

# Smoke Signals



ISSUE 15 APRIL 2025 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENDERS



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

<b>6</b> Appointments	<b>34</b> News from the National Pipe Archive - Smoking Items from the First World War	<b>58</b> Consort Event 2024 and The Master's Reception 2024
<b>7</b> Lost Brethren	<b>38</b> Broseley Clay Tobacco Pipe Works	<b>59</b> Tobacco Trade Charity Lunch 2024
<b>12</b> Message from the Master-Elect	<b>42</b> Glasgow Pipe Factory	<b>60</b> Lord Mayor's Show 2024
<b>14</b> Benevolent Fund - Farewell to the Welfare Fund	<b>44</b> Society for Clay Pipe Research	<b>62</b> Inter-Livery Clay Shoot 2024
<b>16</b> Benevolent Fund - The General Fund	<b>45</b> Solving a Clay Pipe Mystery	<b>64</b> Company Golf Day 2024
<b>20</b> Reflection from the Honorary Chaplain	<b>46</b> Intrigue, Trade Rivalry and Family Feuding	<b>65</b> Inter-Livery Petanque Competition 2024
<b>22</b> Worrying Growth of the UK's Illicit Tobacco Trade	<b>49</b> Origin of the Letters S.P. used in the Snuff Trade	<b>66</b> Inter-Livery Quiz 2025
<b>24</b> Presentation of New Colours 2024	<b>53</b> CSWC UK - World Slow Smoking Championship	<b>67</b> Inter-Livery Pancake Race 2025
<b>25</b> Trooping The Colour 2024	<b>54</b> From Field to Fumes	<b>68</b> Livery Accessories for Purchase
<b>26</b> Shamrock Ball		<b>69</b> Diary of Forthcoming Events
<b>28</b> Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy		
<b>30</b> St Patrick's Day Parade 2025		
<b>32</b> Presentation of The Company Award		





*Annual Banquet Procession*

## Reflections of a Master's Year

One of the major decisions I had to make when I was asked to become Fourth Warden in 2020 was whether I should retire before becoming Master in 2024. Many of my predecessors had managed to combine full time jobs with being very successful Masters, but in the end, I decided that running my specialist technology company for nearly 20 years was enough, and becoming Master was a good excuse to do something different. I therefore retired from paid work on Friday 31st May 2024 and became Master on Wednesday 5th June, with a sabbatical of approximately 4 days in between!

I have absolutely no regrets about making that decision – being Master of our Livery Company has proved to be akin to having a very enjoyable and interesting part time job but at times it can be a full-time commitment. Giving up my paid employment has allowed Carolyn and I to participate in many more events and activities than would have been possible if I had continued in work.

How Immediate Past Master Elise Rasmussen managed to hold down a full time job whilst attending every event possible amazes me!

Being new to “retirement”, I have tried to maintain my traditional going to work discipline in the morning – breakfast, walk the dogs, coffee and then into my home office! I still feel guilty if I don’t get up promptly, but it does mean that I can get stuck into correspondence with our Clerk, Sandra, straight away.

I was also surprised to be asked by many fellow Masters at our Livery Weekend soon after we started “what is the theme of your year?”. Frankly I was rather lost for an answer, but as the year has gone past, my themes have become clearer.

Firstly, I am trying very hard to get the Company to prepare for the future and to be as resilient as possible. We are financially sound and we have been slowly growing in numbers, but in an uncertain world, we have many challenges, not least the impact of the Tobacco & Vapes Bill being taken through parliament at the moment. Cost is also a common topic of conversation around the Livery movement and therefore reviewing ways to do more with less is inevitable. This has all meant a lot of thinking about strategy, succession plans, money....



Secondly and more surprisingly, Carolyn and I have found ourselves to be much more interested in philanthropic activities than we expected. It is a core activity of our Company and the Benevolent Fund, but the process of transferring the Welfare Fund to GroceryAid (so ably organised by Jon Fell, the Benevolent Fund Chairman and Marie Cooper, Welfare Fund Chairman and all the other trustees) has brought home how much more we all need to do to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

We are therefore organising events that we hope will raise some funds for the Benevolent Fund and also a charities reception so that company members and the Benevolent Fund can engage more directly with the charities we support. Hopefully the reception may encourage some company members to volunteer their diverse expertise and skills to help our charities.

It has also become clear to me that we should as a Livery provide more support to our members who are in ill-health or distress and therefore, we are putting in place the position of Honorary Almoner, to make sure that we can provide that support in a timely manner.

As far as our external philanthropic links are concerned, we have particularly enjoyed the connections with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Having the opportunity to say a few words at the Barbican celebrations of the 60th anniversary of our Music scholarships was a great pleasure, as it is clear that our scholarships help open up a new world for the scholars. We have seen some fine performances at the Guildhall School and hope to see some more in the coming months. It was also a particularly fortunate and happy coincidence that our scholar Julia Solomon sang at the January dinner, including singing a song composed by her grandfather John Solomon, a Past Master of our Company.

Our connections with the Irish Guards Association and the No. 15 Loos Company of the London Guards are always fun, whether it is watching the King presenting new colours to the Guards at Windsor Castle, going to the Trooping of the Colour or attending the Shamrock Ball. As a memento of this connection, we have bought a picture by an Irish Guards veteran at one of their auctions, and it will take pride of place in our hallway.

We joined the Lady Mayoress' Sleep Out in the Guildhall Yard on March 6th, to raise money for the homeless. We joined a group of friends from our Masters' year group, which made it more tolerable! We were very touched by the kind donations and comments from members of the Company – it is great to have such wonderful support from everybody and deepest thanks to all who contributed to the fund.

We have also attended some of the Lord Mayor's Charity events at the Guildhall and Mansion House, along with other Livery Masters and Consorts – wearing Lederhosen and Dirndl outfits to a Bavarian Ball was not what I expected to do during my year!

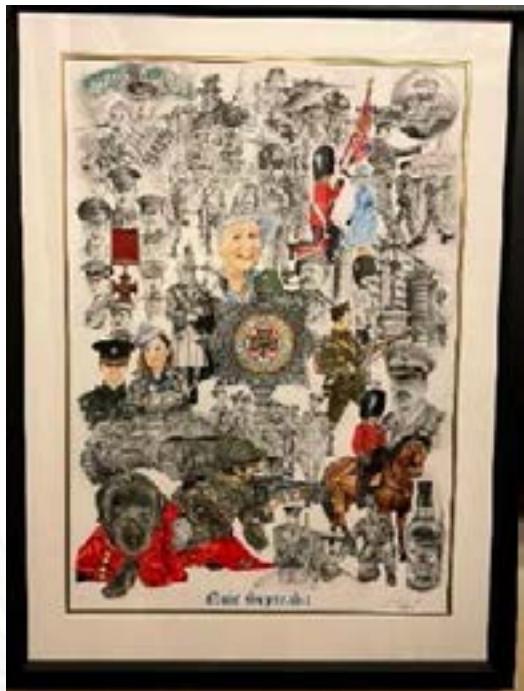
Our Heritage also continues to be a focus for Carolyn and me, but it does seem to be two steps forward and one step back. No sooner do we get an agreement in place for the Benevolent Fund to help fund the Broseley Pipe Museum for the next three years, than we find out that it is in danger of being mothballed! However, we are working on a plan with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and Broseley Town Council to help solve this, so maybe it will turn out better than expected in the end!

I have also visited the National Pipe Archive (NPA) in Liverpool for the first time since before Covid and had a useful meeting with some of the other trustees – there is also a lot of work to be done to make the NPA stronger.

Another new contact over the last year has been the Glasgow Pipe Factory, a former clay pipe making business, now being renovated and turned into a community space. They are now closed but hopefully will reopen in 2026.

We have also done very well attending cultural activities, ranging from West End musicals (The brilliant Curious Case of Benjamin Button, courtesy of Third Warden, Mallory Factor), dinner with the Pickwick Club (thank you Past Master Charles Miller), lectures on Clockmaking on Lothbury and of course, driving sheep across Southwark Bridge!

Julia Solomon, Pipe Makers' Scholar with Mr Luke Lally-Maguire



Picture by an Irish Guards Veteran

(Top Right) The Pipe Makers' Petanque Team

(Bottom Right) St Paul's Churchyard





---

We have also been very lucky to have made some very good friends in other Livery Companies, having been invited to some very interesting events, including many lunches and dinners. We have also become much closer friends with our neighbours who were Master and Consort of the Wheelwrights at the same time as us, allowing us to come up to London together and share taxis back home late at night.

Another result of being in the Hot Seat for a year is that I have also understood how much work goes into organising events and how much we rely on Sandra our Clerk, Ian our Treasurer, Wayne our Beadle and Bill our Clerk's Assistant, together with Bill's wife Sue and our Honorary Chaplain, Father Jack. Getting all of us and our visiting guests in the right place at the right time has been a real triumph and I cannot thank them enough for all their help in making our year a success.

I am also very grateful for the support of my excellent Wardens, members of the General Purposes Committee (GPC) and the Court, and also the entire company. We have been wonderfully supported by everyone and the cheers that arrive when I get up to speak at a company event are a great encouragement!

Finally, I must say thank you to Carolyn. I have always known that she has an astounding ability to meet and network with people, but this year she has excelled herself! She has been a great support and fount of ideas and has helped make it a year to remember for us both!

We are looking forward to the rest of the year, as there are many more interesting events to come!

Henry Tuck  
*Master*



# Appointments

## Members Gowned with the Livery

<b>Michael Bond</b> <i>President, Labstat International Inc</i>	5th June 2024
--	---------------

<b>Kevin Burd</b> <i>CEO, North America Nicotine</i>	5th June 2024
---	---------------

<b>Kenelm Mark</b> <b>Johnson-Hill</b> <i>Proprietor Château Méaume</i>	5th June 2024
---	---------------

<b>Nicholas John Louras</b> <i>Writer</i>	5th June 2024
--	---------------

<b>William Ward Rasmussen</b> <i>Sales Executive</i>	5th June 2024
---	---------------

<b>Ryan Daniel Selby</b> <i>Businessman</i>	5th June 2024
--	---------------

<b>Sam Bondarenko</b> <i>Accountant</i>	19th September 2024
--	---------------------

<b>Richard Gray</b> <i>Investment Banker</i>	19th September 2024
---	---------------------

<b>Eshan Madhvani</b> <i>Industrialist</i>	22nd January 2025
---	-------------------

<b>Marie Rose Polet</b> <i>Non-Executive Director</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Stelio Stefanou OBE DL</b> <i>Foundation Chair</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Major Patrick Joseph Swint</b> <i>Private Equity Executive, Retired US Military Officer, Former Orthopaedic Consultant</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Thomas Ronald Harris</b> <i>Retired Chartered Accountant</i>	26th March 2025
--	-----------------

## New Freemen

<b>Granger Scott Haugh</b> <i>Co-Founder, Cayman Cigar Company, Philanthropist</i>	5th June 2024
---	---------------

<b>Nicholas John Louras</b> <i>Writer</i>	5th June 2024
--	---------------

<b>Dr Sudhanshu Patwardhan</b> <i>Medical Director</i>	5th June 2024
---	---------------

<b>Rebecca Jan York</b> <i>Retired Radiographer &amp; Ultrasonographer</i>	5th June 2024
---	---------------

<b>David Charles Bertram</b> <i>Company Director, Political Consultancy</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Biagio Fraulo JP</b> <i>Livery Clerk and Under Sheriff of Greater London</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Sirisha Gummeregula</b> <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Stelio Stefanou OBE DL</b> <i>Foundation Chair</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Major Patrick Joseph Swint</b> <i>Private Equity Executive, Retired US Military Officer, Former Orthopaedic Consultant</i>	22nd January 2025
--	-------------------

<b>Thomas Ronald Harris</b> <i>Retired Chartered Accountant</i>	26th March 2025
--	-----------------



## Lost Brethren

### Liveryman Arthur Butler

Arthur was born in West London in 1929 and educated at Wanstead High School, whose pupils were evacuated to Gloucestershire on the outbreak of WW2. As a socialist-leaning teenager he turned out to heckle Winston Churchill, but couldn't quite bring himself to throw the tomato that he'd brought along for the occasion.

Arthur completed National Service with the Queen's Royal Regiment before going on to study international relations at the LSE and become a journalist, cutting his teeth on the Middlesborough Gazette and campaigning actively for the Labour Party.

He married Evelyn in 1958, graduated to Fleet Street as a lobby correspondent, and in 1963 he joined the Daily Express, having been promised by Lord Beaverbrook there would be no interference in his left-leaning copy – all he wanted was scoops. And scoop young Arthur did ... breaking the Profumo Affair and chasing Peter Townsend's car to get the quote which told the world his relationship with Princess Margaret was ending.

After more than a dozen years in Fleet Street Arthur changed direction and built an influential career as a lobbyist, including amongst his clients the Tobacco Advisory Council (later the TMA) for whom he helped to establish and organise the Lords & Commons Tobacco and Pipe Smokers' Club. He was regarded with affection by many politicians and

was a confidant of ministers, even briefly considering becoming an MP. He recalled attending a Labour Party fundraising ball where he danced with Barbara Castle MP, writing in his memoirs that, 'lithe and sinuous, she used her thighs to good effect'.

I first met Arthur 35 years ago when I was a new young European public affairs executive for Rothmans, attending industry meetings at the TAC in Stag Place in the days when the lunchtime sandwiches were always accompanied by several bottles of fine white Burgundy. Arthur was ever-present at our meetings: reliable, knowledgeable, well-connected and a wise counsellor. We worked on several tobacco tax campaigns together. I was fortunate to be introduced to many of Arthur's political contacts, and we enjoyed the occasional quiet lunch at the Goring Hotel round the corner.

Arthur was proud of his association with our industry. He became a Freeman in 1976 and a Liveryman in 1977. He passed away aged 93 on 8 October 2022 and is survived by his widow Evelyn and their daughter, Caroline.

Jacqueline Burrows,  
Renter Warden

© Extracts from The Times obituary  
© Arthur Butler's Memoirs



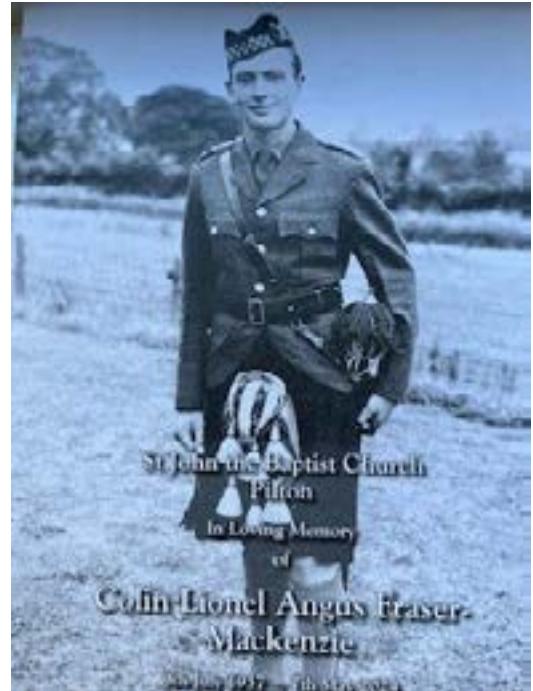
## Liveryman Colin Fraser-Mackenzie

I have been friends with Colin since 1965. Colin had a tough childhood. His father was killed at the Battle of El Alamein and his mother as a single parent was a very strict disciplinarian. Later he was commissioned into his father's highland Regiment – the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and was very popular amongst the soldiers under his command, taking them through all kinds of "outward bound" adventures.

This was followed by a spell when they all were appointed to be the Queen's Guard at Holyrood House. He saw a lot of both Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh during that time. The sport in which he excelled was fencing. After leaving the Army he attended and graduated from Cirencester Agriculture College and joined Imperial Tobacco Leaf Department. He travelled in the USA, Brazil and Africa becoming a Tobacco Leaf Specialist. After retirement, Colin was involved in many charities in Somerset and also was a keen member of his local shoot.

His last two years were terribly difficult for him and his lovely family as he and they battled with his Alzheimer's. Colin died on 7th May 2024 and his memorial service on 20th July 2024 concluded with a piper from his Regiment playing "cock of the North" beautifully. He would have loved that.

