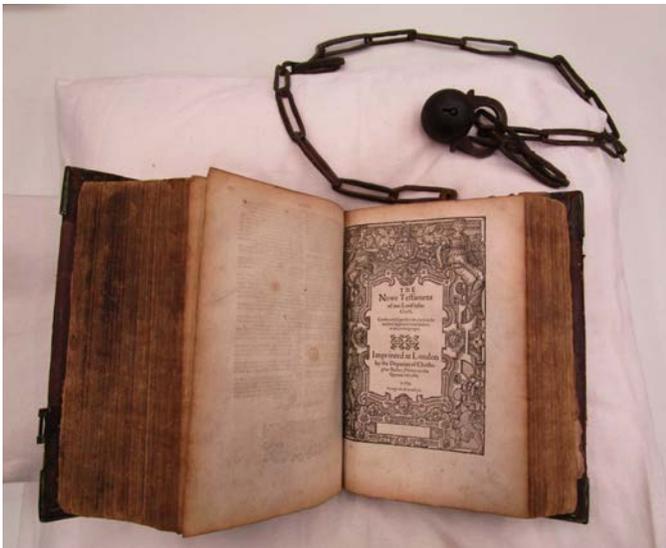
THE COMPANY'S TREASURE (cont)

Treasures other than silver include the Lambeth Delftware punchbowl below dated 1722 and carrying the Company arms along with the letter "P". This suggests that the bowl may have been a gift to Joseph Pratt, Master in 1721-22, from the Company or vice versa. There is also an 18-century silver-banded tankard in salt-glaze stoneware, again dated 1722 and bearing the Company arms.



Lambeth Delftware Punchbowl

Amongst treasures not at Carpenters' Hall are documents from the 16th and 17th centuries, now curated for us by, and stored at, the Guildhall Library.



Chained Breeches Bible

The most interesting of these is the 1589 bible which carries a chain and padlock and is now the only chained book at the Guildhall Library. It was probably used by the Company to swear oaths on and may have come from a Guild church in the City.

Whilst its official title is the Geneva Bible, it is widely known as the "Breeches" Bible from the translation in Genesis Chapter III Verse 7 which states that once Adam and Eve discovered their nakedness, they sewed together fig leaves to make themselves "breeches".

Other early documents include the oath and ordinances book of 1570 and volumes of clerks' records from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Of the apprentice books, one shows Ben Jonson being made a freeman of the Company in 1594 and being given wine and sugar as an eminent freeman in 1611 at the cost of 10 shillings and 8 pence.

As we celebrate the 600th anniversary of our first master this year and the 450th anniversary of the granting of our first charter in 2018, it is fascinating to look at our archives and treasures, musing on what they could tell us if they could speak. No doubt, it would be a tale of good eating and drinking, good fellowship in our company and good works done in its name. In the 21st century, these good works continue and we still toast our company with words that ring as true now as they always have: "May it flourish, root and branch forever".



A volunteer cleaning team prepares the silverware for the 600th Anniversary Display and Banquet

David Allen

THE ANNUAL GUEST BANQUET

The exhibition of Treasure took place before the Annual Guest Banquet, held in Carpenters' Hall on Thursday 12 May. This was preceded by a truly wonderful and memorable display of the company's treasures as part of the company's 600th Anniversary celebrations. The exhibition was followed by a champagne reception and sumptuous five course banquet, with superb music and entertainment provided by the Middlesex and North West London Army Cadet Force Corps of Drums, much to the delight of the Company and guests.

The Company was honoured to be joined by Principal Guest, the Very Rev Andrew Nunn, the Dean of Southwark, who made a very entertaining and thought provoking after dinner speech. Other special guests included Dr Peter Ross, Principal Librarian at the Guildhall Library, Mr Howard Doble, Head Archivist at the Metropolitan Archives, and Mr Peter Cameron of the Goldsmiths' Company, who gave their time generously in assisting with the wonderful exhibition. We were also joined by Second Lieutenants Anthony Butler and Christopher Hayes of the Royal Engineers and Mrs Pauline Halliday OBE, the first female non-aldermanic Sheriff of the City of London. All in all the Annual Guest Banquet and Exhibition of Company Treasures proved to be a truly wonderful event in the Company's calendar and must rank as one of the highlights of the Master's Year.

A CURSE, A BLESSING AND A CURSE

What does the legendary BBC weather presenter Michael Fish have in common with former Lord Mayor Sir Thomas Bloodworth? Both men made the wrong call. Fish noted on TV that the woman who had phoned the BBC to say she had heard that a hurricane was headed towards the southern areas of the UK in October 1987, there was nothing in the story. Sir Thomas, perhaps because he had been roused from his slumbers early on a Sunday morning, dropped an even greater clanger.

Sunday 2 September 1666 was not a good day for Londoners, for the King's Baker Thomas Farriner nor for Sir Thomas Bloodworth. This was the day on which the Great Fire of London started in Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane; over the next three days some 75% of the City would be laid waste with 15 of the 26 wards of the City being totally destroyed. 13,200 houses, 87 (out of 109) parish churches, the great medieval Gothic cathedral of St Paul's, the Royal Exchange, Guildhall and 52 out of 60 livery halls were lost to the City. All this in just three days.

Surprisingly there were few recorded fatalities, though the fire was of sufficient ferocity to effectively incinerate those unfortunate enough to be trapped in buildings. What is certain is that a great many more people died later as the result of rebuilding works. Health and Safety was not even a figment of consideration in the mind of King James.

Sir Thomas Bloodworth was a man who had much going for him - a Past Master of the Vintners' Company, a successful turkey merchant, a dealer in timber and for many years Member of Parliament for Southwark. When woken on the morning the conflagration started and dragged out to inspect the fire, fanned as it was by one of those once in a generation high winds, he gave his opinion in the immortal words *'it does not look serious - a woman might piss it out'*.

