

Smoke Signals



ISSUE 16 MAY 2026 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENDEES



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2-4 REFLECTIONS OF A MASTER'S YEAR





Reflections of a Master's Year - Building for the future

As I entered my term as Master it was becoming clearer that the work started by Past Master Henry Tuck, Senior Warden Jacqueline Burrows and I during Henry's year needed strong focus and impetus.

During my Master's year we are indeed focussing on:

- Engaging deeper with the membership.
- Increasing our attractiveness to prospective members.
- Ensuring our assets and income are managed closely using the many talents available to us on the Court and the wider membership.
- Preparing the Company for the inevitable long-term changes needed through pressure of legislation.
- Deepening our pride in our heritage and ensure it is preserved for future generations.

During the first few months of my term, I was able to talk to many Masters from other Companies about the pressures they face, how they go about their business and what success looks like for them. It was fascinating as the Livery is a massively diverse body with each Company dealing with their specific issues but there were many common themes. Keeping relevant to current and prospective members being a recurring theme as was the cost of running our Companies and the costs of the many formal events each Livery commits to each year.

I was struck by how unregimented the whole Livery movement is. Each Company has its own way of doing things built on years of evolving trades and traditions. I was particularly impressed by the many Liveries that have deep links to their trades and how they are so active in awarding bursaries, apprenticeships and generally support their trades at the educational stage.

I did enjoy meeting new entrants to several trades at various Livery events. 'Wizardry in Wood' created by the Turners' Company is a shining example of how the Livery supports its trade. Every four years commercial practitioners, artisan crafts folk, young entrants to the trade and the trades that support these skills get together for a spectacular event held over 3 days. This year it was held at the magnificent Plaisterers' Hall. When I saw the skills on show I noticed that there was a glaring omission from the range of products and skills on show. Not a beautifully turned wood pipe was in sight!

I immediately spoke to the Master Turner, who agreed that this indeed was an opportunity missed and he in turn introduced me to the Chairman of the Livery Wood Group which supports the interests of Companies involved in the working of wood, Carpenters, Wheel wrights, Turners, Upholders, Joiners, and Furniture Makers. Our Company will be joining the Wood Group and we will refocus on this important part of our Company's heritage.

Elsewhere in this edition of Smoke Signals, you will read how we have established new organisations to support our ambitions. A new Social Committee is formed and already organising events to help bring us together informally, the Smoking Club is now a discrete organisation, the Finance Sub-Committee of the General Purposes Committee has taken the reigns, and the Membership Committee has been refocussed to support mentoring of new members as well as recruitment. Our Honorary Almoner is a massive leap ahead in how we interact with our Members.

As you will see from the Masters blog it has been a busy year. The highlights of the year so far have been:



Livery Weekend

After the Installation Court, the Master and Consort decamp to the Lord or Lady Mayor's Livery Weekend. For many years it took place in Ironbridge but in recent years it has been held in places as diverse as Glasgow, Sheffield and London. In 2025, the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and Masters of the London Livery Companies were hosted for a weekend by the Seven Trades of Aberdeen.

So, there we are 3 days in, in a Castle in Scotland spending a weekend with a couple of hundred strangers not knowing anybody really. The new Master Art Scholar arrived breathlessly on the Friday night, fresh from her Installation, exhausted.

The Friday evening reception was hosted by the Seven Trades and to everybody's surprise the Guest of Honour was HRH The Princess Royal. As a Past Master herself she made a wonderful speech and after walked round the hall talking to people. She was well briefed and congratulated your Master and Consort on their recent appointment which was a highlight of the weekend.



The lowlight was being trampled on the dance floor by enthusiastic Livery members learning Scottish Country Dancing on the hoof. It was a delight when suddenly being wheeled round by one of the few people who knew what they were doing!

Kelly's Bronze

We and the Masters and Consorts of the other livery Companies were invited to a day on the turkey farm of Master Poulter Paul Kelly to celebrate 499 years of the turkey in this county. Paul is a Guinness World record holder for both plucking (achieved in 2008) and carving a turkey (2009). Paul and his family own and run the Kelly's Bronze Turkey farming enterprise established by his father Derek in 1971.



After a tour of the breeding and production areas of the farm, we were given lunch in one of the barns. During the tour we were told of the high-end processes used to produce a Kelly's Bronze turkey, and then at lunch, Paul gave us a demonstration of how to cook and carve one. Many myths were busted! Now many a Christmas dinner will have an extra bit of magic to make it more memorable.

This was followed by a trip to the woods to see adult birds fattening for the winter, free to roam and roost in the woodland.



Woolmen's Sheep Drive

I and 1200 other Freeman of the City of London exercised our right to drive sheep across 'London Bridge'. Due to traffic issues, in recent times the drive was moved from London Bridge to Southwark Bridge to accommodate such high demand. The first drive was led by 'Countryfile' Adam Henson, the Lord Mayor and Master Woolman David Hopkins. The day was meticulously organised by the Woolmen Company. The members of the Guild of Young Freeman were magnificent in wrangling such a large number of Freeman. I think the sheep were far easier to marshal and manage.

A livery Fair and craft stalls were set up between the registration office at the intersection of Cloak Lane and Queen Street and the Bridge. Many Livery crafts were demonstrated with additional private stalls. There were a handful of food stalls; I did not try the lamb burgers, which were reported to be excellent. A great day, I encourage you to take part in groups or individually.

Antony Scanlan
Master



After the United Guilds Service 2026



Appointments

Members of the Court

Liveryman Thomas Harris was admitted as a Court Assistant on 24th September 2025 and **Liveryman Neal Neilinger** was admitted as a Court Assistant on 18th March 2026.

Beadle

Yeoman Warder Daniel Partridge was installed as our Beadle on 21st January 2026.

Members Gowned with the Livery

James Barber <i>Tobacconist</i>	4th June 2025
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Biago Fraulo <i>Livery Clerk and Under Sheriff of Greater London</i>	4th June 2025
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Andrew Bye <i>Business Owner, Chartered Insurance Practitioner</i>	18th March 2026
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Karen Neilinger <i>Property Development, Board Member on Charities</i>	18th March 2026
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New Freeman

Matthew Havadtoi <i>Credit Risk Management</i>	4th June 2025
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Dr Michael Harrison <i>Senior Fellow, Technology Sector</i>	24th September 2025
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Mr Hayder Hoozeer <i>Film Producer</i>	24th September 2025
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Karen Neilinger <i>Property Development, Board Member on Charities</i>	24th September 2025
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Hugo Johnson-Hill <i>Tobacco Leaf Blender and Sales</i>	21st January 2026
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Dr Michael Charlton <i>European Patent Attorney</i>	21st January 2026
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Ron Ridderbeekx <i>Vice President, Global Corporate & Government Affairs</i>	21st January 2026
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Andrew Bye <i>Business Owner, Chartered Insurance Practitioner</i>	18th March 2026
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David Rosen <i>Solicitor Advocate and Academic Professor of Professional Practice</i>	18th March 2026
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Alexander Tiley <i>Government Affairs</i>	18th March 2026
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New Honorary Freeman

Carolyn Tuck	4th June 2025
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Lost Brethren

Ian Venters

Our Treasurer, Ian Venters, passed away unexpectedly on 23rd February, aged 67, at his home in Dorset. Ian was a true gentleman and will be sorely missed by his family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Born in 1958 in Zimbabwe, Ian was a fourth-generation Zimbabwean and the second of four siblings. After completing school, he was conscripted into the armed forces and served with the Rhodesian Police from 1977 to 1979, during the height of the guerrilla war. Tragically, during this conflict, Ian's older brother, Dale, was killed in action.

Like many Zimbabweans of his generation, Ian went on to study at the University of Cape Town, where I first met him. He graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Commerce, later completing his CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) qualification and subsequently an MBA at the university's graduate school.

At university Ian was very much one of the boys — popular, mischievous at times, relatively low-key, and possessed a wonderfully wicked sense of humour.

After graduating, Ian worked for several years in South Africa before deciding to travel. In 1991 he moved to London, as many Zimbabweans did at the time. Back then, the grass was greener here!

During his career in London, Ian worked with several major financial institutions, including Merrill Lynch, Dresdner Kleinwort, RBS and Mizuho, before retiring in 2019.

He became Treasurer of our Company in 2016, a role he carried out with quiet dedication and diligence.

At university Ian had played rugby in the front row, as you might imagine, and throughout his life he remained a keen sportsman. He had had periodic love affairs with the gym and was an enthusiastic cyclist. He also travelled widely on deep-sea diving expeditions.



Ian was a talented photographer and often took on this role for the Livery, quietly capturing many of our events and occasions.

He had a deep love for wildlife and conservation and frequently returned to Zimbabwe to support conservation efforts and to reconnect with his many friends across Southern Africa. That affection for animals was also reflected at home, where for more than thirty years Ian was rarely without a much-loved cat in his life.

