

Tylers and Bricklayers



The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers

Number 18, 2007

A Company with a Past, a Present and a Future

The Past

It is surprising that our Company has not acquired large wealth, for it has had some 500 years in which to do so. Indeed, tylers and bricklayers were not amongst the poorest craftsmen in early London, for the population which constantly increased in number and in wealth created a great amount of profitable work for them. For many years our Company had its own Hall; the Harleian manuscript refers to a Tylers' Hall in the Parish of Allhallows, London Wall, which was sold by the Company in 1555, and John Stow mentions Bricklayers' Hall in Aldgate Ward in his *Survey of London* published in 1598. Indeed this building, which had originally been the Cock Tavern fronting onto Leadenhall Street, was enlarged in 1625 and remained the home of the Company until the middle of the 18th century when our predecessors leased the property to the Dutch Jews who converted it into a synagogue. Not long thereafter, during the years 1670-73, John Caine who was a liveryman and subsequent Master of our Company, was invited to design and supervise the construction of Tallow Chandlers' Hall, whilst his own Company of Tylers & Bricklayers moved from tavern to coffee house. We shall be visiting Tallow Chandlers' Hall for our Summer Reception and Luncheon in June, and there you will be able to see our coat of arms in stained glass in the Oriel window that commemorates all the companies that used Tallow Chandlers' Hall during the Second World War.

Our Company was one of many guilds of tylers and bricklayers that existed in towns throughout the country, some of them having been established at around the same time as our Company in London. The information that I have gathered has put into a paper entitled "The Rise and Decline of Guilds, with particular reference to the Guilds of Tylers and Bricklayers in Great Britain and Ireland". Piers Nicholson has posted this on the Company's website, and hard copies are available to any liveryman or freeman on request.

The Present

What are the plans for the current year 2006-07? At our October 2006 Installation Luncheon at Carpenters' Hall our principal guest was General Sir Roger Wheeler, former Chief of the General Staff and now H M Constable of the Tower of London. At our May 2007 Livery Dinner at Vintners' Hall our principal guest will be the Rt. Revd Richard Chartres, Bishop of London. There will be one other Dinner, for the Court and Livery, at Watermen's Hall in February, a Court Luncheon at Cutlers' Hall in March when we shall be entertaining the Royal Engineers, together with General Sir Michael Gray and the Chief Commoner of the City of London, and a Luncheon in June when we shall be returning to Tallow Chandlers' Hall for a Champagne Reception in the courtyard, followed by lunch in the hall, for all liverymen and freemen and their partners.

In addition a series of conducted tours has been arranged to some interesting places that many of you may not previously have had an opportunity to visit. In November 2006 we visited the Headquarters of the Order of St. John, at Clerkenwell Gate, and during 2007 we shall be visiting Guildhall Library to see an exhibition of the archives of the Tylers & Bricklayers' Company, the Headquarters of the City of London Police in Wood Street, Billingsgate Fish Market, the College of Arms, and the Old Bailey. Arrangements have been made for us to enjoy some hospitality at each of these fascinating City institutions that are so rich in history. I hope that this programme will offer something of interest for everyone, and that we will also have much fun together.

The Future

The future lies as much in the hands of the next generation as in our own. During my year I have launched an appeal to all liverymen and freemen of the Tylers & Bricklayers' Company to raise sufficient funds to purchase in the name of our Company the right to present a talented but disadvantaged London child to Christ's Hospital. Christ's Hospital has a long association with the City and the London livery companies, and this initiative fits in well with a part of our objectives to support education, youth, and the disadvantaged in London. It is also a response to the challenge thrown down by the Bishop of Southwell in his Address at our Annual Service at St. Margaret Lothbury which marked the beginning of my year in office. My sincere thanks to all of you who have already responded so generously to this appeal.

If any of you have *any* ideas about what the Company should be doing in the future, whether social, charitable, or in the conduct of its business, then do please let me, the Wardens, or the Clerk know – for it is *your* Company. Any of us will likewise be glad to hear from those of you who have the experience, skills, time, and willingness to participate in the work of any of the committees.

During the course of this year I greatly look forward to seeing again some of our distinguished past masters, as well as meeting and getting to know many of our newer liverymen and freemen.