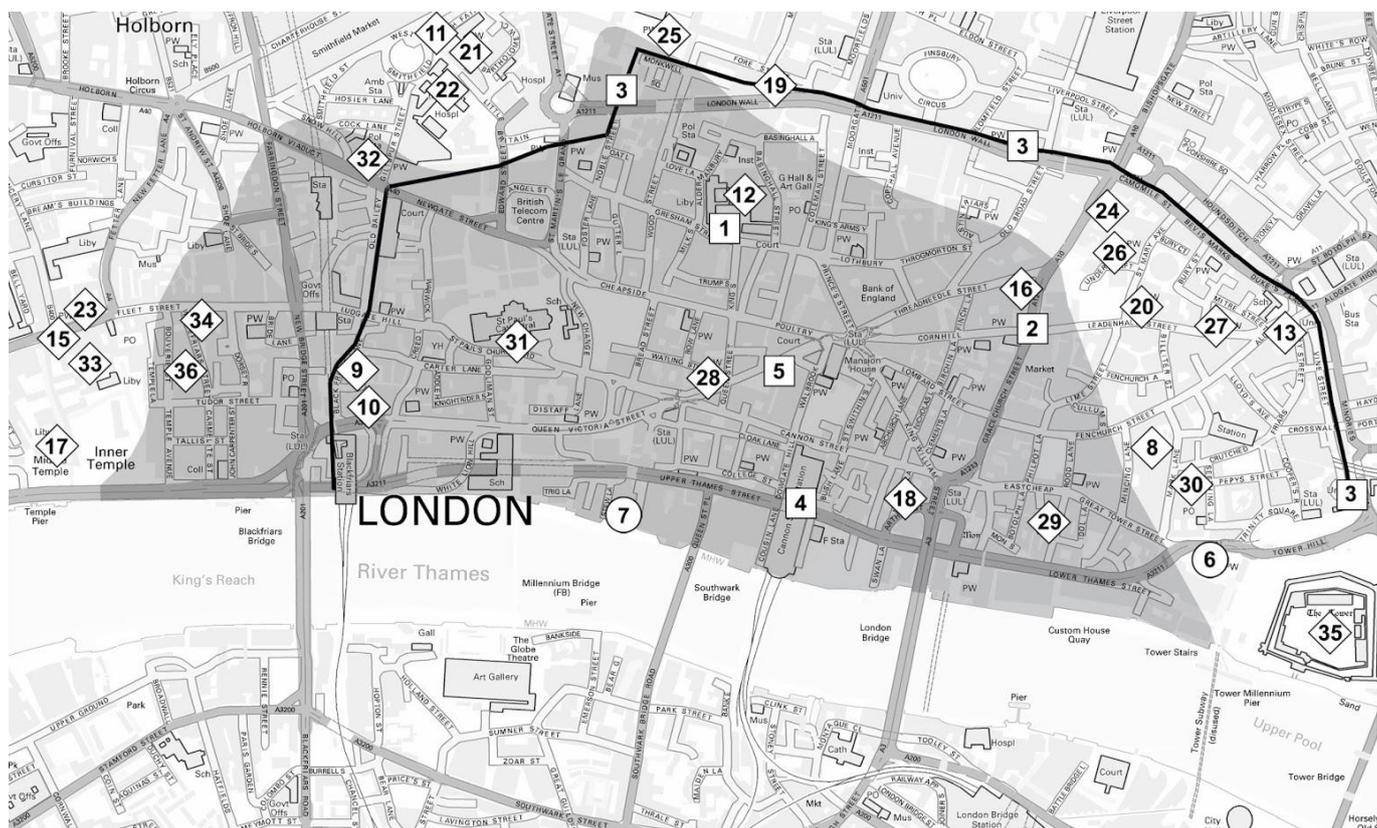
As the fire progressed he was asked to authorise the destruction of a number of houses to create fire breaks. He refused to give the order because he was concerned that he would attract criticism from Aldermen and from livery companies and, worse still, he might have to pay compensation. It is hardly surprising that there is no Bloodworth street, park or memorial in the City.

The citizens of London were coincidentally under threat of a Dutch invasion until the same high winds largely destroyed their fleet and the opposing British fleet. This led them to suspect treachery from across the Channel and that the Dutch and their French allies had fire-bombed the City. More lives were lost to the lynch mobs in the following days.

In many ways the fire was a blessing for Tylers and Bricklayers. The livery hall was one of the eight to survive the fire which meant that over the following years they were able to take paying bookings from other companies and, indeed, gave temporary accommodation to the Coopers, Feltmakers and Gunmakers. The revenue generated allowed for a substantial upgrade of the hall in the 1670's.

Individual liverymen of the Company also did well finding lucrative employment and the chance to demonstrate their skills on the rebuilding works and took advantage of the opportunity offered by the Court of Aldermen to increase the number of apprentices a Master might enrol. Fortunes were made by both bricklayers and brick makers; many new clay pits were allowed to be opened up and, while some bricklayers incurred the wrath of their brethren and the City Fathers for overcharging for the work or making deficient bricks, the Company's stocks were high. (continued)

The extent of the fire (which started from the point marked No 29) is shown by the shaded area on the map below.



A CURSE, A BLESSING AND A CURSE (continued)

There was very much a downside to all this. It soon became apparent that the Company's members and apprentices were not sufficient to meet the demand. The shortage could only be filled by builders from the country. Members of the Court of Assistants (along with their opposite numbers in other construction related companies) grumbled about 'the indulgence of the Act of Parliament' which allowed 'foreign' bricklayers (often from the Home Counties) to work on building sites in the City, claiming that these imposters 'ingrosse into their hands a greater parte of the work'. The complaints and petitions availed them not a whit; the Court of Aldermen wanted, above all, to see the City rebuilt. The loss of the exclusive right enjoyed by Tylers and Bricklayers to carry out brickwork within the area around the City was lost for good – the monopoly was broken and the good times were never to be recovered.

While there is evidence that the Company was more or less forced to admit a selection of bricklayers to the Freedom of the Company by Redemption, it is known that the Court extracted a little revenge when some of these 'foreigners' were summoned before the Court of Assistants to be disciplined for failing to meet the standards set by their peers.

The pace of rebuilding was slowed by a Royal Proclamation dated 18 September that prohibited work being carried out until there were new regulations in place. The resulting document published in February the following year (The Re-Building Act) noted 'No man whatsoever shall presume to erect any house or building great or small but of brick or stone'. A mere 800 buildings were rebuilt by the end of 1667; the figure reached 15,000 by 1688. The question of compensation was a tricky one. Little funding was made available by the Crown or the City and there was no such thing as Lloyds of London. Those lucky enough to receive some help with re-building costs were given precious little. Surveys need to be carried out so that building plots could be carefully identified. Much of the funding for the public buildings came from the Coal Tax which had been levied since medieval time on coal being brought into the City. The re-building of the churches was separately funded to demonstrate the importance of getting the spiritual side of the City back on track as soon as possible.

A number of T&B liverymen rose to the occasion. Many of them are recorded in the archives of the churches (including St Paul's Cathedral), the livery halls and public buildings they helped rebuild, and in some cases, designed. Few left such a mark as Peter Mills (Master of the Company in 1649-50 and again in 1659-60) who was appointed by the Corporation to work alongside such luminaries as Sir Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke as they laid out the City streets and housing blocks in preparation of the rebuilding. He was one of the great personalities in a very important construction industry of the times.

Other Past Masters - and there are rather too many to name - also left their mark as builders and brick makers. This latter group acquired something of a bad reputation at various stages. Towards the end of the rebuilding period Sir Christopher Wren noted that bricks, many of which had been badly mixed and hastily burnt so that they could hardly bear weight, had finally given way to a more consistent and hard wearing product of good quality. These were to become known as London Stocks and it was such bricks that formed the basis of the development of London over the next couple of centuries.

Deputy Master David Cole-Adams

THE TYLERS & BRICKLAYERS GOLF DAY 2015

INCORPORATING 'THE PAUL HARRIS TROPHY' AND THE '3 CLERKS TROPHY'

VERULAM GOLF CLUB

1 September 2015

It was with a great sense of eager anticipation that I set out on the morning of the 1 September 2015 to do battle with the M25 on way to St Albans and specifically Verulam Golf Club; the home of the Ryder Cup!

We have had our fair share of very wet golf days and to my great relief, the weather forecast had promised a mainly dry, sunny and warm day. Imagine my feelings when as I approached the course the heavens opened; it was raining so heavily that any attempt to get to the club house from the car park would have resulted in an absolute drenching. So I sat in the car for over 30 minutes until finally the effects of two mugs of tea some hours earlier, combined with the incessant pounding of rainwater on the windscreen, began to cause a pressure of nature that necessitated a damp car park dash.

Sadly the promise of 24 golfers rapidly dwindled and meant a reorganisation of groupings in the clubhouse; this was made easier to digest when accompanied by the superb bacon rolls, fresh coffee and the banter of old friends.

Happily the weather was to vastly improve in time for the fun on the 1st tee and so we set off in three balls made up from combinations from the various companies represented. The '3 Clerks Trophy' was to be competed for by teams from the Masons, the Makers of Playing Cards, the Constructors and our own Tylers and Bricklayers livery companies.