Ian never sought attention for himself, but was always approachable, generous with his time, and easy to engage with. Fellowship and friendship were high on his agenda.

Over the past fifteen years Ian faced significant medical challenges. In 2012, after years of battling an autoimmune disease, his liver finally failed.



Within 24 hours he required not one but two liver transplants. Thanks to the success of those operations, we were granted a very special thirteen extra years with him. Sadly, a third recurrence of melanoma — likely linked both to growing up under the Zimbabwean sun and to the immunosuppressant medication required following his transplant — meant that his life was ultimately cut far too short. Despite these health challenges, Ian continued to work diligently right up until his final days, faithfully supporting the needs of our Company.

One of Ian's godsons described him as selfless, thoughtful, and a great mentor — a fitting tribute to the man we knew.

Ian lived his life with quiet strength, loyalty, and generosity of spirit. He leaves behind not only many cherished memories, but also a lasting example of friendship, humility and service. He will be deeply missed and warmly remembered by us all. Our thoughts are with his sister Mandy, his brother Bruce, and all his family and friends as we mourn the loss of a truly wonderful man.

Past Master Paul Taberer

Liveryman Michael Friend

Michael Friend was General Sales Manager at Gallagher when I was Marketing Director. We were work colleagues and I proposed Michael to join the Company. Michael was a nice person and dedicated to his job. He was also a golfer, so we bonded over that.

Michael was admitted as a Freeman in 1993 and Gowned in the Livery in the same year. Michael died in November 2025 at the age of 84.

Past Master Ian Panto



Message from the Master-Elect

As I look to the year ahead, I am struck by the continued strength, vitality, and—above all—the good fellowship of our Company. This is due in no small part to the energy and enthusiasm of our Past Masters, Wardens, the Court of Assistants, our Clerk and the wider team but, as the old music hall Master of Ceremonies used to say, “Chiefly, yourselves!” We are fortunate indeed.

The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers & Tobacco Blenders stands as a strong, engaged and distinctive element of the City of London’s Livery movement. As second in precedence among the Modern Livery Companies, we are well known and well regarded, and we are delighted to continue welcoming new members into our community. It will be a great honour to serve as 73rd Master, with Simon’s support as my Consort (and our son Tom as back-up). Between the two of us we spent five decades working in the tobacco industry—proof, perhaps, of the observation that ‘Two people with fifty years’ experience between them usually agree on one thing: they’ve earned the right to enjoy themselves’.

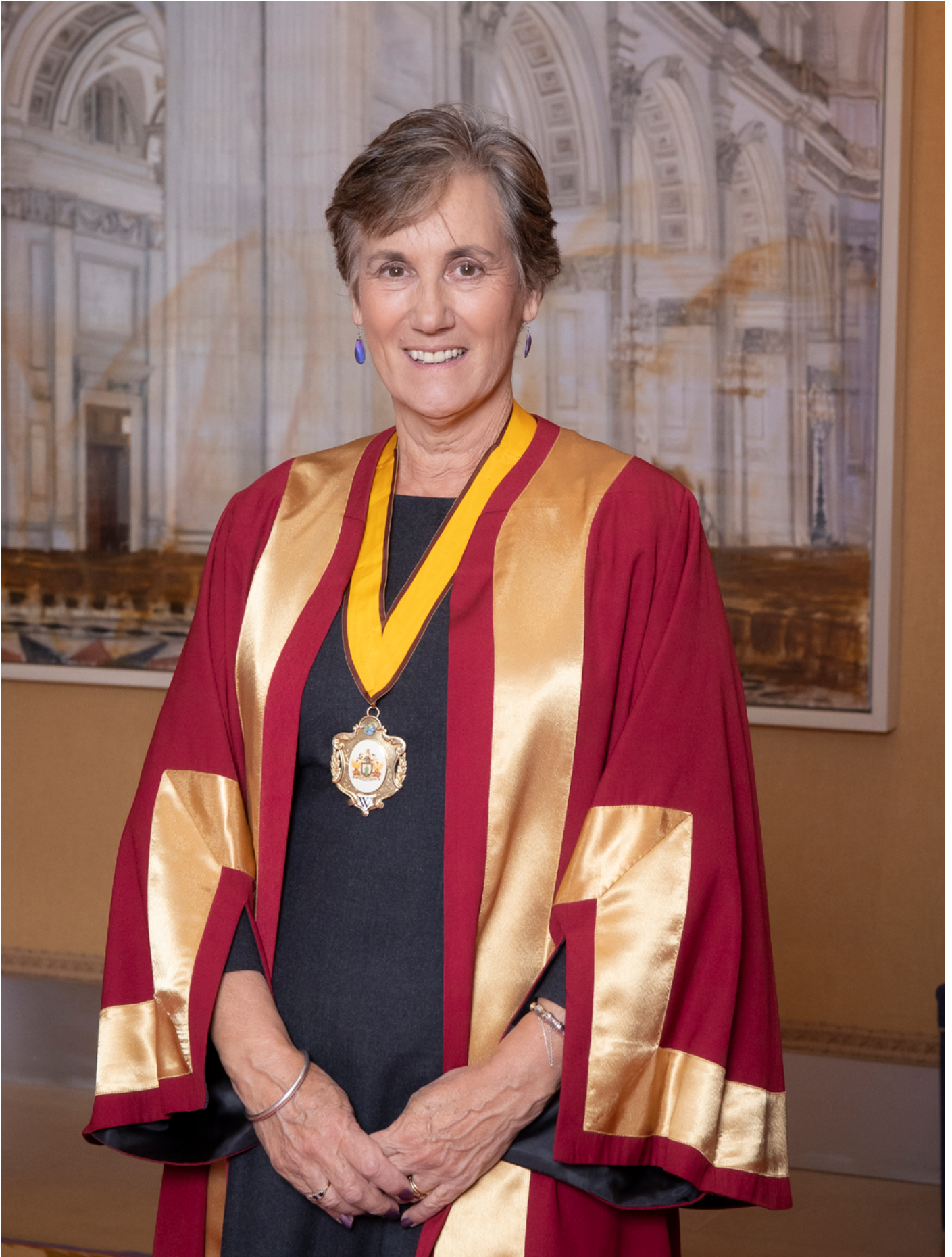
We are fortunate to count among our Freemen and Liverymen a remarkable breadth of talent, experience, and commitment—qualities that have underpinned our success since our regeneration in 1954. To our Liverymen, I offer my sincere thanks for your continued dedication. To those who have joined us as Freemen, you will find every encouragement to progress to the Livery so that the Company—and importantly our Benevolent Fund and our charities—can benefit fully from your enthusiasm, expertise and participation. It is only as Liverymen that you can play your fullest part in the Livery movement and in shaping the future of our Company in the City of London. As the late Terry Pratchett put it, “If you don’t turn your life into a story, you just become part of someone else’s”—and we very much want you all to be a part of ours.

Even the most resilient institutions must navigate moments of reflection and renewal. In the year ahead, we will consider important questions concerning our strategy, our identity, and the role we wish to play in a rapidly changing world. These are not challenges to be feared; they are opportunities to shape a sustainable future for our Company while ensuring that our roots and traditions remain meaningful, relevant, and respected.

Meeting these challenges will require the support, insight and enthusiasm of the entire Company. The strength of a Livery Company lies not only in its history but in the collective will of its members to steward that history wisely. I encourage everyone to be ready to step forward and offer your unique skills, abilities, and enthusiasm wherever and whenever they are needed. I am confident that, together, we can chart a course that honours our past while embracing the possibilities ahead.

Most of all, I look forward to your continued support and friendship, and to working closely with all of you in the year to come. Thank you for your confidence—and for giving Simon and I the opportunity to experience twelve exciting and memorable months ahead. I’ll do my best to do the Company justice and can only hope that we haven’t both added on too many pounds by the end. As Oscar Wilde said: “I can resist everything except temptation.” And a Livery pudding.

Jacqueline Burrows
Master-Elect





The Benevolent Fund Report

It has been another busy but rewarding year at the Benevolent Fund, one that marked the first full year since our handover of the Welfare Fund – the former Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association (TTBA) – to GroceryAid in February 2025.

Welfare Fund & GroceryAid

I am pleased to have been able to observe the integration of the TTBA into GroceryAid by attending several of the latter's own Welfare meetings. I have been really impressed by GroceryAid's professionalism and I am very pleased that the process seems to have gone smoothly. In early summer 2025 GroceryAid distributed a feedback survey to 56 former TTBA beneficiaries who had transferred to the charity, receiving responses from 44 (79%) of them.

97% of respondents felt that the people they had spoken to at the old TTBA were helpful and gave a good service. Some examples of the feedback received by GroceryAid included:

"TTBA was very good to me and helped me through tough times. The money was so good to receive. The lady that came to visit me made me feel at ease and had time for me, I couldn't have got a better person."

