

Smoke Signals



ISSUE 14 APRIL 2024 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENDERS



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Reflections of a Master's Year

I was in shock when Sandra reminded me that I needed to write an article for *Smoke Signals* about my year as Master. You see although everyone had told me that this year passes in the blink of an eye, I was hoping the eye would belong to an owl who never blinks not a Dracula ant! I just cannot seem to comprehend that my term is rapidly drawing to a close and yesterday's fish and chips paper will soon have my name on it. As I write this, I am in the twilight moment of my term wondering where the year has gone!

Being Master of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders is truly the biggest honour I could have ever hoped to receive. It is a privilege to travel through the City of London representing a Company that I hold dear. I am grateful to have an opportunity to engage with so many different individuals and I learned long ago not to read their bios first! It is best to form a relationship based on our common experience of being one of 111 Masters, Prime Wardens or Upper Bailiff and one of 20 women.

None of this would have been possible without the love and support of Courtney and William who

have made their own mark this year as the youngest Consorts and the only double act. Although Courtney will quickly say that she has earned the badge! Courtney has juggled her own professional life, motherhood and being a wife, to represent me and the Company with panache. Will has crossed the pond on a fairly regular basis and has managed most of the away nights! Both of them delivered a heartwarming speech during the Election Court Lunch. My heart was bursting. During the Master's weekend, Will introduced me to scores of people and made the weekend far more exciting and memorable. Even my son-in-law, Charlie stepped in! He escorted me to the Guild of Young Freemen's Banquet and will soon become a member! Collectively they have excelled! I want to thank the GPC and the Court past and present: you thought of me, voted for me, stood by me and supported me and my wonderful consorts. Without your faith in me and my abilities, none of this would have been possible!

I especially wish to thank my Wardens: Senior Warden Henry Tuck, Renter Warden Tony Scanlan, Third Warden Jacqueline Burrows, and Fourth Warden Mallory Factor. They have always been a phone call away to listen to my 'out of the box' ideas,



review financial reports, offer measured advice and cheer me on! They like me love the Company and are dedicated to ensuring its successful and sustainable future. I am blessed to call them friends as well as Wardens! The Past Masters have offered sage advice, sent remarkably generous letters, stepped in as escorts and invited me to marvellous events. They have been the paving stones guiding my path. A particular thanks to my Mentor and our first woman Master Fiona Adler. Despite her incredible personal and professional obligations, she advised me about slippery patches and prevented me from stumbling. Immediate Past Master Paul Taberer and his Consort, Sharon collectively fulfilled the role of advisor admirably, and like my Wardens were on speed dial. Paul and Sharon have continued their commitment to the City through their support of 'Pollinating London Together'.

The bulk of the work, of course, is done by those behind the scenes: our Beadle Wayne Glynn, our Treasurer Ian Venters, our Clerk's Assistant Bill Curran and our indomitable Clerk, Sandra Stocker. I recall Past Master Jerry Merton saying that all the mistakes that were made during his year were his and all the good things were down to Sandra. I now

know exactly what he meant. Sandra is celebrating 10 years as our Clerk this year and I am sure she feels as if this year alone has lasted 10 years! Thank you, Sandra, for keeping me on track - or at least attempting to! At various times throughout the year, Sandra's sisters Ann and Sue have been called in to support. I offer my thanks to you both.

Jon Fell as Chair of the Benevolent Fund has done a magnificent job. He and his phenomenal Trustees have enhanced the lives of many, while increasing their opportunities. Equally our Welfare Fund, ably led by Renter Warden Tony Scanlan has ensured that people with ties to our industry are looked after during times of hardship. This is fundamentally the most important role we hold: to embrace those who truly need us and who have contributed. Third Warden Jacqueline Burrows is a remarkable Archivist and we know more about our heritage than ever before, our treasures are more protected and we can plan for the future more successfully by fully understanding our past.

By the time I pass on a fully restored Master's badge, my gift to the Company, I would have attended or participated in over 150 events representing our







Livery Company. It is incredibly difficult trying to focus on a highlight reel of my year, I far prefer a feature length film. However, as always, Sandra is being very strict and the words I hear every time I present her with a Speech from the Master, ring in my ears: it's too long, you need to cut it! So please forgive my use of an American phrase as I provide you with a 'Cliff Notes' synopsis of my year! I was installed at Vintners' Hall on 7th June 2023. It was a magnificent day. Fourth Warden Mallory Factor gave the Speech to the Guests and Major Niall Hall, Regimental Adjutant to the Irish Guards, was my principal guest. He intricately weaved a comparison between my home State of North Carolina, Irish potatoes and tobacco! After a day and night of celebrations, I was on my own.

COVID scuppered many of the customary meetings between future Masters and being a working Master who was trying to get ahead, before I quickly fell behind in my professional obligations, meant that I went blindly into the Livery world with a polished badge and a dogeared copy of the book of Masters and Consorts. The day after I was Installed, I found myself at the door of the Grocers' Hall for a 'meet and greet' with the future Sheriffs: Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley and Alderman Bronek Masojada, organised by the Livery Committee. Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley attended our Annual Banquet and subsequently invited me for lunch at the Old Bailey. But on this occasion, it was the generosity of Master Fletcher, Andrew Trapnell and his Consort and my kind and wonderful friend Melanie, who I am sharing most of my term with, that made that event special. Andrew immediately accepted the task of introducing me to people! Over the course of this year, I have been accepted by the fabulous Fletchers who have even taught me how to shoot an arrow - or is it a bow?

My Baptism by Fire continued as Will and I boarded a train to Glasgow for our Master's weekend away! It was full on as we were divided up and spent a weekend with our 'coach family'. My renegade ways came to the forefront as Will and I joined another 'coach family' and expanded our circle. Will was brilliant and of course everyone was keen to meet the youngest Consort and hear his story! The delightful gentleman who taught us about whisky found Will outside the Museum and they had a great chat. The

Lord Mayor sat next to him on the coach. My path was paved by Will as one by one he introduced me to his new friends. We had an opportunity to get to know Sheriff Andrew Marsden and his Consort Marian. They had recently married at the Old Bailey. I was honoured to be invited as his guest to lunch at The Old Bailey and given an opportunity to see some of the wedding photos.

After Glasgow, the summer was in full bloom and Master Distiller, Chris Searle and his Consort, Sue made this a season to remember. They hosted the global spirit tasting event, which Liveryman Ian Narbeth also attended and the pétanque, where we fielded two teams and had a fantastic picnic. Court Assistant Martine Petetin was an amazing coach and chef as she provided divine French tarts: savoury and sweet.

Courtney and I were invited by the Stationers' Company to join their Coronation Ball, which included historical snippets from their past 350 years. Liveryman John Scott and his wife Honorine were also there. I was overjoyed to attend the Installation Dinner of my friend and partner in crime, Henry Pollard as he was installed as the Master of the Guild of Investment Managers. It was lovely to sit next to his fabulous consort, Michelle. So much so that I was thrilled to mark Christmas by her side at their Carol Service.

During the summer months, I was privileged to be invited by the Irish Guards to the Livery Household Division Dinner, where I was formally introduced to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal: a huge honour! I had seen her from a distance; but nothing compares to a personal introduction.

Court Assistant Terry Fenner-Leitao and I visited Sevenoaks School, which Terry attended. I watched a cricket match at Arundel and learned how the Benevolent Fund support enhances student's lives by enabling them to enjoy the countryside. While back in the City, I joined my fellow Masters in all our finery as we visited all the Livery Halls on literally the hottest day of the year. The Environmental Cleaners were exceptional guides - and shared their fans!

I was especially thrilled to attend our Golf Day, which was ably organised by Immediate Past Master Paul Taberer, who had just taken over from Past Master Derek Harris. After a delicious carvery,



the icing on the cake was presenting the award to Will for the longest drive! Proud Mother Moment! Liveryman David Walter was the winner of the Charles Rich Trophy.

Once the Season changed, the Livery and my professional obligations increased and Courtney took over all the Consort duties as Will abandoned her for the U.S.! I was hosting the GTNF in Seoul when Sandra contacted me to share a lovely invitation from the Coopers' Company to speak at their Autumn Court Dinner. I was excited to share the important role the Coopers played in our industry, as they built the hogshead, which was used in British and American colonial times to store and transport tobacco and also served as a measurement of the quantity of tobacco. Their Master, John Fahy even arranged for their Rams Head to make an appearance as snuff was offered. This past Spring, the Coopers invited me to meet the Coopers of Glasgow and participate in a Ceilidh. You definitely need to be fit and have an extraordinary memory!

Moving from Scotland to Ireland, the Irish Guards Association generously invited me to their 'Shamrocks and Dragons' Event. Court Assistant Flora Okereke and her husband, John joined me. The evening included a fascinating tour of Mercers' Hall.

Of course, the event our Company prepares for each year is the Sirrah Cup Trophy Shoot against No 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards and the Irish Guards Association. On this occasion my son-in-law, Charlie Lambert joined Assistant Colin Ritchie, Freeman Laurent Charbonnier, Liveryman Adam Phillips and Liveryman David Smith to retain the Sirrah Trophy. When he arrived at the shoot, Adam Phillips said to Charlie, you know we won the trophy last year? Charlie replied: You know who my Mother-In-Law is don't you? Collectively they excelled! Charlie was quite relieved to have won the final shot in the special shootout against one member of No 15 (Loos) Company and one member of the Irish Guards Association. I was delighted to get the trophy engraved and to present it to Major Ollie Bambrick at our Annual Banquet - for safekeeping!

The Annual Banquet was spectacular! Past Master Fiona Adler gave a magnificent and memorable toast to the guests and David O'Reilly, who recently retired from the Management Board of BAT and







who still consults for Kentucky BioTech was our Principal Guest and was quite simply extraordinary. The evening was perfect from the Pikemen and Musketeers to the trumpeters to the Lord and Lady Mayoress whose presence marked their last official dinner in the Egyptian Hall. As a special tribute to the Coronation, Pipe Maker Oliver Meeson, who is based at Ironbridge, designed a special pipe for me to present to the Company Members and Guests as a memento. Some months later the consort to Alderman Dame Susan Langley, Colin Langley showed me his, which is on display in their flat at The Old Bailey. Most especially the evening was amazing because of each of you who attended. The hall was filled with laughter and music from the 240 members of our Company and their guests.

If one considers an event outside of our own that will never be forgotten, it would be the privilege of dining with the King and Queen. Mansion House was overflowing with Masters, Prime Wardens and an Upper Bailiff who were honoured to be in the same room with our beloved King and Queen. The Lord Mayor's Speech was brilliant. The King's Speech was incredible and historical - every London

newspaper covered it the next day. As we walked up the stairs at Mansion House, we had an opportunity to view the Coronation Screen. Livery Companies, including ours funded it. This dinner was a thank you. The screen itself is so ornate and the attention to detail so immense that another highlight of my year was an evening at Drapers' Hall where Immediate Past Master Paul Taberer and I heard from all of the individuals and companies from beginning to end who played a role in the creation and execution of this masterpiece. Afterwards, we were able to view the screen quite close and meet some of the artisans. I can attest to the fact that the screen took on an entirely different meaning after the presentation!

It is inconceivable to imagine how much I learn from every event I attend: meals, lectures, formal and informal gatherings, I am a sponge! So, it took me less than a minute to accept Master Gunmaker's invitation to lunch at Proof House. Every single gun with a London proof has been tested at Proof House. From antiques to weaponry of the future, the Proof Master sees them all. Attending the intimate lunch that day were numerous members and guests affiliated with the department of defence, military, gun manufacturing





and me. So, it was more than a bit daunting to be asked to deliver the Speech after lunch. However, it was easy to make them laugh! As the delightful Past Master to my right said: just tell us how fabulous we are and that you love us! I managed a bit more than that - but it made for the perfect close!

Master Pattenmaker, Patrick Terrell and his Consort, Debbie both hail from Military backgrounds: one on either side of the pond. I was humbled to attend the British American Armed Forces dinner at the HAC, a special Evensong on Thanksgiving, Master Pattenmakers' Banquet and Debbie's Consort Event. It is always a privilege to be amongst those who serve.

In addition to military service, one must consider spiritual service. There are 38 churches in the City of London. I had an opportunity to tour most of them. It was historical to watch the Induction and Installation of the Reverend James Titley at St Lawrence Jewry and to be invited by the Parish Clerks to Evensong at St James Garlickhythe. There is no other evensong like it! So, it should come as no surprise that their Livery Dinner is equally unique! At one point, the Parish Clerks rise and greet one another, which left me and the other guests at the head table looking around in wonderment as we followed the voices. I sat next to Maggi Dawn, wife of The Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, Dean of St. Paul's and the Principal Guest. Andrew wrote all his notes in a book and turned the pages as he spoke, a habit I copied. The evening was unforgettable!

Culturally the City is overwhelming! Artwork abounds in Livery Halls and indeed in buildings and statues on the streets in the Square Mile. Your eyes can glance anywhere and be amazed. Through our connection with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, I attended magnificent musical performances often with Court Assistant Flora Okereke, Benevolent Fund Chair Jonathan Fell and Senior Warden Henry Tuck. The Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers 400th Anniversary Exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery deserves special recognition. It was astonishing. I toured it once with many other guests before their Masters' Banquet in Guildhall and a second time on New Year's Eve with their Master Catherine Carr, who is an exceptional person and gave a wonderful tour. What a way to end 2023!

2023 brought some huge changes to our Company. Our Beadle, Mark Anderson was promoted at the Tower of London and helped recruit Wayne Glynn, another Yeoman Warder, who has hit the ground running! We gained the organised and diligent Bill Curran as our Clerk's Assistant. Our beloved Honorary Chaplain, The Reverend Canon David Parrott gave his last address during our Carol Service and 2024 began with The Reverend Canon Jack Noble known as Father Jack, who is a pipe smoker, being installed at the January Court and delivering the grace at the January Dinner at Drapers' Hall. My thanks to each for your contribution to our Company!

Drapers' Hall is very special to me and I was happy to sit next to Master Draper, Tom Harris as well as my most glorious, generous and gracious Principal Guest, Patti Boulaye. The room was filled almost to capacity as Court Assistant Flora Okereke gave the toast to our guests and introduced her friend, Patti. Patti was mesmerising and even burst into song! The evening concluded with one of our prodigious Guildhall Pipe Scholars, Emry Jones and the renowned Baritone Patrick Dow, himself a recent graduate from the Guildhall School of Music, serenading us with Alastair Burton ably accompanying them on the piano. I was delighted that all four of our Guildhall Pipe Scholars were in attendance as well as a fabulous group of friends from my home State of Raleigh, North Carolina as well as friends from surrounding States. All of whom congratulated our newest Freemen and Liverymen and clapped as I announced that I had gowned Courtney as a Liveryman earlier that day! A proud Mommy moment!

The year is moving rapidly and I was grateful to be invited to the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Dinner. Words escape me as I attempt to explain the unbelievable Disneyland Trip that our Company and others support, but which owes everything to this incredible Company and to Phil Davis who founded this magical weekend away for children and their families who truly need this happy place. Benevolent Fund Chair Jonathan Fell and I attended the breakfast before their departure and it was phenomenal. One taxi after another under police escort with ambulances and medical personnel holding up the rear. I was so delighted to spend time with their members who each play their part in this extraordinary journey.