With all good wishes,

Tom Hoffman, Master 2006-7



Christ's Hospital



Obituary

Basil Holliday MC (1920-2006) **Joined the Company in 1973** **Master 1996-1997**

Basil's father, George Holliday, was a chartered surveyor, who practised in Croydon before his appointment as the City Surveyor to the Corporation of London. Basil was born in Croydon and educated at Whitgift School and when he left in 1938 it was no surprise that he decided to follow his father's profession as a Chartered Surveyor and he became an articulated pupil with a city firm.



Basil's career and studies were abruptly interrupted when he was called to war service in the Royal Engineers in 1940. His service with the Corps began at Aldershot in OCTU after which he was posted to the 43rd (Wessex) Division and commanded platoons in each of the three Field Companies. He saw action in Belgium, Holland and

in the Normandy campaign was involved right through into Germany. He was amongst those who were the first to cross the Seine and establish a vital bridgehead in the face of fierce enemy opposition.

This quiet and unassuming man never spoke of his military exploits, for which he was awarded the Military Cross. Although I had known him for over twenty years it was not until 1996 when I served under him as his Renter Warden during his year as Master that I learned that his war service had come to an abrupt end when he was badly wounded by an anti-personnel mine which robbed him of the lower part of one leg.

There was however one good thing for Basil that came out of the war which was that when he was billeted at Hawkhurst during the time before D-Day he met one Kathleen Browne who was, in 1947, to become his beloved wife, Kay.

When the war ended Basil returned to his firm and practising in the City eventually rose to Senior Partner. He was very active throughout his life in many and various City institutions including his

Ward Club, the R.I.C.S and his Church (St Andrews by the Wardrobe). He was a Liveryman of the Merchant Taylors' Company and served as surveyor to that Company for six years.

Away from the City, Basil's passion was gardening and he was very knowledgeable. He was noted for his delightful penchant for wearing a fresh rosebud from his garden in his buttonhole for almost the whole year.

In a small space like this it is difficult to do justice to the memory of a man like Basil Holliday – whose long life was so filled with activity, enthusiasm and interest. I hope it has been possible to convey a sense of this modest, courageous and talented man. We in the Tylers and Bricklayers who worked with him and were privileged to know him are proud that his wife Kay has generously donated Basil's Pastmaster's badge to the Company collection in Basil's memory and we hope that one day his son Michael who is a liveryman of the Company may wear this badge with pride.

Denis Munnery

Reflections on a special evening

Philip Parris, Master 2005-6

June 30th 2006. The evening did not get off to the most promising start.

Zoe and I (along with the Clerk and his wife) were staying at a hotel near the Tower of London. Barry had requested that I be at Mansion House by no later than 6.15pm - in good time for personal and Company photographs before the formation of the receiving line at 6.45pm.

I had ordered a taxi for 5.45pm to make sure we got to Mansion House in good time. Unfortunately I had not taken account of the quarter-finals of Football's World Cup, a busy Friday evening in the City of London and the incompetence of the hotel front desk staff. The taxi did not arrive!

Even after frantic appeals to the hotel front desk, no taxi had arrived by 6pm. Shortly afterwards a taxi pulled up, not the one we had ordered, but to disgorge some guests. The taxi driver at first refused because he wanted to get home to watch the football but I must have sounded so desperate that he finally agreed to take us to Mansion House. Just as everything seemed back on track and as we approached Mansion House I realised, to my horror, that I had left all my notes (including my speech) back in the hotel room.

By this time I think the taxi driver realised the importance of the evening to us and he volunteered

to drop me off and take Zoe on a round trip back to the hotel to collect the missing notes. Our taxi driver was going to miss the World Cup but as far as I was concerned he was definitely my Man of the Match that evening! I got out opposite the Royal Exchange and as I crossed the road towards Mansion House I saw the remarkable sight of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers marching down Poultry. They too had had a transport problem. Their bus had failed to arrive and they had had to march in full uniform with all their regalia all the way from Armoury House to Mansion House. And this was a day when the temperature in London reached a heavy 30°C! If I felt hot under the collar from my largely self imposed problems I could only imagine how hot must be the Pikemen!

I recall being surprised as I walked through the entrance to Mansion House and made my way to the first floor how many of the Livery and their guests were already gathered on the ground floor waiting for the "off" at 6.45pm. Once I reached the first floor I was equally amazed by the number of people already there. Dennis Munnery and David Cole-Adams together with Sandy Angus's son had been there some while to help Barry put the place names around the tables and position the rose boutons by each lady's place.

Then there were members of the Court who had been asked to arrive early to host the Company's

official guests as they came through the receiving line and Stewards appointed for the evening to make sure that official guests met with their hosts.