The 3 Clerks Trophy had been previously played for on nine occasions; with the Constructors' Company being victorious no less than seven times with the remaining two going to the T's and B's. So being the 10th anniversary of this illustrious competition I was hoping that one of the other Companies might prevail; and it very nearly happened!

The golf course was, as ever, in excellent condition and the greens were a dream to putt on; meaning we had no excuses for bad scoring; and the Masons came in with a very good total which I believe is their best showing to date. Imagine the surprise when the Constructors, for them at least, had a very average score. The Makers of Playing Cards did well.....but not well enough; the Tylers and Bricklayers topped the best score by three points becoming the now three times' winners and current holders of the Trophy.

It was a great pleasure to welcome the 2015 Master, Mr Roger Westbrook, as guest of honour to the dinner and he made the observation that all those present were obviously enjoying the occasion; the Master duly presented the trophies and prizes to the winners and it was with great pleasure that last year's winner of the Paul Harris Trophy, the now Upper Warden David Szymanski relinquished the Trophy to Liveryman Barry Blumsom....whose eager anticipation, was, after all, justified.

All are welcome to play golf; and if you are unsure or require further information please contact Barry Blumsom at blb406c@gmail.com or telephone 07875 391212

Barry Blumsom

CRAFT COMMITTEE ANNUAL AWARDS MADE AT TRINITY HOUSE



The Master, Wardens, Court and Company were delighted to welcome Dr Christine Rigden, Sheriff of the City of London and a liveryman of the Tylers and Bricklayers, to present the 2016 Craft Awards at Trinity House, London on 7 March 2016.

Trinity House is a beautifully presented hall dating from 1794 with unusually high natural light in every room, a feature not normally associated with many City livery halls. Trinity House is the HQ of the Corporation of Trinity House, a unique maritime body dedicated to the safety of shipping and seafarers and its history can be traced back to the reign of Henry VIII. The Corporation is still responsible for the management of lighthouses and other navigational aids throughout the coastline of the United Kingdom.

After a champagne reception and a most delightful luncheon with sumptuous wines and madeira for the 108 guests present, the Master brought us to the business of the day. He introduced the principal guest, Sheriff Christine Rigden and paid tribute to her contribution to City life and indeed the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company. In her response Christine mentioned her passion for sailing and the reliance that all sailors had for the outstanding work of Trinity House.



The Master then introduced Jeff Fuller, Renter Warden and Chairman of the Craft Committee to describe the various awards and outline how the various competitions had been held. The Renter Warden explained how the finalists had been chosen and paid tribute to all the people involved in the competitions, both via SkillBuild and with the Royal Engineers.

The E & R Fuller Award for Bricklaying went to Josh Hunter of Hull College and his tutor Andrew Bannister from the college. The winner had completed two panels of brickwork involving an equilateral Gothic arch with pillars and curves and a wall with protruding brickwork in an X and V pattern. All work was executed to an extremely high standard.

The Mason-Elliott Award for Roof Slating and Tiling was awarded to Donal Harkin of the Northern Ireland Roof Training Group. The same award was presented to Donal's elder brother three years ago, an acknowledgement of the quality of training in the family firm of Harkin Roofing Ltd from Londonderry. Again two pieces of work, one in SIGA 39 NaturalSlate with mitred hips and the other with ornate Sandtoft plain tiles adopting a pattern in contrasting coloured tiles to imitate a roof tiler engaged in the craft. This work was also to a very high standard. His trainers were Geoffrey Parkinson and Gordon Penrose, a Company liveryman, working with the NIRTG.

The Montgomery Award for Wall and Floor Tiling was awarded to Kieran Magee of Southern Regional College, Northern Ireland. The two work pieces involved three tasks; marking, setting out, material selection and included elaborate circular and raking cutting to produce two excellent examples of finished work. Kieran's course tutor was Paul Doran.

The Stokes Royal Engineers Awards were awarded to Lance Corporal Charles Brunskill for the Class 1 entry and to Sapper Gareth Barton for the Class 2 entry. Unfortunately, L C Brunskill was not able to attend due to his current posting, but his award was received by his Senior Officer. Yet again both of these awards include setting out, bricklaying and block laying skills, concreting skills in both building and civil engineering. The winners produced work of an exceptionally high standard.

The Royal Engineers Army Cadet Force Award was presented to Sgt Michael Murdoch, Adult Volunteer of the Year. An amazing citation from his Commanding Officer culminated in: *"His dedication and long links to the Corps makes him an ideal candidate for this award"*.

The award for Cadet of the Year went to Cadet Sgt Keiran King. Part of the citation from his Commanding Officer read: *"Sgt King has excelled at the detachment, he has gained 47 medals, which has placed him near the best achiever the detachment has ever seen, with still another 18 months to serve before he leaves. Sgt King not only works hard for the Detachment, he is committed to raising funds for the Army Benevolent Fund, through the unit's association with the ABF. A fine example to his peers of what can be achieved"*

There was then a Special Award for Paul Doran from Southern Region College, Northern Ireland for his work in tutoring three successive finalists for the Montgomery Award for Wall & Floor Tiling. The final awards were for Master Craftsman. They were to Paul Doran for Wall & Floor Tiling and to Danny Marsham our first Master Craftsman Bricklayer in modern times. These awards reflect the recent work of the Craft Committee in resurrecting the Master Craftsman Awards.

Peter G Rogerson OBE

GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY'S HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME REMAINS FAR TOO SLOW

In last year's T&B Newsletter it was reported that there was a shortage of bricks available for house building and general construction works.

These shortages have now been largely addressed. UK brick producers have been able to increase their output, brick imports from Belgium and Holland have increased, and most importantly the major housebuilders have refrained from panic buying and winter stock building. At the current levels of construction output, these issues should not re-occur. Over the next two to three years brick production capacity will increase further as Ibstock's new 90 million plant near Leicester comes on stream, and Forterra's (formerly Hanson) 15 million plant extension at Measham also becomes operational.

Skilled labour shortage

However, other shortages continue to have a significant effect on new housing starts, namely a paucity of skilled tradesmen, primarily bricklayers. The cyclical peaks and troughs of the building industry have never been solved and inevitably any significant upturn in output sucks in all the skilled bricklayers available very quickly. The rebuild of the City of London after the Great Fire comes to mind! Those lost to the UK industry in the recession – many coming from Eastern Europe – are often reluctant to return, and the training of new tradesmen takes considerable time. Some of the slack is again being taken up through the free movement of labour across the EU, with bricklayers coming to the UK from Ireland and newly admitted Eastern European countries. Notwithstanding the tidal shift in labour forces, the overall shortage of skills remains, with the inevitable consequence of significant increases in rates. During the recession, daily rates were as low as £120/day for skilled bricklayers, whereas one currently hears of rates in the South East as high as £250/day. Skilled tradesmen will travel afar with trowel for this level of pay!

Home starts still falling well short of government target

It is estimated that there are currently circa 26 million homes in the UK. House building rates dropped from 200k per annum prior to the recession and have only just recovered slowly to circa 150k per annum. Simple mathematics demonstrate that at these rates each and every home will have to last for 173 years before it could be pulled down and replaced with new. The target for new home building is often quoted as 250k per annum, but even at this enhanced rate of housebuilding each house or flat will still have to last for just over 100 years. In practice, current rates of building are insufficient to meet the annual need for additional homes, let alone any replacement of an ageing stock. In the 60's of course, housebuilding rates were as high as 400k per annum with the development of the London overspill towns. So whilst the industry is now managing to lift housing completions year on year, it will prove increasingly difficult to go further using traditional construction methods. Shortages of both materials and skilled labour will prove a continuing problem and one that will take time and confidence to solve.