Returning to our Military affiliations. I was pleased to dine with the No 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards at the Loos Dinner and with the Irish Guards Association (London Branch) at their Annual Dinner and to see many of them again at coffee prior to the St Patrick's Day Parade at Mons Barracks in Aldershot. Afterwards Court Assistant Sue Curran, Clerk's Assistant, Bill Curran and I were hosted at Wellington Barracks by the Irish Guards Association. No one can compete with their Irish Stew and hospitality! I have a second 'Shamrocks and Dragons' event to look forward to and another photo opportunity with Seamus, their Irish Wolfhound.

Thanks to Past Master Charles Miller, I was invited to the Pickwick Dinner and introduced to the first woman Director in charge of the Charles Dickens Museum, American Cindy Sughrue. I look forward to hosting my Master's Reception there with his great, great Grandson, Mark Dickens addressing our members and guests. Courtney's consort's event will also have a cultural theme as we visit the ENO for a private tour and afternoon tea. ENO CEO Jenny Mollica, will be there to greet us and share her insights.

Past Master Charles Miller is an expert in many areas of history and joined forces with Third Warden Jacqueline Burrow, Court Assistant Fran Morrison and Past Master Jerry Merton to place second - by one point in the Inter Livery Quiz. You all made the Company proud!

While I would never try my luck at golf or quiz nights, I did throw my hat in the raffle hosted by the Feltmakers' Company - and won a stunning red hat made by the renowned milliner, Judy Bentinck. My sincere thanks to their Master, Lt Col Simon Wilkinson TD DL for the invitation to celebrate International Hat Day at Locke & Co! Simon and his fellow Feltmakers wore magnificent hats, I missed a trick not wearing the amazing hat that Liverymen Rosie Beattie designed and had made to accompany our Smoking Caps. I am confident that is why some people join our Company!

My pride swells when I discuss the Membership Committee, ably led by Fourth Warden Mallory Factor until 1st March 2024, when Court Assistant Stephan von Schilling took the chair. We have



extended the right hand of friendship to Freemen and Livermen at every Court Meeting. We also welcomed our first Corporate Members this year: BAT and Imperial Brands. My thanks to Court Assistant Rae Maile for his support. The evening before the Election Court, we hosted the Guild of Young Freemen at the Hippodrome. The Hippodrome owner, Simon Thomas gave an insightful account of the building and its many features and incarnations. Special thanks to Liveryman Jemma Freeman and Mr Daniel Pink for the cigars and the introduction to cigar smoking! We would welcome Young Freemen as members and Stephan was busy collecting business cards!

In addition to the tremendous activities I have shared, I am glad to be part of the Lady Master's Association, the Women Master's Group and the Working Gal's Group. It is fitting to be an American Woman Master during the year where we have our first American Lord Mayor. Both of us are in our own way, living the dream. Audrey Hepburn said it best: "Nothing is impossible", the word itself says 'I'm possible'! I proudly represent a Livery Company that with 140 Livermen and 55 Freemen is growing! The Tobacco Pipe Makers & Tobacco Trade Benevolent Fund, despite our relative youth and size, contributed £160,000, as part of a collective donation from City Livery Companies of over £40M to charities annually. The City Bridge Trust (effectively the City of London's charitable arm) additionally gives about half that amount annually to good causes.

I am delighted that the Court has confirmed Henry Tuck as Master-Elect. Henry and Carolyn have been important members of my extended family for years, even attending my wedding to Brian. I am not certain Henry knew exactly what he was getting into when I suggested that he join the Livery but, we are all the more fortunate that he agreed nonetheless! His years serving our industry is the perfect audition for representing our Company! He is wise to retire before his year begins. My advice: say yes to everything! I am confident that each of you will make his term the best year ever!

Sir Isaac Newton stated, "if I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". This year you have been my shoulders and enabled me to see further, I have experienced first-hand the depth and breadth of the square mile. I relish the opportunities to meet members of the Company at restaurants, pubs, concerts, Smoking Quarterlies, clay pigeon shooting, and thanks to Fourth Warden Mallory Factor and his wife Elizabeth, the theatre.

During my last few months, I look forward to being involved in even more activities that enhance our Company and Community. Ultimately, I shall end my term as Master as I have lived it - with gratitude and with endless respect for our Company. Without all of you, the past year could never have been so productive and magical.

Elise Rasmussen
Master



Appointments

Members Gowned with the Livery

Michael Heriot de la Fargue <i>Consultant in Tobacco Industry</i>	7th June 2023
Nikesh Madhvani <i>Industrialist</i>	7th June 2023
Hugo Charles Camps-Harris <i>Legal</i>	27th September 2023
Neal Eric Neilingen <i>Investment Banker</i>	27th September 2023
Meena Heath <i>Global Strategist</i>	24th January 2024
Courtney Rose Lambert <i>Analyst</i>	24th January 2024
Michael John Prince <i>Retired Fellow Chartered Accountant</i>	24th January 2024
Mr Laurent Charbonnier <i>Chief Commercial & Development Officer, Sibanye Stillwater</i>	20th March 2024
Christopher Sokol KC <i>Retired Barrister, Master of the Bench, King's Counsel/ Antiquarian Bookseller</i>	20th March 2024

New Freemen

Marie Rose Polet <i>Non-Executive Director</i>	7th June 2023
Ryan Daniel Selby <i>Businessman</i>	7th June 2023
Sean Croley <i>Sales & Marketing Director</i>	27th September 2023
Kenelm Mark Johnson-Hill <i>Proprietor Château Méaume</i>	27th September 2023
Sam Bondarenko <i>Accountant</i>	24th January 2024
Tony Crinion <i>Managing Director, Quartz Limited</i>	24th January 2024
Walter Jackson Hooks IV <i>Tobacco Sales & Procurement</i>	24th January 2024
Neil Lawrence Jones <i>Information Technologist</i>	24th January 2024
George James Collis March <i>Head of Talent Acquisition</i>	24th January 2024
James Barber <i>Tobacconist</i>	20th March 2024
The Honourable George Edward Bell Holding OBE <i>Lawyer</i>	20th March 2024
Eshan Madhvani <i>Industrialist</i>	20th March 2024
Valerie Briggs Solomon <i>Attorney</i>	20th March 2024

New Honorary Freemen

Mrs Sharon Taberer <i>Past Mistress 2022-23</i>	7th June 2023
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Lost Brethren

Past Master Anthony Alton

Past Master Richard Tranter remembers.

It is with deep sadness that I have to report the death, on 30th December 2023 of my dear friend Anthony Alton, after a long illness bravely fought. He was admitted to the Company in 1973 and served on the Court from 1976 and as Master in 1993. I spoke at his Installation and appropriately his son Nick – at that time a member of our Court – spoke at my own.

Anthony was the last working member of the old family firm E. Alton and Co., Cigar Manufacturers and Importers of Nottingham. They were founded in 1862 by Edmund Alton and were in their time the largest private cigar manufacturer in the country, remaining in business until they finally closed in 1992. Bearing in mind that in 1901 there were over 20 similar cigar factories in the Nottingham, Loughborough and Leicester area Altons were very much a survivor in the trade! Anthony was born in 1939, and his education was completed at Greshams in Norfolk, where he had been very happy. He was always proud of his association with the school. When he left he had only a six-week break (in Sweden studying cigar-making machines - so that he knew how to mend them!) before he joined the business. (Quite probably like many of us in private enterprise, he did not have a lot of choice! However, to be fair my own father – using his words at the time - “neither encouraged nor discouraged me”, although he was delighted when I did join him! I imagine the same was true for Anthony.)

All Altons cigars were handmade until 1946, when machinery was introduced and the factory largely became automated, except for the range of Havana leaf cigars (mostly under the Corvanna brand name) which remained hand-rolled.

When Anthony started work the factory was still very Edwardian, complete with stand-up desks and a Caxton-style printer: he was one of the few who could work it, picking out the letters, setting them up and inking the screen! A newspaper article of the 1960s records the small band of highly skilled women



employed at the factory who were each able to turn out an average of 100 hand-rolled corona-size cigars a day! The youngest had completed her apprenticeship 40 years before then, and the oldest had been with the company for 56 years!

Although Altons made cigars using all Cuban tobacco, trade description regulations meant that only those made in Havana could be called ‘Havana Cigars’. Altons also imported Cuban Cigars and in 1954 bought a contemporary old-established cigar importing business, and were from that time able to import Havana cigars under the Jiminez brand name. In the 1970s there were problems with blue mould affecting the Cuban harvests and this created difficulties in obtaining the right leaf direct from Cuba. By the time this was overcome in the 1980s anti-smoking campaigns began to gain ground, and all these factors contributed to a decline in trade which resulted in closure in 1992.

On a poignant note, Anthony’s father George Alton – who had worked in the family business since the 1930s when it employed 140 handrollers alone! – died in September 1991. Following this Anthony also oversaw the associated retail business of Josiah Brown Ltd until it eventually closed.



One of Anthony's favourite family stories was of an approach made in the late 1800s by another Nottingham manufacturer – a certain Mr Player! – who invited Altons to join him in marketing a new machine-made product. Edmund Alton declined saying "Why produce machine-made rubbish when you can have lovely people making the real thing?", adding: "And anyway your 'Cigar-ettes' will never catch on!" The rest – as Anthony wryly observed at the time he told me the tale - is history!

Anthony and I were two of a kind, both born into a family business when the trade was as yet still in its heyday, at which time they supplied many large retailers such as Harrods and Selfridges (and even a small West Country firm called Frederick Tranter!) with specially made products for sale under the retailer's own private brand name.

From the first time we met in the mid-1960s (when we were both in our 20s!) a chord was struck and a bond of friendship formed which was to last all our working

lives and beyond, going much further and deeper than just trade acquaintanceship, for it extended also into our Livery and personal lives. I remember once in the early 70s he came down to see us to take our annual advance orders and arrived driving a rather raffish Italian-made Lancia Beta coupe! I coveted that car, but Anthony told me later it was prone to breakdowns and traded it in for a Volvo! (Actually I have just found out from Nick Alton that the Volvo was the business workhorse, Anthony had graduated to an Alfa Romeo! The rascal kept mighty quiet about that, probably thinking - quite rightly! - that had I seen him driving such exotica, I would have regarded it as an opportunity to try and squeeze a bit more discount from him!) Meanwhile I had to make do with a more typical car of the day – a Triumph saloon. My father on the other hand, had only just relinquished the wheel of an old 1952 Lagonda in favour of a more reliable Rover. Those were the days! It was good that Anthony and I were able to keep in close touch after quitting business life, and my one regret is that we did



not live near enough to each other for our meetings to have been more than just occasional in the City.

Anthony's interests outside the business world were extensive. He continued with his sports and recreational interests (which in early years included hockey) well into his 50s when he was still playing squash and latterly tennis; he also played bridge on a regular basis! His beloved garden at Hill Top Cottage featured prominently in his life and when he was not carefully tending it, he might be found pitting his wits against the Telegraph crossword or 'fiendishly hard' sudoku! He was a keen naturalist and had had a great interest in birdlife. He supported many charities over the years including the RSPB, St John Ambulance, the Aspinall Foundation and Y Care International.

Those who had the good fortune to be acquainted with Anthony will remember his depth of knowledge, his dedication to his craft, the trade and the Livery. They will recall his kindly nature, his great sense of humour and infectious laugh. Above all I shall always think of him as that rarest of beings – a true gentleman in business and one of my earliest and dearest friends.

He is survived by his wife Jeanette, son Nick and daughter Sarah.

He was a fine man, and everyone who knew him will miss him dreadfully.

Grateful thanks to the Alton family for the wonderful pictures from their collection.

Richard Tranter
Past Master 2006-7





Liveryman John Rutherford Crosby

John Rutherford Crosby was born on 1st May 1933.

He was admitted to the Freedom on 16th March 2000; received the Freedom of the City on 8th June 2000 and was Gowned as a Liveryman on 29th June 2000.

His work background was BAT, in HR/Personnel Management but outside work, he had been a Governor of two Universities – the University of Westminster and Sussex University – and also a Governor of private bodies. In 2004, he was awarded a Doctor of Letters by the University of Westminster reflecting his long service as a Governor.

In 2006, City University wrote to all Livery Companies asking for a Liveryman to act as a representative at the City University AGM. John was proposed by the Pipe Makers and he attended the AGMs as our Company representative until 2018, when City University became part of the University of London.

John enjoyed attending the AGMs on the Company's behalf, and he would report back to the Clerk. He was married to Rosalind and they loved to travel. John's health deteriorated around the time of the first lockdown. John passed away on 13th July 2022.

Liveryman Colin George Knowles

Colin George Knowles was born in 1939 in Southport.

He was admitted to the Freedom in 1973 and was Gowned as a Liveryman in 1974.

Colin was Company Secretary, Head of Public Affairs, for Imperial Tobacco Ltd from 1960 to 1980.

After leaving Imperial Tobacco, he went to work in South Africa and held public relations appointments for various companies. When he retired, he moved back to the UK to reside in Southport.

He was married twice and had three daughters – Emma, Samantha and Marguerite.



A Message from the Master-Elect

It is a great privilege and honour to be elected Master of our wonderful company. However, our current Master, Elise Rasmussen, will be an extremely hard act to follow! She knows everybody that matters and with her enormous energy, has been a great ambassador for the company.

Elise was also instrumental in my joining the company. Being focused on the tobacco world outside of the London, it never occurred to me that there was a tobacco related Livery company in the City, so it was a pleasant surprise to receive an invitation from her to a Pipe Maker's Annual Banquet.

Besides meeting some old industry friends at the dinner, I also realised that the company had links to the Broseley Pipe Museum at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Shropshire. I grew up close to the museum and have family and friends who have been involved with it since its inception, so ironically joining the Pipe Maker's Livery in London has allowed me to strengthen my links back to my home territory in the midlands!

As an Engineer, I am also fascinated how things are made, so being involved with old crafts and industrial archaeology as part of the company's heritage has been a natural fit.

My original introduction to the tobacco industry came nearly 40 years ago when I joined BAT as an Engineer in their Technical Services group at the old Millbank Head Office in Westminster. The job gave me great insight into the factory and machinery side of the tobacco business, and I enjoyed it so much that I have been involved in tobacco engineering ever since!

It was a great way for someone in their 20's to see unusual parts of the world and I spent time working with the BAT factories that then existed in Central America, Bangladesh, Finland and a variety of other exotic places.

Since then, I have continued my career in the provision of specialised equipment for the tobacco industry, both running my own businesses and also

working for other companies, but always working and travelling globally.

For the last 18 years I have been Managing Director of SPI Developments, a small, highly niche technology business, based in the north of England but now part of a Dutch family-owned machinery technology business. We have had a very successful few years, building a good management team and allowing us late last year to move to a new, bigger factory which will give room for expansion in the future.

Whilst I have much admired those Masters who have managed to combine work with the Mastership, becoming Master this June seems to be a good excuse to formally retire, in the knowledge that the business is thriving and in good hands.

Whilst I am hoping to spend more time with my family and grandchildren, being Master of our Livery company is becoming more like a full-time occupation each year, so retirement is the only way for me to give it my proper attention!