I admit that I did not finally relax until I saw Zoe safely appear with my precious notes. And then we were straight into a round of family and Company photographs until the Clerk told us it was time to form the reception line and start receiving our guests.

We had, of course, never intended to be at Mansion House. I had even provisionally chosen Skinners' Hall as the venue for this, our principal, event in 2006. But it was several years since the Company had entertained the Lord Mayor and those who knew David Brewer knew that he would be an excellent speaker and a popular guest. So with the support of the Court the Clerk first contacted Mansion House to invite the Lord Mayor to our 2006 Annual Dinner in early 2005. With the increasing official workload of Lords Mayor it was August 2005 before the Lord Mayor's office confirmed that the Lord Mayor Elect would be delighted to accept our invitation to be our principal guest in 2006. This came with a catch though! The dinner had to be held on the 30th June 2006 and it had to be at Mansion House!

The problem with holding an event at Mansion House is the numbers required to do justice to the beautiful Egyptian Hall – well over 200. However,



with the support of the Court, Barry and I bit the bullet and committed to Mansion House. At that time I did not realise that no one could remember us holding an event there.

So some 10 months later after much planning, an unbelievable response from the Livery, a menu tasting event for the Clerk, myself and our wives to sample the food, a very convivial morning in my office with Nick Carter, Chairman of the Wine Committee and the Upper Warden (also a member of the Wine Committee) choosing from one of four clarets and very much hard work on the part of the Clerk, here we were. The table in the great Egyptian Hall was laid for 363 people – the maximum the Hall can hold and the largest event held at Mansion House that year.

Then came the reception line. It was a very great pleasure to meet and greet so many members of the Livery and their guests. We had been worried about getting all Liverymen and their guests through the receiving line before the arrival of the Lord Mayor and his party at 7.15pm. In the event the Lord Mayor was a little late and we managed, just about, to receive everyone. In the receiving line and the Saloon there was a palpable air of excitement and enthusiasm at being in the magnificent surroundings of Mansion House. The evening was already proving, for me at least, a wonderful experience.

And then the Lord Mayor arrived with his party. He immediately told me that in celebration of the fact that it was the first time that the Worshipful Company of Tylers' and Bricklayers' had held an event at Mansion House in living memory he was wearing the Lord Mayor's original chain of office as worn by Sir Thomas Moore. After Zoe and I and the Wardens had received the Lord Mayor and his party we broke to for the official photographs to be taken. The Lord Mayor, though, being a very convivial person was more interested in meeting and talking with as many guests as possible so there was another little delay to our programme. After what seemed like endless photographs the whole official party formed up for the procession, the drummer from the Company of Pikemen rolled the drums and we were off and running!

At the end of the Egyptian Hall the Lady Mayoress and I had to break into single file and I vividly remember standing back until the Lady Mayoress ushered me forward to take the lead as we made our way to the top table.

Sitting in the centre of the top table in the Egyptian Hall at Mansion House with 363 people to diner was quite an experience. Because of the numbers we had to use the so called "Alderman's Walk" so that much of the top table had guests sitting on both sides. For me the meal went very quickly. I suppose I did not concentrate too much on the food although from the many comments afterwards I know that it was greatly enjoyed nor, unfortunately, the wine that was also much enjoyed by the Livery and their guests. The Lady Mayoress proved to be an exceptionally interesting and entertaining dinner companion. She told me about life living in Mansion House with a young family and took a keen interest in my concern about the fact that we were running somewhat behind our timetable for the event - we were supposed to be out of Mansion House no later than 10.30pm. The Lord Mayor was also very good company, talking at length about the evolution of

the mayoralty, the choosing of Lords Mayor and life after his year of office.

It seemed no time at all before two Loving Cups were placed in front of me and I launched this traditional ceremony. The Lady Mayoress and I speculated that we might claw back some of our late running during the Loving Cup. Our hopes were not rewarded as with that number of people, the ceremony took all the time that was allowed in our programme! However, it seemed no time at all before the Beadle was banging his gavel and it was time for me to stand and start the toasts.

Getting the toast to Her Majesty the Queen and the subsequent toast to Other Members of the Royal Family absolutely right takes good timing on the part of the musicians – in our case the Da Capo String Quartet. As guests stand, the Royal Anthem must start before anyone has a chance to mistakenly raise their glass to their lips and complete the toast. In the case of the toast to Her Majesty the Queen, the first verse of the Royal Anthem must be sung but in the case of the toast to Other Members of the Royal Family, of course, only the music is played. Will the timing go correctly? Will all the guests follow the lead of the top table and their hosts? I will admit to feeling a certain tension about all this. I think we got it right! Without pause it was then my very happy task to ask everyone to join with me in a toast to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of the City of London.