Search for solutions

One solution discussed repeatedly for many years is the construction of off-site/modular housing. In other words, factory built houses. The Housing (Temporary Accommodation) Act 1944 in the Second World War led to many factories being quickly turned from war production to producing modular housing, overcoming shortages both in materials and skilled manpower for the scale of reconstruction needed.

An innovative approach was needed to rehouse the thousands rendered homeless in the Blitz. Hundreds of temporary 'prefabs' from that period still remain in occupation in our major cities.

Modular construction methods were also employed on many post war high rise housing developments, albeit with varying degrees of success. It led to quicker and cheaper construction requiring fewer skilled labourers and scaffolding on site, and was less dependent on favourable weather.

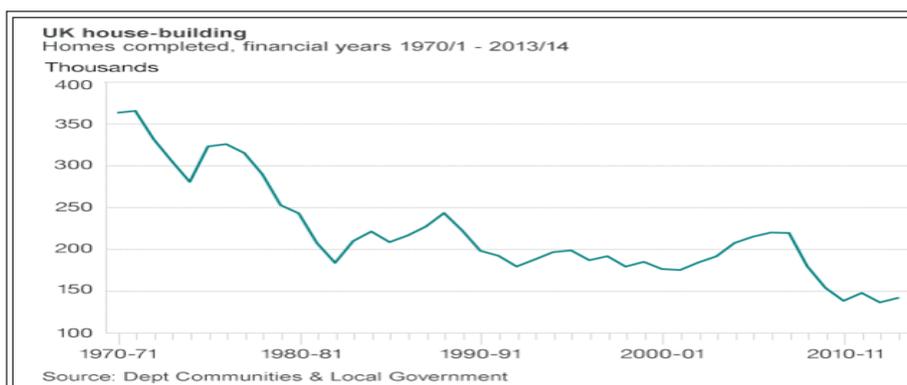
With use of modern composite materials and improved insulation systems the finished product today can reflect a much higher final build quality and longevity.

Concrete panels, or timber frame and cladding, are particularly suitable in providing this alternative approach to construction. However, in not using traditional 'brick and block' methods the modular type of housing remains principally 'lightweight'. And whilst off-site methods of house construction are popular in some countries, Japan for example, they have so far failed to gain serious traction in the UK, often viewed here only fit to provide temporary housing. Timber internal frame with external brick/block cladding is common place in Scotland, and is being seen on some sites in England, but the largest percentage (80%) of UK housing continues to be built using traditional materials and 'heavy/manual' construction methods.

A conservative industry

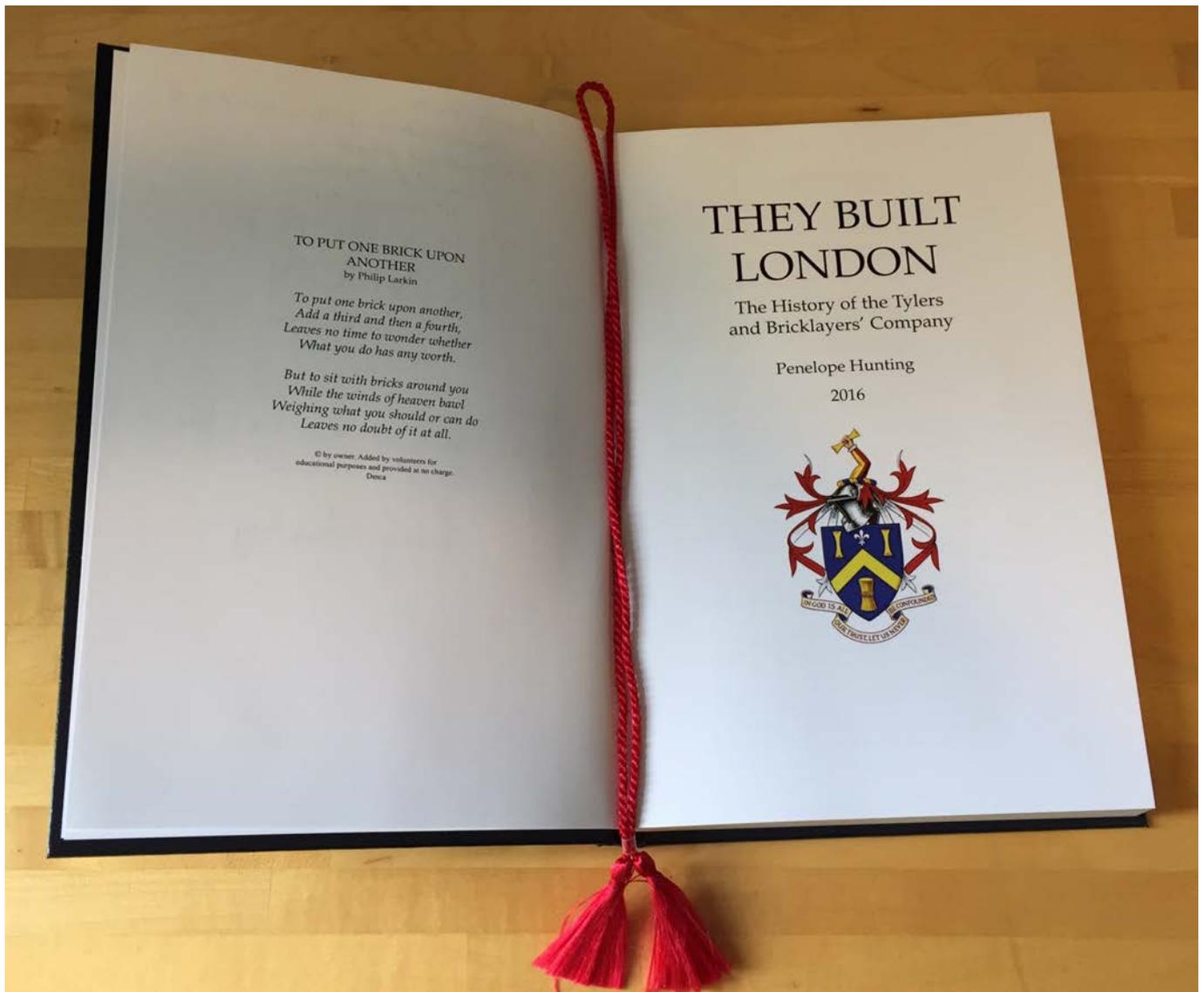
It is difficult to ascertain why this laboured approach to home construction has not been superseded with complex modern technology and robotics adopted in so many other industries.

There is however one aspect of British culture that is significantly different to other countries, even our European brothers and sisters. Housing in the UK has a double benefit. It provides comfort, warmth and shelter, but in the private sector, which is significant in size, it continues to provide a growth in wealth. A freehold house contributes to your pension and your children's inheritance through property value inflation. Consequently, except for individual "Grand Design" projects innovative methods of home construction are often viewed with disdain and without longevity, inferior to investment in solid 'bricks and mortar' that we still seem to prefer. Regardless of all the government initiatives over the years to change this perception, it is difficult to see this preference changing in the foreseeable future. A housing conundrum that has to be solved, but solutions are currently in short supply!!



David Szymanski

READ ALL ABOUT IT.....