Of course, my career has only been possible because of the invaluable support of my wife Carolyn, working directly in our businesses together and also providing me with advice and guidance when needed. I am looking forward to her being Consort, bringing her networking skills with her and continuing our partnership to the benefit of the Livery!

The Pipe Makers' Livery Company is currently thriving, with many new members (including corporates) and a good reputation as an interesting and hospitable company. The Benevolent Fund is also doing well and we do much good charitable work. We therefore want to continue with this good path as much as we are able.

However, we cannot assume that this progress will continue for ever. One of the main efforts during my year will therefore be to look several years ahead to try and identify potential threats and opportunities so we can be ready for them.



We are fortunate that company members come from a very wide range of countries, backgrounds and experiences, and this makes for a very open-minded and interesting culture within the Company. With a great team of Wardens, Clerk, Treasurer and company staff, I look forward to drawing on all this experience to make the Company as resilient as possible for the future.

Carolyn and I are honoured and privileged to have been elected as Master and Consort for the year and we look forward to a wonderful year with you all!

Henry Tuck
Master-Elect



The Benevolent Fund - Another Busy Year

It might look as though it's been 'business as usual' for the Benevolent Fund's work over the last year, but there has been plenty going on to keep the Trustees occupied. Over the last 12 months we have revisited all of our governance documents and policies to make sure that they're up-to-scratch, and I would particularly like to highlight the part that Trustee Marie Cooper has played in driving that initiative. We now have an updated risk register, trustee board code of conduct and a complete set of revised policies. In line with best practice, we also entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Livery Company to ensure that our relationship is as strong as ever, while preserving the independence that the Charity Commission requires of us.

Review of our giving strategy

If all that remains a bit hidden from external view, there are some other changes which should be more apparent to both Company members and people applying for grants. With particular support from Trustees Susan Curran and Jerry Merton, we reviewed our grant-giving guidelines for our General Fund, and the processes for our considering applications.

Some highlights of our decisions on the types of charities we support are:

- We will continue to focus our giving on the charitable aims of advancing education, advancing the arts, culture, heritage and science, and the relief of those in need because of age, ill-health, disability, or other disadvantages.
- In keeping with the tradition of the work of Livery Company charities, we have a preference for the majority of our funding being given to charities with a strong connection to London, or to cities and regions with strong historic links to our trade.
- In furtherance of our support for culture and heritage, we will give particular consideration to requests to fund charities associated with the tobacco trade, provided that such applications stand on their own merit.

- Where they fit with our aims and stand on their own merits, we want to explore supporting cross-livery charitable initiatives, to increase the impact and visibility of livery charities generally and also to contribute to the spread of best practice and the sharing of ideas.

We would also like to remind Liverymen that any request to support a charity in which they are involved will be given special consideration by the Trustees, and we have up to £1,000 in total available for that purpose.

Looking at how we give

We also discussed the types of funding we would give to charities. In line with guidelines from the Institute for Voluntary Action Research, we want to make life as easy as we can for those seeking and getting grants from us, while at the same time meeting our obligation to make sure that our funds really are applied to charitable purposes and spent effectively.

So, we are happy to provide 'core' funding that can meet the basic administration costs of charities (ie help to keep the lights on), and we want to make a significant proportion of our overall giving on three-year cycles, to allow our grantees to plan and to alleviate some of the stress from constantly having to raise funds to keep the organisation going. At the same time, we want to have the flexibility to be able to donate to new causes and to take into account the wishes of the Company and its members, so we are targeting a portion of our giving, perhaps 20-30%, to charities to whom we make clear that we are funding them on a one-off basis.

A new application process

To coincide with our revised giving guidelines and the launch of the new Company website, we have also created a new online application form for those seeking grants from the Benevolent Fund. That helps us by standardising the information we receive in applications, and is also intended to help those making applications by setting out clearly what we're looking for. You can find that application on our new charity page, here: [Benevolent Fund application form](#)



Spotlight on our charities: some new finds...

For the financial year which has just ended, the General side of our Benevolent Fund made grants totalling around £160,000, including £5,000 from the Robert Freeman Fund (which is donated at the discretion of the Master). A bit over 80% of that annual grant total is funded by income from our investment portfolios, the balance from donations from Company members.

This year there are four charities which we are supporting for the first time, all of which we found through our new application process.

Street Storage was started about five years ago by Rachel Woolf, who had experience working with homeless and related charities. She realised that there was a big and unmet demand for safe and secure storage; having to carry all your possessions with you can be a stressful and stigmatising burden for those experiencing homelessness. They currently operate from their base in Haggerston with another facility in the crypt of St Giles in the Fields near Tottenham Court Road, and there is strong demand for their services.

The Garwood Foundation runs centres for the care of adults and children with cerebral palsy and other profound disabilities, in the London boroughs of Sutton, Croydon and Bromley. We are funding their Carers' Forum, which gives those responsible for looking after their child or partner a chance to relax over a light meal or an outing – some 'me time' and a chance to swap information and ideas with other carers, a role which is often exhausting and can also lead to people feeling quite isolated.

Us in a Bus is based at Redhill Aerodrome in Surrey, and was set up by the charity Scope in 1990 before becoming a charity in its own right a few years later. It provides weekly visits to around 120 people with profound learning disabilities, creating chances for them to fully express themselves and to interact with others in a way which might otherwise be lacking and which most of us might take for granted.

We have joined around 50 other Livery companies in supporting the **Livery Food Initiative (LFI)**, launched as part of the charity City Harvest in December 2022. It takes food which is about to go to waste from farms, manufacturers and retailers and distributes it

to approaching 400 charities in London, who support those experiencing food poverty. The LFI has already raised funds to operate a sprinter van for three years, and is now raising money to fund a larger truck which can source food from further afield and further back in the supply chain.

... some old friends

The charities whom we have been supporting for a longer period also continue to do great work. You can see details of these longer-term charity partners on our website, but a few (non-exhaustive) highlights this year were:

The National Bobath Centre is based in Watford and offers therapy for those with cerebral palsy. We support the Early Intervention programme which provides vital treatment for those as young as four weeks. A couple of our Trustees visited last April, along with then Master Paul Taberer and Master-Elect Elise Rasmussen and all were moved at being given a privileged peak into one of the therapy sessions.



The Katherine Low Settlement (KLS) is this year celebrating 100 years of serving the community of Battersea. On a recent visit we sat in on the after-school 'Love to Learn' sessions which we have been supporting since 2016. These sessions work with children, often from a refugee background, offering 1-1 help with homework, study skills and English. We have recently agreed also to fund the KLS English for Speakers of Other Languages programme, an initiative which is complementary to Love to Learn and supports the parents whose children attend the homework club.





A few miles northeast of KLS is **Pembroke House**, based in Walworth since 1885. We support their Academy of Music, a project involving around 50 children in the area, who benefit from high-quality music tuition and organised performances. A couple of our trustees went along to one of these concerts in June, and reported back that “it really was a lovely evening with a wide range of music and instruments being showcased... the children gain immeasurably, whether that’s in learning what it takes in terms of commitment to practice in their spare time and learning to read music or from the confidence they gain to be able to stand up and perform in front of a reasonable sized audience”.



Physics Partners was founded in 2007 and has been funded by us since 2015. It’s dedicated to supporting the teaching of physics, a subject vital for the future of the planet and our economy, but for which there is an alarming shortage of teachers in the UK: only 17% of the target for new physics teachers was met in 2023/24. That means that about one third of the people teaching physics in state secondary schools are not specialists, and may lack the support and resources to teach the curriculum effectively. The charity provides bespoke training programmes and organises masterclasses, physics festivals and deep-dive study days. Liveryman Judith Donovan, who joined us as a Trustee in May 2023, has been helping them perfect their marketing materials.



Thank You

The grants that we make from our General Fund represent effectively only half of the Benevolent Fund’s work, with the balance accounted for by our Welfare Fund. Trustee (and Renter Warden) Tony Scanlan chairs our Welfare Committee, and I’d like to offer particular thanks to him and to Trustee (and Liveryman) Nicky Snook (Treasurer of the Welfare Committee) for the effort they put into making sure the Welfare Fund runs smoothly. Tony’s report on the Welfare Fund follows this.

In addition to Tony and Nicky, I’d like to thank all our other hard-working Trustees, our Treasurer Ian Venters, and our indefatigable Secretary Sandra Stocker for helping to ensure that the important work of the Benevolent Fund progresses smoothly.

Jon Fell
Chair



The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers
Registered Charity No. 1172474

The CHILDREN'S MAGICAL *Taxi Tour*

Presented to

The Worshipful Company of Pipe Makers



*We appreciate your generous support of this year's tour.
On behalf of all the children, their helpers and drivers, we thank
you for giving them a happy and most memorable weekend.*



60 Years of Supporting Excellence at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Guildhall School of Music & Drama is ranked number one in Arts, Drama & Music by the Complete University Guide 2024, one of the top ten performing arts institutions in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2023. The Tobacco Pipe Makers' Benevolent Fund is proud to have been a long-term supporter of the School and this year will mark the 60th anniversary of the first scholarship it awarded.

Gregory Salzman owned a London-based leaf tobacco merchant business and, along with his brother Elia, was one of the early members of our Livery Company. In 1963 he made a donation of £1,000 (about £17,500 in today's money) to the Benevolent Fund in order to fund a musical scholarship at one of the London music colleges. The trustees suggested that it be offered to the Guildhall School of Music, and it was arranged that £50 a year – the approximate annual income from the donation – would fund a scholarship to be called 'The Gregory Salzman Scholarship Administered by the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders'.

The first award was presented to violinist Alison McAlister during the School's annual prize

presentation at the Mansion House, on 27th October 1964. The next year's scholar, Anthony Pleeth, was awarded the School's highest award, the Gold Medal, and went on to have a distinguished career, which included joining the School as professor of cello and playing as principal cellist in Trevor Pinnock's English Concert Orchestra.

Unfortunately, Gregory Salzman died soon after setting up his scholarship, but left one quarter of his estate to the Benevolent Fund to provide further scholarships at the School in his name. Meanwhile, following the success of its 1970 appeal for funds, the Benevolent Fund's trustees decided to offer another scholarship at the School. The first recipient of the Tobacco Pipe Makers Scholarship in 1973/4 was Edward Vandespaar, who retired only last year as Principal Viola at the London Symphony Orchestra.

By 1978 the Benevolent Fund was funding three scholarships (two Pipe Makers, one Salzman), and that had increased to four by 2002. The Salzman name seems last to have been used in 2006, but the Benevolent Fund continues to this day to offer four scholarships a year at the School. By my reckoning our



charity has supported getting on for 180 students over the 60 years of the relationship.

We're all aware of how expensive it is not just to pay tuition fees but also to live in London. Our scholarships help the students to focus on their study and practice and reduce the need to supplement their income by taking on other jobs.

The Master and I had the pleasure of meeting this year's Pipe Makers Scholars – Emyr Jones (Tenor), Isobel Doncaster (Viola), Lucy Walsh (Flute) and Ollie Plant (Trombone) – at the School's Supporters' Evening last November, and we were delighted that they were also able to join us at the Company's January Dinner, at which Emyr also sang for us accompanied by another student, Alastair Burton and an alumnus, Patrick Dow.

We are often lucky enough to witness the School's students performing at one of our dinners, but if you haven't already done so I would also heartily recommend going to see one of the School's performances – they are excellent. To mark the 60th anniversary we are planning to organise an event around the first Guildhall Symphony Orchestra performance of the new academic year, at the Barbican on 27th September.

Jonathan Fell
Chair

The Welfare Fund

The Welfare Committee continues its work to provide support for people who have worked in our industry and are in need. The overall population is dwindling as factories and warehouses have been closed for many years, however we were delighted when a mailer from JTI to its pensioners regarding the Fund opened up a source of potential recipients in Northern Ireland which had previously been difficult to communicate with. We have been able to provide immediate help where needed which has been much appreciated. Net Recipients increased from 151 to 163 over the year with £206,000 disbursed in assistance and gifts.

The annual satisfaction survey once again showed that the assistance we give is much appreciated and vital to many. The full results will soon be posted on the Benevolent Fund website. It is clear that over the past

couple of years the aid we provide has been critical to many: 'cost of living increases and energy bills are much better afforded due to these benefits. I don't know how I would have coped otherwise'.....'without the charity I would not still be in my house, which I love'.

One of our long-standing Field Welfare Officers Geraldine Johnstone retired during the year. FWO's Dot Curtain and Fred Kirkland will cover Northern Ireland and Scotland respectively where Geraldine has given us such great support over the years.

We thank members of the Livery for their important continued support for this vital work.

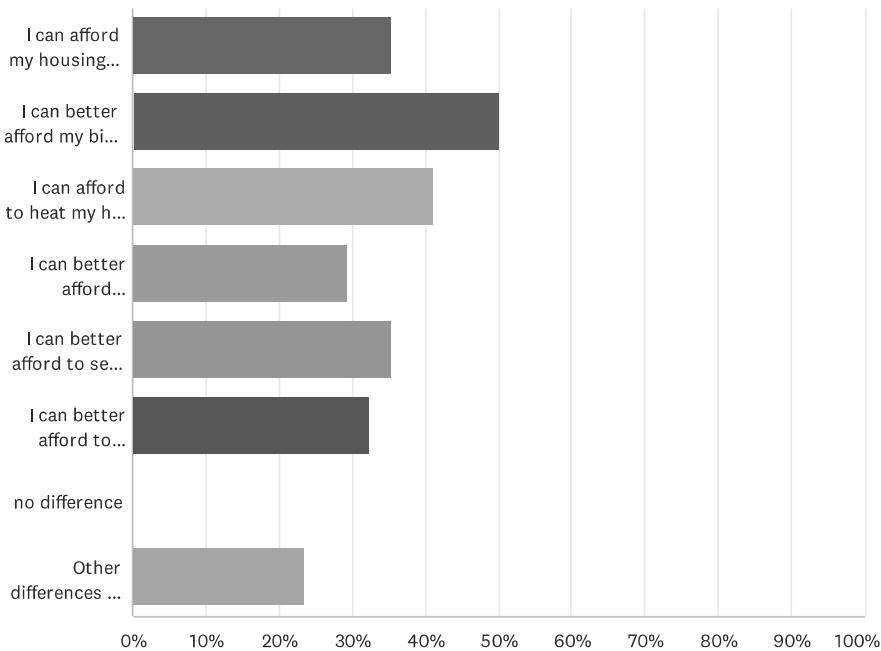
Tony Scanlan
Chair, Welfare Committee



Copy of Impact Measurement

Q1 Over the last year, what difference has financial support from the TTBF made to you:

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I can afford my housing costs	35.29% 12
I can better afford my bills such as council tax/water/electricity/gas	50.00% 17
I can afford to heat my home more	41.18% 14
I can better afford nutritious food	29.41% 10
I can better afford to see or keep in contact with my family of friends more regularly	35.29% 12
I can better afford to repair or replace items such as fridge/tv/washing machine	32.35% 11
no difference	0.00% 0
Other differences not listed	23.53% 8
Total Respondents: 34	

#	OTHER DIFFERENCES NOT LISTED	DATE
1	Able to save for my funeral costs	2/28/2024 5:34 PM
2	Can afford help in the house and garden	2/28/2024 5:32 PM
3	has helped with debts	2/28/2024 4:59 PM