The Lord Milverton,  
*Past Master 1999-2000*



## Liveryman Douglas Adler

Douglas Adler was the younger brother of Past Master John Adler and second son of Alan Adler, the first Master of the modern Pipe Makers Company upon its reformation in 1954.

A distinguished businessman, he served as a Director of A. Oppenheimer and Company Limited and as Chairman of one of its subsidiaries, National Trading Company in South Africa—one of the largest engineering merchants in the country before its merger with MacNeil Party Ltd.

Beyond his professional achievements, Douglas was a man of deep passions. A devoted grandfather, cigar aficionado and a lifelong Arsenal supporter, he found joy in life's finer pleasures. He passed away peacefully in his sleep while on holiday in Australia, leaving behind cherished memories for all who knew him.

Our condolences to his wife Diana, his son Jonathan and his family.





*Photo shows Rolf Christophersen sailing.*

## **Past Master Rolf Christophersen DFC: decorated Second World War bomber pilot**

Rolf Christophersen was an airman who won the DFC in North Africa, flew the British legal team to the Nuremberg trials and later took over the Wilkinson Sword company.

When the Eighth Army opened its offensive at the Second Battle of El Alamein on October 23, 1942, Rolf Christophersen, an Anglo-Norwegian pilot serving with the RAF, could hear the British barrage. Based at RAF Shallufa east of Cairo, Christophersen was serving with 221 Squadron, which flew Wellington bombers in support of the Allied forces that had halted the German advance into Egypt and were about to go on the offensive. He was just 21.

His squadron's aircraft were equipped with radar and roamed the eastern Mediterranean on maritime reconnaissance patrols. Their job was to protect Allied convoys supplying Montgomery's Eighth Army and to search out and help to destroy the German and Italian ships supplying Rommel's Afrika Korps.

Described as a man with a steady look and a strong handshake, Pilot Officer Christophersen flew sorties often lasting eight hours or more as the squadron played a critical role in the North Africa campaign. According to 221 Squadron's combat records, he flew 41 operations in the lead-up to El Alamein and through the battle and its aftermath, many of them at night.

On October 13, as the British prepared to launch their

offensive, Christophersen and his crew escorted an Allied convoy carrying vital supplies into Egypt; ten days later, as Montgomery's troops struggled to break through the German lines, he found at least three enemy merchant vessels, paving the way for them to be attacked by torpedo bombers; on November 1, as the Eighth Army finally broke through and Rommel was running short of supplies, he identified Axis shipping off Derna in Libya; and on November 10, the penultimate day of the battle, he was airborne again, searching for an enemy convoy that had sailed from Crete.

He remained in the Mediterranean theatre, flying from Shallufa and from RAF Luqa on Malta until May 1943 when the Afrika Korps and their Italian allies were finally driven out of North Africa. Promoted to flight lieutenant, his logbook records that he flew more than 300 hours on military operations.

After his return to Britain, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, which is given for acts of valour and devotion to duty while flying on active operations. His citation, which was published in the London Gazette on July 16, 1943, praised his flying skills, which had led to several successful attacks on enemy shipping, and stated, "Flight Lieutenant Christophersen has displayed great courage and determination, often flying at low level in the face of enemy fire."

Christophersen had been born into a family that had left Norway in the early 1900s and played an influential role in the Norwegian community in London and



Anglo-Norwegian relations in general. He was one of four siblings who all served during the Second World War. One of his two brothers, Ragnar (Times obituary, March 15, 2002), served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and joined the Special Operations Executive. At Aviemore in Scotland, he trained the agents who, in early 1943, became known as "the Heroes of Telemark". They sabotaged the Norsk hydro plant at Vemork in Nazi-occupied Norway, where the Germans were producing heavy water for use in the development of an atomic bomb. His second brother, Hakon, served with the British Army in Iceland, while their sister, Sigrid, worked for the Norwegian government-in-exile at their embassy in London.

Christophersen had studied modern languages at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps before the war. On the outbreak of hostilities, he tried to join the Royal Navy, but he was turned down because he had a Norwegian passport and was expected to fight with the Norwegian armed forces. Undeterred, he volunteered for the RAF and was accepted for flying training.

He went solo in a Tiger Moth in the summer of 1941 before converting to the twin-engine Oxford. He then tried to join Coastal Command in the hope of operating off Norway, but was sent for further training on Beaufort torpedo bombers. Posted to 221 Squadron in Egypt, he received a brief conversion course on Wellingtons — just 45 minutes — and was immediately put on operations.

After receiving his DFC in London, he was introduced to King Haakon VII, who received him at the Norwegian embassy. Christophersen later recalled "a happy meeting with an inquisitive King". He then spent the best part of a year as an RAF instructor with 105 Operational Training Unit before being transferred to 525 Squadron, which was part of Transport Command, flying Dakotas from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire.

In January 1945 he made two flights to the Saki military airfield in Crimea, where preparations were being made for the conference between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin — "the Big Three" — at Yalta that February. For Christophersen, there were some interesting distractions.

He recalled that he and his crew were surprised one night at about 3am by a beautiful Russian woman who

walked into the room where they were sleeping, took off her clothes and slipped into the one empty bed. On another occasion, he and his crew were interrogated by their Soviet hosts even though they were all supposed to be on the same side.

When he left 525 Squadron, his commanding officer signed off his operational report with just one word: "Outstanding."

In March 1945, a month after Yalta, Christophersen was posted to India, where he flew Dakotas with 187 Squadron, before joining 24 Squadron, which transported VIPs from RAF Hendon in north London. For nearly a year, he flew royalty, politicians, generals and senior civil servants across the length and breadth of Europe, including several flights to his beloved Norway, which had recently been liberated from Nazi occupation.

His passengers included Clement Attlee, the prime minister; the Duke of Windsor, who, as Edward VIII, had abdicated the throne in 1936; and several of those involved in the trials of the leading Nazis at Nuremberg, among them Lord Justice Lawrence, who was president of the International Military Tribunal, and Sir Hartley Shawcross, who led the prosecution team. As a result, Christophersen was invited to witness the legal proceedings. He kept the programme of hearings from his day at the trials for the rest of his life.

He made his final flight on June 1, 1946 when he flew a Dakota the 50 miles from Northolt in west London to Bassingbourn in Cambridgeshire, completing 2,302 hours of flying with the RAF.

Gunnar Rolf Christophersen was born in Bromley, Kent, in 1921, the youngest child of Sigrid Christophersen, a vicar's daughter from Fredrikstad, and her husband, Oscar, who represented the Norwegian and Swedish match and tobacco company, Nittedal Fyrstikker, in London. The family had moved to Britain in 1905.

From an early age, Rolf was involved with the Norwegian Seamen's Church in east London. Every Sunday, the family would board the Greenline bus and get off at the little church in Docklands. When a new church was consecrated in St Olav's Square near the Rotherhithe tunnel in 1927, Rolf was chosen to carry the national flag. In later life, he served on the church committee for 50 years and was chairman for 15.



Rolf grew up speaking both Norwegian and English. He was educated at Carn Brea Preparatory School in Kent and then boarded at Cranleigh School in Surrey, where a large number of Norwegian boys were educated in the years before the war. He later gained a place at Oxford.

After the war, he started working for Svenska Tenstikkar AG, which became Swedish Match. He later became director of operations in Britain and was chairman in 1986 when the company took over Wilkinson Match, formerly Wilkinson Sword. Rolf was admitted as a Freeman of The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders in 1960 and was Gowned as Liveryman in 1961. Rolf joined the Court in 1965 and became Master in 1980. Rolf was still a member of the Court until his death and tried to attend Court meetings and Livery Events as much as possible. Rolf attended the Installation Lunch with his daughter Olivia in June 2024 and this turned out to be the final event that we saw him at. A wonderful 64 years of service to The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders.



*Photo taken on the day of The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders' Annual Banquet in the Autumn of 1980. Mr Rolf Christophersen DFC, Master and Mrs Angela Christophersen.*

In 1966, he married Angela Hadfield, an Englishwoman who worked as a concert agent. They were introduced through mutual friends. The couple lived in London and had two daughters: Astrid, who is a sports instructor in Melbourne, Australia, and Olivia, who is a civil servant in London. He is survived by his wife and daughters.

According to his niece Ingrid Christophersen, who was a member of Britain's Alpine Ski Team and lectures on the Telemark Heroes, her pipe-smoking uncle enjoyed sailing and continued flying as a member of a gliding syndicate. "He had an almost childlike enjoyment of treats," she said, "a passion for chocolates; wine for lunch, and University Challenge on television. He loved walks in the sunshine — and he was always curious about life."

He was probably the most influential member of London's Norwegian community. He read the lesson at King Olav V's memorial service at Westminster Abbey in 1991; he met King Harald V in 2018 at the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Anglo-Norse Society, which Christophersen had revived after the war and run for 50 years; and he was a prominent member of Den Norske Klubb, the Norwegian club in St James's Square in London that was founded in 1887.



*Past Master Rolf Christophersen with Jerry Merton, Master on the occasion of Rolf's 100th Birthday Lunch.*

On his 100th birthday, Christophersen received congratulations from both the King of Norway and Her Majesty The Queen of the United Kingdom.

Rolf Christophersen, wartime pilot and businessman, was born on November 20, 1921. He died on August 28, 2024, aged 102.



# Message from the Master-Elect

It seems a very short time ago that Henry took the reins as Master and now my Installation looms. Maggie and I are very excited with the prospect of becoming Master and Consort of our fine Livery Company and are looking forward to representing it at the many events throughout our year.

Every Modern Livery Company faces similar challenges, chiefly attracting new members, ensuring current members are enjoying their membership and supporting our charities. We face additional challenges as the industry to which our name links us to, faces increasing levels of legislation through the Tobacco and Vapes Act which comes into force in 2027.

The Membership Committee has been very successful at attracting wonderful new members who have added greatly to the depth of experience of our Freemen and Liverymen. It has been a joy to meet so many of you this year and I am confident we will continue to attract such interesting and eager new members during my year.

For new and existing members, we want to ensure that our events are enjoyable and that you are satisfied with the Livery Company experience. We hope to communicate with you all this year to gauge your satisfaction and learn if we can do better whilst upholding the traditions of the Livery.

Our Benevolent Fund has gone from strength to strength. Having solved the strategic issues that faced our Welfare Fund, it is now concentrating on building stronger ties with our charities and developing new areas of giving.

I will be focussing on how the changes in our environment can help us prepare our Livery Company for the future and how we can use these challenges to encompass a wider audience from which to grow our membership and broaden our charitable base. As ever, as Master, I will have an open door to discuss and debate ideas.

We are looking forward to our year of service and hope that it will be memorable. We will have a great team to support us, Sandra, Ian, Sue, Bill, Wayne and our Wardens, Jacqueline, Mallory, Terry and Stephan.

Tony Scanlan  
*Master-Elect*





# Benevolent Fund - Farewell to the Welfare Fund

Since 2010 our Company's Benevolent Fund has had two parts: a General Fund, which makes donations to other charities, and a Welfare Fund, which offers a helping hand to members or former members of the tobacco trade who are facing financial hardship.

The roots of the Welfare Fund are in the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association (TTBA), founded in 1860, which merged with our Livery Company charity 15 years ago. We have been very proud to continue the excellent work of the TTBA but the trustees have for some time been wrestling with the question of what to do against a background of a long-run decline in the number of beneficiaries due to the closure of virtually all tobacco manufacturing in this country.

## A message out of the blue

My predecessor as Chair, the late Past Master Ralph Edmondson, started the process of planning for the future; it became a more urgent question for us to consider when I got a message out of the blue from a trustee of GroceryAid in June 2023, wondering whether we might be interested in a combination with their charity. That trustee, Dawood Pervez, is Managing Director of Bestway Wholesale and is himself very familiar with the dynamics of the UK tobacco industry, and we knew straight away that this was an idea to be taken seriously.

After a couple of exploratory chats later in 2023, with valuable input from Trustee Sue Curran and Past Master Paul Taberer, we undertook a thorough strategic review of the Welfare Fund, considering various options and comparing our scale and modes of working with other, similar industry benevolent associations.

We also commissioned legal advice from solicitors Stone King, which focused our minds quite considerably. They told us that if we ever started to struggle to find enough beneficiaries with a tobacco trade connection it would be very difficult to repurpose part or all of our Welfare Fund for more general charitable purposes. If we wanted to retain a focus on those in genuine need we would instead be

able expand or change the Welfare Funds objectives, but only to something very close to its original purpose – perhaps expanding its reach further into retail or consumer goods.

## GroceryAid is now responsible for the Welfare Fund beneficiaries

So it became clear that a combination with GroceryAid – the trading name for the National Grocers Benevolent Fund, founded in 1857 – was an interesting option. It's a significantly larger charity than ours, with a professional staff. Their own beneficiary pool comes from the grocery trade, which they define rather broadly as any work relating to the manufacturing, distribution, or sales of groceries or any other products typically sold in supermarkets or wholesalers. As well as helping a pool of former employees with financial grants, as we have done, GroceryAid also puts significant effort into supporting those currently working in their allied trades. They offer a 24/7 helpline service and counselling on a range of topics including relationships, legal advice, debt and gambling.

We began discussions with GroceryAid in earnest in March 2024. Welfare Chair and Trustee Marie Cooper and I spend long hours negotiating with their team of Keiran Hemsworth (CEO), Cath McCormick (Finance Director) and Mandi Leonard (Welfare Director). Throughout, Marie and I remained very focused on trying to protect the best interests of our beneficiaries, aiming at reaching an agreement which would protect the level of support they get from the charity for a long time into the future. A number of them should see some increase in the regular financial support they receive, and they will also have access to a range of non-financial services and support which we were unable to provide.

We signed the official deed of grant with GroceryAid in early January, and responsibility for the Welfare Fund and its beneficiaries passed formally to them on 6th February this year. In that intervening month we wrote to all beneficiaries to explain what was happening, and also had to say goodbye and thank you to the four field welfare officers who worked so hard to look after our beneficiaries.



GroceryAid will continue to help those who work or have worked in the tobacco trade, and you can find more about them – including details on how to make an application for support – [here on their website](#). Please also see the screenshot below.



We owe thanks to all those who have supported the work of the TTBA and Welfare Fund over the years. That includes those Company members who have generously made donations as well as BAT, Imperial Brands and JTI, who have provided significant financial support over many years. I'm particularly grateful to past Welfare Chairs Roger Merton and Tony Scanlan, and also to the members of the Welfare Committee – including our stalwart Treasurer Nicky Snook, Simon Orlik, Graham Blashill, and Kim Garwood – who have kept things running smoothly for so long. Most of all I'd like to thank Marie Cooper, whose energy, legal expertise and wise advice were instrumental in making the merger happen.

## Our first Charities Reception, 30th April 2025

A beneficial side-effect of the GroceryAid merger is that it will make the running of the Benevolent Fund considerably simpler, and free up time for trustees to give greater focus to the activities of the General Fund, which makes grants to other charities. We support a wide range of causes around the London area, focused on homelessness, disadvantaged communities, the arts and charitable activities associated with the Company's heritage. We are

proud that our links with some of these charities go back many years; you can see the list of [those currently supported here](#).

As part of this new focus on our General Fund the Benevolent Fund trustees are keen to engage Company members more closely in our work. That might take the form of giving us feedback about the causes we support or suggesting new charities, becoming a trustee, or perhaps providing pro-bono support to one of our charities.

In order to launch this initiative, the Company and the Benevolent Fund are organising our first ever Charities Evening, to be held at St Giles Cripplegate in the Barbican on Wednesday 30th April (7-9pm). We will have a very good number of the charities we support there, and it will be a great opportunity for Company members and guests to mix with them over drinks and canapés and hear more about the vital work they do.

If you are free that evening, please contact the Clerk. It would be lovely to have a strong turnout so that we can show the charities how much their work is appreciated.

## How we generate income

We are fortunate that the legacy of generous responses to two Benevolent Fund appeals launched in 1963 and 1971 continues to provide a significant capital base which brings in around £130k a year in investment income. That income is supplemented by around £30k in annual donations from members of the Livery. The total allows the Benevolent Fund to support around ten charities with very substantial grants of £10-20k, as well as a similar number with smaller but still significant grants of £1-5k. Some of these grants are one-off in nature but for quite a number we offer funding over three-year periods, which the charities find particularly helpful for their planning.