The long awaited History of the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company entitled *They Built London* has been launched to mark the 600th Anniversary of the Company's first Master. This handsome volume, which runs to some 270 pages and contains over 100 illustrations, is available to purchase from the Clerk for the price of £50.00. All you could hope to know about the Company from its origins (and that of brickwork in the UK), through the formation of the guild and company, its development, trials and tribulations over centuries and its place in the modern world and the City is here.

Here to be found are the stories (not always completely flattering) of those who literally did build London (particularly after the Great Fire), of liverymen who served as Lord Mayor, of noteworthy architects, city planners and builders who contributed to the built environment of the City and Greater London and of the occasional liveryman who distinguished themselves in other fields such as the members of the Fortnum family who went on to found their own dynasties and the playwright and general wild-child Ben Jonson. Then there were those who relocated to Northern Ireland and played a major role in building Londonderry as part of the Irish Plantation some 400 years ago. There is much City and national history covered in Penny Hunting's wonderfully researched book.

Many of those who get involved in the City and who hear of the wealth of many of the older companies might well ask where the Tylers and Bricklayers went wrong. The worth of most of the wealthy companies is based on the successful management of property portfolios containing pieces of real estate which came into their ownership over the centuries. Our holdings at the end of the 19th century should have seen us into a strong position in the following years but they were largely dissipated.

One of the great fascinations of the book for me was to read about the unravelling of the portfolio and the disappointing fact that the proceeds of the sales failed to be of real benefit to future generations. While the Girdlers' Company clung onto the strawberry fields (a substantial part of modern day Hammersmith) that were bequeathed to them and have flourished as a result, we have little to show for property ownership.

I commend this splendid book to all those who have an interest not just in the Company but also in the City and the social history at various periods of London. Buy early to avoid disappointment.

David Cole-Adams

TRIENNIAL AWARDS

The Company's Triennial Awards are due to be presented by the Lord Mayor at Grocers' Hall on 6 July 2017 subject to the Mayoral diary and the Craft Committee are now actively seeking nominations for schemes worthy of these prestigious awards.

The Triennial Awards recognise excellence in the Company's three crafts of Roof Slating and Tiling, Wall and Floor Tiling, and Bricklaying. Any scheme within the M25 which exhibits a high standard of workmanship in any or all of the crafts, can be considered and nomination forms are available on the craft section of the website or can be obtained from the chairman of the Craft Committee. Nominations must be received by 31 January 2017 to allow adequate time for the selection and judging process.



Examples of submissions of good design and craftsmanship entered for judging in previous Triennial Awards

It is hoped that the coming awards will include a photographic record of past winners and Liveryman Natasha Nicholson is presently collating this, discovering a number of schemes for which there are no photographic records. If readers have photographic or other images of the schemes listed below please could they forward them to the chairman of the Craft Committee.

Jeff Fuller

Chairman, Craft Committee
jeffdfuller@hotmail.com

THE COMPANY ALMONER

Historically an almoner was a chaplain or church officer who was originally in charge of distributing money to the deserving poor; move on a few years and term also applied to a trained hospital or social worker responsible for the welfare of patients.

Today, of course, the distribution of charitable funds in livery companies is substantial and far reaching and is often overseen by Charitable Committees and Fund Trustees. Therefore the role of being Almoner for a livery company such as Tylers and Bricklayers has become largely a position concerning welfare and communication with our members.

When I became Clerk to the Company in 2002 I would attend those early meetings of the Court of Assistants with some trepidation; for a rookie there was so much to learn and of course this experience could only come with time; so one of the most pleasant interludes of the meeting was when a certain Past Master by the name of Denis Munnery gave his 'Almoner's Report' from a tatty scrap of folded paper.

Denis, of course, had so much personal knowledge of the Company and especially of its more senior members that he simply kept in touch and reported on their well-being or lack of it. This was always delivered with some humour and we all have so much for which to thank Denis. Sadly Denis died but fortunately Past Master Peter Fuller stepped into the breach and did great job for several years.

I retired from being Clerk during 2010 and it was in 2012 that I accepted the role of Almoner to the Company; the role had no real 'Job Description' in those days and so it evolved pretty quickly by just picking up the phone and contacting the Livery. I remember making my early calls to some of our more senior members with a feeling of wondering how they would be received or indeed whether they would be welcomed; I should not have worried because there was an instant understanding in what I was attempting to achieve.

I subsequently circulated a letter to our senior members asking what they required from me and if they minded being contacted. My aim really was an attempt to make people continue to feel part of the Company in some small way; especially those that had lost loved ones and I was delighted that a short while ago we finally adopted the procedure of recognising and embracing 'Companions' of the Company.

Of course whenever bad news such as illness or bereavement is received contact is made with the families, often by sending a sympathy card and the provision of flowers where appropriate. Whenever possible, the Almoner would attend the funeral of a Company member; and in some cases represent the Company by doing so.

We now have a register of 'birth dates' from which 'special' birthdays such as an 80th, 85th, 90th or 95th are recognised by the sending of a greetings card from the Company; and in one particular case on the 24 April 2014 our own Ian Picken qualified for his card by happily reaching his 100th year.

The Almoner continues to report to the Court and at this year's March Court meeting I officially relinquished the role to my successor Liveryman Sarah Stroud.



"I am delighted that Sarah agreed to take on the responsibility. Sarah and her much loved husband, the late Andrew Stroud, a former Upper Warden, are so very well known within the Company; and I cannot think of anyone better to take up the reins. I know that all Tylers and Bricklayers would wish to join me in passing on the most sincere best wishes for her enjoyment in this rewarding position."

Barry Blumsom

THE WINE COMMITTEE - A 'MYSTERY' REVEALED

'Mystery', as referred to in our Company oath, is an ancient word for a trade or handicraft and it is commonplace for livery companies to refer to the 'mysteries' of their crafts. But is there any greater mystery for Tylers and Bricklayers than the work of the Company's Wine Committee?

The committee's role can be summed up as choosing the wines to be served at Company functions. Where appropriate this includes the laying down of wines for future consumption. The committee also advises the Clerk on the cost of the wines to be included in the ticket price of functions.

So how does the committee go about its work? Each summer, usually in June, the committee meets with the Master-Elect to review the programme of events for the following year and to agree a schedule of the wines likely to be required for them. This schedule of requirements will have two components; wines held in the Company's stock of wines, and wines bought in especially for an event.

The Company, through the Wine Committee, regularly buys red Bordeaux wines (claret) to lay down for future drinking. Less often, in recent years, the Company buys parcels of Port for laying down.

The claret is usually bought 'en primeur', that is when it is still in the barrel approximately 6-9 months after the harvest and at a price that excludes duty and VAT.

When the bottled wine is delivered to the UK some 2-3 years after the harvest the duty and VAT become payable. Whether originally bought 'en primeur' or not, the wines bought for laying down are stored until required in the cellars of our wine merchant, Davy's.

At its summer meeting the committee allocates parcels of wines from stocks to be served at events the following year. Typically these are the red wines to be drunk at the Company's principal events: the Installation Lunch, the Livery Dinner following Common Hall, the Annual Guest Banquet, the June Court Lunch and the September Court Lunch or Dinner.

All the other wines to be served at functions are bought in from Davy's on a sale or return basis. At its meeting the committee draws up a list of 'approved' champagne/sparkling, white, red, dessert and fortified wines for the following year. The Master, Clerk and chairman of the committee make the final choice of wines from this list nearer the time of each event and when the food menu has been chosen.