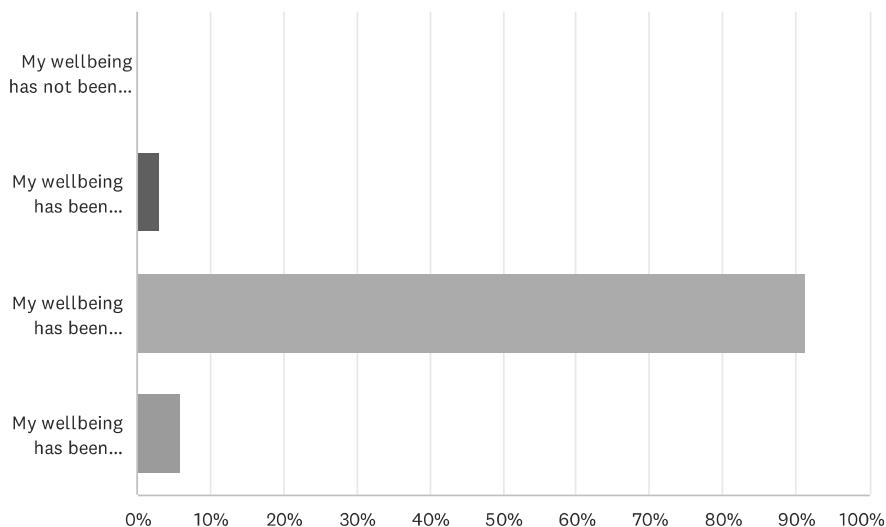


Copy of Impact Measurement

4	I can also pay for our private carer which is essential for us both	2/28/2024 4:54 PM
5	Everything, all of these things	2/28/2024 4:21 PM
6	Godsend, all of the above	2/28/2024 4:17 PM
7	Receives no regular relief but is grateful for previous grants toward home repairs	2/28/2024 3:44 PM
8	Mrs W depends on the financial support from the charity and is very grateful.	2/28/2024 3:33 PM

Q2 Over the last year, what impact has the financial support from the TTBF had on your wellbeing?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



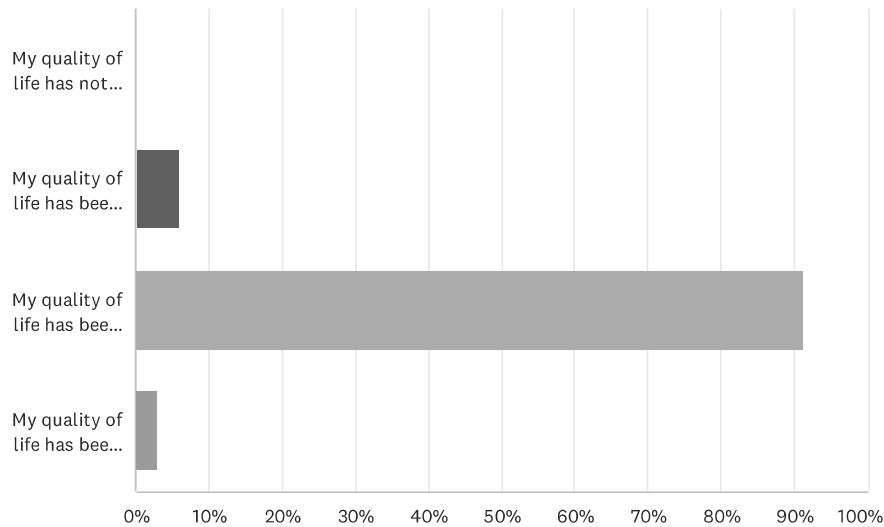
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
My wellbeing has not been improved at all by it	0.00%	0
My wellbeing has been slightly improved by it	2.94%	1
My wellbeing has been significantly improved by it	91.18%	31
My wellbeing has been transformed by it	5.88%	2
TOTAL		34



Copy of Impact Measurement

Q3 Over the last year, what impact has the financial support from TTBF had on your quality of life?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 0



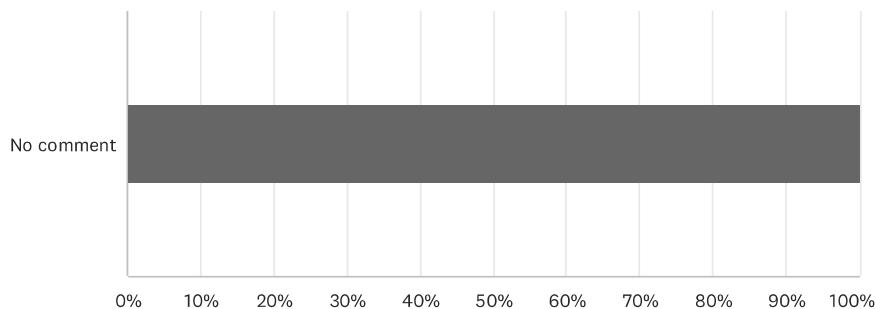
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
My quality of life has not been improved at all by it	0.00%	0
My quality of life has been slightly improved by it	5.88%	2
My quality of life has been significantly improved by it	91.18%	31
My quality of life has been transformed by it	2.94%	1
TOTAL		34



Copy of Impact Measurement

Q4 Please summarise in a sentence the difference that the financial support from the TTBF has made to you over the last year. What would have been different if you hadn't received the financial support?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 30



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No comment	100.00%	4
TOTAL		4

#	COMMENT	DATE
1	Cost of living increases and energy bills are better afforded due to TTBF benefits received. I dont know how I would have coped otherwise. Much appreciated.	2/28/2024 5:37 PM
2	Especially appreciate the one off grant payment received	2/28/2024 5:35 PM
3	Very grateful for everything you sent me	2/28/2024 5:32 PM
4	You are very good to me	2/28/2024 5:31 PM
5	Relieves my worries knowing help is there	2/28/2024 5:30 PM
6	Fantastic help from tobacco	2/28/2024 4:59 PM
7	Really helpful for everything	2/28/2024 4:58 PM
8	Was a god send in the early days, it would have been bad if I had not received help in the early days	2/28/2024 4:58 PM
9	Grateful for the recent grant towards a recliner chair	2/28/2024 4:56 PM
10	They are in a much better position and better control financially	2/28/2024 4:55 PM
11	Always extremely grateful for the financial help	2/28/2024 4:54 PM
12	I would not be able to run my small car which is essential to me	2/28/2024 4:52 PM
13	With the annual payment I have been able to support a friend and redecorate my house	2/28/2024 4:51 PM
14	Greatly appreciate the full TTBF benefits recently awarded to her	2/28/2024 4:50 PM
15	I can now (almost) afford to pay all my outgoings and pay towards my daughters travel costs, she helps me	2/28/2024 4:49 PM
16	Day Centre charges can now be better afforded and my carer can take me out for meals more often now	2/28/2024 4:47 PM



Copy of Impact Measurement

17	I could not afford to socialise without the help, and now I have a new lady friend. We are getting along very well so I'm able to afford to go out with her.	2/28/2024 4:45 PM
18	Able to clear bank loan taken out for a new boiler	2/28/2024 4:43 PM
19	Mrs S is very grateful for the TTBF help received	2/28/2024 4:42 PM
20	It has made a hell of a difference, I dont know what I would have done without it. It is a god send. We are much better off now.	2/28/2024 4:23 PM
21	When completing the questionnaire Mrs E broke down in tears of joy, she says she is delighted to have the help and is overwhelmed by the benefits she receives	2/28/2024 4:21 PM
22	Without the charity I would not still be in my house which I love	2/28/2024 4:19 PM
23	"The bed settee is very very comfortable, could not have got this without your help"	2/28/2024 4:17 PM
24	Mr O has a low income and is grateful for the help he receives.	2/28/2024 3:52 PM
25	Mrs D thanks the charity for the financial help and has managed to save some of her income towards any household needs.	2/28/2024 3:51 PM
26	Very grateful for ongoing financial help	2/28/2024 3:46 PM
27	Mrs S and her husband are thankful for ongoing financial support	2/28/2024 3:45 PM
28	Mrs H was thankful for previous grants from the charity	2/28/2024 3:44 PM
29	The continued support is a vital part of her household budget and she would be worse off without it.	2/28/2024 3:33 PM



A Message from the New Honorary Chaplain

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the Company via a piece in *Smoke Signals*. Hopefully these few words will give you a sense of me as a person, as your chaplain, and as a smoker!

I have toyed with trying to do this in lots of tobacco images. Is the 'person' bit the filler? And 'priesthood' the wrapper? And being your 'chaplain' in the act of smoking itself?

Or perhaps it's my favourite blend of pipe tobacco? The person is the Virginia flake – a wonderful canvas on which the rich notes of a Latakia heavy tobacco of priesthood can play? And being your chaplain is carefully filling the pipe bowl, knowing you have a companion for a walk around the parish, or an otherwise unexciting day of admin at the desk?

Worry not, I quickly gave up on such grandiose nonsense, and instead will just tell you a little bit about myself...

I grew up in Surrey on the edge of the suburbs near Epsom, surrounded by horse studs and trainers serving the famous racecourse. This meant that there were plenty of bridle paths to secretly start smoking on as a teenager. I remember smoking my first Cuban cigar (a Punch Petit Coronation, sadly discontinued) walking up to the racecourse to work as a waiter at some function or other. The cigar was magnificent. From that day almost all of my pocket money, and the money I earned working in pubs and at catered events, went on cigars. I have always enjoyed working in bars and pubs, and with the general public. There are a lot of parallels in the life of a parish priest and that of a pub landlord...

Before going to Bristol University to read history, I spent a summer working at the highest pub in England – the Tan Hill Inn at the top of Swaledale in North Yorkshire. It was there that I began smoking a pipe. A mixture of pretension and the practical reality of trying to maintain a smoke in the permanent near-gale conditions every time you stepped out the front door of the pub, in its bleak and beautiful moorland setting. A pipe (mostly) and cigars (when I can afford it) have been a friend ever since.

At University my intention to join the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm (I had passed my Admiralty Interview Board and Flight Aptitude Testing during 6th Form), went by the wayside when I came to the Christian faith. Having been a convinced atheist as a teenager, studying history and a little philosophy (with some help from the Holy Spirit, presumably) nudged me over the line. It surprised my non-churchgoing parents, who had rather hoped I might make lots of money and look after them in their old age. Never mind. I suspect my growing sense of priestly calling went with their (by now) discovery of my secret smoking habit into the bin marked 'long-suffering disapproval'...

Upon graduating I went from Bristol to Manchester, to live with some C of E nuns and work in a parish. From there to Theological College embedded in the Anglican monastery at Mirfield in West Yorkshire. As in any institution, the smoking area was always the place to be, with students, monks and other staff swapping stories between the daily round of prayers, meals and studies.

Since ordination, I have always served in a London diocese. First as a curate in the suburbs, then as a school chaplain and assistant priest in St Marylebone, and now at St Giles' Cripplegate - the beautiful medieval survivor in the midst of the Barbican.

The joy of my life (apart from tobacco - and the food, drink and fellowship that naturally go with it!) is doing life with God and people in local community.

It is already clear to me what a friendly and spirited company the Pipe Makers are. I am delighted to be your chaplain, and look forward to holy friendship flourishing between us. Thank you for your generous welcome and hospitality.

The Reverend Canon Jack Noble





A Message from the new Beadle

Wayne became a Yeoman Warder in 2023 after 24 years in the Cheshire and Mercian Regiments, which included tours in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan. Just before joining the ranks in the Tower of London, he had spent five years in America where his wife, Carla, was Head of Events and Protocol at the British Embassy in Washington DC and Wayne was a Policy Support Officer for the Defence, Policy and Nuclear team.

On their return to the UK, a love of “history and telling stories” as well as the required long service and good conduct medal qualification, prompted Wayne to apply and he got the job in April 2023.

The story test is the final part of a YW’s probation, where after months of practicing, it is recited to the Chief Yeoman Warder, Rob Fuller, and the Tower Director, Andrew Jackson. If successfully delivered, they are ready to take their first tour following a congratulatory glass of port (see below). It was only after taking the 10.00 am tour that Wayne admitted to the crowd that they were his first audience and received warm applause in return.

Left to right: Yeoman Serjeant John Donald, Chief Yeoman Warder Rob Fuller, Yeoman Warder Wayne

Glynn, Tower Director Andrew Jackson, Ravenmaster Chris Skaife (who is also Wayne’s mentor) and Yeoman Gaoler Clive Towell with a ‘cheeky glass of port’ to celebrate Wayne’s first tour.

Wayne and his family – he has two sons – find living in the Tower a ‘fantastic’ experience and he maintains it is a welcoming environment despite its bloodthirsty history. Citing the Tower Chapel as a favourite with its “...three Queens of England and two saints, it’s pretty special.”

“I always thought when I came here that it wouldn’t feel quite right but, actually, I think it’s the most peaceful place. There are certain spots that are a different beast at night or early morning when you’re opening up, but I always say, ‘good morning’ when I open the chapel up to all the spirits in there.”

Wayne acknowledges that knowing the ‘Tower Story’ off by heart is only the beginning “You’re continually learning” he says, “but if you enjoy history and you like learning about the place and you love what you’re doing, it doesn’t feel like work, and I love what I’m doing!”

Wayne Glynn
Beadle



A Message from the new Clerk's Assistant

William (Bill) Curran joined the Company as Clerk's Assistant on 5th November 2023, the day after his retirement from Transport for London and the day before our Annual Banquet at The Mansion House. Bill 'hit the floor running' with the largest Annual Banquet in Company records on 6th November

and the largest January Dinner at Drapers' Hall in Company records on 24th January 2024.

Bill has enjoyed meeting the members of the Company and guests and looks forward to helping with Company events in the future.



Trooping the Colour 2023

A gloriously sunny morning at Horse Guards' Parade for Trooping the Colour: Colonel's Review on Saturday 10 June 2023 saw our Master hosting members of our Company and their families to enjoy the spectacle of the British Army practising for the King's Birthday Parade a week later.

The regiments on parade were the Household Cavalry (the Life Guards and the Blues & Royals), the King's Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery, the Grenadier Guards, the Scots Guards, the Welsh Guards, "our" Irish Guards and the Coldstream Guards, with HRH Prince William, Colonel in Chief of the Welsh Guards, taking the salute. Everything was done to perfection: empty carriages coming and going were given as much attention as if it was the day of the birthday parade, timings were impeccable, everything was polished to the maximum.

Those of us who were lucky enough to be seated in the shade of the plane trees behind the Downing Street wall looked pityingly across at the spectators sitting in full sunshine for several hours. As the watered gravel





dried out and the temperature soared, teams of army stretcher bearers were increasingly busy removing their colleagues on parade in heavy uniforms and bearskins who had been badly affected by the heat – we counted at least fifteen who reluctantly had to be helped away.

We all observed the Table of Compliments, aided by Military Ushers giving us our cues to stand up or sit down as the Colour passed by. The final flourish was provided by the hundreds of waiting cavalry who cantered into and around the parade ground, raising the dust, before making their way back towards The Mall.