We are hugely grateful for the continuing, generous support of Livery members but, as the Master and I wrote to you earlier this year, we are wondering if with your help we can do even more. For some years the minimum suggested annual donation on the form we send out to new members has been £100. After careful discussion amongst the trustees,



and with approval of the Court, we have jointly decided to lift the suggested annual donation to £200, which is in line with the average individual annual donation across the whole Livery movement of approximately £220. Please consider raising your own annual donation if you can. If you'd like to do that, please contact the company Treasurer, Ian Venters (treasurer@tobaccolivery.org) to make the arrangements.

## Trustee news

Three trustees stood down in the past year: Kate Golding in December, and Tony Scanlan and Past Master Simon Orlik in February. Kate spent four years as a trustee; in addition to his seven years as a trustee, Tony also spent a period as Chair of the Welfare Committee. Simon's service stretches back considerably further even: eight years as a trustee, but he also attended Benevolent Fund meetings regularly when he was the Company's assistant clerk and treasurer in 2004 and 2005, and then

stepped into the breach to become our secretary from February 2008 and 2013, when he took on a lot of the work involved in merging with the TTBA. Simon had also been involved with the TTBA since the 1970s. We thank all three very sincerely for their service.

Happily our three vacancies are on their way to being filled. Sharon Taberer and Laurent Charbonnier both joined as new trustees at our February meeting, and we are very hopeful of being able to make another excellent appointment at our May meeting to bring our complement of trustees back up to a full house of nine.

*The smooth functioning of the Benevolent Fund and the trustee committee over the last year has, once again, been assured via the hard work of our Secretary Sandra Stocker and our Treasurer Ian Venters.*

Jonathan Fell  
*Trustee and Chair*

## Benevolent Fund - The General Fund

### Music

In September we celebrated 60 years of funding scholarships at the Guildhall School Music & Drama. We are proud to be maintaining this tradition, and by a very happy coincidence one of our scholars this year is mezzo-soprano Julia Solomon whose grandfather, John Solomon, was a Past Master of the Company and also served for over 25 years as a trustee of the Benevolent Fund, eight of them as Chair.

“Your support is invaluable, and I look forward to making the most of this opportunity through your kindness and generosity... to receive support from the same Company that played a key role in my grandfather’s life, feels especially meaningful” – GSMD Tobacco Pipe Makers’ Scholar Julia Solomon.

Pembroke House is this year celebrating 140 years in Walworth, South London. We support their Academy of Music programme, providing high-

quality music education to 7–14-year-olds from low-income families in the Walworth area.

This year we also funded a new charity, WeJam, which offers music lessons to children in special schools in Islington. Through their work with music, they aim to improve kids’ self-confidence, mental health and concentration, and help with teaching fine motor skills.

### Disadvantaged young people

For the last couple of years, we have helped to fund a residential trip run by KEEN London at Hindleap Warren in Sussex. KEEN works with primary-age children with a range of disabilities, and the trip is an opportunity for the children to spend time away from home and practice independence, teamwork and work on self-esteem. In September we agreed to extend our funding for this event for the next three years.



“It was amazing for our son to be away from home for the first time and have that experience with other children. The family also gained much needed respite as our focus has been on him only” – Feedback from a parent whose son attended the summer 2024 KEEN London trip.

In 2024 the Katherine Low Settlement celebrated 100 years of supporting the community in Battersea, and trustee Sue Curran attended their 100th Anniversary Street Party in May. We support KLS’s Love to Learn programme, which offers homework clubs and other educational support to children from refugee backgrounds. We have agreed to continue supporting this programme for a further three years, and from next year will also fund an initiative which teaches English, maths and other skills to adults from refugee families, to help them support their own children’s education.

It might be based near the south coast, but Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation has a very strong Inner London Programme, offering residential trips and a diverse programme of cricket, enrichment and personal development activities to children who get little chance to experience spending time outdoors in a natural environment. The Foundation also works with children who have special educational needs or disabilities, and we are proud to have supported its work since 1992.

The Mark Evison Foundation helps to develop confidence and resilience in young people aged 16-18, providing grants and encouragement to undertake challenges such as hiking and cycling expeditions, or design projects. We first supported the Foundation in 2015, when it made a total of 22 awards involving 57 students; in 2024 that grew to 175 awards and 594 students.

Physics Partners delivered over 3,000 training hours over the last year (up 40%), helping non-specialist newly qualified teachers in state secondary schools to teach this really important subject. We are proud that, thanks to our nomination, Physics Partners won the 2024 Clarity in Communications Award, organised by the Company of Communicators. Sue and Bill Curran attended the ceremony and accepted the magnificent stained-glass roundel – commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass – on their and our behalf.

We supported City Gateway for the first time this year, a charity based in East London. It supports young people aged 16-18 who have faced social and economic inequality, helping them via mentoring and coaching to get the skills, qualifications and experience they need to secure a job, apprenticeship or to go on to further education. Over 2,000 youngsters receive City Gateway’s Next Steps career advice each year, and over 300 enrol on one of their programmes.

## A focus on disabilities

Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled is another charity that we have supported for over 30 years. Its work, serving 120 participants a week, aged 5-80 years old, is dedicated to those with disabilities. About one third of participants are on the autistic spectrum, and Barrow Farm also runs Tea with a Pony sessions for people with dementia.

We were pleased to be able to fund the Carers’ Forum at the Garwood Foundation last year, and this year agreed to extend that for a further three years. The Foundation operates in the London boroughs of Croydon, Sutton and Bromley, running a school, residential home and day centre for adults and children with profound and multiple learning difficulties and other physical and mental disabilities. The Carers’ Forum provides a much-needed space for those looking after loved ones to relax and spend time with others who truly understand their experiences and can provide advice and support.

“Your support is changing lives, and we are so grateful. Thank you once again for believing in the importance of this work and for standing by us in making a real difference” – Karin Schnabel, Garwood Foundation.

## Disadvantaged adults

The Sheriffs’ & Recorder’s Fund supports the rehabilitation of prison leavers and their families. It makes grants to individuals – e.g. clothes for a job interview, or for IT or other training courses and also supports rehabilitation projects in London prisons, such as work on literacy, or the ‘Making for Change’ programme which offers training in fashion production skills.



Spitalfields Crypt Trust (SCT) is based in East London and supports extremely vulnerable adults affected by homelessness and addiction. We support SCT's Housing First service, which gives around 20 people with a long-term history of homelessness a safe home and the ability to turn their lives around, without the need to fulfil the rigid criteria often associated with social housing.

We first supported Street Storage last year and recently agree to extend our funding for another three years. This innovative charity, founded in July 2019, provides safe storage facilities for those experiencing homelessness, as well as a place to get a cup of coffee, check emails, or access one-to-one support on a range of issues. In the last year Street Storage moved into new, larger premises near King's Cross – partly in response to significantly increased demand for its services – and also opened a branch in Cheltenham, its first outside London, in partnership with a local charity.

This year we were also able to help Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank fund their daily Crisis Drop-in, which helps its guests to transition out of homelessness, unemployment and food poverty. It offers a range of practical services and advice as well as hot food, showers and access to computers and phone charging.

We have once again donated to the Livery Food Initiative (LFI) for the charity City Harvest. The charity rescues healthy food that would otherwise go to waste and distributes it to over 375 community organisations that provide food and meals to those in food poverty – young people, the elderly, the vulnerable, etc. In total these organisations feed over 120,000 a week, and the LFI pays for a van and a truck which are vital for collecting and delivering food.

## Other donations

If the majority of our grants are focused on the four areas discussed above, we are proud also to make smaller donations to a number of other charities which have real impact. This year we gave to The Compassionate Friends, which supports bereaved parents in the London area. We once again sponsored the Magical Taxi Tour, organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, which takes children with life-threatening illnesses on a three-day trip to Disneyland Paris.

Recognising the Company's affiliation with the Irish Guards Association we also donate to the Irish Guards Charity, providing welfare to current and former members of the Irish Guards and their families. We also support the three large national service charities via the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch held in the Guildhall each year.

Jonathan Fell  
*Chair Benevolent Fund Committee*

If you would like to  
make a donation to the  
Benevolent Fund, please  
use this QR code





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.*



# Reflection from the Honorary Chaplain

## What's the Livery? Is it something to do with livers?

Well, in truth, my liver is deeply engaged in Livery life, but not always in a very healthy way! I'm sure we're all used to being asked about the Livery by puzzled friends, colleagues, and neighbours. I suspect we've all found useful little ways of explaining it as 'like this' or 'like that'. But even so, the reality always evades our well-worn explanations, because the reality is life. Hundreds of years of people, skills, community, faith, service, relationship: hundreds of years of life.



*Revd Canon Jack Noble with an early map of the City*

In this short article I'd like, briefly, to just notice, and reflect a little on what I see every day as Honorary Chaplain to the Company, as a City parson, and Rector of St Giles' Cripplegate (on the City's skirts, along the northern stretch of London Wall at Barbican). What I am privileged to live as a day-to-day reality is a curiosity and novelty to visitors and friends alike; because the City's churches, like the City's Livery Companies, are in many ways just doing what we have always done. That bizarre mix of the everyday, amongst workers and residents: daily services and beautiful quiet sanctuaries open to all, birth, marriages and deaths, conversations and pastoral care.... mixed in with the grand and the historic and the high profile in this Square Mile that is a unique global centre of commerce, history, governance and culture.

Recently in the Saturday edition of the Financial Times, my colleague Canon Alison Joyce was interviewed about the place and life of City churches. Canon Joyce is the Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street, the journalists' church of course, making her the ideal person for interview. (I never fail to be moved by the side altar in St Bride's with images for prayer of the scores of journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Sadly, it continues to grow year by year.)

Canon Joyce spoke in her FT interview of the vital place of the City churches as refuges for workers and residents amongst the pressures of life. For many, their ten minutes of quiet midweek is a lifeline. The readings at Morning Prayer on the way from the station to the office is a vital calibration for workers who gather in holy huddles at City churches every



morning. The stories and lives of the City's people has been intertwined with the great churches of the City for (in some cases) more than a thousand years. All this makes these churches remarkable repositories of prayer and humanity, history and community, that pepper our City seasoning life in a way unique to London amongst modern global financial capitals, I suspect.

All this really isn't any attempt to blow our own trumpets, or soften you up before passing the hat round for the roof fund! I promise! What I am trying to do in this little reflection is simply rejoice in and celebrate the bizarre and beautiful, the profound and the fun in our shared City life - livery, church and life. Our Company's own Carol Service is a wonderful example of the City at its best: livery, church, a long-standing friendship with Sevenoaks School, an evening in the pews and on the smoking terrace of the Samuel Pepys pub, of sharing deep and lovely things: the joyful mystery of God with us, and feasting amongst friends. Perhaps we've got used to this, but it really is special. At St Giles' Cripplegate, we welcome thousands of people through our doors in the early weeks of December. That staff and clients of investment banks and corporate law firms come together to share their own Carol Service surprises lots of people nowadays, but come they do, every year, all over the City.

Other cities have livery-like institutions, other cities have lots of churches in a historic centre, but the way all these things layer up in London with the civic and business life of our Square Mile is very special.

But why? Why is it so special? For lots of reasons I think, but to mention just one: it fills my heart to serve in a City that is about more than naked commerce. It is a City (alongside the prosperity we are all delighted to see) that can be a place where people truly flourish. Where community, fellowship, service, friendship with God, asking the deep questions of life, creativity and aspiration for human excellence in so many ways, can be sought and shared. That's the spirit of the City at its best, for which (alongside others) the City's livery companies and churches are the fertile soil providing nourishment and nutrients for just this kind of human flourishing.

*It is still very wintry as I write these words, but it will soon be Spring and, producat terra, out of the earth of the City, I pray, flourishing green shoots of life will grow.*

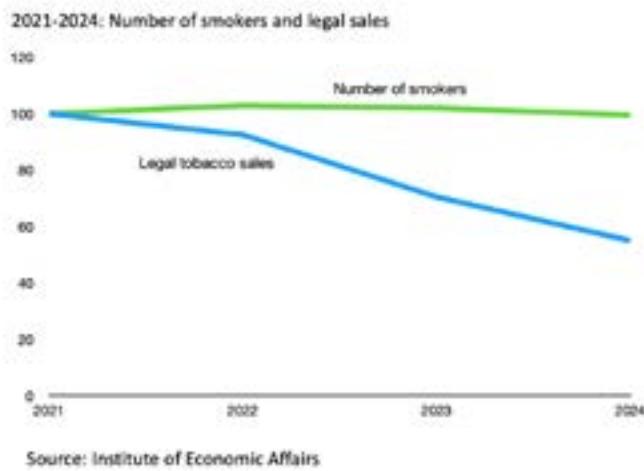
Reverend Canon Jack Noble  
*Honorary Chaplain*



# Worrying Growth of the UK's Illicit Tobacco Trade

The respected economics think-tank, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), has published worrying figures about huge recent growth in the illicit tobacco trade in the UK, made worse by the government seeming unaware of how bad the problem is.

The IEA says HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) figures for 2021-24 indicate a huge rise in UK illicit tobacco sales. The figures show that sales of legal, duty-paid cigarettes slumped by 44.4% from 23.6 billion to 13.2 billion, and sales of legal, duty-paid hand rolling tobacco fell by 47.6% from 8.6 million kilograms to 4.5 million kilograms. The IEA says that overall, this means the number of cigarettes bought legally in the UK in 2021-24 slumped by 45.5%.



**What's causing this? Could it just be that fewer people are smoking?**

It seems not. Based on the 'Smoking Toolkit Study', which gathers independent data for use by policy makers, clinicians and researchers, the IEA calculates that the number of smokers in 2021-24 fell only modestly, by 0.5%, after factoring for population growth.

**Or is it because smokers are just smoking fewer cigarettes?**

Again, it seems not. The IEA cites research by University College London published in 2024, which found that daily cigarette consumption has been stable since 2020, at about 10.5 cigarettes per smoker per day on average.



*Dr Chris Snowdon, IEA's Head of Lifestyle Economics*

**So what's causing the collapse in legal tobacco sales?**

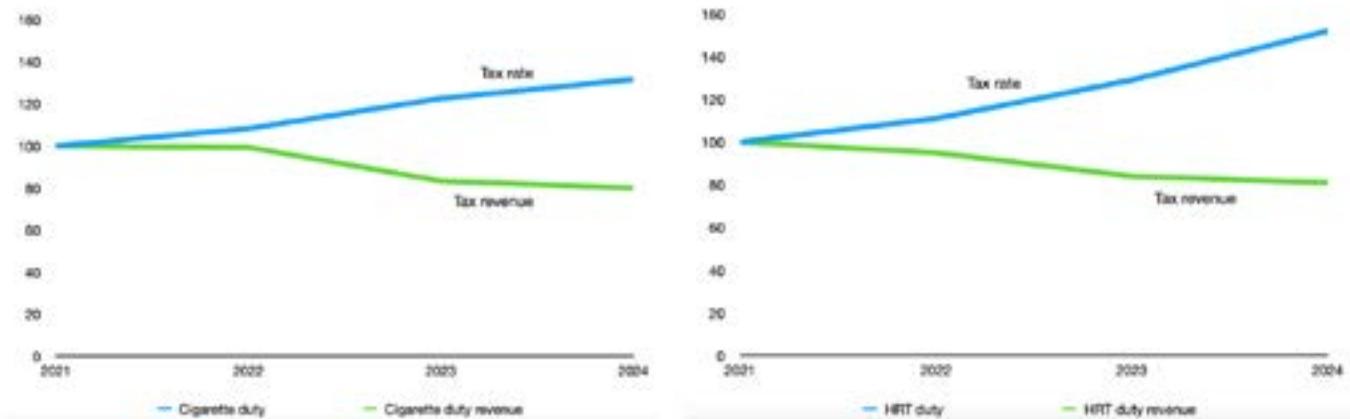
Dr Chris Snowdon, author of the report and the IEA's Head of Lifestyle Economics, says the only plausible explanation is rapid growth in the black market.

"From October 2021 to October 2024, tobacco duty rose four times. The minimum excise tax on cigarettes rose by 39%, and duty on hand rolling tobacco rose by 76%," says Chris.

"This is a classic example of the 'Laffer Curve', where tax rises don't increase government income, but do the opposite, causing tax revenues to fall. We found that since 2021, duty from cigarettes is down by 20% and duty from hand rolling tobacco is down by 19%. This means that overall, from 2021-2024, income to the national kitty from tobacco duty fell by £10.4 billion to £8.4 billion."