"I cannot find words to explain my enormous gratitude towards TTBA. The Welfare Officer really listened, kind, warm and always understood."

TTBA support was most commonly used by beneficiaries for bills and household items / repairs, which is why it is so vital that GroceryAid has also committed to continuing to help our former beneficiaries meet core living costs.

"I was very grateful to TTBA as it helped with household and grocery bills and that alone made my life easier and less worry for me. I was rather unfortunate not getting any redundancy as I worked for 20 years."

It was great to hear that the TTBA's support was so appreciated, but equally reassuring was the feedback from all but one of the respondents that the transition to GroceryAid was well communicated:

"Yes although I wasn't expecting it. I was concerned about my data and was reassured by both TTBA and GroceryAid that it was protected and confidential. Since and before the change GroceryAid has communicated clearly about continuing support and it has been very good. Thank you."

"Haven't noticed any difference really so far. Thank you for your ongoing support."

"Thank you I get a lot more information from GroceryAid."

"The help is greatly appreciated, it saves me from a lot of worry and tears. Thank you."

"Things are looking very good and I know you will be very helpful."

Investment Managers

Another change we have made this year is in relation to the charity's investment managers, shifting our investments at the end of March to Cazenove Capital (part of Schroders) after a due diligence process and invited pitches from three managers. Cazenove impressed us with the clarity and simplicity of their approach, but the decision to move from Quilter Cheviot was not an easy one.

Barring a brief anomaly in 2006-08 essentially only two teams have managed our money prior to Cazenove over a 60-year period. The old City firm of Fielding Newsom-Smith was appointed the charity's first stockbrokers in 1963, and Christopher Clayton took over as their partner responsible for our investments in 1971. He was still looking after our investments 26 years later, having switched firms to Cazenove & Co at the time of Big Bang.

In 1997 the Trustees passed the mandate to Bill Eason from Laing & Cruickshank, assisted from 2005 by William Reid. Laing & Cruickshank was taken over by UBS in 2003, and by 2006 Bill and William had left the firm. Following the exit of more staff from UBS the Benevolent Fund held a beauty parade in July 2008, and the mandate was awarded



to Cheviot after a pitch from William. We are very grateful for all that William and his team at Quilters has done for us over the years.

Ian

We were all shocked and very sorry to learn of the death of our Treasurer, Ian Venters, at the end of February. Ian had served as our Treasurer since early 2019; beyond his professional competence we will all remember him as a lovely and gentle man, of great integrity and kindness. When I unexpectedly became Chair of the charity, not long after as I had started as a Trustee, Ian's support was absolutely invaluable in helping to keep the show on the road.

Trustees have decided to make a donation of £5,000 this year in Ian's memory. Ian's sister Mandy has helped us choose two UK charities to share this sum, each involved in areas of particular significance to Ian:

ZANE (Zimbabwe a National Emergency) supports vulnerable and impoverished people in Zimbabwe through healthcare, financial assistance, food aid, and community development programmes, with a particular focus on pensioners, veterans, and disadvantaged communities.

Live Life Give Life raises awareness of organ donation (which, as Mandy says, gave us an extra 12 years with Ian) through public campaigns, education initiatives, and community engagement, encouraging people to register as donors and discuss their wishes with their families.

The Benevolent Fund's financial affairs have continued to function largely as normal since Ian's passing, thanks very largely to the efforts of our Secretary Sandra Stocker and Immediate Past Master Henry Tuck. The Trustees are very grateful to each of them for the very considerable time and effort they have invested in ensuring that things continue to run smoothly.

Giving Summary

Now that responsibility for the TTBA has passed to GroceryAid, the Benevolent Fund's core function is making grants to other charities. Trustees are very proud of the work that our grants help to enable, and we hope that you – our Livery members – are too. In the financial year just ended we made grants totalling over £171,000, up 4% on the prior year's £164,000. That giving broke down as follows:

- 67% went on sizeable grants to charities with whom we have agreed three-year funding agreements, many of whom we have supported for quite a long time. These relationships are valued particularly highly by the charities because it allows them to plan, and removes a small amount of the pressure involved in having to raise funds each year. We renewed three such agreements during the last year – for Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation, Physics Partners and The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund – which should take our support for each of these out to March 2030.
- 23% went to 12 charities to whom we awarded one-off grants, generally in the range of £2,500 to £5,000. These charities were selected from the 25 applications we received via our online application system, after due diligence work carried out by a panel of Trustees. The online form means we have an open and transparent application process and means that Trustees can use a portion of our budget to respond to more immediate needs or trends. It also helps us to identify potential longer-term partners.
- The remaining 10% was split between Master's charity donations (via the Robert Freeman Master's Fund, £5,400 over the last year), £10,100 for other smaller regular grants (including The Children's Magical Taxi Tour, Irish Guards Charity), and £2,000 for Members' Charities.

If you know of a charity that might benefit from our support please feel free to point them in the direction of our website, where they can check their eligibility against our giving criteria and complete an online application form. Our current window for applications is open until 30th June 2026, and those we receive will be considered at our September meeting.



Members' charities

We want Company members to feel closely involved with the Benevolent Fund and its activities. With that in mind, the Trustees agreed during the last financial year to increase the funds available for annual donations to charities with strong personal links to members from £1,000 to £5,000. The maximum grant size is £1,000, and eligible charities include:

- those for which a member is a trustee;
- those where a member volunteers; and
- organisations for which a member, or an immediate family member, is actively involved in raising money.

Only two of the five Member's Charity grants were filled last year and it would be nice to do all five this year – please do send your requests to the Secretary.

Thank you for your generous support

About 20% of our giving is supported by annual donations from Livery members, with the balance funded by investment income. Thank you to all members who donate, and in particular to those of you who increased your pledges in the last year.

If you had been meaning to increase your own annual donation but have not yet done so, please contact Sandra Stocker (benevolentfund@pipemakerslivery.org) to make the arrangements. If you are thinking about longer-term giving, a gift via your will can be a particularly meaningful way to continue your support. If you are reviewing your estate and will, please consider a legacy to 'The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Trade Benevolent Fund (Charity no.1135646)'. Legacies to charities are free of Inheritance Tax.

A review of the main activities of our major charity partners follows in the next article.

Jonathan Fell
Chair



The Benevolent Fund's Charity Partners

Long-term charity partners

The **Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation** continued to deliver life-enhancing programmes for disadvantaged young people, using cricket, outdoor adventure and residential experiences to improve inclusion, education, confidence and wellbeing. During the year, the Foundation worked with more than 1,500 young people from inner London communities, local schools and SEND settings through activities including cricket coaching, forest schooling, residential stays and wellbeing programmes. The charity is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, and has just launched a new 2026-28 strategy, aiming to expand participation, develop year-round provision and increase support for young people with complex needs and life-limiting conditions.

Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled

Association provided riding and carriage-driving opportunities for around 120 children and adults with disabilities and special educational needs, supported by a dedicated team of coaches and more than 120 volunteers. The charity celebrated its 50th anniversary and expanded participation in initiatives such as the RDA Grassroots Endurance League, virtual championships and its 'Tea with a Pony' dementia programme. The charity is actively planning further development of its facilities, including a mechanical horse training extension, while also strengthening fundraising efforts; support from us is particularly valuable given anticipated future reductions in Lottery funding.

We continued our valued support of **The Garwood Foundation's Carers' Forum**, which supports unpaid carers — many of whom are parents or siblings of young adults with profound multiple learning disabilities. The Forum provides emotional support, practical advice, workshops, outings and social activities, helping carers feel less isolated and more confident in their role. Over 60 carers benefited during the year, with many describing the Forum as a vital source of friendship and support.

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama provides world-class professional training in music, drama and production arts, while expanding its commitment to widening access and participation for talented students from underrepresented and lower-income backgrounds. During the year, the School strengthened its outreach, scholarship and community engagement programmes, including bursaries, supported application schemes and youth music initiatives designed to improve access to conservatoire-level training. Guildhall also continued to develop partnerships with schools, arts organisations and community groups, alongside maintaining its international reputation for artistic excellence and innovation. We are very proud to support four music scholars, and many members of the Livery will have enjoyed performances from members of the school at Company events over the last year.

Our funding has helped **Katherine Low Settlement**, based in Battersea, continue with its important work of supporting children and families from a refugee background. It provides academic and social support through its seven weekly homework clubs for children aged 5 to 14 – attended by nearly 70 children, supported by over 20 volunteers – and a comprehensive Community Learning Programme that serves over 80 adult students. These activities include English and maths classes, a free creche run by former students, and specialized workshops on topics such as debt management, parenting, and mental wellbeing.