Seamus the Irish Wolfhound was perfectly behaved throughout in his new dress coat! If you get the opportunity to see the programme Coronation Tailors: Fit for a King on BBC iPlayer, please do watch it: Seamus makes an appearance getting a very smart outfit made, as does Major Robbie Wilmont MBE, Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Irish Guards.

Jacqueline Burrows
Third Warden



Presentation of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy

At the January Dinner at Drapers' Hall on 24th January 2024, the first recipient of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy, Mr David Abel, was presented with the Trophy, by the Master.



Past Master Jerry Merton said:

Alan Beggs was, for many years the Honorary Secretary to the Irish Guards Association (London Branch), following 24 years' service in the Band of the Irish Guards; he also served as the Clerk's Assistant to the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders. It was through Alan that our affiliation with the Irish Guards Association was initiated, fostered and enhanced, and over the years it has become one of the most important relationships that our Company has. We are incredibly proud to support all of the great work done by the Association, and we are grateful for the friendship and kindness that they show to us. The Association was formed to enable friends to keep in touch with one another, to help members of the Regiment find suitable employment, and provide welfare assistance to those in need.

Following Alan's untimely passing in 2022, in order to further cement the relationship between our two organisations, and to commemorate Alan's considerable contribution over the years, we have introduced an award – The Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy – which is to be given each year to a member of the Association who has either made a significant contribution to the work of the Association, or who has done something outstanding to improve the life or lives of one or more of their members or their families. We are delighted that the first recipient of this award is David Abel.

Major Robbie Wilmont, Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Irish Guards said:

David Abel served as a reservist in the Royal Signals for a period of 29 years whilst also working for British Airways in a career which spanned over four decades. He first met Alan in 2016 when he got chatting to him at a Royal British Legion event in Borehamwood. In true Alan style he was quickly invited to come along to Wellington Barracks for one of the monthly 'First Friday' drinks meetings in the Sergeants Mess. After only a few weeks Alan asked if he would mind coming in to help him distribute the Irish Guards Journals which he gladly agreed to. It wasn't long afterwards





before he was signed up as an Associate Member of the London Branch of the Irish Guards Association and his visits to the office to assist Alan became a regular feature on an almost weekly basis. Alan was very grateful for the assistance provided by David during his tenure as the Branch Secretary and would frequently comment to others about how reliable and efficient he was. Since Alan's passing, David has continued to support the Branch and is a great help to Ron and Jimmy in the office. He is one of those people who just gets on with things, without whom

an organisation such as the Irish Guards Association, could not function. He works tirelessly for the good of the Association with no expectation of reward or favour. Too often, the contributions of people like David (and Alan) go unrecognised, and we are delighted that David is being recognised tonight.

For everything that he did to help Alan, and for his continued support to the Branch, it was a very easy decision for us to nominate him as the first recipient of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy which we know he will take great pride in receiving.



The Shamrock Coronation Ball

Mercers' Company is the number one Company. The Irish Guards always host magnificent events. But a Shamrock and Dragons black tie dinner in Mercers' Hall was particularly special. Of course, the first thing I did upon arrival was a photo session with Seamus, the Irish Wolfhound who is the most famous member of the regiment. He stole the show at the King's Coronation and my heart the very first time I met him! After the photoshoot.... Having arrived early, Court Assistant Flora Okereke and I were treated to a tour of the Company and some of its many treasures. Our guide was terrific and I was entranced by her knowledge and enthusiasm as we went back in time to the year 1200 when the Hospital of St Thomas of Acon was founded on the birthplace of Thomas Becket. In 1394 Mercers received their first Royal Charter. In 1395 Richard Whittington was elected Master. The Mercers have an entire area dedicated to this amazing and renowned man who was an English Merchant and politician. He was four times Lord Mayor of London and the inspiration for the English folk tale Dick Whittington and his cat.

Way ahead of their time, Mercers admitted their first woman member, Alice Bridenell in 1428. The in-depth tour ended in their Chapel with the alabaster effigy of Sir Richard Fishborne, which was erected in 1633 over his burial place in Mercers' Chapel. The Effigy has survived both the Great Fire of 1666 and the destruction of the Hall in 1941.

Upon exiting the Chapel, we were offered champagne and an evening of merriment. Over a delicious dinner, I enjoyed the company of a Chelsea Pensioner, whose wit and stories made the evening speed past. Raising funds is an integral part of this event and an artist was commissioned to render an entire painting before the auction began! Unbelievable! Fortunately, he had a few moments while the bagpipes played and the piper received his hard-earned whiskey. The most mesmerising part of the evening was the indescribable performance by Friederike Krum. An award-winning German mezzo soprano, Friederike devotes her time and in this case music to the Chelsea pensioners. They all clearly adore her. She truly sang like an angel and even allowed us to bid for more! As is often the case, the celebrations ended too quickly and soon enough our carriages whisked us into the night.

Elise Rasmussen
Master



Irish Guards Association (London Branch) Annual Dinner

My Consort, William and I were delighted to receive an invitation to dine at the Union Jack Club with the Irish Guards Association (London Branch). It was great to see Major Niall Hall and Major Robbie Wilmont not to mention Ron Kirkland. We started in the famous Union Jack bar and then I processed in with Colonel Ben Farrell, Chairman of the London Branch, who attended our January Dinner at Drapers' Hall.

It was a fascinating evening where I was privileged to experience the behind-the-scenes discussions of adventures past and present by current serving officers and ones who have ventured into civilian careers. It was

a privilege to be part of this special evening, albeit a sobering one when one of the officers shared the names of those members who had passed this past year. It was a reminder of the risks these brave men and women take every day as well as those who like our beloved Alan Beggs pass due to illness. The evening finished with a comprehensive report of the past year's activities, illustrating the Irish Guards' service and dedication to preserving peace around the world.

Elise Rasmussen
Master



The Irish Guards St Patrick's Day Parade 2024

It was a cold wet St Patrick's Day morning, when my husband Bill, the Clerk's Assistant and I arrived at Wellington Barracks, near St James' Park to catch the early coach to Mons Barracks in Aldershot with members of the Irish Guards Association. Once at Mons Barracks, we met up with the Master, Elise Rasmussen, and found seats in the stands.

The rain didn't dampen our spirits, after all it is St Patrick's Day and we couldn't wait to see the Irish Guards on parade. The Irish Guards Band were led by their mascot - a 3-year-old Irish Wolfhound called Seamus, who we have seen at some of our Livery events.

We sat opposite the parade ground and watched the Guards march into position while we listened to the band of the Irish Guards. Also on parade were members of the Irish Guards Association and members of No 15 (Loos) Company, London Guards, who are cap badged Irish Guards, and are also an affiliation of our Livery Company.

Once all those on parade had received their shamrock from Lady Ghika, who stood in for HRH the Princess of Wales, Colonel of the Regiment, then came the march past Major General Sir Christopher Ghika who is the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel of the Irish Guards and Lady Ghika, to a background of stirring music from the Irish Guards Band.

All too soon, the parade was over and it was time to board the coach back to Wellington Barracks, where we were treated to traditional Irish stew in the Sergeants' Mess and a few pints of Guinness.

Susan Curran
Court Assistant





The Irish Guards Association (London Branch)

Annual Dinner 2024

The London Branch of the Irish Guards Association were kind enough to invite Carolyn and I to their annual dinner at Wellington Barracks. Normally held in November, the event was moved to March as St Patrick's Day was the next day and it could be part of the annual celebration weekend. This event therefore counted as part of our Mastership year.

We were made most welcome by the members of the Association and we were privileged to be sat at the top table with the Branch Chairman Colonel Ben Farrell MBE, together with Sir Christopher Ghika, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel of the Irish Guards, and other senior guests.

Carolyn sat next to Frank Groves who was a fund of interesting stories and, as an expert piper, could give a commentary on the piping that led us into dinner and entertained us afterwards.

After a fine dinner, Colonel Farrell read out a letter of best wishes from the King and gave great thanks to us for the Pipe Makers' continued support. This was followed by various toasts and an update on the current activities of the regiment, particularly in relation to training various national armies in Africa.

The final speech was to have been given by Steve Collins, the legendary Irish boxer and reservist in the Irish Guards, but unfortunately, he was unable to come. His place was ably taken by Major Robbie Wilmont, who regaled us with stories of Army life, particularly in relation to the family nature of the Irish Guards.



It is clear that the Pipe Makers are now regarded as part of the Irish Guards Association family and are valued for our continued support.

Thank you to the Association for a wonderful dinner and company and we look forward to returning the hospitality.

Henry Tuck
Master-Elect



A Calendar Year of Number 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards

The first full calendar year of Number 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards has been exceptionally busy on both Ceremonial and Green Training fronts. Once in a lifetime opportunities have come thick and fast, whilst still maintaining our infantry output and growing Company capability – truly displaying our dual role as Foot Guards Infantry.

Green training has evolved throughout the year into challenging and dynamic scenarios that represent the modern theatres of war we see in South-Eastern Europe. Under the guidance of Capt Felix Jones, Capt Sam Coore and CSgt Scott we are now focusing on Urban environments, Fighting in Woods and Forests and utilising Drones and Company Weapon systems.

Attendance for these weekends has been exceptional and enabled us to operate as a Platoon for the first time in years. This green training will continue to evolve and remain challenging to push the boundaries of what we can do as Reservists. This has been superbly supported by the newly formed Arras Company under Major Paddy Russell's command.

2023 saw yet another overseas training exercise – Ex IBERIAN STAR in Spain where the London Guards, supported by Regulars operated as a Dismounted Company. At the same time, the Company mobilised 5 x Guardsmen to deploy to Kenya for 3 months with the Grenadier Guards – each displaying the best characteristics of the Company. Additional mobilisations from the Company to support Op





INTERFLEX (training Ukrainians in the UK) was another feather in our cap.



This was swiftly followed by the Presentation of the New Colours at Buckingham Palace with HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. Lt Sam Coore and 2Lt Richard Arthur had the honour to march off the London Regiment Colours – a huge day in which each Officer and Soldier performed brilliantly. It also gave those usually not able to parade the chance to get into uniform and support in front of families and friends.

Additionally, on a crisp and cold Remembrance Day the London Guards formed the Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor's Show 2023. Whilst a whole Battalion effort, again, the Company provided a large chunk of the soldiers on parade and enablers – watched live by 2.1 million viewers. Another first – this was the first time the Great Coat was worn on Parade by the majority. The City Of London is hugely important to the Company, and we are supported and affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Founders, and the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders.

We have been blessed with a brilliantly engaging year and thus have seen brilliantly high retention. We've also seen success with a huge number of recently qualified Guardsmen from the Recruit Training Wing (under Sgt Raynor and LCpl Minogue's guidance) and the Combat Infantryman's Course in Catterick. These numbers have enabled us to re-ORBAT the Company to 10 Platoon under 2Lt Richard Arthur, 11 Platoon under 2Lt William Galbraith and a newly created Somme Platoon under 2Lt Jemma Couchman.

As alluded to earlier, this re-ORBAT has been in conjunction with the formation of Arras Company under Major Paddy Russell. This Company comprises of the HQ element of the Battalion, the Signals Platoon

Concurrently to this Green training, we have been quickly learning how to polish, stand still and make our mark in the world of State Ceremonial and Public Duties. This is not a quick process, and there have been many, many hours with the tailor – thank you CSgt Roberts – and Gdsm Emmett and Ramos discovering an uncanny knack for being able to burn down and bull boots.

Op GOLDEN ORB was heavily supported by members of the Company in Street Lining, Colour Party and in Buckingham Palace Gardens. This was the first time most of the Company had had the honour of wearing the Bearskin Cap and Tunic – a once in a lifetime opportunity. We had the understated, but hugely important compliment that as Reservists on parade we were indistinguishable from our Regular counterparts. To be involved in this occasion cemented our position in the Household Division as a Company that is able to provide the right output and maintain the extraordinarily high standards expected.



and the Mechanical Transport Platoon. We continue to work extremely closely together at Flodden Road.

The Company has bid farewell to WO2 Sebukima on his Late-Entry Commission to Captain Herbert Sebukima, whose new appointment is Arras Company Second-in-Command, and CSgt Rooney on his appointment as Ypres Company Quarter Master Sergeant.

Quis Separabit.

Major Ollie Bambrick
Company Commander
Number 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards



The SIRRAH Trophy

On a bright and crisp Saturday morning of the 14th of October, the 'Smoking Barrels' braved the downpour the day before, to get to Searchers Farm, our destination where we put up our defence of the SIRRAH Trophy, a shooting competition, against our affiliations of No 15 (Loos) Company Irish Guards and the Irish Guards Association.

The weather held well with many a sunny spell and typically the odd light shower. None of this dampened the spirits of the Pipe Makers' team as we "battled" out a Clay Pigeon shoot over five stands with ten shots at each.

Dividing into our teams, a closely fought competition was had. Master Elise Rasmussen was also able to take part on each stand, shooting for only the second time, improving on each stand and receiving the biggest cheer at the break of each "bird". She was guided by our instructor, Barry, who assisted all shooters helping them improve.

Following the five stands, the best shooter from each team competed for extra team points with a five bird shoot off using a Lee-Enfield rifle which was around

75 years old. The Lee-Enfield rifle was made from 1895 to 1957 and served as the British army's main firearm for the first half of the 20th Century, owing to it being a quicker repetitive shot due to the magazine fed bolt-action system.

No magazine or speedy shots were required for the teams today and Charlie Lambert stepped up with aplomb. Charlie had tied with Colin Ritchie but was chosen by the drawing of straws for what stand score should be used to determine our winner. Charlie won the additional shoot off.

Thankfully, all attendees were invited to shoot with the rifle, and it didn't disappoint. It was an immense pleasure to shoot with a piece of history.

Best team overall and Best Shot of the day was fought for. Major Oliver Bambrick, Company Commander, No 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards took Best Shot with thirty-eight, only two ahead from Charlie.

The army fatigues of Major Bambrick's Company did not manage to put off the other two teams, although came close, as they ended up finishing third, behind the Irish Guards Association leaving the Pipe



Makers' team of the 'Smoking Barrels' as winners and retaining the SIRRAH Trophy.

Congratulations to the team and all attendees, consisting of Colin Ritchie, Charlie Lambert, David Smith, Laurent Charbonnier, Adam Phillips and Master Elise Rasmussen.

A wonderful event, with thanks going to all at Searchers Farm for their organisation, a BBQ which preceded the shoot off and their generosity with their time and hospitality. Special thanks go to Major Robbie Wilmont of the Irish Guards for his dedication in making this competition a reality once again.

Adam Phillips
Liveryman





The Battle of Loos Dinner

It is always special to spend the evening with one of our military affiliations. Therefore, I was delighted to be invited by Number 15 (Loos) Company to dine with them at the Union Jack Club. The bagpipes welcomed us and made for a wonderful procession! Comradery and spirit permeated the room. It was lovely to watch Major Ollie Bambrick present trophies to so many deserving members under his command.

The recipient of the Tranter Trophy was Colour Sergeant Craig Scott. We wish him our heartiest congratulations! It was very nice sharing the head table with Master Founder, Nicholas Butterworth and to be joined by several Americans. We seem to get everywhere! As always, the evening ended all too soon - at least for those of us with trains to catch!



Elise Rasmussen
Master



Heritage Activities in 2023

We have continued to do our best to support the craft of clay pipemaking in 2023, focusing particularly on the Broseley Pipe Museum.