#### Tax rates and tax revenues 2021-2024 for cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco (HRT)



Source: Institute of Economic Affairs

Chris and the IEA say these figures should be “a wake up call to the government” and that they cast serious doubt on figures from anti-smoking group ASH.

Chris says: “Official estimates lack all credibility. The most recent HMRC estimate suggests that only 6.9% of cigarette sales were non-duty paid in 2022/23 (the lowest figure on record!) but HMRC has not had sufficient data to make a plausible estimate since 2019/20. Anyone familiar with the UK tobacco market today will find HMRC’s estimates laughable.

“Meanwhile, ASH claims that the illicit market in the UK has declined consistently since 2000 alongside steadily increasing tobacco taxes. It’s impossible to square that claim with our evidence. We can’t estimate the size of the tobacco black market from the legal sales data alone, but it’s clear that Britain’s illicit trade problem is very large, and has grown dramatically since 2021.”

You can see more from Chris and the Institute of Economic Affairs at <https://iea.org.uk>.

Fran Morrison  
Court Assistant



# Presentation of New Colours

Carolyn and I, together with our IPM Elise and Clerk Sandra, were privileged to be invited by our friends in the Irish Guards to attend the presentation of new colours to Nos. 9 and 12 Companies of the Irish Guards by His Majesty The King, at Windsor Castle.

In contrast to a similar ceremony a couple of years ago, the size of the audience was much smaller and the weather was very chilly, compared to the baking heat of the last occasion. It was windy which made it worse and certainly did not help my hairstyle!



*The Master, Consort, Clerk and Immediate Past Master*

As always, the parade was led by Seamus the Irish Guards Mascot Wolfhound, together with the band, and passed off flawlessly, with everybody carrying out their part with great precision.

The King presented the colours, made a speech and then retired past our section of the audience, stopping to speak to the row in front of us. He looked well and in good spirits, which was very encouraging given his recent treatment. Unfortunately, the Princess of Wales who is the Colonel of the regiment could not be there as well.

Afterwards, we walked down to Victoria Barracks for a buffet lunch in the Officers mess, where we met many current and former officers and commanding officers of the Regiment, together with some other Liverymen with links to the Irish Guards. As always, some most interesting conversations and great hospitality.



*Master and Consort with Officers of The Irish Guards*

**A wonderful day!**

**Henry Tuck,  
Master**



# Trooping The Colour 2024

We were kindly invited by the Irish Guards to attend Trooping of the Colour, which was particularly special as it was the new Irish Guards Colour that was being paraded, which had been presented to Nos. 9 and 12 Companies by the King on Monday.

IPM Elise Rasmussen and Fanmaker IPM Peter Dove also joined us, and other Masters and Consorts were also close by in our seating block.

The parade was a fantastic demonstration of complex precision drill, with all the soldiers and horses showing off their best performances.

The King was dressed in Irish Guards uniform which was a great compliment to the regiment.

It was also wonderful that the Princess of Wales, who is Colonel of the Irish Guards, chose this occasion to be seen in public for the first time in several months.

Fortunately, the rain more or less stayed away until the end of the parade when the troops were departing. The heavens then opened with lightning and a torrential downpour, soaking the soldiers - how they get their bearskins dry is anybody's guess!

We then had to walk for the best part of 20 minutes to get to the East India Club for lunch, getting very wet on the way, even though I wore a long waxed overcoat!

Fortunately, the Club provided us with towels to dry off before we proceeded to the bar to try and warm up. Then of course the sun came out just in time for the RAF flypast!

We had a lovely lunch hosted by Major Robbie Wilmont, Assistant Regimental Adjutant to the Irish Guards, joined by many members of the Irish Guards family.

A fantastic day, despite the rain!

Henry Tuck,  
Master



*Master, Consort, Immediate Past Master and IPM Peter Dove, Fan Makers' Company*



*Trooping the Colour*



## Shamrock Ball

Carolyn and I went to the annual Shamrock Ball, in aid of the Irish Guards Charity, this year held at the Girdlers' Hall.

Hosted by our friend, Major Robbie Wilmont, who we know well from our connections with the Irish Guards Association, we had a most enjoyable dinner, taking great pleasure as always in saying hello to Seamus the Irish Wolfhound Mascot of the regiment on the way in.

A fine meal with entertaining company (military and civilian) was followed by musical entertainment from the Irish Guards Band and Pipers. Some of the pipe and flute music was played from the gallery, on the basis that the accompanying piano could not be physically moved downstairs, even with the help of a group of large soldiers! The actual band marched around the dining room before settling down in front of the Girdlers' magnificent tapestry!

We even managed to outbid everybody for a picture painted by a disabled Irish Guards veteran, so we will have to find pride of place for it on one of our walls!

Henry Tuck  
*Master*





## Presentation of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy



At the January Dinner at Drapers' Hall on 22nd January 2025, the second recipient of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy, Mr Frank McCracken, was presented with the Trophy by the Master.

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, Past Master Jerry Merton suggested that we introduce 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 second recipient of this award is Frank McCracken.

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

Frank joined the Irish Guards in 1988 and served with them until he went on an attachment with the Scots Guards to East Tyrone in 1994. In 1995 he transferred to the Royal Irish Home Service Battalion and continued to serve with them until retiring from the



Army in 2007. In 2008 he joined the Northern Ireland Prison Service and remained there until he set up his own Plumbing and Gas Boiler installation business in 2017 which is still his current line of work.

He took on the role of Secretary of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Guards Association in 2011 and has been the central point of that organisation to the current day. His tireless efforts have seen the branch grow from strength to strength and he is heavily relied upon to organise all their events, lunches, dinners and social gatherings. From a welfare perspective he is always on hand to assist with issues arising involving Irish Guards veterans living in Northern Ireland and has been instrumental in getting much needed help to them, very often at short notice. He is a keen golfer and has been an active member of the Irish Guards Golf Society for many years. In line with his love of golf and his unrelenting passion for his Regiment, two years ago he took it upon himself to organise a Charity Golf Day in aid of the Irish Guards Charity.

This proved to be a great success which prompted him to go one further and have a second event in 2024 which was even bigger and more widely supported. As a result, he has managed to generate over £16,000 for various military charities with the vast share of that sum being donated to the Micks.

For all his efforts and for his ongoing support to both the Regiment and the Irish Guards Association we have decided to nominate him as the second recipient of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers Trophy. Frank got to know Alan well during his tenure as the London Branch Secretary and will no doubt take great pride in being presented with this prestigious award.

**The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders are proud to present the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy to Mr Frank McCracken.**



## St Patrick's Day 2025

The Irish Guards St Patrick's Day Parade was held this year at Wellington Barracks on Monday 17th March. The day started with Morning Prayer for Saint Patrick's Day in the Guards Chapel, which gave the Master and Consort, Immediate Past Master and Assistant and Trustee Sue Curran and Clerk's Assistant Bill Curran, the opportunity to see a Memorial Plaque to Alan Beggs, our previous Clerk's Assistant.

The Parade then took place on Wellington Barracks parade ground, in front of Her Royal Highness, The Princess of Wales, Colonel of The Irish Guards. The Princess of Wales presented the traditional sprigs of shamrock to Guardsmen and Officers from The Irish Guards, representatives of The Irish Guards Association, the Band of the Irish Guards and Seamus, The Irish Guards Wolfhound Mascot. She then took the salute as Colonel during a traditional march-past.

St Patrick's Day wouldn't be St Patrick's Day without formal photographs with the Colonel of the Regiment. Seamus takes centre stage of course and everyone waits until he is in place. The following two photographs show Seamus' handler putting Seamus in place.

If you have seen any footage of St Patrick's Day on news channels or social media, you may have seen a bank of photographers move forward to get what they hope are the best photographs of The Princess of Wales putting shamrock on Seamus' coat. Seamus' handler said "Seamus is the fan favourite. Not just with the Royal Family but everyone".

It was a cold but dry day and when the parade finished, HRH The Princess of Wales spent time in the Junior Ranks' Dining Hall. Drinking a half pint of Guinness, she chatted with the guardsmen about their recent deployment. The Princess of Wales then went to the Sergeants' Mess where she met with relatives of soldiers serving overseas, including those involved in training Ukrainian troops.

St Patrick's Day was particularly special this year as The Irish Guards celebrated its 125th Anniversary on 1st April 2025.



HRH The Princess of Wales, with members of the Irish Guards and Seamus



A Memorial Plaque to Alan Beggs in The Guards Chapel.



HRH The Princess of Wales, Regimental Colonel with Major General Sir Christopher Ghika, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel on the dais



*The Master presents The Company Award to Kate Cadman*

## Presentation of The Company Award

The January Dinner on 22nd January 2025 saw the second presentation of a Company award, to Kate Cadman, Collections Curator, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

Following completion of a BA degree in three-dimensional design, Kate began working for the Ironbridge Gorge Museums in costume at the Blists Hill Victorian Village. Kate then moved on to Coalport China Museum demonstrating ceramic processes. This led to a post as a Curatorial Assistant, then on to becoming Curatorial Officer for the Coalport China Museum, Jackfield Tile Museum, and Broseley Clay Tobacco Pipe Museum. In 2022, Kate became Collections Curator for the whole of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, which holds a wide range of Designated collections.

Kate has commented about her career “Although I have found working with such a variety of materials and objects fascinating, my main love is still ceramics, from eighteenth century porcelain to bricks, roofing and decorative tiles, and clay tobacco pipes. I am a member of the Art UK

Ceramic Digitisation Steering Group, working towards a national project to digitise and make accessible ceramic collections across the UK. And most importantly, I am still a practising ceramicist, training and encouraging the practice of traditional skills which are in danger of dying out in the modern ceramics industries”.

In August 2024, the family of the former Broseley Pipeworks factory owners gifted a large collection of large clay pots known as saggers to the Broseley Pipeworks Museum. The saggers contained thousands of unfired pipes thought to have been produced at the facility before it shut in the 1950s. In an interview with the BBC, Kate Cadman said it was a “wonderful” surprise to discover the pipes inside and “remarkable” they had survived.

At one time, Broseley was the centre of the clay tobacco pipe making industry, and its products were exported across the world. “Broseley has a long history of making clay tobacco pipes, partly because of the local clay and the local coal for firing kilns,” Kate said. Broseley Pipeworks, originally known as

(Top) Kate Cadman with the donated Saggers



Broseley Pipeworks

the Crown pipeworks, was one of the last surviving factories and was finally abandoned in the late 1950s. The facility, acquired by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in 1991, has been preserved to look as it did when the last pipe-makers left.

The museum is also hosting demonstrations by a new generation of pipe-makers who are being supported to preserve the traditional craft. "Pipe-making is on the Heritage Craft Association's red list of endangered skills," Kate said. "There are fewer than half a dozen professional pipe-makers left and most of those are in their 60s or 70s." Resident pipe-maker James Ashwell is experimenting with 3-D printed plastic moulds, which could enable the remanufacturing of rare originals. "It will be exciting to see the impact of James's work developing

moulds and how this might help encourage new makers," Kate added.

**The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders are proud to present their Second Company Award to Kate Cadman, in grateful recognition of her services to the craft and heritage of Clay Pipe Making.**

© Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust  
© BBC News Shropshire 1 August 2024



# News from the National Pipe Archive

## – Smoking Items from the First World War

The first donation to the National Pipe Archive this year is a collection of three smoking related items from the First World War - a French clay pipe with a stanhope lens, a meerschaum cheroot holder and a silver mounted cigar holder (Fig. 1).

All three pipes belonged to George Henry Sibley, the paternal grandfather of the donor, Keith Sibley, who has provided the Archive with some interesting anecdotal evidence to go with them. George Sibley fought in the First World War and talked about the cheroot and cigar holders having been 'liberated' from German prisoners of war, while the clay pipe was bought back as a 'soldier's souvenir'. These items provide an interesting snapshot into the range of smoking items that were available to WWI soldiers, and are especially interesting as a group since they can be related back to their original owner.

George Henry Sibley was born on 24 September 1892 in Newington, London, and, at the outbreak of the First World War, he was working as a Post Office messenger (Fig. 2).

George volunteered to join the army in December 1915, and subsequently served as a rifleman in the 9th London Regiment and Queen Victoria's Rifles (army numbers 6335 and 392652). He left for the Western Front in 1916 where he served his battalion in the Battle of the Somme, and at Arras, Ypres, Passchendaele, Lens and Bullecourt. He also served during the German offensive and subsequent allied advance of 1918. The family recount stories of how he was gassed at the third battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) and wounded whilst in France by a British grenade, with the injury to his leg being "patched up in a field hospital set up on a train". He was evacuated back to England to recuperate, and although his leg healed, the damage caused by the gas was thought to be terminal (Fig. 3).

In March 1919 he was discharged from the army as being medically unfit for further service. Having been invalidated out of the armed forces, George was nursed back to health by his fiancé, soon to be his wife Ellen Elizabeth Florence (née Chappell). They were married in the second quarter of 1919 at Greenwich. George returned to work at the Post Office until his retirement as an inspector. He passed away in 1981.

The three smoking items belonging to George were passed on to his grandson, Keith, along with stories of how they had come into his possession.

The clay pipe (Fig. 4; LIVNP 2025.01.01) is a short-stemmed pipe with its original green paper label still wrapped around the stem, although now very rubbed from use, so that the maker's name that would have been on it is no longer visible.

There is, however, an impressed mark on the stem of the pipe as well, part of which projects from under the label. This reads 'CREME DE FLANDRE', which can be identified as part of a mark used by the famous French manufacturer of Fiolet in St Omer, Pas-de-Calais. The pipe has been burnished, showing that it was a good quality product. What is notable about this example is that it had a rounded heel beneath the pipe bowl that is designed to hold a 'Stanhope' – a small glass insert with a tiny photographic image on one side that could be viewed by looking through the other side, which was rounded to form a tiny lens. The Stanhope has a very risqué image of a woman on it – she is sitting on a stool and wearing very little! She is twisting round to adjust the hands on a clock, which is set at half past eleven. George said that he purchased this in France as a "soldier's souvenir", and it has clearly been well used.

Figure 1 The Items donated by Keith Sibley (LIVNP 2025-01)



Figure 2 George Henry Sibley (1892-1981) before the First World War in GPO uniform (Photograph courtesy of Keith Sibley).



Figure 3 George Henry Sibley in Military Hospital 'Blues', c1919 (Photograph courtesy of Keith Sibley).



Figure 4 Clay tobacco pipe produced by Fiolet of St Omer, France, with a Stanhope set at the base of the bowl (LIVNP 2025.01.01)



(Right) Figure 5 Meerschaum cheroot holder in the form of a lady's head (Acc.LIVNP 2025.01.02)



Figure 6 Amber cigar holder with a silver mount bearing a Birmingham hallmark for 1901 (LIVNP 2025.01.03)



The meerschaum cheroot holder is cased and is carved in the form of a young lady's head (Fig. 5; LIVNP 2025.01.02).

The lady is wearing a German style hat with a feather in it and this perhaps points to the pipe's origin, since Germany was one of the principal areas where meerschaum pipes were produced. At the front of the hat is a hole that serves as the holder for a cheroot. The amber mouthpiece is attached to the pipe with a plain and unmarked silver collar. Tooth wear on the mouthpiece, and the beautiful rich colouring of the pipe itself, would suggest that it was well loved and well smoked. This is thought to be one of the items that George 'liberated' from German POWs.

Finally, there is an amber cigar holder which is also cased and, although it has clearly been smoked, there is no obvious tooth wear on the tip of the mouthpiece (Fig. 6; LIVNP 2025.01.03).

The holder has a silver mount with a scalloped edge and chased decoration. It was hallmarked by the Birmingham Assay office with the letter mark for 1901. There is also a maker's mark which reads CSMCo for the City Silver Mounting Company of Birmingham. It has not been possible to locate any further details about this particular company. This item was also said to have been 'liberated' from a POW, which is possible since it was manufactured several years before the war, although its British manufacture could also point to it being something acquired in this country.

The whole group is really nice and brings together a range of smoking items from the first quarter of the twentieth century. What makes the group particularly interesting is the personal connection to a known individual – George Henry Sibley – and to his time serving as a soldier during the First World War. It shows the range of smoking utensils that were being used by an 'everyday' individual at the time, and that George was taking tobacco in a range of forms – as cigars, cheroots and pipe tobacco. As such, it provides a record of the changing customs of the period and shows the elaborate range of smoking accessories that were once in everyday use.