KEEN London provides inclusive recreational and social activities for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities, offering one-to-one support through its volunteer-led clubs, holiday activities and residential trips. We help to provide a significant portion of the funding for an annual residential adventure, which enabled 19 children to participate in outdoor and team-building activities designed to build confidence, independence and social skills, while also giving families valuable respite. Surveys following the trip showed significant improvements in participants' confidence and independence.



Our grant to **Pembroke Academy of Music (PAM)** helped sustain weekly music tuition and performance opportunities for children aged 7–14 from low-income households in Walworth and surrounding areas. 51 young people were supported during the year — close to full capacity. Activities included instrumental lessons, ensemble and theory sessions, an instrument loan scheme and the re-launch of the PAM Choir, alongside enrichment visits and public performances with leading musical organisations. The programme achieved strong outcomes, including a 100% pass rate in music examinations and significant improvements in confidence, social connection and musical development.

Physics Partners works to improve physics education in schools serving disadvantaged communities by recruiting, training and supporting specialist physics teachers and non-specialist science teachers across England. During the year, the charity expanded its professional development programmes, mentoring networks and online teaching resources designed to increase both teacher confidence and pupil engagement with physics. The organisation also continued to strengthen partnerships with schools, universities and industry in order to address the national shortage of qualified physics teachers and improve access to high-quality STEM education for underrepresented young people.

The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund maintained its long-established work supporting vulnerable people connected with the criminal justice system in London, providing grants to charities that assist prisoners, former offenders, young people at risk of offending and victims of crime. In the last year the charity kept its focus on rehabilitation, resettlement, education and mentoring projects designed to reduce reoffending and improve long-term life opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and families.

Spitalfields Crypt Trust, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2025, provides life-changing support for people experiencing homelessness, addiction and complex trauma through its Residential Addictions Treatment Programme, supported housing and Training and Development activities. We support their Housing First service, which was established in October 2020 and offers very vulnerable adults with complex physical and mental health needs

direct access to long-term accommodation. There are currently 19 residents, including seven women, all of whom have experienced long-term homelessness.

Street Storage continued to grow dynamically during the year, expanding its innovative work supporting people experiencing homelessness through the provision of free, safe and accessible storage facilities in London. The charity combines practical storage solutions with one-to-one advocacy, outreach and support designed to help people rebuild their lives, access employment and housing, and regain dignity and independence. Demand for the service continued to rise significantly and the organisation responded by developing new partnerships, expanding its staff team, and strengthening its operational capacity.

Last year's one-off grants

We were very pleased to be able to support the following charities with one-off grants last year:

The Compassionate Friends is a national peer-support organisation for bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents. Our grant will help to support around 6,500 bereaved parents across London through peer support groups, one-to-one local support, suicide bereavement groups and informal parent-led walks. Families can also access a wide range of national services, including a year-round helpline, online forums and support groups, printed resources, retreats and a specialist bereavement library.

Go Live Theatre is based in the West End of London and works with disadvantaged young people across the city. They aim to make the magic of live theatre accessible to those who face financial or social barriers, including children with special educational needs. They provide subsidised tickets, workshops, and school education projects to inspire the next generation of audiences and creatives.

Journey Enterprises is our first charity in the North East, a region with strong historical connections to our industry. They support adults with complex learning disabilities to develop skills, improve wellbeing, and participate fully in community and working life. Their day services and employability programmes are a lifeline for many families, helping people gain independence and fulfil their potential. Our money has



gone towards improvements at their allotments and their 'Pay What you Can Afford' Shop.

Middlesex Association for the Blind was established more than a century ago, and operates in nine London boroughs, providing practical support to people living with sight loss. Their services include home visits, technology training, emotional support and social activities, helping people retain independence and stay connected. They reach thousands of individuals each year who might otherwise be at risk of isolation.

Outside Edge Theatre Company is a participatory arts charity based in Tower Hamlets that uses theatre to support people affected by substance misuse and addiction. The project we support delivers weekly recovery and outreach activities centred on the East London Write Now scriptwriting group. Led by professional playwrights and peer mentors with lived experience of addiction, the sessions use creative writing to build confidence, wellbeing and recovery skills among vulnerable adults. Service users will also be able to access wider social activities, volunteering opportunities and practical wraparound support.

Prisoner's Advice Service is based in London but serves all of England and Wales, providing free legal advice and representation to adult prisoners regarding their rights and the application of prison rules. They handle issues such as healthcare access, categorization, parole, and human rights through a telephone advice line and outreach clinics. The charity is independent of the government and works to ensure prisoners are treated fairly and lawfully within the justice system.

Read for Good is a national charity that promotes reading for pleasure among children across the UK. They are best known for their "Readathon" sponsored reading challenge in schools, which raises money to provide brand-new books and professional storytellers for children in major hospitals. Our support is contributing to the provision of books and storytelling sessions for seriously ill children and young people at four London hospitals: Chelsea and Westminster; Evelina London Children's Hospital; Great Ormond Street and the Royal Free.

Share Community operates across South West London, supporting adults with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health needs with vocational

training and help with independent living skills. We are helping to fund their Out and About programme, designed to enable people to safely and enjoyably access their local community, developing skills such as travelling by public transport, researching events to attend, and interacting with the public. It aims to build students' confidence and road sense, improve their communication skills and reduce their isolation.

Sixty-One operates in Bristol and the surrounding region, another area with strong connections to our industry. It is a partnership-based charity that helps ex-prisoners and those at risk of offending lead crime-free lives. Their primary project, 'MentorMe', pairs volunteers with individuals leaving prison to provide relational support and practical guidance. They also run community hubs and resettlement projects to help ex-offenders find a sense of belonging and purpose.

Speech & Language UK works with children, often from disadvantaged backgrounds, who struggle with communication and understanding language. Our funding supported the charity's Supporting Families Fund, which helps children access specialist assessments and support regardless of financial circumstances, providing families with expert guidance and practical help to enable children to reach their potential.

Treasures Foundation is based in East London, and provides safe, drug-and-alcohol-free supported housing specifically for women with histories of addiction and experience within the criminal justice system. They offer a holistic recovery program that includes trauma-informed support, life-skills training, and mentorship to help women rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society. The charity's work is primarily peer-led, often by staff with lived experience of the same challenges.

UsInABus operates throughout southeast England, and provides weekly 'Intensive Interaction' sessions for people with learning disabilities and complex needs, helping individuals who often struggle with communication and social connection to experience greater confidence, joy and engagement with others. Sessions are delivered on a one-to-one or group basis and are led by the needs and responses of each participant, creating meaningful opportunities for connection and self-expression.

Jonathan Fell
Chair



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

The **CHILDREN'S MAGICAL** *Taxi Tour*

Presented to

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.*



Dining Out the Master, Henry Tuck

It's a long-standing Company tradition for the Senior Warden to organise a farewell dinner for the outgoing Master and Consort, joined by the Wardens and their partners, as the year draws to a close. That's always provided a date can be found in the Master's jam-packed diary, of course! On 29th May 2025, the iconic Delaunay's Restaurant in Aldwych, famous for its Viennese-inspired grandeur, was the venue for this year's event.

Master-Elect Tony Scanlan and his wife Maggie were joined by Renter Warden Jacqueline Burrows and Fourth Warden Terry Fenner-Leitao, together with his wife Liz, to say thank you to Master Henry Tuck and his Consort, Carolyn.

Henry steered our Company brilliantly through another successful year, wonderfully supported by Carolyn, who has been elegantly indefatigable. They have represented our Company at many events since the Master's Installation on 4th June 2024, making sure that the Pipe Makers continue to be recognised in the City as one of the most active, friendly and engaged Companies across the Livery movement.

The dinner was also a welcome opportunity to reflect on the evolving role of the Pipe Makers' Company. While rooted in tradition, we have challenges and opportunities to embrace as we move into the next Master's year, but more of that to come!

Jacqueline Burrows
Renter Warden



Reflections of the Honorary Chaplain

Water of life. And, no, I don't mean whisky on this occasion...

Infrastructure is a rather provoking subject at the moment. Potholes. Aerated concrete. 'High Speed or not High Speed - is that the question?' Creaking NHS.

If you have tried to get a telephone line or fibre broadband linked up in recent months, you have probably come out in a stress-induced rash just seeing those words written on this page.

Infrastructure reminds me of being a child, growing up south of London, and coming into Town on the train - just as some of you do for Pipe Makers' functions (only, I wasn't wearing black tie!). We would pass the beautiful Victorian pumping station at Streatham (see across).

<https://hidden-london.com/gazetteer/streatham-common/>

Even as a boy, I noticed its ornate stonework and metalwork frills. I couldn't believe it when I discovered that it wasn't a Maharajah's palace, or the headquarters of some grand institution - it was a water pumping station. A glorified shed, to keep the rain off some pipes and pumps! Unnecessarily beautiful, lovingly designed, and built with flare and a sense of style.