For a company without a hall we are unusual in laying down wines and serving these alongside wines supplied by our merchant as opposed to relying on the 'wine packages' offered by the various hall caterers.



But as recent Masters will attest, the quality of the wines we serve is considerably higher than those served by the majority of companies of our ilk. And, partly based on the wines we serve, our company has a good reputation for its hospitality.

Does this quality come at a cost? No. The ticket prices of our events have to include the cost of the wines. Wines from stock, just like those bought in, are supplied to the event at their 'cost'. This includes the original cost plus any duty and VAT subsequently paid as well as the cost of storage until ready for drinking. Thanks to the careful buying of wines for laying down, and the choice of well-priced wines bought in on a sale or return basis, even allowing for corkage charges we can serve vastly superior wines for the same cost as the caterer's 'package'.

"Each year the Company consumes around 200 bottles of wine from its own stocks and these need replacing."

All this does, of course, require some careful management. In addition to choosing the wines for the following year, the committee at its summer meeting makes decisions about the purchase of new stocks for laying down. Each year the Company consumes around 200 bottles of wine from its own stocks and these need replacing. The drinking dates of the wines held in stock need to be monitored so that these match future requirements. Special future events like that expected during the 2018 celebrations of the 450th Anniversary of the Company's first charter need to be anticipated and planned for.

(Continued)

THE WINE COMMITTEE (cont)

To put this into context the total number of bottles of all types of wines served at our events in our 2014-2015 year was 650 at a total cost of £7,909. Of these 206 bottles came from our stocks of red wine at a cost of £2,810.

“At 29 September 2015 the Company’s stock comprised 1,258 bottles”

But if this explains the work of the committee perhaps the biggest ‘mystery’ of all is how you get to join it! It is true that all its current members, aside from the Clerk, are members of the Court (including five Past Masters) but that is not a requirement.

“Perhaps the biggest ‘mystery’ of all is how you get to join the Wine Committee!”

A pre-requisite, obviously, is knowledge of the type of wines we typically serve. The keeping of a private cellar is a good indication of a person’s interest and knowledge.

Familiarity with the food and wine served at livery company events generally is useful. Inevitably, perhaps, it is easier to recognise those with the necessary level of interest and knowledge amongst senior members of the Company than it is amongst more junior liverymen.

“The keeping of a private cellar is a good indication of a person’s interest and knowledge.”

It is constant surprise at the detailed knowledge of individual colleagues that makes chairing the committee so enjoyable. For all that, though, we rely heavily on one particular member, our Clerk John Brooks, a former chairman of the Champagne Academy whose catering background is extremely valuable, and also on the excellent help and advice of Francis Flavin of Davy’s.

Past Master Philip Parris
Chairman
Wine Committee

DR RIGDEN’S SHRIEVAL CHAIN AND BADGE OF OFFICE

The Armorial Bearings for Dr Christine Rigden were designed by William Hunt, Windsor Herald of Arms and are described as, Azure a Geologist’s Hammer erect head upwards Argent between on either side a Hop Bine palewise surmounted by two Ears of Wheat slipped and leaved in saltire Or enfiling a Circllet of Pearls proper.

The badge and shoulder pieces were designed and made by the London Goldsmith, Grant McDonald. The use of precious stones in the badge reflects Christine’s desire for a jewel.

The main theme of the badge starts with hand chased golden Hops, representing her position as the first female Ale Conner of the City of London and her home county of Kent.

These hops flow down over the top of the badge and around the three shields of Christine’s livery companies: the Constructors, the Masons, and the Tylers and Bricklayers. Other associations and organisations of which she is a member are recorded by engraving on the reverse of the badge.

The central shield of the badge has the Azure Heraldic colour represented by closely set Sapphire stones; the blue from her love of the sea. The symbolic heraldic devices are pinned through the shield in high relief: the silver Geologist’s Hammer from Christine’s profession, and the gold Hops and Wheat, the latter grown on Stephen and Christine’s farm.

The motto engraved below reads “Build and Grow” alluding to her close connection to both construction and farming. Beneath this is attached a diamond set bow with a sapphire and pendant pearl.

The City of London coat of arms and the shoulder pieces have a circular frame of twisted candlewicks representing her City ward. The shoulder pieces are chased Tawny Owl faces; the eyes set with red and green stones are a connection to her passion for sailing.



ONYINYE, OUR CHRIST’S HOSPITAL PRESENTEE VISITS THE OLD BAILEY



In the Autumn of 2015 Onyinye Udokporo had the opportunity to visit the Central Criminal Court for a week’s work experience, providing an insight into the workings of English criminal law at the highest level.

Christ’s Hospital pupils are regularly encouraged to gain work experience whilst at school and Onyinye was able to receive special welcome and hospitality from our own Liveryman His Honour Judge John Bevan.

Onyinye says: “It was absolutely amazing. I was given the opportunity to witness the activity that takes place in a Court and it was very interesting. On my last day, I was invited to a luncheon with all the judges at the Old Bailey. It was scary at first, but they soon made me feel comfortable. My most memorable experience and such a privilege was sitting with the judge on the bench”

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF 'YOUR' SHERIFF



At the time of writing almost three quarters of my year in office has passed. Time has really flown by; to date I have attended over 400 events [including 85 banquets and 80 Old Bailey lunches] and given 21 speeches.

On admission to office at Guildhall on 28 September 2015, I entered a parallel universe centred on the Old Bailey. A world inhabited by footmen and chauffeurs, very unlike my usual life on a farm in East Kent. Immediately following the Admission ceremony is the Sheriffs' Breakfast – by tradition the longest lunch in the City. This was a tremendous occasion, surrounded by many friends, family and City folk at the magnificent Drapers' Hall, from whence we travelled to the Bailey by Shrieval Rolls Royce. Having enjoyed a glass of champagne with family, and before I had chance to settle into my apartment, I was taken aside by the Secondary & Under Sheriff Charles Henty to sign over my powers as Sheriff, such as they were [to issue writs and the like on behalf of the City of London Corporation], to him.

The second big day for the Sheriffs is the Quit Rents & Services Ceremony. Travel included Rolls Royce to Tower Pier, the Corporation's launch "Lady Aileen" to Temple Pier, then by foot to the Royal Courts of Justice.

The Queen's Remembrancer presented the Sheriffs with their Royal Warrant; Her Majesty the Queen's approbation of our election by liverymen of the City of London, a right exercised by liverymen since 1153. The ceremony also includes the quit rents of two pieces of land, 'The Moors' in Shropshire and 'The Forge' in the City parish of St Clement Dane, with both ceremonies dating from the early thirteenth century. The former involves testing a hazel tally stick by bending it over a blunt knife and cutting it with a sharp knife, and the latter by the presentation of six horseshoes and sixty-one associated nails.

The life of a Sheriff is centred on the Central Criminal Court, better known as the Old Bailey. An important part of the role is "taking care of the comfort of Her Majesty's Judges", which takes the form of hosting daily lunches. The rule of English Law is a significant factor for many foreign businesses choosing to locate in London, so inviting guests to attend these lunches provides a fabulous opportunity to showcase the work of the most famous Courts in the world. Three or four times a year the normal rhythm of the Bailey is interrupted to include a formal opening ceremony. The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the City Marshall, Sword Bearer and Sergeant-at-Arms, arrives at the ceremonial entrance on Old Bailey; the only occasions each year when this entrance is used. Led by Officers of the City of London Police he processes with the Sheriffs, the Recorder, and Secondary through Grand Hall to Court No.1. The Lord Mayor sits in the central chair at the bench, the only occasions on which this seat is used, and exercises his right as Chief Magistrate in the City.