Dr David Higgins (Chairman)  
and Dr Susie White (Curator)



THE NATIONAL  
PIPE ARCHIVE

Email: [PipeArchive@hotmail.com](mailto:PipeArchive@hotmail.com)

Web: [www.piarchive.co.uk](http://www.piarchive.co.uk)

Blog: <https://piarchive.wordpress.com>



# Broseley Clay Tobacco Pipe Works

Tucked into a quiet corner of the small Shropshire town of Broseley stands an extraordinary survivor of a previous age. The clay tobacco pipe works is the last remnant of an industry that made the name of Broseley familiar all over the world. Clay pipes were made here from the 1630s, at first literally a cottage industry when tobacco was so expensive that pipes were tiny, and smoking was a comparative luxury. The availability of clay and the coal to fuel the kilns, along with a local expertise in ironworking to create pipe moulds made this an ideal centre for a rapidly expanding manufacture. The River Severn just downhill was one of the main trade routes in Britain until the arrival of the railways, and Bristol at the mouth of the Severn was an international port, exporting especially to America, so reaching markets both in Britain and abroad was feasible.

During the nineteenth century the use of tobacco became much more widespread, due partly to removal of prohibitive taxes and partly to the establishment of huge tobacco plantations using enslaved labour. The effect on the Broseley industry saw the small scale producers replaced by three larger manufacturers, each producing many hundreds of thousands of pipes a year. What is now the surviving works on the corner of Duke Street and King Street began as the Crown Pipe Works run by Rowland Smitheman from 1881.

The site had a long history of use, including housing, warehouses, and offices. Part of the site was a Quaker meeting house and burial ground from c.1691. Abraham Darby I who pioneered developments in iron making which led to the Industrial Revolution is believed to be buried here.

At first glance, the factory looks like a row of cottages, and that is exactly what it is. Clay pipe making was essentially still a labour intensive process using simple hand tools, moulds and presses, and could be fitted easily into the small domestic spaces available. Many of the workers making pipes on piece work were women and girls, often working before marriage, then returning to do short hours when their children were old enough. The decline of the clay pipe in the twentieth century was accelerated

by smokers being introduced to cigarettes during the First World War. Famously, Queen Mary sponsored gifts for the troops of a tin box containing chocolate and cigarettes, and the convenience of this use of tobacco soon took over from pipes.

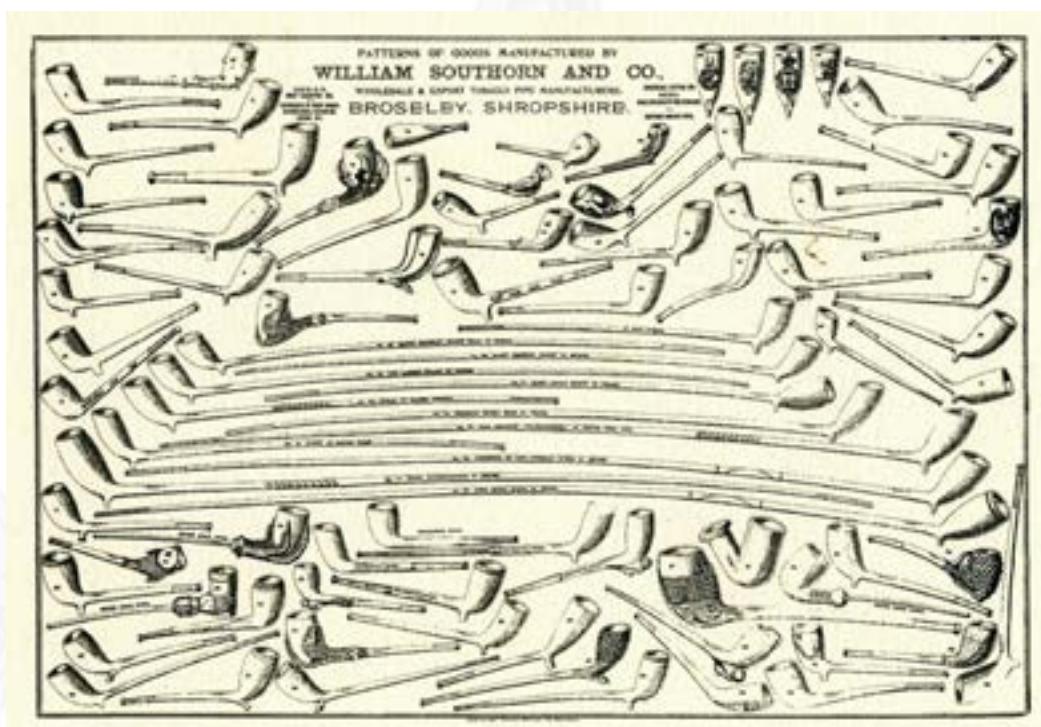
After Rowland Smitheman's death, his son (also Rowland) continued the manufacture of clay pipes for a time. In 1923 the Crown Works was sold to William Southorn & Co, one of the other major manufacturers, possibly as a down-sizing project. From employing around ninety people at its height, by the late 1950s there were only about three employees. The works had ceased production by 1960. The buildings, complete with contents, lay virtually undisturbed for nearly 30 years.

In the 1980s, rumours of this unexplored treasure of social and industrial history reached the Archaeology Department of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. Initial assessments confirmed that here was a unique survivor, the only substantially complete clay pipe manufactory with most of its contents in situ. The importance of this find, and the fragile state of much of the site gave an urgency to putting in place plans to conserve and restore it. The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and Bridgnorth District Council worked as partners to acquire the buildings, then to conserve, restore and repair them and the valuable contents.

Smitheman ran the works during the heyday of pipe smoking. Like the other factories in Broseley, he used a wide range of pipe patterns from the working man's short 'cutty' pipe (also known as a nose warmer for obvious reasons!) to the expensive and high status churchwarden pipe, sometimes called a yard of clay. Elaborate designs catered to specific markets: sportsmen might smoke a pipe with a footballing or boxing design, and fishermen might favour one with the bowl in the shape of a fish. Clay pipes commemorated special events, like the Great Exhibition, or famous people like Queen Victoria. There was something for everyone.



*Broseley Pipeworks*



*Pipes advertisement - Southorn - 1994.1482*



*Page from 1987 report on the Pipeworks*



*Interior of restored workshop*



*Kate Cadman, Collections Curator with the saggars*



An appeal was launched on 18th June 1991, by and in the name of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders, for the restoration of the Broseley Pipeworks. It was mainly through the personal endeavours of Immediate Past Member Master J A Ostick and the generosity of some major Pipe and Tobacco companies, that the total raised amounted to £44,550, towards the total cost of £45,000 to £47,000.

Over the next few years, and dependent on funding bids to English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery fund, and the European Regional Development fund, the process of rescuing the site continued.

A detailed archaeological project recorded every item in its context within the building, and also a building survey was undertaken, revealing serious structural issues. Removing the entire contents to a safe working area at Jackfield Tile Museum then made possible the structural work on the building. While conservation – retaining as much as possible of the original fabric – was paramount, in some areas the roof needed replacing, and also reconstruction of walls and floors was required.

The work on the building went on from 1993-1996, and archaeological recording was undertaken throughout that time to document changes.

Once the building was sound, it was possible from the detailed records to re-instate objects exactly where they had been found. Some rooms had been abandoned long before the site closed, and in these areas, it was considered appropriate to treat them as gallery spaces to interpret the history of the site, and the wider history of the tobacco industry.

The site first opened to the public for Heritage Open Days weekend in 1994, partly to give the people of Broseley the chance to see what had been happening behind the high walls of the site.

Further interpretation was added, but the intention was very much to present the central workshops as if the workers had just left their benches, to create a feeling of stepping back in time to the early twentieth century.

Recently further donations from the Southorn family have returned 103 saggars (fire clay boxes for protecting the pipes during firing in the kiln) still full of the last pipes made on the site.

A further exciting donation has included a ledger giving an insight into the sales around the Midlands and North of England, and a wages ledger recording the names and payments made from around 1903. Many of the names are families who still live in Broseley.

As a relic of social history, a document of national industrial change, a part of the larger picture of the industries of the Ironbridge Gorge, and as an integral component of local people's lives, the time capsule that is the Broseley Clay Tobacco Pipe Works is indeed unique.

Kate Cadman  
Collections Curator  
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust



# Glasgow Pipe Factory

In news from Glasgow, Friends of The Pipe Factory are delighted to report a large-scale retrofit project for the city's last remaining clay pipe factory is well underway, having broken ground in early December 2024.

Set for completion in 2026, the 'Refiring the Pipe Factory' initiative intends to breathe new community life into the iconic red-brick premises once home to renowned tobacco pipe manufacturer, William White & Sons.

William White and Sons operated the east end building as a clay smoking pipe factory between 1877 and 1955. At the height of demand, the factory was producing up to 14,000 pipes a day and had a workforce of 500. Located within the city's historic Barras Market, the factory was at the heart of the Calton community.

With Friends of The Pipe Factory having recently fundraised over £5 million to secure a future for the historic industrial building, our O'Donnell Brown helmed retrofit project will see the factory returned to the local community as a hub for creative activity, traditional skills, cultural events, and community wellbeing.

In preparation for construction and refurbishment works, Friends of The Pipe Factory undertook two minor ground surveys on site in 2023, resulting in the discovery of a burgeoning collection of clay pipe artefacts, featuring various designs and symbols hinting at a large range of pipe patterns produced by White & Sons.

Inspired by this growing clay pipe archive, in March 2025, The Pipe Factory will launch a calendar of heritage-themed public programming across Glasgow's east end, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Throughout 2025, we are inviting local communities of all ages to take part in a range of hands-on activities including traditional skills workshops, community archaeology digs, clay pipe archiving, large-scale sculpture programmes, heritage film-making and much more.

While developing our public engagement programme for Glasgow's east end, we've been fortunate enough to receive generous advice and enthusiasm from The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders. Thanks to Henry Tuck, our Heritage Engagement Manager had the opportunity in 2024 to visit Broseley Pipeworks to enjoy a hugely informative research tour led by Kate Cadman, Collections Curator. Also, thanks to Henry, our volunteer researchers have connected with the National Pipe Archive at the University of Liverpool, where Dr David Higgins, Chairman and Dr Susie White, Curator, have generously offered their guidance on clay pipe recording and archiving.

It's anticipated that our clay pipe collection will expand significantly as retrofit works progress at the historic factory premises throughout the year. With our local communities actively involved in the recording and cataloguing of these artefacts, Friends of the Pipe Factory look forward to hosting an online archive for William White & Sons on our website [www.thepipefactory.co.uk](http://www.thepipefactory.co.uk). We're also currently working with local groups to co-curate a clay pipe heritage display to be housed within the reopened Pipe Factory building.

In piecing together, the heritage story of William White & Sons, the Pipe Factory team seek your help. If you have any information about White's company, or Glasgow pipe manufacture in general, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Emma, at [emma.semple@friendsofthepipefactory.co.uk](mailto:emma.semple@friendsofthepipefactory.co.uk).

Emma Semple  
Heritage Engagement Manager



Shakespeare 'Allsorbo' patent pipe produced at William White & Sons, image credit PKN Society for Research of Historical Tobacco Pipes.



(Left) The Pipe Factory frontage, Image Credit Alan Dimmick.

(Above) Copy of White's historic company letterhead.



The Pipe Factory hosts a 'Make Your Own Clay Pipe' workshop led by Hayley Dawson, ceramic artist from the Scottish Working Class Network.



A sample of clay pipe fragments recently found on site during minor survey works



# Society for Clay Pipe Research

Our Company is delighted to be a corporate member of the Society for Clay Pipe Research, founded in 1983 and run by Dr David Higgins and Dr Susie White from the University of Liverpool's National Pipe Archive. It's an invaluable resource for archaeologists, collectors, museums, enthusiasts and anyone who wants to try and date or attribute a fragment of a clay pipe or find out more about this heritage craft.

Annual membership is £12 or £30 for three years, and we'd encourage everyone in our Company to consider joining to support the research and to learn more about this fascinating craft and the products in which we have our roots.

Clay pipes have been made in huge numbers in the UK since the late sixteenth century and exported all around the world. Once used or broken, they were quickly discarded. Clay pipe fragments survive well in the earth and can be dated accurately by their shapes and decorations. Many pipes are uniquely marked and can be traced back to their individual maker. Some of the earliest English clay pipes in America have been found at Jamestown, which was established in 1607.

Most pipes were produced in small, family-run local workshops which developed regional styles, with different shapes and qualities for different markets. These unique identifiers make pipes and their fragments amongst the most useful artefacts to be found on archaeological sites. Pipe fragments not only produce accurate dating material but can also provide valuable information about trade and social status. Many were ornately decorated making them interesting for collectors. All these characteristics make clay tobacco pipes a fascinating field of study, with a wealth of avenues for academics and collectors to explore.

One of the aims of the Society is to bring together pipe collectors, researchers, makers, hobbyists and enthusiasts to exchange ideas and information and further common research interests. This is principally through a twice-yearly fifty-page Newsletter, packed full of notes and articles on pipes and related topics from around the world as well as news and information, lists of pipe makers, queries, requests for information and details of meetings and publications.

The Society also holds two-day conference in a different part of the United Kingdom each year, comprising a day of talks on local pipe makers and recent research and a day for a field trip to local sites of pipe making or historic interest. There are displays and articles for sale as well as a conference dinner. Last year was in Hereford, 2023 was in London where the Society was joined by some of the famous London Mudlarks.

The Society's website includes a range of clay pipe related research resources either as files to download, or as links.

Membership of the Society is open to anyone. It's a lively and friendly organisation that has a worldwide membership. Why not join today and find out why so many people have become fascinated with pipes and pipe makers? Further information can be found at <https://scpr.co>

Jacqueline Burrows  
Renter Warden



# Solving a Clay Pipe Mystery

We all know that clay tobacco pipes with their unique makers' marks, bowl shapes and fascinating designs are invaluable for archaeological dating. They were often single use items, sometimes pre-filled with tobacco, ready to be smoked and discarded. As such, they can provide a date more accurately than coins, which circulate for many years after they have been struck.

There is enormous interest around the world in clay pipe collecting and identification, and there are plenty of social media sites where collectors, archaeologists, mudlarks and hobbyists share photographs and exchange information. Probably the most important is the Facebook page run by the Society for Clay Pipe Research, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Claypipes/>, which is linked to the National Pipe Archive at the University of Liverpool run by Dr David Higgins and Dr Susie White, for which our Company has provided support and funding.

As mentioned in the previous article, The Society for Clay Pipe Research was founded in England in 1983 but has a worldwide membership. One of its main aims is to bring together pipe collectors, researchers and hobbyists to exchange ideas and information and support further research. The Society holds an annual conference and issues a regular newsletter.

A friend lives in a chocolate-box brick and stone thatched cottage set amongst other 17th century buildings in a Wiltshire village near Devizes and was recently granted permission to make some sympathetic alterations and additions.



Stone Thatched Cottage near Devizes

During the building work, the bowl of a clay pipe emerged from the soil behind the cottage. The foot of the bowl was clearly stamped with the letters JEFFRY H, and the bowl itself was curved and beautifully organic. Could it be dated? And if so, would the date provide any more clues as to the age of the cottage?



Remnants of Clay Pipe

I posted a couple of photos on the Clay Pipe Research Facebook page and within an hour had my first answer: the pipe was made by a member of the Hunt family who worked in the South West of England in the late 1600s. That would fit the date of the cottage precisely: a neighbour's house is marked 1691.

Then David Higgins of the National Pipe Archive got in touch to suggest downloading a copy of the Society's Newsletter published forty years ago in 1985, and checking out an article about the Hunt family by Dr Marek Lewcun, an expert on south-west pipemakers. Sure enough, this confirmed not only the maker and date of the pipe bowl, but also that these heeled pipes were confined to the Devizes area of Wiltshire between 1670 and 1690. Perfect. We had our answer!