The Lord Mayor, famous for his love of puns, responded in an extremely entertaining and interesting fashion. During his speech he talked about Mansion House and the Egyptian Hall including its magnificent chandeliers. As he did so his Esquire, Mr Richard Martin, opened the doors leading from the Egyptian Hall out into the Saloon and I was privileged to have a unique view. Sitting in the centre of the top table you can look down a long row of these magnificent chandeliers leading through the Egyptian Hall and the Saloon to the main entrance to Mansion House. I was the only one in the right position to be able to see these chandeliers in a completely straight line with where I was sitting. It was a view that I shall not forget.

David Cole-Adams then most excellently proposed a toast to our guests. He had a difficult task for we

had many guests. Aside from the Lord Mayor's party comprising the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, Sherriff Kevin Kearney and his wife we had no less than 27 Company guests who included 8 Masters of other Livery Companies and their partners. And, of course, we had the very many guests of Liverymen who could not be mentioned by name but who were, none the less, equally welcome.

Major General Christopher Elliot of the Royal Engineers responded on behalf of the guests during which he made some inspirational remarks about the importance of maintaining standards in everything we do. He was followed by a musical interlude featuring the baritone David Stout.

And then Barry was on his feet to propose the toast to our own Company. Finally it was my turn! We were still running at least 15 minutes behind our timetable but I decided it was really too late to worry too much about that. During my remarks I had pleasure in presenting to the Lord Mayor the last of the ceramic boxes with our coat of arms on the lid commissioned by the Company in 2000 as a memento of the occasion. No sooner it seemed had I stood up than I was sitting back down again. Then with hardly taking breath (and a quick gulp of claret!), we were processing out of the Egyptian Hall and back into the Saloon.

The evening was very nearly over but there were still many thank yous and goodbyes to be said. I was extremely grateful to the Lord Mayor for staying to give many of our Livery and their guests an opportunity to speak with him as I stood "downstream" of him saying my own thanks and goodbyes. Departing Livery and their guests were extremely kind in their thanks and everyone seemed to have enjoyed a very happy evening. For our part, Zoe and I (despite the stressful beginning) enormously enjoyed the whole evening and the opportunity to host an event at Mansion House.

Nearly three months later, at the election of the Lord Mayor in Guildhall, Kevin Kearny was kind enough to single out our first event at Mansion House in living memory in his report on his Shrieval Year.

It was indeed a special evening – and a special privilege for me.



*The Livery Dinner in the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House
Photo by Gerald Sharp Photography (www.sharpphoto.co.uk)*



The Renter Warden

Ian Mitchell Grimshaw

It is a sign of the times: policemen get shorter and new Renter Wardens get younger. But, liverymen, be of good cheer. Ian Grimshaw may look 18 but actually he is 57. Or so he says.

The new Renter Warden was born in Oxford in 1949 and began his globetrotting career when he was four. In 1953, to his great delight, he found himself on the Queen Mary, heading for America. His father, a young RAF Flight Lieutenant, was being sent to California on an exchange program with the USAF. Two years later, his posting almost over, he was tragically killed in an air crash and Ian's mother brought her children back to her parents' home in Yorkshire.

They lived there until Ian's mother remarried and moved South. Ian, now with a grand new name, I.J.H.M.Grimshaw, was sent to Sutton Valence School in Kent where he flourished, starring in the school plays and the annual Gilbert and Sullivan operas, becoming vice captain of rugby, drum major and CSM of the cadet corps and, inevitably, Head Boy.

Equipped with 'O' and 'A' levels, nine of one, two of the other, Ian was eager to begin his career. Something in the city was what he had in mind, Lloyds of London, he thought, would do, so at 19 he became a trainee broker with Shead-Halford Reinsurance.

The truth must be faced. I.J.H.M.Grimshaw was not one of nature's reinsurance brokers. What did he do at Shead-Halford? Well, he says, he just about remembers re-insuring the QE2 for .000025 %.

He lasted a whole six months there, then got another job. This time he was a management trainee with Rank Hovis McDougall. He remembers more about this. They sent him off to do Business Studies at business colleges on the South Bank and in Belfast and Liverpool. In Belfast he was almost blown up. Never mind. He got his HNC.