Our Company likes doing things in style. Not only for its own sake, but to reflect how important our fellowship, traditions, charity and the delights of food, wine and tobacco are.

Our livery is a pumping station, not of water (that would put your cigar out), but of fellowship, charity, tradition, industry, and more.

Just as every parish church (like St Giles' Cripplegate in the Barbican where I spend my days) is a spiritual pump house.

Our Livery Company connects industry, people of all kinds and from all over the world, past and present - and having collected all these together into a single story, it gives it a purpose and momentum

that carries us through the turning years and across the centuries.

Likewise, St Giles' (and its true of every parish church in their own context, including the one at the end of your road) sits at the connecting point of Livery, residents, the arts and creative industries, City banks, law firms and other services, schools, historical gems, and civic and local society. They all have their part to play. But as Shakespeare's Hamlet said 'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.'

The wheels of the universe are not only those that work on the surface, turned by us human beings. Our efforts are important, but there are also pumps and pipes deep below the surface - in the sweep of history, in the hidden parts of ourselves, and the frailty of our human condition. In all these things there are great and powerful mysteries at work.

That being so, perhaps every community needs its spiritual pumping station, to do the work of holy hospitality, prayer and liturgy. To attend to those under-the-surface pipes and pumps?

If this pumping station image has any mileage to it, then what are we pumping? The answer has to be, of course, love. 'God is love', writes St John in the New Testament, 'and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them'.

Love (like us) comes in all shapes and sizes; sometimes it's delightful, sometimes (as with grief or loneliness, for example) it is painful. But it is the most important thing we ever do. It is literally why we exist - to love and be loved, as human beings together, with God, in this life and the next.

If we run with this image, then the turning of the Church and Livery Year, the daily and weekly offering of prayers and celebration of the Sacraments pumps Divine Love into our community and wider world. Our Pipe Makers' fellowship and charity and all that we rejoice in as a Company is a pumping station in which the universe is made a little better, a little more companionable, a little more fun, a little more caring.



One final thought.

The unspoken truth behind this image of the pump houses of Church and Livery is that all this is indelibly interconnected. 'No man is an Island' wrote a famous former Dean of St Paul's. We are all indivisibly united, parts of the same whole (us all and God) forming a great common plumbing system - a shared epic story - of life, the universe and everything.

So, the pump houses of the Pipe Makers' and St Giles and all the 'holy water' that flows through us in so many different ways is connected. Like every drop of water in every ocean is connected with the water that fills every sink, every raindrop - likewise we are all connected.

I don't know where that idea takes you? I'd love to know. For me, this vision of a shared whole is

exciting and inviting. I feel the privilege of being part of these pumping stations that seek deep connection and refreshment - Church and Livery.

Every blessing to you all in this Spring season of new life and fresh starts.

'Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.'

Revelation, Chapter 22 in the New Testament of the Bible

The Reverend Canon Jack Noble
Honorary Chaplain



A Message from the Honorary Almoner

The term “Almoner” originated from the church, where it referred to a chaplain or an officer responsible for distributing charity.

The majority of Livery Companies now have an Almoner looking after its members and their families during illness, bereavement or difficult circumstances.

The Pipe Makers’ Court agreed to the formation of the position of Honorary Almoner in early 2025 and the Master asked us to step in as the first Company Honorary Almoner, which is a voluntary role. We have to date contacted over 20 members of the company via email, card or telephone call.

We then keep in regular contact, until our members have recovered or do not need our support any longer.

We work closely with the Master, Clerk and our Honorary Chaplain, The Reverend Canon Jack Noble (Father Jack). The Clerk is usually the first person to find out that a member might need support and she will inform us of who we need to be in touch with.

Checking in on members who need support, is not always visible work, but the Pipe Makers’ Court and we think it matters. If you need to contact us, you can email us at honoraryalmoner@pipemakerslivery.org

Sue and Bill Curran
Honorary Almoner



From Peacock to Feather Duster “Smoke and Legacy” Reflections of a Past Master of the Tobacco Pipe Makers’ Company

Serving as Master of a Livery Company is one of the greatest honours that a Liveryman of the City of London can achieve. To be elected by one’s peers to the highest office in a centuries-old institution steeped in tradition, service, and fraternity is both humbling and transformative. As a Past Master, the privilege of having held this office lingers far beyond the term itself. It becomes part of one’s identity — a role that is not relinquished but evolved into a form of stewardship. A Journey of Service, Tradition, and Legacy.

A Company Forged in Clay and Controversy

Founded in 1619 and granted Livery status in 1663, the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders occupies a unique niche among the City Companies. Unlike the ancient trades of goldsmiths or fishmongers, ours is a trade that rose with the New World and mirrored the global entanglements of empire, economy, and habit.

Our forebears crafted the elegant white clay pipes that spread across Europe and beyond, often with intricate decoration and regional pride. The Company’s original remit was to regulate the manufacture of these pipes — ensuring quality, curbing unlicensed work, and overseeing apprenticeships. Blending came later, as tobacco culture evolved and connoisseurship emerged.

Of course, time has not stood still. The industry we once governed is vastly different today, shaped by public health concerns, shifting social norms, and new legislation. Yet our Company endures — not as a regulator of trade but as a guardian of history, an engine of charity, and a fellowship of service.

The ‘Age of Elegance’ has long since passed, but the enjoyment of a fine cigar in fellowship with aficionados remains a positive, desirable and enduring pleasure much appreciated and enjoyed as a unique element of the hospitality and warmth of



welcome for which our Livery company has earned its reputation. Despite the changing nature of the trade, there remains a quiet dignity and appreciation for craftsmanship — whether in briar, clay, or tradition.

The Role of a Past Master

There is a certain freedom that comes with being a Past Master. Freed from the formality of the office, one can devote energy to longer-term initiatives and take a broader view of the Company's direction. Livery Companies today are evolving becoming more inclusive, expanding their charitable impact, and engaging with younger generations. Past Masters have a unique role to play here, balancing reverence for tradition with the need for relevance, as guardians of heritage and advocates for responsible innovation.

While the responsibilities of serving as a Master are significant, the friendships formed are among the most enduring legacies. The camaraderie among Past Masters is something special, bound by shared experience, mutual respect, and a love of the Livery tradition. Past Masters are threads that connect the present to the past, weave continuity into change and secure and maintain a valuable communication network with a number of Livery Companies and Past Masters' Associations.

Becoming a Past Master: Duty Renewed

There's an old saying in the City: "Once a Master, always a servant." It speaks to a truth that anyone who has worn the gown will understand. When your year ends, the baton passes, but some responsibility remains. You become part of a small fraternity within the Company: The Past Masters. Custodians of tradition. Mentors to new leaders. Advisers in both ceremony and strategy, but it would be a mistake to overlook the sociability of the Livery. Our Company is known for its warmth, hospitality and humour at dinners to the sense of purpose at meetings and charitable events, the fellowship we enjoy is real and restorative.

Challenges and Choices

The role of any Livery Company in the modern era is under constant review. What is our purpose when we no longer regulate a trade? How do we honour our heritage in a world that increasingly scrutinises the legacies of tobacco and colonial commerce?

These are not questions we avoid. We embrace them — with honesty and integrity. As Past Master, I have participated in many frank discussions about the future of our Company. We acknowledge the complexities of our history, but we also see the value in preserving material culture, funding research, and being part of a broader civic dialogue.

We are not here to glamorise a habit, but to celebrate a craft. Not to defend old ways uncritically, but to understand them fully. And in doing so, we continue to uphold what the Livery movement has always represented: learning, generosity, and civic engagement.

Recollections of a Year of Office

A Year of Office is long awaited and soon concluded. That which was not planned in advance is seldom accommodated in a year of frantic activity while exercising the duties of office. There are fond memories, of course, but it is almost impossible to rank or prioritise so many events that make up a year of experiences that will never be forgotten. The abiding memory is to recall the many privileges presented by the office as Master, the generosity of spirit offered by predecessors, wisdom, experience and advice from the Learned Clerk, dedicated and supportive Wardens, and most importantly, the warm welcome and enthusiastic support from the Company and the Livery at large.

Final Reflections

When I joined the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders, I had recently returned from the United States, having been responsible for the Dunhill operations in North America, to take up a main board appointment as global marketing director to lead the product development and marketing teams that successfully transformed Dunhill from a smokers' requisites business to an iconic luxury goods brand for men.



Alfred H Dunhill had been a founder member of the current Livery Company and served as Master in 1955. Dunhill directors Edmond Hardcastle (1968) and Kenneth Haward (1977) and Richard Dunhill (1987) all served as Master, and it was Kenneth and Richard who proposed me to be a member. I was admitted into the Freedom and took up the Livery in 1982. Now 44 years later I can look back on what for many would be a lifetime of service. I have been in regular attendance at the quarterly Court meetings for the past 35 years and served as Master in 2002. When I became Master, I was deeply moved by its sense of purpose. Now, as a Past Master, I feel an enduring responsibility to help it thrive.