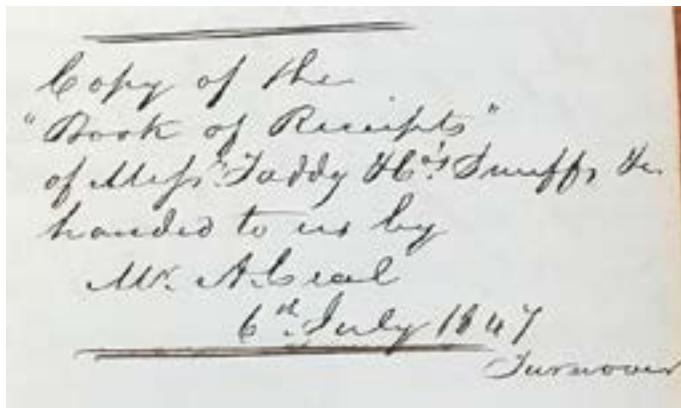
None of this would have been possible without years of dedicated work by clay pipe historians and researchers across the country, the continued interest in clay pipes, the work of the National Pipe Archive and other academics, and of course the power and reach of social media.

Jacqueline Burrows  
Renter Warden



# Intrigue, Trade Rivalry and Family Feuding in Early Victorian England

The recipes for making snuff were (and still are) jealously guarded secrets. Proportions of various grades of leaf and stalk, the liquorising process and, if required, the scenting method is generally only known to one or two partners within the company. If the recipes or formulas are committed to paper then these are kept in a safe, usually deposited with a bank or solicitor. It is highly unusual, therefore, that a business as large as Taddy & Co. should have lost all their secrets to a rival company in 1847. Moreover it seems they remained entirely oblivious of the fact. Unbeknown to them the rival company that acquired their secrets was J & F Lloyd & Co. established in 1796.



The secrets behind Taddy's snuffs come in two books, discovered by accident while researching Sales & Pollard at the Bristol Archives. One comprises the formal recipes for twenty Primary Snuffs and the other, which references the first and expands upon it, is a fascinating journal of snuff manufacture in the 1840s. It also contains the recipes for Snuff Mixtures made from the Primary Snuffs together with the scents used if required. In all there are formulas for 108 different snuffs. Some of these recipes date from the earliest years of Taddy & Co. (c.1784). Many mixtures date from the Regency era. Others are rare secrets. Henry Labouchere, the renowned Victorian journalist, stated that the process for making the pungent Violet Brown Scotch, much esteemed in Cornwall, was known to only two manufacturers, Sales & Pollard and James Taddy & Co.

The documentation from the Bristol Archives refers to Alfred Ceal (1795-1848), tobacconist and snuff manufacturer of 13 Whitechapel Road, established long before by his father, Thomas. He was entered as a Freemason, Prince Edwin's in 1825 and by 1843 he was at 35 Minories, close to James Taddy & Co. who operated from number 45. He was the person who supplied J & F Lloyd & Co with Taddy & Co's snuff recipes, passed to him in turn by Sackett Tomlin (referred to as Tomlin Jnr in Lloyd's notes) who superintended snuff manufacture at Taddy's factory. The story related by J & F Lloyd & Co. of how they acquired all the Taddy secrets in snuff manufacture is as follows:

Alfred Ceal knew Tomlin Snr (William, husband of Susanna Taddy and a late partner in Taddy & Co then based at 45 Minories) whose nephew Sackett Tomlin Jnr (1812-1876) was taken into the business of Taddy & Co in 1842 prior to being presented with articles of partnership. But after eighteen months Tomlin Jnr left as the terms of partnership were unsatisfactory. He had, however, covertly made a detailed book on the process of snuff-making at Taddy & Co while there and left, armed with the information and all the recipes.

Tomlin Jnr then called on Mr. Ceal to propose a partnership and to take over the premises of Lundy Foot with his uncle's blessing. Tomlin Snr would lend them £3,000 to establish themselves in business, in opposition to Taddy & Co by using Taddy's own recipes! It seems that William Tomlin was harbouring a grudge against familial Taddy & Co. for some reason or another, perhaps related to his resignation/retirement. We'll probably never know the reason but quite obviously, blood is not always thicker than water – at least where in-laws are concerned.



*Sackett Tomlin (1812-1874) and Alexander Hatfeild (1782-1865)*

However, Alexander Hatfeild, the senior partner of Taddy Co, persuaded Tomlin Snr to withdraw his support of his nephew and Alfred Ceal. Instead he, Mr. Hatfeild, offered Sackett Tomlin £2,000 to withdraw from the tobacco trade altogether. This was accepted but unbeknown to Mr. Hatfeild, Tomlin Jnr presented Mr. Ceal with the recipes as compensation for his trouble and disappointment over the proposed partnership. Mr. Ceal, meanwhile, in possession of very valuable information but without the means of making use of it on an industrial scale sold it to a rival house, J & F Lloyd & Co, for just £150 on the 6th July 1847. Besides, Alfred Ceal needed £150 ready cash for developing his stalk flattening machine patented on the 28 July 1847. J & F Lloyd & Co had a real bargain. The receipt of one snuff alone (C.S. Scotch) cost Taddy & Co. £2,000 and John Lloyd

reckoned the entire collection of 108 snuff recipes to be worth up to £20,000. Alfred Ceal died the following year.

*This receipt cost Taddy & Co £2000. -*

A rival company - J & F Lloyd & Co. of 30 High Street, Birmingham and 77 Snow Hill, London - now had the book and all of Taddy's secrets in the manufacture of snuff. One of the partners at J & F Lloyd & Co writes the following caution:

*If Taddy & Co has any idea that another house was about to know & act on their Secret they could and would thwart their object having the power to buy*



---

*up all the Stalks & Leaf, therefore the first thing to be done is to get a good stock of it quietly as all the brokers are in their power from large loans of money, great caution would be requisite. Grant & Co are independent of them ...if Mr Hatfeild knew that anyone held it [the book of receipts] he would perhaps file a Bill in Chancery and prevent or try to prevent their using it.*

Whether the information was used or not F.G Lloyd joined Sales & Pollard in 1864 taking the Taddy secrets with him whereupon the business became known as Sales Pollard, Lloyd & Co.

The Bristol Company W.D & H.O. Wills Ltd finally acquired Sales Pollard, Lloyd & Co. in 1893 for £18,000. This is how those unique books came to be at Bristol.

Philip S  
([santodomingoabc@gmail.com](mailto:santodomingoabc@gmail.com))





# Origin of the Letters S.P. used in the Snuff Trade

Snuffs bearing the initials S.P. have caused much speculation as to what the letters stand for. Some people maintain that no one knows. Others claim that they stand for Spanish Prize or the abbreviation for Spanish (see NOTE 1). Sheffield Pride has also been suggested owing to its current associations with the Wilson manufacturers of that city. The little-known fact, however, is that S & P (or S.P. as it was called in the 19th century) originally stood for Sales & Pollard.

Shortly after the introduction of trademark registration in Great Britain in 1875, Sales, Pollard & Co. were granted a trademark for the term S. P. in relation to snuff tobacco, but realising the term was by then in common use within the industry (publici juris) the firm in 1878 filed to strike the trademark from the register.

Joseph Sales (1738-1814) was a partner with John Pollard (1740-1817) in a firm of Tobacco and Snuff Manufacturers, Messrs. Sales & Pollard of Aldersgate Street, London, established by Sales and founded as Sales & Pollard in 1760. Originally based in Farringdon Without the tax list for 1764 records that Sales and Pollard were liable for £2 personal tax and a massive £18 16s rent, so, considering the rates of Window Tax prevailing in 1764 their first premises must have been very large, evidence of these two young entrepreneurs' rapid growth and success since 1760. The business flourished, expanding long after the original founders died. Even during their lifetime their business was easily the largest of its kind in London. In 'The Structure of Industry in London, 1775-1825' David Barnett writes that:

**"In terms of capital insured, by far the largest business in the 1770s was Joseph Sales, John Pollard and William Yates, tobacconists of 71-2 Aldersgate St. They insured stock and utensils for £13,500 in 1777. The next largest tobacconists were Robert Rayner and Robert Davies of 2 Aldgate Within who insured stock, utensils and goods for £3,800 in 1769. More typical was John Thompson, a snuffman and tobacconist of King St, Seven Dials. He insured stock and utensils for £180 in 1774."**

When other snuff chandlers were typically insuring themselves for less than £200 an insurance policy for £13,500 gives a suitable impression of just how large and profitable the business had become by 1777. Until 1790 John Pollard (married to Mary Yates in 1760) was also chairman of Manufacturers of Tobacco and Snuff, Resident in London, Westminster and Southwark. The company was mentioned a number of times in Parliamentary debates on Tobacco Tax and the popularity of their snuff was so great that other manufacturers were willing to part with an astonishing £20,000 in 1790 for their secret.

**"When the [snuff] manufacturers did him [Mr. Fox] the honour of a visit, they all uniformly and invariably stated, that Messrs. Sale[s] and Pollard were in possession of a secret in giving a peculiar flavour to snuff, for the purchase of which they should think 20,000l., if they could conveniently spare the money, well laid out." House of Commons, 1790.**

That year the Excise Officer (John Harding) recorded 208,000 lbs of manufactured goods by Sales Pollard from mid-October 1789 to mid-March 1790. Based on this figure the annual output would be just below 500,000 lbs. Such was the prestige and huge scale of business by Sales Pollard in 1790.

As wholesale manufacturers the business would have had a small number of accounts, all very large, probably cash with order for a minimum order of 100 lbs, and from these dealers their snuff would find its way to the thousands of retail outlets. Casks or bladders for snuff transportation would likely have been stamped Sales & Pollard or more probably abbreviated to and sold as S & P much like companies today such as M & M (Mars and Murrie's) or M & S (Marks and Spencer). But the downside of wholesale trading, especially in the 18th century, is that you may lose control over how your product is merchandised. Trusting your product to a retailer to retain brand identity is one of faith and there was no legal remedy that I am aware of against retailers passing off the produce as their own, renaming it or manufacturers using the same name for their own variation. It seems to be no coincidence that the



Sharow ledgers of the 1770s record S.P. snuff as 'S & P' snuff as Mark Chaytor points out on page 5 of *The Wilsons of Sharow - Snuff Makers of Sheffield*. (See NOTE 3.)

In support of the above paragraph an authoritative 1878 journal (by the renowned London journalist Henry Labouchere) states that S.P. snuff is named after Sales Pollard before they were renamed Sales, Pollard, Lloyd & Co, finally moving to Farringdon Street in 1871. The text reveals that:

**"Among the specialities manufactured by the firm, so often mentioned in this chapter, is the "S. P." Scotch snuff, originally manufactured when the house was known only as Sales & Pollard, the initial letters of which names were used to give a "brand" to this particular article. This snuff, however, was imitated by other houses before the present law as to trademarks was in force, and is now sold in large quantities, under the same brand, to the detriment of those who, though they are morally entitled to the exclusive enjoyment of the notoriety obtained by the article in question, have no legal remedy." Henry Labouchere, Smoking Carriage.**

The legal remedy referred to in the above text was attempted in 1875 when the House was moved to register S.P. as a trademark when applications became available. They were amongst the first British companies to apply for one. It is significant that they – aware that they were the originators of S.P. – were the only snuff manufacturer to make such an application. Alas for them, they were far too late in their application for the reason given above and below. The 1878 result of the 1875 trademark application is as follows:

62O. Ex parte Sales Pollard & Co. [T. M. A. 1875].  
July 8, 1878. Jessel, M. R.

**"On motion by the registered proprietors of a trademark on snuff, consisting of the letters "S. P." (the initials of the firm), which they had discovered, subsequently to registration, to have been in common use for many years in the snuff trade, though used originally by themselves: Leave given to rectify the register by striking out the mark in question."**

The Sales Pollard trade-mark dispute over S.P. snuff is cited in *The Yale Law Journal* Volume 20 No.1 of

1910 as an early example of terms held *publici juris*. The text explains what that Latin phrase means:-

**"Publici juris words frequently used by tradesmen in a certain line of goods are said to be common to the trade. Of course, the true test is whether the use of the word "has ceased to deceive the public" as to the maker of the article and whether the word is current in the market amongst those "who are more or less directly connected with the use of the commodity to which the word is applied.....Where three people use the name and at least two of them innocently, there is no proprietorship."**

That explains why Sales, Pollard & Co struck their trademark from the register. Nevertheless, despite the *publici juris* status the true origin of S.P. appears confirmed in 'The Parliamentary Papers' Volume 39, page 60. There is not likely to be more authoritative evidence than this. In the questioning of the Chairman of the Association of Tobacco and Cigar Manufacturers, William Rippon by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Tobacco Drawback the following is recorded in respect of Wilson's S.P.:

**"1511. What is the real meaning of S.P., is it a trade brand? – S.P. refers to Sales and Pollard. Those letters are the initials of the manufacturers who were the originators of that kind of snuff. There is no trademark in them but people have stuck to the initials." House of Commons, January 1904**

But people have stuck to the initials! So, there we have it. Sales Pollard, operating long before brands could be trade-marked, lost proprietorship of the letters S.P. due to two or more competitors using the same letters. Interpretations of S.P. as standing for Spanish Prize or Sheffield Pride – neither of which can be qualified by any evidence - or any of the other suggestions may be discounted for the less glamorous Sales Pollard – once London's largest tobacco manufacturer, now no longer existing even in memory. W.D. & H.O. Wills & Sons acquired the business in 1893 and it ceased to exist as a company.

I hope my research has finally settled the meaning of those letters. Although Sales & Pollard has long since vanished there is little doubt in my mind that they



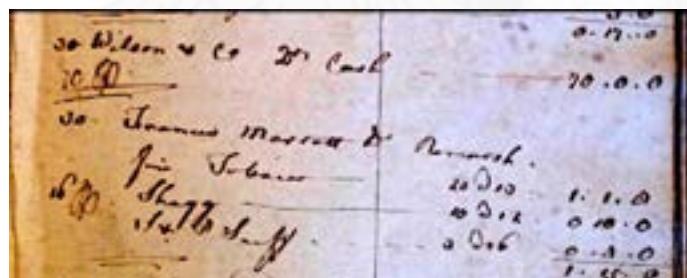
were the 18th century originators of the well-known snuff appellation. Hopefully, when next taking a pinch of S.P., suitable dedication may be made to the moral entitlement of Sales & Pollard to the snuff that still bears their initials. It is their final epitaph - Sic vos non vobis S.P. ficitis



**NOTE 1:** Many articles reiterate as fact that SP or S.P. derives from the abbreviation for Spanish or Spanish Prize after Admiral Sir George Rooke captured hundreds of casks of quality Havana snuff, and which were sold according to Prize Law in English ports and cities. This is perfectly true, but what and where are the original sources to confirm that it was sold specifically as the abbreviation for Spanish or as Spanish Prize? All early sources state that the 1702 booty was sold in England as Vigo Snuff at three or four pence a pound, and described as "gross snuff from the Havannah". In other words, there is no contemporary evidence whatsoever to link the Vigo plunder with snuff abbreviated to SP: the claim only has a basis in myth.

In refuting the 'Spanish claim' that appears on the website of Wilsons of Sharrow, Mark Chaytor the Managing Director and descendent of Joseph Wilson writes in 1962 that:

**The Sharrow ledgers of the 1770's, however, refer to this snuff as 'S & P' and it is not until the early 1800s that it becomes SP and so remains until the present day".** The Wilsons of Sharrow: The Snuff-Makers of Sheffield page 5.



Used by permission: James Hanson, Sharrow Mills

That S.P. refers to two words (S and P) immediately debunks the myth that SP is an abbreviation for Spanish or stands for Sheffield Pride.

**NOTE2:** Scotch, in Britain, has nothing to do with scorching as commonly believed. The name Scotch derives from Scotchman, a kilted and bonneted Highlander taking snuff whose image appeared on trade cards where Scotch snuff was sold. 'Brown Scotch' snuff such as S.P. differs from high-dried Scotch in that the former contains more moisture occasioned by increased liquoring when laying down a parcel. Only after 1760 when Sales & Pollard was established does 'Brown Scotch' enter the snuff lexicon.

**NOTE3.** Is it really so far-fetched that snuff manufacturers used the initials of another business for their own produce? The evidence for Sales & Pollard is both circumstantial and direct. It also satisfies the format 'S & P'. Consider some snuffs manufactured by James Taddy & Co. in the early 19th century. We have for example:

P & J snuff  
S & W snuff  
W & D snuff

These are all names of snuffs but what do those letters mean? Like 'S & P' they are not abbreviations so perhaps they refer to scenting or some quality of the snuff in question. Actually, they are all copies of snuffs made by other snuff manufacturers as revealed by the accompanying notes. Like 'P & J' or 'S & W' or 'W & D', it is therefore more than probable that 'S & P' is also named after a manufacturer, in this case Sales & Pollard.