Like many attractions, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust has struggled to get its visitor numbers back to the pre-Covid level. However, it has also been hit by flooding of the River Severn, which has damaged some of its buildings and artefacts.

Whilst the Broseley Pipe Museum is well above any potential flood water levels, we felt that there was a danger that the Museum opening periods might be vulnerable to cost cutting if the museum finances did not recover quickly enough.

We therefore made a contribution to the running costs of the Pipe factory and also the costs of Oliver Meeson giving demonstrations to the public.

In the end, the Pipe museum had a good summer with many visitors enjoying the tour and also seeing some of our prints and artefacts which are on display there.

We also contributed to the Pipe Museum welfare by having a very enjoyable Pipe Maker's Livery weekend with 9 members visiting and buying tickets to the whole Ironbridge Gorge Museum and all its sites. Not only did we get our own special guided tour of the Pipe Museum, but Jacqueline and Simon Burrows hosted a wonderful reception in the flat they were staying in right next to the actual Ironbridge! Wonderful weather and good food and company made it a fabulous weekend, which we hope to repeat!

Oliver Meeson was also commissioned to manufacture "Coronation" pipes which were given to guests at the annual banquet and were very well received.

The January Dinner on 24th January also saw the first presentation of a Company award, to Rex Key, Pipemaker, based in Shropshire, in gratitude for his long-standing service to the craft.

Henry Tuck
Senior Warden





The Presentation of the Company Award

The January Dinner on 24th January 2024 saw the first presentation of a Company award, to Rex Key, Pipemaker, based in Shropshire, in gratitude for his long-standing service to the craft.

Beginning in the late 16th century, clay pipe making has been a long tradition in England, passed on from generation to generation. From the 17th century onwards, pipe makers used iron moulds in order to produce their clay pipes. Historians were not exactly sure how the earliest clay pipes were produced in the late 16th century until Mudlark Alan Place miraculously found the earliest known clay pipe mould in the River Thames in 2011. Based on the size and shape of the pipe carved into the mould, the Museum of London has dated it to AD 1580—1610. Surviving over 400 years in the waterlogged conditions of the Thames foreshore, this wooden mould is the only known example in Britain which still exists.

To regulate the manufacture of clay tobacco pipes, the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders was granted a charter by King James I in 1619. Because of the rising popularity of smoking, there were over 1,000 clay pipe makers in London by the end of the 17th century. The pipe making industry flourished until the beginning of the 20th century when cigarettes became more popular than pipe smoking. As a result, the commercial production of clay pipes dwindled and ceased in the 1960's.

Rex Key first became interested in pipe making after finding one in his garden when he moved to Broseley over 50 years ago – now he is one of the few people ensuring that the techniques are not completely lost to history. ‘The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust’ realised there was an old clay pipe factory there that had closed in 1957 or 1958. That was when the last pipe maker died and by that time clay pipes were going out of fashion. The industry died and the factory closed, but amazingly it was locked up, abandoned, and forgotten about. And that's the way it stayed for more than 30 years until it was opened up.

It was in a terrible derelict state, but everything was still there. The kiln was still there, almost full of pipes waiting to be fired. There was clay, paperwork and moulds – it was a lovely time capsule of how it was in the 1950s and probably hadn't changed much since it had been set up in 1881. Since then, the old factory has been turned into one of the Museums owned by the Trust and it is now open to the public.

Over the last 50 years, Rex has found 14,000 clay pipe bowls. They're from three pipe factories that were in the area at the time. He had made countless more. Up until his retirement, he was the only person in the world creating pipes with the traditional Victorian methods in an actual Victorian pipe works. Rex said “My skill wasn't inherited, it's something that's taken 50 years to get to the stage where I can turn out reasonable looking clay pipes in the traditional manner with the traditional equipment”. “Because we've got this unique original unspoiled Victorian pipe works, the craft will always be protected. Ironbridge Museums will ensure it's here for future generations”.

He has frequently made pipes for re-enactment teams and theatre troupes looking for a little bit of authenticity. His pipes have appeared in several Hollywood movies including ‘The ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ and many period dramas on British television.

Rex is now passing on his knowledge and skills to Oliver Meeson, so that Oliver can build a business and ensure the clay pipe making craft does not die out. Rex and Oliver also demonstrate pipe making at the Broseley Clay Tobacco Pipe Works in the summertime, to help bring the craft alive to the Pipe Museum visitors.

The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders are proud to present their First Company Award to Mr Rex Key, in grateful recognition of his services to the craft and heritage of Clay Pipe Making.



© Shropshire Star, Shropshire man Rex Key keeping art of clay pipe making alive, August 27, 2017

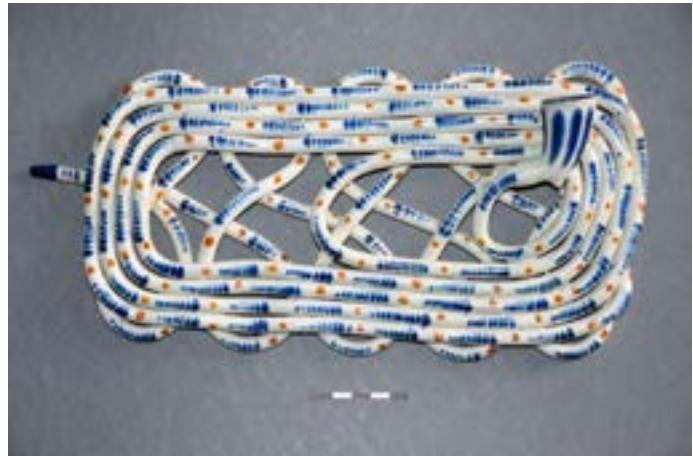
© Beach Combing, Clay Pipe Making: The Victorian Way, December 09, 2019



News from the National Pipe Archive

The Livery has had a long association with the National Pipe Archive and has been supporting them for many years in their task of collecting and preserving a record of the industry's history for future generations. The remit of the archive is very broad and includes all types of pipes, as well as associated objects such as tobacco jars, snuff containers, matchboxes, and lighters. Their collections include actual objects as well as slides, photographs, publications, and research notes, which are used to promote the education of the general public as well as for study by students and academic researchers.

This year's update starts with the sad news that yet another collection relating to the history of smoking has been lost. In December of 2023 Bonhams of New Bond Street in London auctioned off the 'British American Tobacco Collection of Eighteenth-Century Tobacco Containers and Accessories'. This was a magnificent collection charting the top end of tobacco consumption during the eighteenth century, with many of the items being used to illustrate the 1988 publication *Tobacco Containers & Accessories: Their Place in Eighteenth Century European Social History* by Gage and Marsh. The collection included a wide range of tobacco and smoking related objects including tobacco jars and boxes, snuff containers, fire pots, pipe cases, tobacco cutters and stoppers, as well as a number of pipes. These ranged from a seventeenth-century Chinese porcelain water pipe of the type that provided inspiration for eighteenth-century Meissen copies to Turkish style water pipes, long-stemmed 'churchwarden' pipes, and early nineteenth-century English puzzle pipes. One of these was a large rectangular pearlware pipe of a design with only one known parallel – and that is in the Baroness de Rothschild's Collection in Grasse public library, France.



An early nineteenth century English pearlware puzzle pipe of an unusual form from the British American Tobacco Collection.

Over the last few years most of the principal collections owned by private companies or individuals have been broken up and sold; the 'House of Pipes' collection at Bramber, the Dunhill Collection and that of W. D. and H. O. Wills to name but a few. The sale of the British American Tobacco Collection means that there are no longer any known company collections remaining and goes to highlight the importance of the National Pipe Archive as a repository for gathering and preserving this sort of material.

On a more positive note, the Archive has continued to take in donations and work to curate and disseminate the information that it holds. This is mainly done through maintaining and developing the Archive's website (www.pipearchive.co.uk), which has many thousands of visitors every year. This enables the Archive to have an international reach, which can lead to some very interesting connections being made. In 2023 Peter Sacks, M.D., from California contacted the Archive via the website offering to donate a briar pipe that had belonged to his late father in Bloemfontein, South Africa. This was a French made GBD pipe, ornately decorated with leaves and flowers. Along with the pipe came a letter from the late Past Master John Adler dated 12 July 1971 describing this as a "magnificent pipe" and stating that he had borrowed it and included it in an exhibition organised by the Pipe Club of Cheshire, which was held at Sale in

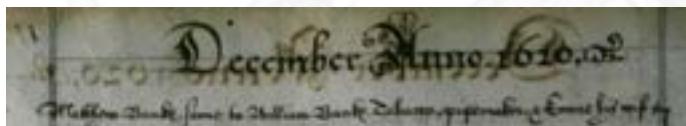


September of that year. The Archive also holds a catalogue for that exhibition, which lists the pipe in question. The pipe now resides in Archive, together with documentation showing that it had travelled from France to South Africa, London, Cheshire, South Africa (again) and California, before finally returning to England. Quite a globe-trotting pipe!



A French made GBD pipe of c1900 that was exhibited by John Adler at Sale, Cheshire, in 1971, and donated to the National Pipe Archive in 2023 (LIVNP 2023.03).

One of the main areas that has been developed over the past year has been the updating of lists of pipemakers for different parts of the country. These lists are very time-consuming to research and compile since there was never any central registry or licensing system for pipe makers and so they must be tracked down and identified from a variety of individual historical documents, such as parish registers, apprenticeship and tax records, court papers and poll lists. For example, an early London pipemaker is recorded in the parish register of St. Botolph without Aldgate when he baptised a son in 1620.



Baptism of Matthew, a son 'to William Banks Tobacco pipemaker & Emme his wife' on 24 December 1620 (St. Botolph without Aldgate Parish Register, f.122r).

Many pipemakers operated in small family-run workshops that could be located in all sorts of different locations, and even carried out their work as a dual occupation with some other trade, such as that of a publican. So, a wide variety of different records has to be accessed to search for them,

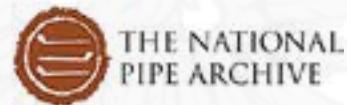
particularly during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries before trade directories were regularly produced. This is, however, a very important task, since many pipemakers marked their products and these marks can be used to identify and date their pipes, in the same way as silver or gold marks – but only if the pipemakers have been identified! On post-medieval archaeological sites clay pipes are one of the most common finds and their remains can be crucial in identifying and dating the deposits in which they occur. This is why clay pipes are of such importance to historians and archaeologists, as well as to collectors or descendants researching their family histories. Over the past year new lists of pipemakers have been uploaded for Plymouth, Kent, the Isle of Wight, Yorkshire and North East Wales, and work is underway in preparing lists for Hampshire, Essex and Devon.



A pipe of c1700 from the Thames in London with the maker's mark TW below a horseman on the stem.

The Archive continues to provide a focal point for collection and curation of material relating to the pipemaking industry, as well as a resource for academics, students, and other interested individuals from around the world. It is intended that the coming year will see more lists of pipemakers updated and further work done on sorting, cataloguing, and curating the existing collections.

Dr David Higgins
NPA Chairman



Email: PipeArchive@hotmail.com
Web: www.pipearchive.co.uk
Blog: pipearchive.wordpress.com
Twitter: twitter.com/pipearchive



Instagram, Facebook, X and Threads: Clay Tobacco Pipes are Starring on Social Media

Social media channels are drawing in a whole new audience for clay tobacco pipes and the history of our industry, with people around the world posting photographs of pipes they have discovered or using the channels to ask questions of the experts. There are hashtags, Facebook pages and Instagram users solely devoted to clay tobacco pipes, with wonderful pictures of new finds, particularly amongst the mudlarking communities.

A hashtag (a word or phrase prefaced by the # symbol) is a way of gathering all the information that's been posted on a single topic. If you search on Instagram, Facebook, Threads or X (formerly Twitter) using #mudlarking or #claypipe for example, you'll find everything that's been posted under that hashtag.

Lara Maiklem FSA (@london.mudlark) has 127,000 followers for her Instagram posts. A licensed mudlark, she has been searching the banks of the Thames for 20 years and documenting her finds. Author of several books including the Sunday Times best-selling Mudlarking: Lost and Found on the River Thames, she has amassed a remarkable collection of historic items which she shares with museums and authorities, including Tudor shoes, a medieval pilgrim badge, a complete Iron Age pot, a Roman auxiliary soldier's scabbard chape and a 16th century sword. Lara was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 2022 and is the first woman to hold the ancient position of Juror for the Court Leet of the King's Borough in Southwark.

Another is @find_it_pick_it_up with 10,500 followers: recent posts included a wonderful video of an early and complete 18th century pipe being discovered in the Thames mud.

Southwark Cathedral contains London's first and only permanent mudlarking exhibition, with a star find and a guest display which change each month. Prominently on show in the cases are quantities of clay tobacco pipes, bowls and stems. The cases are located in Lancelot's Link, near the main entrance. Free to visit and no booking required!



The hashtag #claypipe has over 21000 posts in Instagram with some wonderful examples of finds and collections.

Over on Facebook, the Society for Clay Pipe Research has 3,500 members and is where you'll find posts from David Higgins and the team at the University of Liverpool, as well as from the members showing finds and asking questions. Recent posts have included examples of pipes found in Broken Hill, Australia and in Dunedin, New Zealand as well as many examples from Broseley and elsewhere.

So if you have a few hours to spend down the social media rabbit hole, get online and start searching the clay pipe hashtag universe!

Jacqueline Burrows
Third Warden and Honorary Archivist



Club Mareva World Slow Smoking Championship

How Slow is Slow Smoking?

Does the idea of smoking a 9 cm corona cigar (called a Mareva) in the slowest time possible, seem easy, pointless, exhilarating and crazy in equal measure?!

Well, the World Record is held by an amazing talent, Klaudia Ide from Poland, with 233 minutes 09 seconds (that's almost 4 hours!) ! and the winner of the CSWC World Final each year takes home thousands of Euros worth of prizes! Past prizes include luxury yacht trips, bespoke luxury watches, cigars, humidors, and much much more.

Why Smoke Slowly?

Marko Bilic, President of Cigar Club Mareva and Founder, CEO of the Cigar World Championship CSWC in 2009, has over the years created a unique cigar community.

The Slow Smoking competition is not only a sporting challenge with technical complexities and an element of luck which entices people to keep on practicing year on year and going for the top prizes, but it is also a reason to get together with likeminded fun people from all over the world. It is without question an extraordinary and compelling competition to

participate in and spectate.

Don't just take my word for it! Thousands of people worldwide now compete for incredible prizes and the chance to meet up at the World Finals every year! There are competitors from almost 50 countries on five continents (this year China, Reunion Islands, Andorra and Azerbaijan joined the list).

Each country organises a number of pre-qualifiers and hosts a National Final competition. I'm proud to say that the UK has hosted more pre-qualifier events than any other country except the USA, giving more people the chance to enter and our sponsors a high profile in the UK.

A Personal Passion

I began to understand the value of this competition when to my surprise I'd been entered as a competitor at an event in Italy 10 years ago. I didn't get a very good time, but I was hooked!

Subsequently, I became the organiser for the CSWC UK, and about four years ago was invited to become a Judge. I am now Vice Head International Judge assisting Head Judge Marija Marovic (ex-Olympic Shooting medalist).