The first six weeks of my Shrievalty were spent with the Late Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow, prior to the installation of the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Lord Mountevans. The installation, at the Silent Ceremony in Guildhall, was followed by the Presentation of Addresses to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. I was privileged to receive presentations from the Constructors, Masons, Tylers & Bricklayers, and The Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch).

The Lord Mayor's Show was a spectacular, though damp, day, starting with the River Pageant involving many Livery Company cutters. The rain didn't dampen spirits, which were much improved by the early morning tot of rum aboard HMS President. The Civic Party viewed the outward procession from the balcony at Mansion House before joining our carriages for the Royal Courts of Justice and the formal swearing in of the new Lord Mayor. Returning with the procession to Mansion House we enjoyed lunch with family, friends and supporters. It was certainly a day to remember.



Church services are frequent special occasions throughout the year, and some are particularly memorable. The Agincourt service at Westminster Abbey commemorating the 600th anniversary of the Battle was spectacular, with the Master Cutler holding aloft King Henry V's sword, and a Shakespearean actor presenting the Bard's famous lines whilst striding through the Quire and Nave. 23 December was also memorable on a more personal note as I had the pleasure of reading a lesson at the carol service at St Paul's Cathedral to an audience over two thousand souls – quite an experience!

State visits are renowned for their pageantry. Just three weeks into my year of office, when all was still very new to me, there was a State Visit from the President of China, Xi Jinping. I found myself at Horse Guards Parade as part of the welcoming party. The seniority of the Mayoralty in London ensured that I was fifth in the receiving line to be introduced to Her Majesty who in turn carried out the introductions to the President of China and his lady.

It was quite a surreal experience gazing out across ranks of gleaming guardsmen on a beautiful sunny October morning, thinking “how did I end up here?” The following day the City hosted a State Banquet in the President’s honour. Guildhall looked stunning and was filled to capacity. A truly splendid occasion.

Events involving the armed forces are always special, especially for those of us without a military background. The 75th anniversary of bomb disposal was marked by a service at St Paul’s Cathedral followed by a reception at Guildhall honouring the contribution of bomb disposal experts in the City of London from the Second War to the present day. 101 City of London Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) is the most recent regiment to be granted the privilege status by the City of London, which confers the right to proceed through the City with “drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed”. Although having been conferred with the same honour a few years ago, the Household Cavalry exercised their privilege for the first time in May. Guildhall Yard was witness to a march past of mounted and dismounted contingents of the Household Cavalry, complete with their bands. Colonel of the Blues & Royals, HRH the Princess Royal, and Colonel of the Lifeguards, Field Marshall the Lord Guthrie, took the salute. Truly spectacular on a bright sunny day.



The Sheriffs also attend a whole host of Charity fundraisers and other events supporting good causes across the City. City Giving Day took place two days after my Admission to office. Whilst the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress covered the City, the two Sheriffs headed east to Canary Wharf to visit companies enrolled in the scheme, helping to showcase the extensive activities of City business in charity and community support



This has now become an annual event and provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the tremendous work done throughout the City. The ninth Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch served curry to 1000 people in April. This event in aid of ABF, the Soldiers’ Charity, was attended by HRH Prince Harry who spent much time talking with supporters, particularly beneficiaries – injured servicemen and ex-servicemen and their families. A contingent of Her Majesty’s judges were happy to forego their usual lunch arrangement to enjoy a curry and bring a little of the Bailey to Guildhall.

As Sheriff I am busy organising two fundraising events. The Sheriffs’ Ball in aid of the Lord Mayor’s Appeal; to be held at Guildhall on 23 September, this promises to be a most enjoyable evening of dining, dancing, and fundraising. The second event is in aid of the Sheriffs’ & Recorder’s Fund and will involve the two Sheriffs touring the City on horseback escorted by the Honourable Artillery Company Light Cavalry and mounted officers from the City of London Police.

In our full Shrieval outfits, complete with swords, the procession should be quite a spectacle, not least because I had not ridden before lessons began in April - many photo opportunities are sure to occur! Please support these two extremely worthwhile charities.



An interesting overseas visit to Turkey with the Lord Mayor took place very recently in late May. The role is a busy one, but far too enjoyable to be described as “hard work”. Sincere thanks to the many liverymen who supported my election; I would not be here without you!

Christine Rigden

A CALL TO ARMS!

“The challenge of maintaining and growing our membership...”

Like many similar organisations, the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers faces the challenge of maintaining and growing its membership. At the end of 2015 total membership of the Company stood at 197. This number includes liverymen, honorary liverymen, freemen, honorary freemen, companions of the Company and one apprentice. The total number remains stubbornly consistent as it is proving more and more difficult to recruit new members.

In the last newsletter a page was dedicated to the work of the Communications Committee and its three sub-committees: Website, Membership and Events. The committee was set up as a result of the 2010 strategic review of the Company, in order to develop and coordinate all areas of the Company's internal and external communications

Subsequently, and in order to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness, in September 2015 the Court approved the amalgamation of the three sub-committees under the chairmanship of Court Assistant Simon Martin. Under its terms of reference there is a set of specific responsibilities and objectives for the Communications Committee.

One of those objectives is: *“formulating proposals for increasing the size of the Company's membership within the constrictions/restrictions of the limit set by the Court of Aldermen of the City of London (currently a maximum of 200 liverymen).”*

We are all familiar with the three ways to becoming a liveryman - Patrimony, Servitude and Redemption. For this company, the former two are nowadays increasingly less likely than the latter. Indeed, Simon Martin, in a recent conversation commented *“...The point I made was about the challenge of attracting potential new members. It seems to me that we hardly ever now admit new freemen by patrimony and we struggle to recruit younger members generally. Before the advent of mobile communications, email and social media, joining a livery company was one way of networking with the ‘right’ people. That is no longer the case. So the average age of the members of the Company will increase.”* This is borne out by an age profiling exercise recently undertaken by Court Assistant Dr Michel Saminaden.

This throws into sharp relief the challenge that we face. The results show that there are relatively few members under the age of 40, an active membership between the ages of 45 – 75 years and a significant number (33) in the 75 – 85 years range.

Simon Martin continues *“...I anticipate that we will also find it increasingly hard to recruit men and women who work in the City because we are, of course, just one of 100+ livery companies and we do not have the advantages of some livery companies in terms of prestige, wealth and an ancient hall. Many City professionals now gravitate towards their “trade” livery companies.”*

While the spirit of fellowship, philanthropy and networking, the support for our three crafts and a place in the City of London are not in imminent danger of decline, they may well be at risk if our numbers are not continually replenished and subsequently grown. And as Simon Martin goes on to say: *“...What we do have is a close and active link with our three crafts and it seems to me that we will increasingly recruit men and women with a background in one of the crafts who will join the Company in their late 40s/early 50s, when they have the time and money to enjoy the good fellowship of the Company. This is not necessarily a bad thing but the Court will no doubt debate at some point whether we have moved too far from the traditional 1/3rds and whether this matters.”**

This company has the capacity for around fifty more liverymen before reaching the limit mentioned above. The challenge then is how to set about the task of finding those potential new members. By far and away the single most effective way is by personal recommendation. This is a call to the members of the Livery to consider introducing family, friends and colleagues who might be interested. The Communications Committee has also introduced a number of initiatives, including some financial support, to assist members in the recruitment process. More details can be obtained from any member of the Communications Committee.