'P & J' snuff stands for 'Polhill & Jones' - snuff & tobacco mfr. from Morden.

'S & W' snuff stands for 'Saunders & Weatherall' – snuff & tobacco mfr. from Stockton.

'W & D' snuff stands for 'Wright & Davies' – snuff & tobacco mfr. from Southwark.

**NOTE4.** Objection to the Sales & Pollard explanation has been made on the basis that Wilsons of Sharrow (who are closely associated with S.P. snuff) was established in 1737 whereas the younger company was established twenty-three years later



in 1760. However, it's worth pointing out that while Wilsons of Sharro was indeed established in 1737 by Thomas Wilson (1686-1740) it was for decades not principally a manufacturer of snuff but of metal wares. Joseph Wilson (1723-1796), who introduced snuff making to Sharro, followed in his father's footsteps as a metal worker, registering with the Sheffield Assay Office from 1773. An early price list of Joseph Wilson shows dish-rings, bottle stands, goblets, tureens and other metal objects but no snuff. The current water-powered wheel for snuff grinding was established in 1797. Earlier wheels at Sharro were used principally as power for forge-hammers and metal grinding in an industry for which Sheffield was famous. The exception was the destruction by fire of the Sharro Moor snuff mill in 1763.

The first mention of S & P snuff in the Sharro ledgers is dated 1768 eight years after Sales & Pollard were founded. In 1768 Joseph Wilson, Silversmith, Plater, Saw and Scythe maker was dealing in snuff and tobacco as one aspect of his varied business interests at a time when a dedicated snuff manufacturer had premises with a large rental value of £18 16s in 1764.

Sales and Pollard, based on these rental values, were in 1764 already far larger than Wilsons at Sharro in 1781 where the earliest record I could find was just £2 6d from the Duke of Norfolk (Earl of Surrey). An early dedicated snuff mill established by Joseph Wilson was located in London in 1789, possibly the one at 27 St. John Street, West Smithfield. He died in Lant Street, Southwark in 1796.

*It was only under Joseph Wilson's sons from 1797 onwards – 37 years after Sales & Pollard were established - that the company became a dedicated snuff manufactory – a position it holds to this day.*

PhilipS  
([santodomingoabc@gmail.com](mailto:santodomingoabc@gmail.com))



## CSWC UK – World Slow Smoking Championship

We're building up to the 2025 World Series of the Slow Cigar Smoking! One of 50 countries represented in this world event, the UK is yet again a leader in the pack with our 3 times UK Champion Etan Patel in the world top 10 competitors, two International Judges and the biggest Final event outside of China!

We have a new competition cigar this year – Oliva are the new Cigar Supporter and have created a masterful blend for the competition, Mareva vitola. A fabulous cigar to smoke at leisure, even if you're not competing!

CSWC UK will be hosting pre-qualifier events in different regions of the UK during May and June. Please check our Instagram @cswc\_uk for details, and check with your local lounge or retailer.

The CSWC UK Final (Final between all the UK Pre-Qualification winners) and British Open (same CSCW rules, but anyone may enter!) will be held again at Boisdale Canary Wharf on Sunday 29th June 2025, from 12.00 noon.

Tickets are available on the Boisdale website <https://www.boisdale.co.uk/locations/canary-wharf/events>

Prizes for our UK Final and the new British Open competition (open to anyone - no Pre-Qualification required!) are exciting! and we are grateful for all the wonderful support we receive. The winner of the UK National and British Open are eligible to compete in the CSWC World Final, where each year the Winners take home a magnificent trophy and thousands of Euros worth of prizes!

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](http://www.cswcnews.com) and follow the UK CSWC on Instagram @cswc\_uk and Facebook.

For further information contact me (CSWC UK Organiser), Sarah Saunders at [sarah@womenscigarclub.com](mailto:sarah@womenscigarclub.com)



# From Field to Fumes, our experience of Nicaragua and the famous cigar festival Puro Sabor



A health warning; while this has been one of my most fascinating and exhilarating experiences it is not for the weak or faint hearted! An event fuelled by tobacco, food and alcohol, all in copious quantities, it has also been an educational experience that has increased my appreciation of Nicaragua and the very fine cigars they produce.



Early afternoon in Granada, once capital of Nicaragua and sacked and burnt by the famous pirate Captain Morgan in 1665, he who went on to

be the respected Governor General of Jamaica, we arrived in a magnificent colonial style hotel with indoor gardens, balconies and fountains. Greeted by our hosts we were bagged, tagged and clothed in the livery of Puro Sabor with shirts, bracelets and uniform satchels of finest leather and plied with gifts galore. A humidor with a full selection of cigars, lighters, leather cased cutters, fine Nicaraguan rum and coffee, and goodness knows what else. It is a feature of the event that every time one crosses a threshold a bunch of cigars is thrust into your hands!

Little time to settle in as we are obliged to join the throng with our first cigar, drinks, food and much friendly chatter; "Ola", "Buenos tardes", "Bienvenido" and "Have another rum"! Then buses to a welcome dinner, more cigars, more rum, a lot of food and dancing until late, always accompanied by loud traditional music.



And so the party started and continued very much in the same way from Monday through Friday, lunch and dinner, cigars at every occasion, drinking, eating and loud music with dancing in the evening. 140



delegates from many countries, mostly American, which added to the noise level!, but also UK, Canada, Russia, Israel and more. Men and women not only in pairs but singles and groups, notably the Holy Smokes, bible reading cigar smokers from California and their counterparts the Redemptioners from Las Vegas. Cleary a popular combination in the States!



Nicaragua is known as the land of Lake and Volcanoes, and we were treated to both on our first day with a boat trip around the shores and little islands of part of Lake Nicaragua. An archipelago of 365 tiny tropical islands close to Granada was created 10,000 years ago when Volcano Mombacho exploded leaving the distinctive ragged silhouette seen today. Some of the islands team with wildlife and we were treated to Howler Monkeys and many tropical birds en route to a small island resort for lunch. Small but lively with a classical latino band beating out a rhythm that punches the gut and trumpets that assault the ears. More rum, beer, wine and whatever else you want to drink plus more cigars, hats, bags and plenty of food makes it worth the little pain, as did the beautifully dressed girls in local brightly coloured costumes dancing to traditional music. Returning on the boat the atmosphere was a little quieter, but not much, then back to the hotels just in time to change for the evening dinner!

The next day was a forced abstinence from cigars as we drove in coaches the three hours or so to Esteli on the Pan-American Highway, that which runs the length of the Americas from Alaska to Uruguay. Esteli as still a Sandanista political stronghold but politics does not appear to feature much here in the centre of the cigar industry. Located in the northern

highlands it sits in a very large flat plain with very rich volcanic soil producing not only tobacco but a significant amount of rice. Nicaragua produces and consumes a lot of rice being the staple diet with rice at every meal. Rice and beans mixed for breakfast, rice and beans mixed or plain rice for lunch and then rice or beans, not mixed, for dinner! It is the soil and the cooler climate that is so good for the tobacco production and the large flat fields and good water supply make the production of both crops easier. It is difficult to say how many tobacco growers and cigar factories there are in and around the city but we were welcomed by 12 cigar makers and a tobacco producer. Many of the makers have their own farms and some like My Fathers Cigars do everything including the box manufacture, and so my education begins.

I am not as qualified as many in our Livery to accurately describe the process of tobacco growing and the nuances of turning it into fine cigars. However this article would not be complete without some observations. So for those in the know you can skip the next, but for those like me with a limited knowledge, join me in this journey from field to fumes!





Tobacco is an annual crop with seedlings nursed from seeds produced as much as possible from previous crops to provide consistency. As the plant grows and reaches shoulder height a few lower leaves are removed to improve airflow. Harvesting starts from the bottom removing about three leaves at a time, the lower leaves being light in flavour while over the next 60 to 120 days other leaves are cropped, often in threes until the tops are left providing the stronger leaves with more flavour. After drying in the barns for about 60 days the first sort takes place of the by now very brown leaves. Sorted for shape, texture and quality they are categorised as for filling, banding or wrapping before bundling into handfuls about the size of a large fluffy duster. A careful fermentation process follows with these handfuls carefully laid together to create a very large stack about the size of an air cargo pallet, kept off the ground which is often wetted for moisture control and covered. The maturing process takes anything up to 18 months depending on the leaf and flavour required, during which stacks are carefully temperature controlled and turned, and each bundle aired on a regular basis. The very pungent aroma from this process is the first time the leaf really smells as we expect. More sorting and then deveining follow and smaller bundles are dried in racks until the right consistency is reached when the tobacco is ready for the cigar making itself.

A rule of thumb is that for 1000 regular cigars (seemingly around 5" 52 ring gauge) it takes 10lb of wrapper, 10lbs of binder and 30 lbs of filler, about US \$900 for the lot! The clever bit is choosing the right types of leaf for each part of this to produce the flavour, taste and consistency that will produce, as far as possible, the same cigar as the customer expects year on year. Rather like whisky or tea blending. All the cigars are rolled by hand starting with the filler leaves concertinaed and bound with a strong binder leaf before putting onto a two-part mould, trimmed to size and then pressed for a little while. The wrapper is next and this fine almost elastic leaf is stretched, trimmed and then carefully wrapped around the bound tobacco, clipped and a small circular cap lightly pasted to the end. The cigar may look so but is not yet complete. Depending on the producer they are stored for a while to allow the damp wrapper leaf to dry, the tobacco to continue to develop its flavour and then at some time frozen to -20° for 72 hours to kill any worm or eggs in the leaf. Another 72 hours to come up to temperature naturally, banded, wrapped and boxed and then it is ready!



---

We certainly made the most of what they produced, but in all seriousness the process taught me a lot about the different flavours and consistencies of the cigars, and I had the pleasure of enjoying 20 fine cigars in the 5 days of the festival I did say it was hard core! A wonderful adventure for us, enhanced by experiencing a completely new country, its culture and the warmth of the Nicaraguan people. It was about 6 years ago that I heard of this event when we were hosted for quarterly drinks at Fox's and enjoyed the Joya d' Nicaragua cigars and Flora d' Cana rum. It was Alejandro Martinez from Joya that hosted us that evening and Miriam and I had the pleasure of meeting him again and thanking him for the inspiration!

Archie Smith  
*Liveryman*



## Consort Event 2024

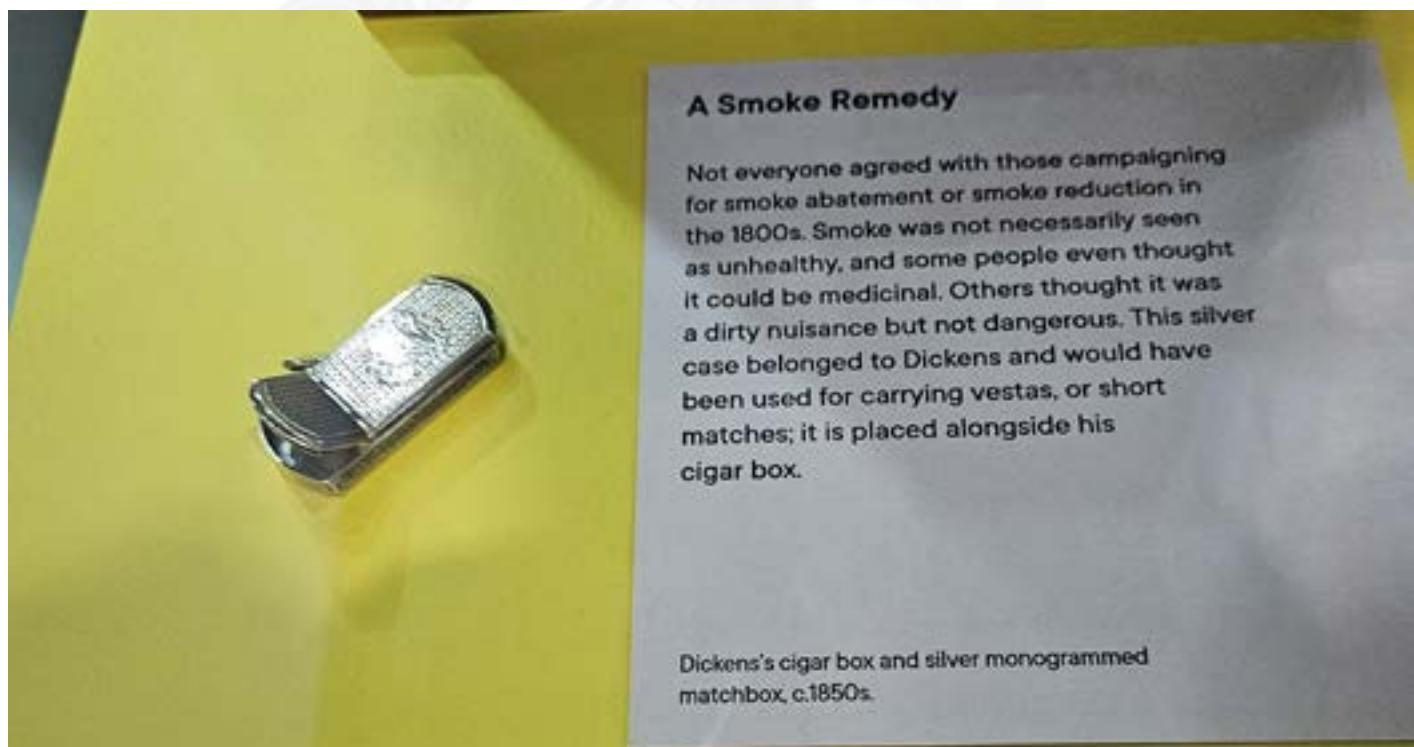
Mrs Courtney Lambert, Consort, organised a most interesting tour of the London Coliseum, home of the English National Opera and the largest theatre in London's West End. Members of the Pipe Makers' Company and Consorts from other Livery Companies thoroughly enjoyed the behind-the-scenes tour. The tour was followed by a most enjoyable Afternoon Tea.

## Master's Reception 2024

Elise Rasmussen, Master, invited a group from the Pipe Makers' Company, together with members of other Livery Companies, to a Tour of the Charles Dickens Museum.

The evening started with a welcome glass and during the evening, everyone had the chance to visit the Museum rooms, spread over five floors and laid out as it may have looked when Charles Dickens lived there. It felt as if we had stepped back in time. There were also drinks and canapes to enjoy in the Artful Tea Room and a chance to chat in the garden. Mr Mark Dickens, formerly a Livery Clerk and the great, great grandson of Charles Dickens spoke. A most enjoyable evening.

(Right) Charles Dicken's cigar box  
(Below) Charles Dicken's silver monogrammed matchbox



### A Smoke Remedy

Not everyone agreed with those campaigning for smoke abatement or smoke reduction in the 1800s. Smoke was not necessarily seen as unhealthy, and some people even thought it could be medicinal. Others thought it was a dirty nuisance but not dangerous. This silver case belonged to Dickens and would have been used for carrying vestas, or short matches; it is placed alongside his cigar box.

Dickens's cigar box and silver monogrammed matchbox, c.1850s.



---

## Tobacco Trade Charity Lunch

---

Despite various family commitments, I finally managed to get our daughter Hermione to come to one of our Livery events. Along with two tables of Pipe Makers, we enjoyed a fine reception and lunch in the Long Room at Lord's, all organised by AITS for the first time, in aid of the Tobacco Trade Welfare Fund.

Lunch was Brixham crab, Pork Belly and Strawberry and Champagne Pannacotta. The Pannacotta was on a green base, which turned out not to be a piece of the hallowed Lord's turf but a piece of green biscuit - confusing but very enjoyable.

Amongst others, Chair of the Benevolent Fund Jon Fell made a speech thanking the assembled audience for their support, followed by a highly amusing and wide ranging interview/conversation between Dominic Holland and Christopher Biggins, covering many aspects of Christopher Biggins' career.

There was no Retailer of the Year award presented this year, but that did have the upside that I didn't need to make a speech! It is certainly an enjoyable event.