It was an honour last year to be given the ambassadors Diamond Award 2023 for friendship and contribution. I have a passion for the community that this competition has brought together, and this award meant so much.

Representing the CSWC at Dortmund Intertabac 2023 was three intense days of business and fun, I even met up with fellow Liverymen!

The young CSWC team is enthusiastic and I had great pleasure in accepting Marko's invitation to help develop the International event over the next few years.

Important Dates

This year's CSWC World Finals will be held at the luxury hotel Rixos in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 30th August to 1st September 2024. 120 competitors and a 100 spectators and sponsors will again walk a red carpet, dressed up for a Bond style glamourous and exciting event. Then relax on a boat trip to a private island with music, food and cigars.

We have invited the CSWC main cigar sponsor Rocky Patel, to come to our exciting new format CSWC UK 2024 Final on Sunday 7th July at Boisdales, Canary Wharf.

With the enthusiasm and kind support of Ranald MacDonald, Brightleaf Ltd (Distributors), CGars Ltd, Womens International Cigar Club (WiCC), Cuervo Y Sobrenos luxury watches, Les Fines Lames (cutters), Boveda, Hulecos (humidity control units), and many UK and International sponsors, competitors can expect to win fabulous prizes.

We will host a Sparkling reception with Canape feast, and your ticket will include gift cigars. There will be a Charity auction for the WiCC chosen charity 2024.

40 competitor (smoking) tickets, and 100 spectator tickets are available for the UK Final.

- 1st and 2nd place winners of the UK Pre-qualifiers will battle it out for UK Champion.
- Open Championship – anyone who has competed before and we warmly welcome NEWCOMERS, especially Liverymen!

The winners of these two competitions will compete for the UK at the World Finals on 31st August.

- There will be also be a prize awarded to the Slowest UK Time over the 2024 Season. If this competitor is on the Top 20 International Time Chase Leaderboard, he or she will have an automatic seat at the World Finals.

The CSWC family is far reaching and diverse, and we are extremely fortunate in friendship and support.

Find out more about the World competition at www.cswcnews.com and follow the UK CSWC on Instagram @cswc_uk and Facebook.

Tickets for our 2024 events will be available very soon. To ensure you get a place, pre-register to attend the CSWC UK FINAL at Boisdales, London or as a spectator at the CSWC WORLD FINAL in Dubrovnik.

Contact Sarah Saunders at sarah@womenscigarclub.com or call 07802777366

Sarah Saunders
Liveryman





The Master's Reception

My Master's Reception was held at The National Army Museum (near Sloane Square) – a magnificent museum that was first established by Royal Charter in 1960 with the intention of collecting, preserving and exhibiting objects (including snuff, pipe, cigar and cigarette items!) and records relating to HM's Armed Forces.

After some major refurbishments the late Queen reopened the museum in early 2017 – and we explored the impact that soldiers from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth have had throughout the world, from the 17th century to the present day.

Almost 50 guests (including the Master International Banker and his Consort, Jason and Kathleen van Praagh, and Ron Kirkland, Hon Secretary Irish Guards Association (London Branch)) arrived for an evening reception and introductory talk from the Museum's Director, Brigadier Justin Maciejewski – Justin having had a 27-year career in the British Army and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Order! Liveryman Judith Donovan, a Trustee of the museum, introduced me to Justin a couple of years ago.

Justin's speech touched on the versatility of the British soldier protecting the empire and our island; and highlighting the fascinating fact that our soldiers have performed duties in all but 16 of the 193 United Nations member states!

He also mentioned how smoking regularly brought some well needed respite to active duty, circulated some pictures of smoking soldiers, and referred to certain tobacco objects in the museum! As Justin said, this may be a smoke free museum, but our history is anything but!

And as General John Pershing, the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front, once said – to win the war we need “tobacco as much as bullets”!

Guests then made their way through two of the galleries:

The Soldier's Gallery - showing what it's like to serve as a soldier from joining up as a recruit to coming

home, it explores soldiers' experiences through their own words and often surprisingly personal objects.

The Global Gallery – this explores the deployment of Britain's armies around the world, from the age of empire to the modern day. Many of the objects on display were collected by soldiers and reflect their interactions with different peoples and cultures.

The evening ended with an hour's mingling in the Board Room where we were served a range of canapés and refreshments – and a takeaway chocolate cigar supplied by the Mistress!

Paul Taberer

Master 2022-23 and Immediate Past Master 2023-24





NAM. 2006-10-3 - 36

107801

Accessioned

photograph, digital

Photograph: 2nd Lt Hannah Bedford, poses for a picture whilst smoking a cigar. She posed with the cigar to portray a male act being carried out by a female soldier, in a man's world!

Digital photograph taken by Cpl Mike Fletcher, Royal Logistic Corps, Helmand Task Force Photographer, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 5 Apr 2006. From a CD of 309 Images.

This image was taken on Operation HERRICK IV, the UK's deployment into Helmand Province, Southern Afghanistan. Operation HERRICK IV has seen the development of the Helmand Task Force in the province, which has seen the cross Governmental Provincial Reconstruction Team set up in Lashkar Gah to help the Afghan Government build strong governmental institutions, security and create jobs. The Task Force was made up of 3,300 troops from the British Military, with the majority being taken from 16 Air Assault Brigade.



NAM. 2007-03-7 - 134

134564

Accessioned

photograph



Photograph of a soldier opening his Princess Mary Gift Tin, Christmas 1914.

A mounted soldier (possibly Army Service Corps) is shown smoking a pipe and opening a tobacco and cigarette filled gift tin.

One of 193 British and Allied Official photographs taken on the Western Front during World War One.

Mounted on card, some with their original captions.

Associated with World War One, Western Front (1914-1918).





The Mistress Event 2023

On a delightful sunny afternoon, on the 1st of June 2023, a group of 40 people - members, friends and Consorts from various City Livery Companies had the pleasure of visiting the renowned Chelsea Physic Garden in London.

The visit was organised as a private tour, followed by a delightful afternoon tea. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the friendly staff of the garden and a cooling glass of red basil lemonade. The tour commenced in three groups - with our volunteer tour guides, Jacqui, Janet and Fanny - experts in botany and horticulture, giving us a brief overview of the garden's rich history (originally created by the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries) and its significant contribution to the field of botany. This was especially significant as the garden celebrated its 350th anniversary in 2023.

We were guided through the diverse array of plants and flowers. The garden was an oasis of tranquility, and we marvelled at the meticulously maintained landscape, featuring a vast variety of plant species from different parts of the world. The guides' extensive knowledge and passion for the subject shone through as they shared fascinating anecdotes and explained the unique characteristics of each plant. We particularly focused on the medicinal use of plants, plants for eating and plants for the pollinators. It was fascinating to discover that the garden contains a Grade II Listed

Rockery. Made with volcanic stone from Mount Hecla in Iceland, brought back by Joseph Banks in 1772, and supplemented with rubble from the Tower of London.

Following the tour, we were led to a charming indoor seating area where a beautifully arranged table awaited us. The tea, cake platter, and Prosecco reception were an absolute treat for our taste buds. The selection of cakes and sandwiches ranging from delicate macaroons to scones, was delicious. The Prosecco added a touch of elegance and celebration to the occasion. The atmosphere was relaxed and convivial, with members and friends engaging in lively conversations, sharing their experiences and impressions of the tour. Many thanks to Jorge Canela of the Company of Cooks for providing our sustenance!

The Mistress - Sharon Taberer - welcomed everyone with a delightful garden poem and as the afternoon drew to a close, we all departed with a Nicotiana plant which the Mistress had grown for everyone (ably assisted by her grandsons Leo and Sebastian). The visit to the Chelsea Physics Garden had not only deepened our appreciation for the beauty of nature but also heightened our awareness of the importance of botanical conservation.

Sharon Taberer
Mistress 2022-23





Visit to St Paul's Cathedral Library

One great privilege of being a member of our Company is the opportunity to visit fascinating places in the City that are often less well-known or off the regular tourist track. On 5 June 2023, Past Master Chris Allen kindly arranged for a group of us to be taken behind the scenes at St Paul's Cathedral to see the Cathedral Library and some of its treasures.

St Paul's Library is a beautiful room with magnificent wood and stone carvings and, of course, thousands of books, several of them ancient and internationally important. Our guide, Simon Carter, Head of St Paul's Collections Department, had laid out several precious books so that we could see and even touch them. We peered with fascination at a 700-year-old medical manual, Avicenna's Canon of Medicine, beautifully hand-written in Latin on vellum. We didn't quite manage to translate the densely-written script, so we can't recommend any cures - but some may have worked, because Simon told us it was still in use in the 18th century.

It was also remarkable to see William Tyndale's New Testament in English, printed in 1536. Tyndale's

pioneering translation first appeared in 1526, and St Paul's owns one of the only three copies still in existence. The extremely rare 1526 edition is too delicate and precious to be displayed, but it was eerie and moving to see the edition from 1536, the same year that poor Tyndale was burned at the stake for the 'heresy' of daring to translate the Bible into English and using some words reflecting his Protestant beliefs. Tyndale's brave effort to make the Bible available to ordinary people paved the way for the Authorised Version in 1611, and it was thrilling to see a book that represents such a turbulent period in history.

History also came rather spookily alive when we peered at Minutes of the meetings held during the reconstruction of St Paul's in the 17th century by Christopher Wren and his team. Although hand-written in spidery sepia ink, they were not unlike our Court Minutes. Some things don't change!

However, the most outstanding book of our visit was the large and magnificent St Paul's Psalter. This rare and precious book dates from about 1200. It is hand-written in Latin on vellum, with the musical



notes for the psalms beside the words, and beautifully illustrated with ornate capital letters delicately worked in brilliantly coloured inks. Our Company's Benevolent Fund helped to pay for the restoration of the Psalter in 2019, when its ancient vellum pages were carefully re-bound by experts at Canterbury Cathedral and set in end-boards made of oak from Canterbury Cathedral's roof. The Psalter is an awe-inspiring treasure, and we marvelled at the skill of the mediaeval monks who would have carefully written and illustrated it so beautifully by hand.

Restoring the Psalter was part of a wider renovation of the Library from 2019 to 2023, delayed by Covid but now complete. This included lighting the shelves to make the lovely old books glow, new oak desks for visiting scholars and researchers, special humidity and temperature controls, a clean and polish for the lovely oak floor, a new display case to show some of the most important books, and special blinds which let in far more light, while filtering out the harmful UV rays that could damage the books.

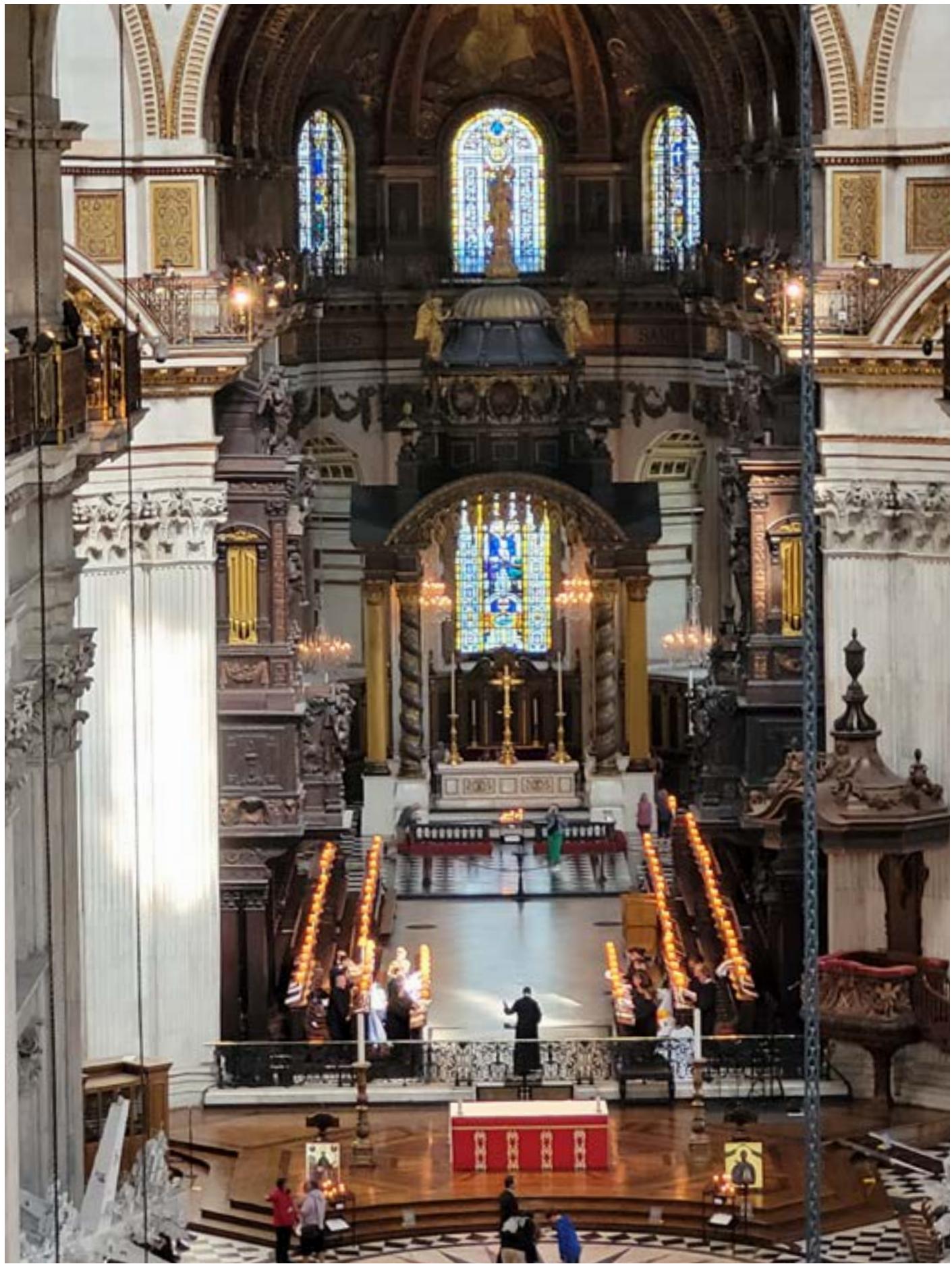
Our Company gives regular support to St Paul's Cathedral and it was gratifying to know that we have helped to give a new lease of life to the Library and the magnificent and precious St Paul's Psalter.

Past Master Chris Allen arranged the visit in his capacity as a volunteer guide at St Paul's and as a Cathedral Wandsman - one of the ushers who guides visitors at ceremonial occasions and Sunday services. After we had seen the Library, Chris stepped into his Cathedral guide role and showed us more of the history of St Paul's, including photographs and mementos of the brave Cathedral Watch volunteers who preserved St Paul's during the ferocious World War II Blitz. For people in Britain, the survival of St Paul's amidst bombing devastation all around it became an iconic symbol of Britain's defiance and will to prevail.

It was a fascinating visit and well worth the climb up many winding stairs to the Library floor, from which we had a unique bird's-eye view of St Paul's wonderful nave. A wonderful day, for which we sincerely thank Simon Carter of St Paul's Collections Department, and Past Master Chris Allen.