**Traditionally the Company has drawn around one third of its membership from the building industry (crafts, building professions, merchants and trades); one third from any activity in the City of London and a third being people from anywhere without such links.*

Alan Dodd

PANCAKE RACES

It was another successful outing for the Company's 'dream team' of the Master, James Hockley, Clare Banks and James Parris in the livery companies' annual Pancake Races. Shrove Tuesday saw 21 companies entering teams in this year's colourful event in a packed Guildhall Yard, organised once again by the Poulterers' Company. The Mistress, Caroline Rider, acted as the non-running captain and chief cheer-leader.

Liveryman James Hockley was again our star in the Novelty Race. Dressed in a 'brick wall' costume made by the Renter Warden's wife Catherine Fuller, James won the coveted frying pan trophy. He has now won it three times in the past four years. He went on to come a narrow second in the Victor Ludorum race.



The Master won his heat in the Masters Race but was unable to repeat his success of last year and came third in the finals. Clare Banks nearly won her heat in the Ladies Race - she crossed the line first but the frying pan has to be securely deposited firmly back on the table to complete the race. Hers sadly toppled off the table! Freeman James Parris was leading at the turn in his heat in the Liverymen's Race, when he slipped and took a heavy fall on the cobbled stones, bloodying both knees and injuring his pride!

An impressive number of Company members and friends braved the cold to come and support the team in this fun event. Their vocal support was greatly appreciated by the runners and added greatly to the atmosphere. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of several of our liverymen the team raised nearly £500 for the Company's charities.

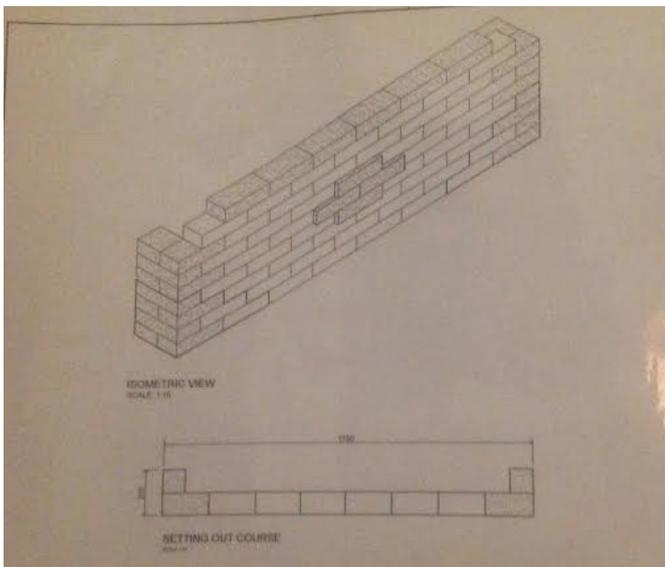


BRICKLAYING DAY WITH THE RSME, CHATHAM

At the kind invitation of the Royal School of Military Engineering the Master, Wardens and the Learned Clerk accompanied by an intrepid group of 18 liverymen and guests attended Brompton Barracks on Tuesday 16 February for our second bricklaying event with the Royal Engineers.

On arrival we were met by Major Craig Cudlipp who gave a most informative presentation of the role of the RSME within the Corps of Engineers and the wider role played by the Royal Engineers both within and outside the military environment.

The competitors then changed into protective clothing for a briefing before beginning the task of constructing, in teams of two, a nine course high brick wall with a projecting centrepiece.



After some frenetic bricklaying the group were provided with a guided tour of the Museum and then had an excellent buffet lunch in the Museum Medal Room. The competitors then returned to the fray. With the bricklaying task completed it was time for the Honorary Judge, Gerard Lynch, to preside over examining the completed pieces.



Meanwhile the group embarked on a tour of the HQ Mess which was particularly memorable for the collection of Terence Cuneo paintings, the majority with Cuneo's famous signature mouse waiting somewhere to be found by the sharp-eyed.



Liveryman David Fensom acted as a mentor to those less experienced in setting out and aligning brickwork

Following careful deliberation David Williams and Charles Collins were declared winners and can be seen pictured below with their prizes and mentor Cpl. Scott Longbottom. Chris Causer and Simon Martin with their mentor Steve Trott received the highly coveted Best Endeavour Award!

This highly successful visit was made possible by the superb hosting of Capt Alex Martyniuk and Staff Sgt Paul Booth, combined with the patience and humour shown by our RSME mentors Cpl Scott Longbottom and Cpl 'Jonno' Johnson. All were doubtless relieved to return to an environment where their charges do as instructed at the first request.

Finally thanks are due to David White for the administration of the event, Dr Gerard Lynch for the onerous task of judging, and George Clark and David Fensom for designing the task. Thanks also to our livery mentors Emma Simpson, Peter Lynch, Steve Trott, David White and David Fensom.



Liverymen David Williams and Charles Collins each receive a bottle of Champagne for their bricklaying efforts at RSME Chatham

MISS ONYINYE UDOKPORO

Caroline and I had the pleasure of attending Christ Hospital's Speech Day on 29 May. The Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the two Sheriffs and their consorts, all attended, and were accompanied by the Mace and the Sword, as they processed into the beautiful chapel for the service that began proceedings.

Following lunch and a march past by the entire school, the Lord Mayor presented the prizes. I am delighted to report that Onyinye Udokporo, our Presentee, won both the Grecians' academic prize for Theology and Philosophy and the Worshipful Company of Carmen's Prize for all round and sustained commitment and contribution to school life over her time at the school.



The Master with T&B Presentee Onyinye Udokporo

Onyinye was in great form and introduced us to her parents. She has now sat the International Baccalaureate and is awaiting her results. She hopes to study Theology and Philosophy at King's College London. Meantime, she has been invited to meet HRH The Prince of Wales at Clarence House, where she will tell him of her time at Christ's Hospital and hopes to persuade the Prince's Trust to fund a Presentee.

Tom Rider

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2016

Saturday Charter Day - Penshurst Place
30 July

Thursday Court Meeting and Livery Dinner
1 Sept - Salters' Hall

Wednesday T&B Golf Day, Hever Castle
14 Sept

Thursday Court Meeting
6 Oct Installation and Annual Service
- St Margaret's Lothbury
Lunch at Carpenters' Hall

Tuesday Visit to Queen's College, Cambridge
1 Nov

Thursday Court Meeting - Wax Chandlers' Hall
15 Dec Carol Service - St Margaret's Lothbury
Buffet Supper - City University Club

2017

Thursday Common Hall and Dinner - Bakers' Hall
9 Feb

Tuesday Pancake Races - Guildhall Yard
28 Feb

Monday Court Meeting and Craft Awards Lunch
6 March - Trinity House

Friday United Guilds Service - St Paul's Cathedral
31 March

Tuesday Sons of the Clergy Festival - St Paul's
9 May

Thursday Charity Cycle Ride & Annual Guest Banquet
11 May - Haberdashers' Hall

Thursday Court Meeting and Master & Clerks Lunch
8 June - Cutlers' Hall

Monday Election of Sheriffs and optional Lunch
26 June

Thursday Triennial Awards and Lunch - Grocers' Hall
6 July

Sunday Charter Day - Bath
30 July

Thursday Court Meeting and Livery Dinner
7 Sept - Vintners' Hall

Thursday Court Meeting, Installation and Annual
5 Oct Service and Lunch

NB: All dates and venues are subject to confirmation by the Clerk and are provided here for diary planning purposes only. Please check nearer the time of the event for any changes.