Past Masters all join the Roll of Honour, but their level of ongoing participation may depend on a variety of factors. In our company, Past Masters are welcome to remain on the court in perpetuity, with voting rights for 10 years, and are well represented at the quarterly court meetings. For the past 10 years we have organised an annual Past Masters dinner, which has been a valuable forum for the new Master at the commencement of their year.

On a personal note, I was relatively young, at 57 years old, and in full time employment, when gowned as Master, having served the company in various ways for 20 years in advance and 23 years have already passed since I became a Past Master. It feels good to be a small but active link in a chain that stretches back 400 years to the original company and more than 70 years since the current company was restored in 1954.

The most treasured relationship during my year of office was the one that has endured for almost 60 years and was my 'rock' as my consort. Recently we have recognised the outstanding contribution made by our Partners by the award of an Honorary Freedom and a Past Mistress Badge. We have been ahead of the curve in recognising the importance of women in the Livery, as Freeman and Partners. In my year my gift to the Company was a Lapel Badge, not just for the Livery but also for their partners. We have gowned two women, who served as Master with great distinction, one of whom progressed to be the first member of our Livery company to be elected Sheriff. We will soon gown a third woman to serve as Master.

The role of mentor is easily accomplished by a Past Master, a skill set that gives advice when called for, guidance without domination, sharing experience without expectation, and most importantly to make people feel comfortable, welcome and appreciated. I also shared the memorabilia of my Year of Office with my wardens, which I hope enhanced their appreciation of the scale, scope and diversity of the office they were destined to assume.

Of course, Past Masters are not all the same! They have different skills, experiences, priorities and their own management style. This adds to the rich pattern of diversity and leadership, which adds to the vibrant individual character of each Livery year and unites the Livery in its common cause.

As Master, an enhanced relationship is formed with the company officers and trustees, which continues during the year as immediate Past Master and, as executive responsibility concludes, is replaced by valued memories and friendships. None more so than the essential working relationship with the Clerk. We are indeed most fortunate in our company to have had the benefit of longevity and dedication with only four long-serving Clerks managing the majority of the past 70 years between them. Masters and Clerks, over the years, have found the formula to integrate the magic of individuality with the formality of succession. Perhaps sometimes more easily than others!

In a world that moves faster and forgets quicker, the Livery Companies remind us that continuity, fellowship, and thoughtful service still matter. And for me, being a Past Master of the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company is not the end of a journey — but its deepening. It was great to be 'Peacock' for a year, but 'Feather Dusters' have their uses too!

Past Master Michael Walter



Heritage Activities

Avid readers of last year's edition of *Smoke Signals* will recall that we were surprised to hear that the Broseley Pipe Museum was to be mothballed, not long after the Benevolent Fund had paid out the first year of financial support from a three-year agreement.

We were not the only supporters of the Pipe Museum who were disappointed by this sudden move by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT). The town of Broseley, its council and residents are very proud of the Museum as it attracts visitors to the town and supports the local economy.

After months of frustrating discussions between ourselves, Broseley Town Council and the museum, it finally became clear why no progress was being made: the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and all its museums and assets were to be absorbed by the National Trust (NT) from March 2026!

The IGMT had recognised that an independent future was no longer possible and therefore they needed to find a way forward for the organisation. Negotiations had been going on for a long time, and were covered by Non-Disclosure Agreements, so nothing could be said publicly.

Supported by a £9 million grant from the UK Government, all the Ironbridge Museums, including the Broseley Pipe Museum, are now in the care of the National Trust, representing the biggest takeover ever done by the NT and the first one that is specifically about industrial history. All the sites are now closed for an unknown period of time whilst the National Trust works out a plan for the future development of the sites, but hopefully the Pipe Museum will open again in 2027.

In February, just before the takeover, Carolyn and I were fortunate enough to be asked to a party celebrating the 60th anniversary of the IGMT, attended by senior staff, Trustees and other key interested supporters. It was a somewhat bittersweet affair, combining celebrations of 60 years of dedicated work, with the knowledge that this was going to be the final event of the Trust before it was absorbed by the NT.

I too had mixed emotions: off and on, I have been going to the Museums in Ironbridge for all of those 60 years and members of my close family were heavily involved with the Museum, so it was sad to say goodbye to a set up I have known well.

However, since the 60th Anniversary event, I have had some initial discussions with the NT to let them know of our interest in the Broseley Pipe Museum and our concerns for the future, not to mention the fact that we have some of our treasures and artefacts on display there. The NT management team that I spoke to were very interested to know more and made all the right noises about ensuring the future of Pipe Museum. Given that the NT has nearly 5 million members, maybe the Pipe Museum will have a better future in the long run and will end up being open more often! Watch this space...

In other heritage news, we are supporting a bid by the Nantgarw China Museum in South Wales for a National Lottery Heritage Grant which will allow them to significantly upgrade their activities, including supporting clay pipe making demonstrations.

Nantgarw has been a centre for ceramic manufacturing for many years, including for a brief period making fine porcelain ware and being the biggest clay pipe making factory in Wales at one stage in its history.

We have also realised that we need to improve our support of Briar Pipe making so we are getting involved in the Livery Wood Group with the hope that we can develop our activities around wooden pipes!

It will be interesting to see what news next year's Smoke Signals article will bring!

Henry Tuck
Immediate Past Master



The Importance of Briar Pipe Making Today

We are delighted to have been invited to join the Wood Group of Livery Companies and accepted immediately. Membership places pipe making within the wider Livery family of wood-based crafts, united by a shared respect for material and skill. It also reflects a broader shift - from industrial production to specialised craftsmanship – that can be seen across many historic trades.

Although our Company's origins lie firmly in the 17th century with the clay tobacco pipe makers of Westminster, our modern identity is firmly rooted in briar. When the Company was re-established in 1954, its founders included members of the Briar Pipe Trade Association alongside figures from the wider tobacco trades — reflecting the central role briar pipe smoking had come to play during the gradual decline of the clay pipe making industry.

The rise of briar in the 19th century transformed pipe making. At the centre of this story is the wood itself: the dense root of *Erica arborea*, the tree heather, which is native to the Mediterranean and parts of Africa. Its natural heat resistance, durability and ability to absorb moisture made it the ideal material for pipes, gradually replacing clay and establishing the familiar forms still in use today.

Britain became a leading centre of production. Firms such as Dunhill and Comoy's operated at scale, employing highly skilled craftsmen, while earlier names like B Barling & Sons — established as a silversmith in 1812 and later transitioning from meerschaum to briar — helped shape the tradition. Indeed, our Company has counted several briar pipe makers among its Masters, including Bill Williamson-Barling in 1963–64.

Over time, however, changing habits and global competition led to a steep decline in large-scale briar pipe manufacture. What was once a major industry has now evolved into a smaller, more specialised craft.

Today, British briar pipe making is sustained largely by artisans and small family firms. Makers such as Blakemar Briars in Northamptonshire, Northern Briars (operating from a traditional narrow-beam canal boat in the heart of England) and Invicta

Briars, based in the old butcher's shop of a 16th century farmhouse in Bedfordshire, each represent this tradition, combining inherited skills with individual craftsmanship. Each briar pipe is shaped by hand according to the character of the wood, ensuring no two are alike. And alongside new work, restoration and commissions form an important part of the trade.

A small number of established names endure. The White Spot, continuing the legacy of Alfred Dunhill, is still produced in London using time-honoured methods, maintaining a reputation for craftsmanship at the highest level.

Despite its reduced scale, interest in briar pipes remains strong and their individuality and tradition continue to appeal to those who value authenticity and craftsmanship.

The future of briar pipe making in the UK rests on the careful passing on of knowledge and expertise. In seeking to support today's makers, our Company honours its modern foundations while advancing its craft focus and educational mission.

In many ways, this is entirely fitting. The briar pipe has long been associated with patience, reflection and individuality. These are— qualities that continue to define both the craft and those who practise it – as well as a few of our own members!

Jacqueline Burrows
Master-Elect

References

- Mr Richard Tranter, Past Master, Tobacco Pipe Makers
- Pipe Tobacco Council — *The Rise of Briar Pipes*
- Blakemar Briars website
- Northern Briars — *company history and workshop practice*
- Invicta Briars — *company background and production*
- Savinelli — *History and Manufacture of Briar Pipes*
- Pipedia — *The Community of Briar Pipe Artisans is Global*
- Livery Committee - *Livery Company Groups*
- YouTube: *An Artisan's London: The White Spot at Alfred Dunhill*



Signing of the Armed Forces Covenant

The Master signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of the Company on Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at Mercers' Hall before the Annual Banquet. We were joined by representatives of our military affiliations – Captain Freddie Bradshaw of No 15 (Loos) Company, London Guards and Mr Ron Kirkland, Honorary Secretary of the Irish Guards Association (London Branch), together with Court Assistant, Lt Col Geoffrey Strickland VR.