Henry Tuck  
*Master*



# The Tobacco Pipe Makers at the 696th Lord Mayor's Show

Another momentous day in the life of the City of London began promptly at 1100 on Saturday 9 November in front of the Mansion House, as HQ London District, followed by the Band, Pipes & Drums of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, set off at the head of the historic Lord Mayor's Show, otherwise known as London's Big Day Out.

Two hours earlier, your Master, Senior and Renter Wardens had arrived at Stationers' Hall to extricate gowns, churchwarden pipes, large wooden name board and holster from the vaults, before walking to London Wall across Paternoster Square, fully robed and a little self-conscious, to join the colourful throng of people, dogs and horses excitedly waiting to begin the parade.

In 1215 King John demanded the first elected Mayor of London travel to his Court at distant Westminster and swear loyalty to the Crown. Mayors have been making the journey ever since, although the destination these days is the Royal Courts of Justice. Originally called the Mayor's Journey, what became the Show has featured in Shakespeare plays and Pepys' Diary as well as the adventures of James Bond and the pantomime story of Dick Whittington. It was the first outside event ever to be broadcast live and it attracts a TV audience of millions: not a time to let the side down!

We moved off from London Wall in a jostling clump, with the Launderers trying to keep up their annual visual joke by positioning themselves and their name board alongside the International Bankers. We were appropriately close behind the Firefighters, whose 8-year-old working rescue dog Simba the Spaniel in his special protective footwear was interviewed by the BBC. Orders of precedence disappeared: it was each Livery for themselves as we spread across the City's sawdusted roads, waving and crossing from side to side to greet the many thousands of people lining the streets who were waving back and filming or taking photographs of the visual feast. Horse manure was abundant, and the shorter Liverymen with longer gowns were desperately trying to keep their trailing hems off the ground, while shouts of "Mind the poo" were frequent.

Our Float 48 was a red Routemaster bus, organised by the Firefighters: a rolling store cupboard and wardrobe which followed behind the Modern Livery Companies' contingent, carrying our lunches and ready to pick up the lame.

We were delighted to see Past Master Fiona Adler and Honorary Liveryman Sir Andrew Parmley cheering from their allocated spot as we passed the Guildhall. We swept on, round the corner of Princes Street and past the Mansion House and the TV cameras at 1130, with the Beadle from the Information Technologists using his best parade ground voice to muster our own "three cheers for the new Lord Mayor" as Alderman Alastair King leaned out of the makeshift stand, waving his black feathered tricorn hat. That's where we spotted our own beautifully turned-out Beadle, Wayne Glynn, standing together with four other uniformed Yeomen Warders on the corner of Walbrook. A quick selfie and off, the pace relentless!

Up Cheapside and down New Change, trying to spot the Master's Consort in the crowd. Past St Paul's Cathedral where all the little choristers were waving from the terraces (and there she is!) No stopping now – it's on to Ludgate Hill and Fleet Street. Finally, we reached the Royal Courts of Justice, where the new Lord Mayor would soon arrive in his gold coach. That's where the Show stopped for lunch, with the Modern Liveries straggling down to Temple Steps to board the familiar old Wellington for drinks, sandwiches and more photographs.

At 1310, the giant basketweave Gog and Magog, accompanied by the Guild of Young Freemen, moved off once more, signalling the start of the return leg. We gathered our sign boards – heavier now – adjusted our robes and hats, and joined in, finding our place behind the City of London Volunteer Police Cadets.

Along the Embankment, up Queen Victoria Street, back past Mansion House where Immediate Past Master Elise Rasmussen had found a seat in the gallery, and the parade was finally and officially over, but most of us kept walking on back to London Wall,



*The Pipe Makers*

*Our Beadle, Wayne Glynn*

to rescue various items from our Float. The noise of the Bangladeshi drumming group was intense in the confines of the Barbican tunnel, welcoming the return of the incredibly dressed Solicitors' Company members, looking like they'd lost their way coming back from the Notting Hill Carnival!

Finally, it was over, and we limped back to Stationers' Hall to disrobe, faces hurting from all the smiling, feet throbbing from the five mile walk at a punishing pace, but full of joy and the euphoria of having been part of such a happy, historic event and very proud to have represented our Company. And yes, you can spot the three of us passing the Mansion House if you watch the replay on BBC iPlayer. Plenty of photos on social media too.

#lordmayorsshow on social media for some fabulous photos

<https://lordmayorsshow.london/> for more information

BBC iPlayer for the live broadcast

Jacqueline Burrows  
Renter Warden



*On board the Wellington*



*The Smoking Guns*

## Inter-Livery Clay Shoot 2024

This year our Livery was represented at this ever-popular Environmental Cleaner-organised event by Past Master Charles Miller (Capt.); Past Master Paul Taberer; Liveryman Adam Phillips and Liveryman Nikesh Madhvani. I hope regular readers to this organ are sitting down because after years languishing on the side lines, this year we came away with not one but TWO prizes! We always had faith our talents would be recognised. Of course, it was fate.. only a matter of time, we were an unstoppable force! This, then, is how we demolished the opposition and left Gunmakers, Farmers and all the Usual Suspects clutching in vain at our coattails...

Meeting at the West London Shooting School (the second year at this new, and rather more convenient venue) at 08.30 for bacon butties and coffee, we were given the usual brief by Richard Ferrand (Fishmonger) on what proved a clement and sun-dappled morning, adjusted our caps, straightened our ties and set to work. Stand 13 was our inauspiciously numbered starting 'bird' and it was a keen-eyed stinker – you only get four goes, just enough to get your eye in before packing up.

Luckily, Nikesh (who owns a mighty fine fouling piece complete with gold dragon chasing) had come for a try out the week before and so knew the lay of the land and was soon making his mark. Next we had a 'rabbit', this is where the clay is rolled bouncing at speed over the terrain, another pill for me, I think I bagged a couple! Next was a cunning pair of birds, so conceived that, whilst they could be shot individually, it was possible to do both with a single shot – and Adam showed us just how it was done!

Whilst it was very well organised, we found some stands bunched up a bit which meant that, when we were within a shout of a refreshment shed, Paul, Adam and Nikesh nipped off to get water and coffee whilst I guarded the kit. We soon had a range of cigars going (Nikesh seemed to have the contents of a small tobacconist in his coat!) and happily puffed out the waiting time thereafter – it was very agreeable, but we were lucky with the weather (the next day, we learned, rained solidly...).



*The Best Dressed Team*



*Charles Miller with Champagne*

Moving on, we soon came to the 'flurry' – this is where we line up as a team with loaders supplied. We acquitted ourselves surprisingly well, a good middle ranking score. It was a very different format to the H&H one of yore, more staggered, meaning that one was often loading when the next flush came. Still, we managed. It was Paul who next shone on some late stand, and made short work of another high pair: we had nothing to be ashamed of! The stand attendants do their best to drop advice and hints and mine, unusually, was counter-intuitively, to close my right eye which immediately started improving my somewhat dismal score. We wrapped it all up by around 1pm and were sharp-set for a spot of lunch – the hog roast was looking good! We sat with the Spectacle Makers team and enjoyed a good lunch – except poor Nikesh whose vegetarian tastes weren't really catered for.

As we assumed the prizes would all go to the usual teams, we decided to skip pud and make tracks, loitering on an outside picnic table for one last cigarillo... which must have prompted a sudden announcement from Chris Parr, the amiable co-organiser of the event for 30 years or so. It seems that they had introduced some unknown prize categories (presumably as the cartel of Gunmakers and Farmers can never be broken). This included prizes for worst shot or score etc. (No no! Don't jump to conclusions - we were nowhere near that bad!), but the new categories did include a sartorial prize, and so much to our universal astonishment, I found myself accepting a bottle of champagne as the event's Best Dressed attendee for wearing breeks.

And our team ('The Smoking Guns') were then recognised as the Best Dressed team for our turnout of Livery Cap (designed as a shooting team cap originally) and Smoking Club tie – with a £200 cheque for a charity of our choice which we asked our Master to suggest. Thus the Irish Guards Charity were the happy beneficiaries of our efforts!

So ended another highly enjoyable Livery Shoot – let us hope that next year we can muster two teams and really put them through their paces...

Charles Miller  
*Past Master*



# Company Golf Day

This year's annual Company golf day was once again held at the wonderful club Tandridge - on the first proper summer's day we have had all year. Tandridge is celebrating its Centennial Year and was in magnificent condition with lightning-fast greens which proved somewhat of a challenge!

We had 11 golfers (6 members from the Company and 5 guests) and an additional 12 joined us for lunch, including our Master who graciously mingled with all and presented the prizes.

Of the golfers, there were two new faces this year worthy of mention – Liveryman Mark Johnson-Hill and the Renter Warden's son Tom Burrows – with his parents in support!

Following the early morning registration, players, in groups of 3 to 4, set off for 4 hours of golf – returning to the clubhouse to join 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 desserts and of course the famous Tandridge Pudding!

Amongst those joining for lunch were Past Master Derek Harris and Sheila, Past Master Michael Walter and Hilary, Past Master Ian Panto and Herchel Jordan, Renter Warden Jacqueline Burrows and Simon and Liveryman Conrad Blakey and Jayne Gardner.

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

The Charles Rich Trophy	Liveryman David Walter – huge congratulations!
1st	Guest Paul Hurrell
2nd	Guest Stephen Bolton
3rd	Honorary Freeman Sharon Taberer
Longest Drive	Guest Digby Okell
Closest to the pin	Past Master Paul Taberer.



*Colin Ritchie, Jeff Jeffery, Sharon Taberer and Paula Okell*



*The Master with Sharon Taberer*

**The range of prizes included very kind donations from:**

Mark Johnson-Hill:  
Chateau Meaume Wine (Reserve 2018 X 12)

Conrad Blakey:  
Liquor

Nikesh Madhvani:  
Kakira Gin, Rum, Vodka

Frederick Vandermarliere And Tor Imports:  
Oliva Cigars

Vivi Eiroa:  
Aladino Cigars

Davidoff:  
Plasencia Alma De Fuego Cigars

**Another wonderful day on the golf course.**

**Paul Taberer**  
*Past Master*



*The Pipe Makers Team and Mark in Action*

## Inter-Livery Pétanque Competition

This year we entered a Pipe Makers' team into the Inter Livery Pétanque competition, comprising the Master, Past Master Charles Miller and Liveryman Mark Johnson-Hill, along with 31 other teams, so the competition places were completely filled.

Organised by the Distillers' Company and held in the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, we had a most enjoyable evening, with the weather very warm, despite the occasional thunder and lightning (or was it a tube train going past?). After opening drinks supplied by the sponsors, we won our first game against the Glass Sellers but were then knocked out of the competition by the Fletchers.

However, a further win in the repechage round against the Distillers meant that we ended up a very creditable 15th place out of 32.

Between rounds we consumed our picnic and some very fine wines, particularly the Château Méaume, which is a red produced by Mark in his vineyard in France. Despite this sustenance, it was very clear that we were never going to match the capabilities of the eventual competition winners, the Spectacle Makers, who had clearly been practicing hard all year!

As always, our Livery caps were the talk of the evening, and as can be seen from the photos, PM Charles Miller showed the normal Pipe Maker athletic dexterity, being able to hold a ball in one hand, his glass of wine in the other, whilst smoking a pipe and standing in a small ring...

This is an evening well worth taking part in and should definitely be in our sporting calendar each year.

**However, more practice is definitely needed if we are to win first prize!**



*The Pipe Makers' Quiz Team*

## Inter-Livery Quiz 2025

Your four plucky representatives – Master Henry Tuck, Renter Warden Jacqueline Burrows and Court Assistant Fran Morrison and Liveryman Adam Phillips - did their very best at this year's inter Livery Quiz in the Members' Dining Room at Guildhall on Thursday 20 February, but couldn't quite repeat last year's dizzy heights of second place.

We scored full marks on place names on the Monopoly Board and did quite well on identifying films and TV shows via emojis, but despite some mugging up beforehand, performed at our worst in the round on the City of London. We were delighted with our valiant sixth place overall out of eleven teams and a total of 44 participants, but more importantly we enjoyed an evening of fun, lots of noise and laughter, as well as a fantastic buffet supper, all organised by the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisors. So, it's heads down revising for 2026...

These quiz nights are a great opportunity to meet other Liverymen and Freemen. The biggest is organised by the Guild of Young Freemen and was held on 19 February this year in the glamorous Drapers' Hall, with 170 participants representing a huge number of Companies. Perhaps next year we can persuade four of our own members aged under 40 to enter a team there too.



*The Pipe Makers' Team in action*

## Inter-Livery Pancake Race 2025

It was a beautiful day for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races in Guildhall Yard this year, and so all those faint hearts hoping for a cancellation due to rain and the chance to grab a delicious pancake without running the hard yards were disappointed! Our Team this year comprised of the Master, his Consort Carolyn, the Renter Warden Jacqueline Burrows and the Immediate Past Master Elise Rasmussen, with the Clerk as Team Leader.

Crowds of people and quite a few dogs gathered expectantly; camera phones, serious long lenses and TV cameras were everywhere. Masters and Liverymen in full regalia warmed up in quiet corners together with their support teams, some stretching and others jogging on the spot, while most just stood around enjoying some pre-race pancakes with sugar and lemon ... not perhaps the recommended approach to achieving the fastest times! One or two regretted wearing work shoes rather than trainers, but most were sensibly shod.

The Poulters organised the morning with the necessary amount of chaos and good humour. The Gunmakers provided the starter cannon, much to the shock of the assembled City pigeons. Everyone who was running donned specially embroidered aprons, large chefs' hats and strange cotton gloves before lining up in heats to dash, sprint or stroll the race, hampered by heavy frying pans and a leathery pancake which had to be turned over twice en route with plenty of opportunities for off-colour jokes from the compere.

Our Master did us proud, setting off at a serious lick with gown flapping and hat flying, but was just beaten in his race. The Renter Warden was next. Her distant memories of being the Berkshire Schools' Under 11s eighty-yard sprint champion in 1968 gave us false hope and she was quickly dispatched. Our Consort represented us in the Ladies' Race with grace and

elegance – neither of which are any use on this occasion – before the Immediate Past Master in full fancy dress and hampered by a giant smoking clay pipe containing two bags of “tobacco” did her best, coming in last in a race against a parrot, a Knight of the Round Table, a cheese grater and a man in a bowler hat dressed as a box of Jaffa cakes.

At least she won the battle of the best TV interviews and has been seen by audiences across the world looking slightly warm and somewhat dishevelled but representing the true spirit of our Company!

Better luck next year. No need to start training just yet.

Thanks to our Team and to our supporters who came along – our Honorary Chaplain, Reverend Canon Jack Noble, Clerk's Assistant Bill Curran, Assistants Rae Maile and Susan Curran, Liveryman Adam Phillips and the Renter Warden's sister, Gillian Fredericks. Thanks also to Phil McCarthy, who took some wonderful photographs of our team in action.



*The Pipe Makers' Team*



# 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](mailto:clerk@tobaccolivery.org) If you are ordering a Company Cap or a Velvet Smoking Hat, 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**  
These will be available to order in May 2025 at (£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 & 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

## Monday 28th April 2025

Consort Event at the Fan Museum, Greenwich.

## Wednesday 30th April 2025

Charities Reception at St Giles Cripplegate.

## Wednesday 28th May 2025

Master's Reception on board HMS Wellington.

## Wednesday 4th June 2025

Installation Court, Installation of the Master and Wardens and Installation Luncheon at Barber-Surgeons' Hall.

## Tuesday 24th June 2025

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

## Tuesday 24th June 2025

AITS Lunch at Lords.

## Thursday 26th June 2025

Company Golf Day at Tandridge Golf Club.

## Thursday 11th September 2025

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

## Wednesday 24th September 2025

Autumn Court and Dinner (Court only) at Wax Chandlers' Hall.

## Monday 29th September 2025

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

## Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Annual Banquet at Mercers' Hall.

## Saturday 8th November 2025

Lord Mayor's Show

## Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Carol Service at St James Garlickhythe.

## Wednesday 21st January 2026

January Court and Dinner at Vintners' Hall

## Wednesday 18th March 2026

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



The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and  
Tobacco Blenders

*Master Henry Tuck*

*Clerk and Editor Liveryman Sandra Stocker*

*Sub Editors Past Master Jerry Merton and Court  
Assistant Fran Morrison*

Published by The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe  
Makers and Tobacco Blenders