Fran Morrison
Court Assistant







The Tobacco Trade Lunch Charity Lunch 2023

This lunch was the last one to be organised by Past Master Roger Merton and his 'Gang of Four' (the others being Mike Adams; Chris Mercer and Phillip Shervington) having been instituted by them in 2007 to fill the vacuum left by the abandonment of the Pipe Smoker of the Year lunch, held for so long at the Savoy. With the exception of the first one held at the Landmark Hotel (where the guest speaker was one Boris Johnson), this event has been hosted at Lords, invariably in the elegant Long Room. As in previous years, attendees were invited to arrive from 11am for a 1pm lunch in order to enjoy a cigar and fizz beforehand, usually in the pleasant Harris Garden.

By the time Camilla and I arrived (through the ever grim London traffic!) it was evident something was afoot .. apparently, the Lords authorities had been spooked by rumours of thunder on the BBC and closed the garden as a precaution although it remained fine and dry all day. Everyone had thronged into the Long Bar and what a throng it was – I grabbed a couple of glasses and joined more resilient company outside for a pipe! It wasn't long before our very busy new Master and Consort/Son William arrived and said hello. All too soon we were being cajoled into the dining room.

It was a capacity crowd, but our Livery put in a very good turnout - as far as I could see we had four tables of ten scattered throughout and so were able to give Roger and his gang a resounding 'well done' after his valedictory speech. Over their years in charge (which, thanks to Covid, equate to fourteen lunches) Roger and his Gang have raised an amazing £125,000 for the Welfare Fund and Chairman/Renter Warden Tony Scanlon was quick to acknowledge and applaud that along with the rest of us – well done to the Gang of Four, you will be missed!

Past Master Michael Walter had organised our table and made sure the wine flowed freely. With lunch and a generous comfort (smoke) break done, it was time for Master Elise Rasmussen to present the trophy and prize cheque to the 'Tobacco Retailer of the Year' and this year it was won by Shelley Cox of P Browell of Birmingham, going now for 100 years. They were unable to attend so Liveryman Michael Adler, who had nominated P. Browell, undertook to make the presentation a little later. Well done to all at P. Browell - sounds like a good excuse to visit Birmingham I think?!

Duty done, we had one of the signature speakers for which this particular event has become so renowned. This year was one with a slight twist and first we were given a very amusing high-octane act by Kev Orkian, an Armenian 'refugee' whose charged diction interspersed with piano excerpts kept us laughing – and of course his accent was completely bogus! Having strung us along for 20 minutes, he changed to his natural Essex accent and introduced another star, Eamonn Holmes, famous Northern Irish broadcaster, reduced to crutches and a wheelchair these days as a result of terrible back issues. Despite his difficulties he responded frankly and entertainingly to questions put to him by Kev including some quite risqué comments which I won't repeat! With Eamonn and Kev's departure, we had the raffle with a range of interesting prizes including a very naughty carved meerschaum pipe! It was all over by about 5pm and those who wished it, patronised the Lords Tavern. For the rest, our carriages awaited. Thank you Roger and Gang for a splendid last hurrah.

Charles Miller
Past Master





The Lord Mayor's Show 2023

The day of the Lord Mayor's Show dawned fine but cool. The Master, Consort William Rasmussen and I met up at Stationers' Hall to collect our gowns, pipes and banner before collecting a cup of coffee and heading off to the Modern Livery Companies meeting place at London Wall.

There we found a London Routemaster bus parked up to act as a base for all the Modern companies, which was just as well, as it took some time for the parade to get going!

Eventually we headed off in the required order, trying to wave at all the onlookers whilst avoiding stepping in any horse droppings that seemed to be in evidence the whole way! The outward route as usual took us past the Guildhall, the Bank of England and St Paul's Cathedral, ending up at the Royal Courts of Justice, with the route lined with spectators cheering us on.

Our halfway picnic break was at HQS Wellington. Somehow the Firefighters had managed to get permission to use the boat for the stop. It was wonderful to be up on deck on a nice day, looking at

the river views we have all enjoyed in the past. The Master then disappeared to have a proper lunch at the Mansion House, leaving William and I to make our way back in the parade!

Finally, footsore and a little weary we completed the course, dropped everything off at Stationers' Hall and then disappeared to our own rather late lunches! We were lucky it remained fine all day, making it a great way to see the City!

Henry Tuck
Senior Warden





The Company Golf Day 2023

This year's annual Company golf day was once again held at the wonderful club Tandridge - on a somewhat humid but beautiful summer's day. We are fortunate to get to play here every year – it helps that Past Master Derek Harris and Liveryman Conrad Blakey are members!

We had 15 golfers and an additional 9 join for lunch, including our Master who kindly provided some cigars!

Following the early morning registration, players, in groups of 3 to 4, set off for 4 hours of golf on a most beautifully presented course which seems to get better and better each year!

Special thanks to the Tandridge Green staff for presenting such a wonderfully conditioned course with challenging greens. The incredible views from the golf course went a long way to appease all the 3+ putts endured by most!

Golfers returned to the stalls somewhat dehydrated, but not for long, and joined non-playing members and guests under the shaded patio umbrellas before entering the dining room for the signature Tandridge carvery lunch – outstanding, followed by a choice of puddings and of course the famous Tandridge Pudding.

The Master gave a warm welcome speech to all before handing out the prizes:

The Charles Rich Trophy: Liveryman David Walter – huge congratulations!

1st: Guest Chris Brown.

2nd: Honorary Freeman Sharon Taberer.

3rd: Past Master Nigel Rich.

Longest Drive: Freeman Will Rasmussen – bittersweet result outdriving myself but doing it for his Master!

Closest to the pin: guest Richard Hollington.





The range of prizes included donations from Past Master Nigel Rich (Rose wine), TOR Imports (Cigars), Hail & Cotton (shirts and caps), BAT (lighters) and Freeman Shem Baldeosingh (Ferrari bag) – with special thanks to all for their generosity.

It was another wonderful day on the golf course. Thursday 20th June 2024 is the date for next year's event at Tandridge – please save the date and spread the word!

Paul Taberer
Immediate Past Master





The Inter Livery Clay Shoot 2023

After many years at the Holland and Holland shooting ground at Northwood, and an almost perfected set up over that time, financial pressures meant that the organisers of the annual Inter Livery clay shoot decided to implement a change in location and format, and so we would see how this would work out!

We were now to be located at the West London Shooting School, again, very well and long established (1901), and famous ground of the high shot, Percy Stanbury.

The team this year consisted of Colin Ritchie, Adam Phillips, our team newcomer David Smith, and myself as team Captain.

Colin and I have shot the competition for many years and Adam had previously joined us and the Master, in 2022. David, new to the team, had professed to being an average shot and having done a bit of shooting. After a grilling over breakfast, he finally confessed that he did in fact shoot most weekends with his son, therefore being the ringer in the team!

The format of the day started on a similar basis with breakfast baps and coffee. We were blessed with good weather but fated with the usual issues of bad roads meaning that a number of people turned up late. The

Master had had an event the previous evening and was out again with the Mistress later that day and so he didn't shoot this time, but came to meet us in the morning for breakfast and to kindly furnish us with some rather impressive Oliva cigars.

The briefing was held as usual, the large group photo taken, and we all then trundled off to our first stands of the day.

Now, H&H had worked out that in order to get hundreds of guns around their course, they needed to run 2 teams (A & B) at each stand, and split that over 2 days. This had worked out well and for the last few years, had run very smoothly.

The WLSS, whilst a lovely place, was just not set up for this and so we were back to massive queues waiting for one stand at a time. We waited, and waited, and waited, eventually shot, and then moved onto the next stand and waited (again)!

The shooting was good and we put on what we all felt was an admirable performance, with of course, David (and the dark horse, Adam P) wiping the floor with Colin and I.

As I said earlier, we were blessed with some rather



good (warm and very sunny) weather, but at least it didn't rain this time. Colin and I professed to being affected by the heat and sun which clearly put us off of our stride!

Lunch had been planned for mid-afternoon and after a rather long and hot day of shooting, the teams eventually got back to the marquee for a very splendid and long awaited lunch.

One of the team members who shall remain nameless, had looked after the score card on the way round as he was deemed best suited due to his experience with "precious" items. The scores were all totted up at the end and I as the team captain went to hand it in. The invigilators looked over it and looked unusually impressed!

Now, we never really expect to get anywhere on the day as we don't have the heart, or the ability, to shoot so badly that we would get the wooden spoon prize, but then similarly, we never shoot so well as to get anywhere near the always top teams of the Grocers, Gunmakers or Farmers Companies, but wait, as they were reading the scores and waiting for the last couple of teams to come in, they announced that a few teams may want to stay for the prize giving (bear in mind that everyone was a bit harassed as it was overrunning by about 3 hours) and that currently in the lead on "the flush", were the "Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders"!

Was this true, had we really done that well? I then twigged what had happened. As with other changes this year, they had also changed the scoring format and there were a number of points that had to be added together, and some that were not to be. I realised that our scorecard had been accidentally miscalculated, and so it was with a heavy heart that I, as Captain, discreetly went up to the scoring table and admitted our mistake and so we were instantly (but not publicly) demoted back into the ranks of the also rans.

We had basked in glory for a brief period, and it was oh so nice, just for a while, until victory was snatched away from us and firmly put into the jaws of defeat.

Following lunch, we all said our goodbyes and made our merry ways home in the blissful rush hour traffic of West London!

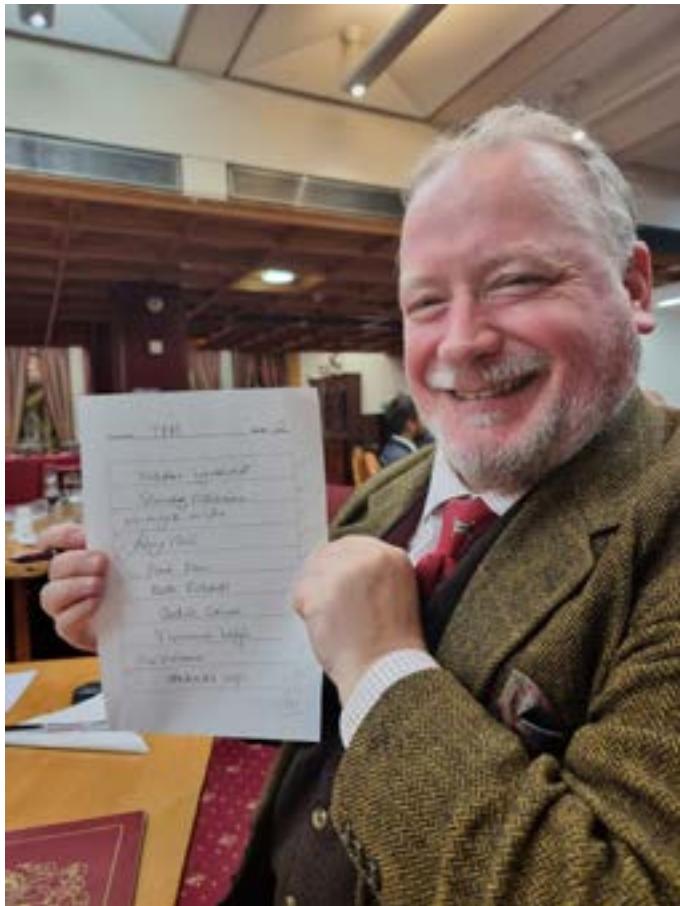
A message was sent out to all following that first day at the new ground with the new format, and it was clear that there was going to be a lot of re-planning going on late into the evening to make sure that day 2 would hopefully run a lot smoother.

They have now had plenty of time to get the new format sorted and it just rests with me to wish our new Company shooting team for 2024 the best of luck and hope that they can finally get our name somewhere, legitimately, in the scoring.

Adam Bennett
Past Master







The Inter Livery Quiz 2024

Our Company's brave annual attempt to take the Inter Liveries' Quiz Title, hosted each year by the Tax Advisers, fell gloriously short at the final hurdle [in February].

Having led the field throughout, and poised to take the trophy home, our plucky team was devastated to learn we had lost by a single cruel point to the Information Technologists. It was the last picture round – landmarks of the City of London – that proved our undoing. But what a magnificent and memorable effort it was!

Past Master Jerry Merton stepped up to reveal his detailed knowledge of The Clash; Court Assistant Fran Morrison nailed the advertising questions; Past Master Charles Miller made short work of Beethoven; Third Warden Jacqueline Burrows demonstrated her University Challenge qualifier credentials with her knowledge of rowing and London clubs.

We left with our heads held high, wondering how we managed to forget the surname of the bass player in Slade and vowing always to remember that Amelia Earheart was the first woman aviator to fly across the Atlantic. Better luck next year ... as usual!

Jacqueline Burrows
Third Warden



The Inter Livery Pancake Races 2024

The Master, Assistant Terry Fenner-Leitao and Liverymen Courtney Lambert and Sarah Saunders, with the Clerk as Team Captain, were due to take part in the Inter Livery Pancake Races on Tuesday 13th February 2024 on behalf of the Company.

Sadly, it was too wet for the races to take place in Guildhall Yard and instead Masters took part in a 'pancake tossing' competition in the Guildhall Crypt.

Our Master valiantly 'tossed' a pancake 56 times in 30 seconds which was a very good attempt but the Cooks' Master took the prize with 83 times in 30 seconds.

Let's hope that Shrove Tuesday in 2025, sees the safe return of the Pancake Races in Guildhall Yard.

Sandra Stocker
Clerk and Liveryman





Livery Accessories for Purchase

Members can purchase the following Livery accessories. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. To purchase any item, please contact the Clerk at clerk@tobaccolivery.org If you are ordering a Company Cap, please confirm the size required when ordering.



Company Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)



Formal Black Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)
(Proceeds from the sale of this tie go to the Benevolent Fund.)



Smoking Club Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)



Velvet Smoking Hat
(£65.00 including P&P)

Please confirm size required when ordering
Small = 57cms,
Medium = 59cms,
Large = 61cms



Silver Scarf
(£85.00 including P&P)



Black and Gold Scarf
(£85.00 including P&P)



Gold Scarf
(£85.00 including P&P)



Bow Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)



Company Cap
(£65.00 including P&P)
Please confirm size required –
7", 7 1/4", 7 1/2", 7 3/4"



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 15th May 2024

The Master's Reception at the Charles Dickens Museum.

Wednesday 5th June 2024

Installation Court, Installation of the Master and Wardens and Installation Luncheon at Saddlers' Hall.

Thursday 20th June 2024

Company Golf Day at Tandridge Golf Club.

Monday 24th June 2024

Common Hall Election of Sheriffs
(Liverymen only. Details will be circulated in due course.)

Thursday 27th June 2024

The Tobacco Trade Sponsored Charity Lunch at Lords.

Thursday 5th September 2024

Past Master's Dinner at The In and Out, Naval Military Club.

Thursday 19th September 2024

Autumn Court and Dinner (Court only) at Bakers' Hall.

Monday 30th September 2024

Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor
(Liverymen only. Details will be circulated in due course.)

Wednesday 16th October 2024

Annual Banquet at Grocers' Hall.

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Carol Service at St James Garlickhythe.

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

January Court and Dinner at Drapers' Hall.

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Election Court and Luncheon (Court only) at Armourers' Hall.