*The Master presents Mr Andy Williamson with
The Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy*

Presentation of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy

At the January Dinner at Drapers' Hall on 21st January 2026, the third recipient of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers' Trophy, Mr Andy Williamson, was presented with the Trophy, by the Master.



The Late Alan Beggs



*The Alan Beggs Pipe Makers'
Trophy*

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 third recipient of this award is Andy Williamson.



Born and raised in South Belfast, Andy enlisted in the British Army at the age of 16, commencing his career at Palace Barracks in 1978. Andy proudly served with the 1st Battalion Irish Guards for 8 years. His time in the Irish Guards instilled the discipline, leadership and unwavering commitment, which would define his subsequent careers and voluntary work. After leaving the military, Andy embarked on a second career with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service attaining the rank of Assistant Divisional Officer.

Andy's dedication to the Irish Guards Community remains a cornerstone of his life and he currently serves as the Honorary Secretary of the North of England Irish Guards Association, where he has driven significant modernisation and expansion. Andy spearheaded a successful recruitment drive that increased the association's membership from 62 to 217 members, ensuring a robust support network for veterans. He drove the implementation of a new website and electronic social media presence, significantly improving the speed of information dissemination and the ability to rapidly assist

veterans in need. Andy devised a new engagement model for local St. Patrick's Day and Remembrance Day events, specifically incorporating family days to formally recognise and support the vital role family members play in supporting veterans. He also currently acts as the vital conduit and link between the main association and the 'Mini Micks' (Irish Guards Cadets based in Crosby), fostering the next generation and ensuring continuity of the Guards' traditions and values.

For all his efforts and for his ongoing support to both the Regiment and the Irish Guards Association, the Irish Guards has decided to nominate Andy Williamson as the third recipient of the Alan Beggs Pipe Makers Trophy. Andy got to know Alan well during his tenure as the London Branch Secretary and took 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 Andy Williamson.



St Patricks Day Parade 2026

As guests of the Irish Guards Association, Maggie and I were invited to Mons Barracks, Aldershot to see HRH Catherine, Princess of Wales, Colonel of the Irish Guards, review the Irish Guards and present the traditional Shamrock.

The day started with parades of Officers, Guards and Veterans, an exciting sight all accompanied by the Band of the Irish Guards, very stirring on a chilly but sunny March day. They formed up and greeted the Princess who reviewed the troops. This was followed by the tradition of presenting to the Officers, NCO's, Other Ranks and Seamus the mascot.

Maggie and I were delighted to be introduced to Catherine, Princess of Wales, who had been briefed on who we were and why we were there. We had a lovely chat, not often this Master is tongue-tied, but Maggie came to the rescue!

We had lunch with the Other Ranks and drinks in the Sergeant's Mess afterwards, having time to get to know Seamus the Mascot. A fine day generously hosted by Ron Kirkland, Chair of the Irish Guards Association (London branch) and Major Steve McMichael, Assistant Regimental Adjutant, RHQ Irish Guards.

Antony Scanlan
Master





The Presentation of The Company Award

The January Dinner on 21st January 2026 saw the third presentation of a Company award, to Dr David Higgins and Dr Susie White of The National Pipe Archive.



Dr David Higgins



Dr Susie White

David Higgins is a professional archaeologist with a lifelong specialism in the history and manufacture of clay tobacco pipes. He grew up in Surrey where childhood collections of flintwork, pottery and pipes sparked his interest in history and archaeology,

leading to a degree in archaeological studies at the University of Leicester. His undergraduate dissertation on Surrey clay tobacco pipes was published in 1981, one of the earliest of some 450 published notes and articles that he has since written on the subject.

During the 1980s he worked for the Rescue Archaeology Unit at the University of Liverpool before becoming archaeologist to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Telford and completing a PhD thesis on the Shropshire pipemaking industry. He also started studying the manufacture of pipes, interviewing and recording surviving pipe makers, and experimenting with casting historically accurate moulds. He learnt how to make pipes in the traditional manner himself and lectured widely on the subject, as well as providing pipes for various museums and displays.



Returning to Liverpool, he was awarded a research grant to start compiling a national catalogue of pipe makers' marks (that now includes records of nearly 33,000 examples) before going on to work for, and then direct, the Liverpool University Field Archaeology Unit. Since the late 1990s he has focussed almost exclusively on providing specialist reports on clay tobacco pipe assemblages from archaeological excavations in this country and abroad. From 1998-2000 he was a Visiting Fellow in Archaeology at Nene University College, Northampton, and since 2004 he has been an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool.

Dr White has been involved in archaeology since 1986 and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Chester. She is currently employed by Amgueddfa Cymru (The National Museum of Wales) as a Senior Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS Cymru), and she curates the National Pipe Archive, which is housed at the University of Liverpool. Dr White started her archaeological career by studying Egyptology at the University of Liverpool, where her undergraduate dissertation involved the preparation of an illustrated catalogue of the Egyptian amulets in the University's Garstang Museum. She has made some 13 trips to Egypt to look at sites and work on field projects.

Since 1995 Dr White has been responsible for the curation and development of the National Pipe Archive, which is housed within the Department of Archaeology at Liverpool University and has provided training opportunities for undergraduate students working on the collections. As well as setting up and managing finds databases and recording systems, she is an experienced illustrator and has prepared drawings of many artefact types for publication. Since graduation from Liverpool, she has worked as a freelance archaeological consultant, specialising in the study of clay tobacco pipes, and has prepared numerous illustrated reports on excavated assemblages.

The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders are proud to present their Third Company Award to Dr David Higgins and Dr Susie White, in grateful recognition of their services to the craft and heritage of Clay Pipe Making.



The Master's Reception 2025

On Wednesday 28th May 2025, members of the Company and their guests gathered aboard the historic HMS Wellington on the River Thames for a Master's Reception hosted by Master Henry Tuck and his Consort Carolyn in what was their final event for the Company, a week before Henry became Immediate Past Master.

Moored proudly at Temple Steps on Victoria Embankment, HMS Wellington—the last surviving Grimsby-class sloop from World War II—provided a striking setting. Guests were welcomed aboard with drinks and canapés and mingled on the quarterdeck to enjoy the stunning views of the London skyline across the water as the sun set.

Drinks were followed by a special guided tour of the ship, led by Wellington Trust Ambassador Simon Quail, former merchant mariner and headmaster, who provided an insight into the Wellington's rich naval history and her post-war transformation from WW2 convoy escort ship to become the Master Mariner's floating livery hall as HQS Wellington until 2024, and now in her new guise as a centre for history and education. Guests explored the bridge, wardroom and museum spaces, gaining a new appreciation for her maritime heritage and the preservation efforts that have kept HMS Wellington afloat and the proud home of the Company of Master Mariners for 75 years from 1948, and the location for many of our own Court meetings and dinners over past years.

From the gleaming teak decks to the ship's meticulously preserved maritime heritage, and below decks to the former boiler room and engine room which served as the Livery Hall, guests were offered a glimpse into the history of this remarkable naval survivor. The tour was a highlight, with Court Assistant Martine Petetin bravely taking the wheel to pilot us through the site of a virtual naval battle.

The Master's Reception is an important date in the Company's calendar, and this year's gathering was another success. The stunning riverfront setting looking across the river to the South Bank, the Oxo Tower, the Millennium Wheel and the Shard complemented the hospitality that defines our Company's events.

Thanks go to the Master, his Consort, our Clerk, our hosts aboard the HMS Wellington and the caterers for organising another memorable evening—one that perfectly captured the Company's spirit of fellowship and tradition.

Jacqueline Burrows
Renter Warden







The Consort Event 2025

I was particularly keen to sign up for the Consort Event in April 2025 because it was so unusual – a tour of the Greenwich Fan Museum. Consort Carolyn Tuck called it “a hidden gem” and she’s absolutely right.

The Fan Museum is the world’s first museum dedicated to preserving and displaying hand fans and showing their artistry, history and culture. Its collection is fascinating. The Museum is in the centre of the Greenwich World Heritage Site, in two joined-up Grade II Listed houses built in 1721 - so the building and garden are also a delight. You can now get to Greenwich by Uber Boat as well as rail, so a visit could take in a boat trip and the Fan Museum is just 15 minutes’ walk from Greenwich Pier and the Cutty Sark.

For millennia before air-conditioning and plug-in electricity, people had to keep cool, especially in enclosed spaces. So, hand-operated fans mattered to almost every culture on earth. We learned that even the ice-bound Inuit used fans, possibly to fan flames for cooking and heating.

Because fans have been so widely used around the world, they can show us a fair bit about how our ancestors lived.