This led to a new job, PA to the Chairman and Sales Director of Commundo Ltd. Commundo

sold marble, granite and slate to architects and his future began to take shape. He was put in charge of the company's stand at Interbuild 1973 and that was it. Interbuild was the flagship of Andry Montgomery Ltd. He joined Andry Montgomery a few months later and 32 years later he is still with them. He is a consultant these days.

In those 32 years he has worn many hats, manager of the Building Exhibition Overseas Division, PA to the Managing Director, the group representative for Eastern Europe, General Manager for Arabian Exhibitions - the Middle East Oil Show, Food Show, Solar Energy Show. There was so much to do in the Kingdom of Bahrain that he lived there for two years. Then he was off to Dallas where he spent a year with, among other things, more major oil shows.

Two Rural Development exhibitions in Zimbabwe, sponsored by the United Nations and the EEC, were slotted in and there were groundbreaking exhibitions to run in India and China but California, where he had lived as a small boy, was waiting. He had eight memorable years there. By then he was a director of the main US company and now he went onto the boards of one subsidiary company after another as he managed an extraordinary range of specialist exhibitions.

Then it was back to the UK. Andry Montgomery had much for him to do here and he was happy to resume his life in South Kensington, his base for 30 years. He has an active life. There are theatres to go to and swimathons to be swum and the gym; you have to keep fit at 57. More important, there is his church, St Andrews in Chelsea. He is a member of the Parochial Church Council and is its Electoral Roll Officer.

And, of course, there is the Worshipful Company of Tylers' and Bricklayers'. He is, after all, the Renter Warden now.

Ian was introduced as a liveryman of the Company by Past Master Bryan Montgomery in 1980 and joined the Court in 1999 under the Mastership of Denis Munnery.



*The Renter Warden
Ian Grimshaw*

He has served on various committees - the Junior Livery Committee, the Millennium Committee under Past Master Sir Idris Pearce and the Membership Committee under Past Master John Martin. While on the Millennium Committee he submitted the formal application for a Company plaque to be placed on the site of the Company's last Hall. He was told it would take seven years. Watch that space.

He was Acting Clerk of the Company during the successful search for the present Clerk, Barry Blumsom and was Acting Honorary Treasurer until the present Treasurer was appointed.

He is a trustee of the Company's Charitable Trust and Relief in Need Charity and he has twice taken part in the annual charity Swimathon, swimming in the Company team at the RAC Country Club. He didn't win. But he didn't sink.

Angus McGill



The Company Tree

As part of the City of London Greener City Campaign, the Tylers and Bricklayers has sponsored a tree which is now resplendent in Gough Square. Our magnificent Whitebarked Himalayan Birch (*Betula jaquemontii*) should grow to a mature height of forty feet.

The planting ceremony was attended by members of both the Court and Livery, and presided over by the Master Philip Parris and Judge Peter Beaumont.





The Notorious Tichborne Case and the Tylers and Bricklayers

by Peter V Dickins, Past Master

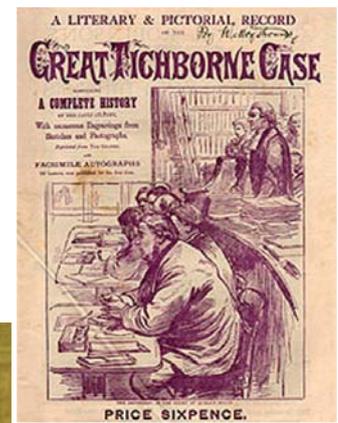
Henry Dickins, my great grandfather, was Master of the Company in 1885. A crack shot (winner of the the Enfield Association Cup in 1865) and a founder of the store Dickins and Jones, he came into the public eye for very different reasons.

Henry Dickins was foreman of the jury in the criminal case that followed the civil action which together comprised the Notorious Tichborne Case. The case involved four judges, two mammoth trials, a battery of barristers and an army of witnesses and was the very stuff of Victorian melodramas; it was perhaps one of the greatest *cause celebres* on the century. Essentially, the claimant (who later turned out to be the son of an Australian butcher) sought to establish himself as the rightful heir to the Tichborne estates and fortune. Despite the fact that more than eighty people swore to his

identity, including the mother of Roger Tichborne (who could not come to terms with the possibility that her genuine son had died), he was convicted of perjury and sentenced to fourteen years. The author of 'The Claimant' published in 1957 said 'that in Henry Dickins they had an outstanding Foreman. Rarely can twelve volunteers have been called upon to face such an ordeal'.

To the Lord Chief Justice and the Catholic aristocracy he was a monstrous, indeed a blasphemous, impostor. To the British public the bogus claimant became a folk hero, as glamorous as today's lottery winners and pop stars, despite the fact he later confessed his perjury. The case later provided the inspiration for a short story by Jorge Luis Borges, the film 'The Tichborne Claimant' and an episode of 'The Simpsons'.

I am often asked how my great grandfather, a shopkeeper, became a Tyler and Bricklayer. My best guess is that it was through the Bird family. Henry Dickins and Colonel Stanley George Bird were enthusiastic 'Volunteers' in the same regiment in the days before the Territorial Army. Colonel Bird was Master of the Company in 1882 and my great grandfather followed on three years later.



The Tichborne Jury – Henry Dickins is on the left



Our latest Company Treasure – a 19th Century Staffordshire pearlware jug presented to the Company in 2006

Standing just over eight inches high with an engine turned neck painted in bands of iron-red and green and decorated with the Tylers and Bricklayers arms and motto, it has been dated to around 1815.

It is presumably a beer jug but when and where it was used remains a mystery. In the 1760s the Company had leased its Hall to a congregation of Dutch Jews and the Court had become a nomadic body moving from pub to coffee house to pub. From 1788 until 1803 it met at the New London Tavern in Cheapside and then found a semi-permanent home at the London Coffee House in Ludgate Hill. There is a record of the Master and Wardens' chairs and the Company's Arms being moved there in 1803. This was a period of retrenchment and ten years later monthly meetings were disbanded and replaced with two quarterly meetings.

The jug was probably used for refreshment during or after these meetings (beer was also served in coffee houses) and belonged to the Company rather than an individual Court member; for if this had been so it would have been the custom at this period for his name to have been painted on the jug.

Another Staffordshire jug of roughly the same date, but of completely different shape and decoration has also survived and is now owned by a Past Master. Again there is no name on this jug and we can only hope that some obscure Court minute will be found with a reference to their ownership and use.



David Fuller
Past Master

The Stokes Royal Engineers Awards – Tallow Chandlers' Hall

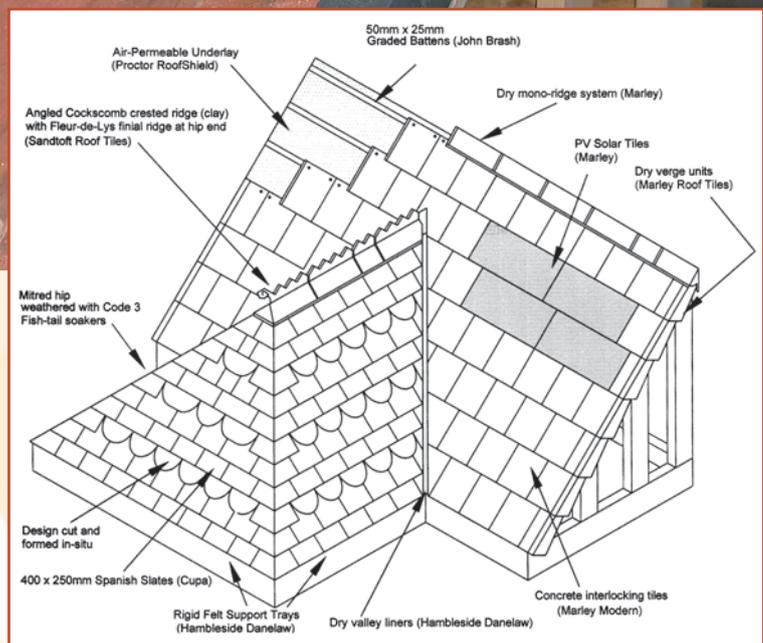
At the March Court meeting, representatives from our adopted Regiment, the Royal Engineers, join us for the presentation of the Stokes Awards. To the left of the Master is Lance Corporal Nandahang Wanem, the best Class 1 Bricklayer, and on the right the best Class 2 Bricklayer, Sapper Paul Giles.





Skillbuild 2006:

A rig provides young roofers with a challenge at Skillbuild 2006. Our photo shows Andrew Burley from Joseph Hardgrave Ltd judging the PV tiles. Winners of the Company's Annual Skillbuild Awards were Craig Deveraux (Level 3 NVQ winner) and Daniel Clements (level 2 winner).



Hanson
FORWARD FACING