We saw how fans have been works of art, ceremonial objects, status symbols, dance accessories, ways to flaunt political opinions and even vehicles for advertising. Fans were used as dance cards, or ‘carnets du bal’, where ladies could write partners’ names for each dance on a fan’s ‘sticks’ then delete them ready for the next ball. Opera-goers could have fans printed with musical notes, presumably to follow the score or to remind them of favourite tunes.

It’s remarkable to see the huge variety of materials used to make fans. We saw beautiful and intriguing examples made of ivory, brass, mother-of-pearl, tortoiseshell, bone, lace, exotic feathers and even woven grass, yak hair, buffalo horn and leather, as well as the silk, wood and paper you might expect.

The Museum owns thousands of fans, so it uses rotating displays, but on our visit, we saw some beauties. One of the fans I thought most beautiful

was a delicate French ‘brisé’ (folding) fan made of mother-of-pearl and ribbon, glowing lustrously. Some of the most stunning included two huge fans made with dyed-blue ostrich feather and dyed-lilac rhea feathers. Surely, they must have been used in a fan-dance?

A souvenir fan made of ivory recalled a Costume Ball at Buckingham Palace in 1842, with images painted on the sticks of people who attended. One of the oldest fans was a rare ‘flag fan’ from Venice in the 1590s, made of ivory, brass, silk and vellum, gouache-painted with a naked Venus in ‘a seductive allegory of earthly love’. Who knew fans could be shaped like little flags? This lovely thing was remarkably well-preserved.

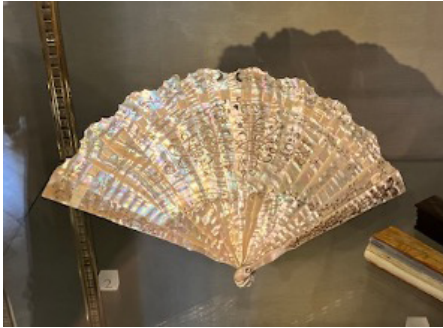
Pictures on the walls of the museum show that fans were used well into the 20th century, and alongside many beautiful historic items, there are striking examples of late 20th century fans made as works of art. And what of ‘the language of fans’ – ladies using fans to send signals or flirt? Was this really a thing? Our helpful guides said it wasn’t! An enterprising Victorian fan manufacturer invented ‘the language of fans’ as an advertising wheeze. Whether his advert worked or not, it has certainly stuck around as a myth.

Our members were privileged to have afternoon tea (including cream, jam and scones!) in the Museum’s orangery. There’s also a gift shop, with items such as pretty fan-shaped paper napkins, greeting cards, earrings, necklaces and hairpins, silk scarves and tea towels decorated with fans, illustrated books and - of course - souvenir fans.

The pictures show just a taste of the delightful things you can see at this unusual museum, and I hope they may encourage you to visit.

As one wit put it, if you’re exploring Greenwich, a trip to the Fan Museum will be a cool experience! You can find out more and book a visit at: <https://www.thefanmuseum.org.uk>

Fran Morrison
Court Assistant



French brisé (folding) fan, early 20th century; mother-of-pearl and ribbon



Large feather dance fan, Europe, c.1920; mother-of-pearl and dyed rhea feathers



Souvenir fan of a Buckingham Palace Ball in 1942; English, painted ivory



Flag fan, Venice, c.1590s; ivory, brass, silk, gouache and vellum



Wall picture showing ladies still 'accessorised' with fans in the 20th century



Miniature dance card fan; the coil held a pencil for ladies to write partners' names for each dance on the sticks and the ring and chain meant a lady could hold it on her finger



Opera fan, French-Spanish, c.1828; bone with paper leaf, printed with notes from Rossini's 'Barber of Seville'



'Flute concert' fan, possibly English, c.1720; ivory, mother-of-pearl and vellum, showing a flautist and singers entertaining country girls



Alaskan dance fan, 1980s; yak hair and woven grass with cloth and beadwork



Fans depicting Spanish dancers, mid-20th century, wood with paper leaf



Fan Museum in Greenwich



The 'Generational Ban' on Smoking

You'll almost certainly have heard of the 'generational ban' on smoking. It is now UK law, as part of the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026. Perhaps the most striking feature of the Act is that anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 is banned from buying tobacco products in the UK. Forever. Yes – you read that right. It's a 'forever ban' on anyone born on or after 1 Jan 2009 from buying tobacco products.

From 1 Jan 2027, when someone born on 1 Jan 2009 is 18 - the current legal age to buy tobacco products - that person is banned by their birth date from buying ciggies or a cigar. But someone born a day earlier, on 31 December 2008, can buy them. What will happen is pretty predictable. People banned from buying in shops will turn to the already-booming UK black market, or slightly older friends will buy for younger friends or relatives – assuming that anyone can actually buy tobacco products without producing a birth certificate!

Let's fast forward to 2049, and a 40-year-old gentleman fancies a cigar. Tough! He's banned from buying one. Is this unworkable? You may well wonder! The idea behind it seems to be that people born after 1 Jan. 2009 will just say OK, smoking won't ever be for me, and eventually smoking will just die out. But critics say this is prohibition by the back door.

Opposition to the ban

Baroness Fox of Buckley, speaking against the generational ban in the House of Lords, said: "This is a Bill about prohibition. It ultimately denies adults the right to make their own choices about a legal activity. Those born in 2009 grow up to be adults who are denied the choice, and in the end this restricts adult freedoms."

She has also said: "It's nonsense to think smoking will just die out. People will carry on smoking, even if the number of adult smokers has been in long-term decline. Instead, ever-older people will turn to buying illegal tobacco – from shops that flout the ban or from the black market, which is already thriving thanks to sky-high tobacco taxation.

"Ever-greater steps towards prohibition threaten to bring all the familiar side effects of prohibition: illegal sales, declining tax revenues and, most worryingly, violence and intimidation. This is already happening in Australia thanks to high taxation. Do we really want that here, too?"

More harm than good



Simon Clark, Director FOREST

Simon Clark, director of the smokers' rights group FOREST, said: "Far from achieving the government's ambition of a 'smoke-free Britain', banning tobacco sales to future adults will not only fuel the black market, but could encourage more people to smoke as a

form of soft rebellion. A generational ban on the sale of tobacco could stall or even reverse the long-term smoking decline, and do more harm than good."

Simon explained: "Smoking rates have been falling for decades, mainly because people have been educated about the health risks. The most recent Office for National Statistics figures show that only 10.6% of UK adults smoke cigarettes. Products like vapes and nicotine pouches now provide reduced risk alternatives, encouraging millions of cigarette smokers to switch voluntarily.

"So will people born after 1 January 2009 just shrug off the idea of smoking, and if they have a taste for it, buy vapes instead? Unfortunately, shades of prohibition loom here too. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill talks about 'vape-free places' and gives the Government powers to limit indoor places like pubs where people can vape. It's pretty hard to see how that would help the trend towards vapes!"



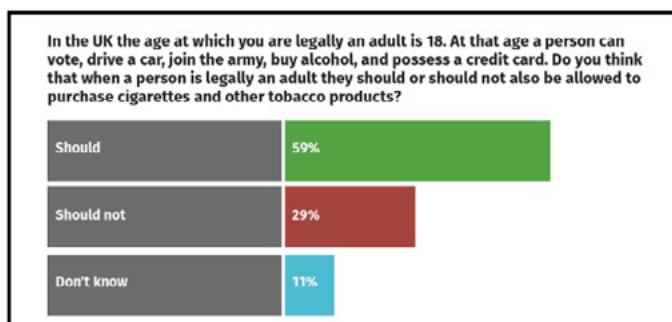
What do the public think?

In autumn 2025, FOREST commissioned a series of surveys by an independent polling firm, and these do not suggest that a generational ban is popular.

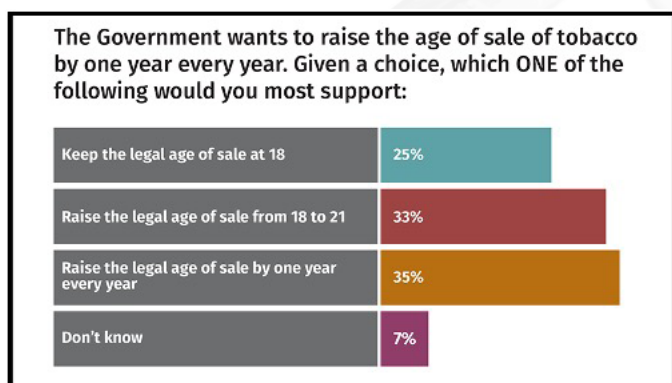
Each survey interviewed a nationally representative sample of at least 2000 adults.

The most notable results were:

- 59% of respondents said people who are legally adults at 18 should be allowed to buy tobacco products.

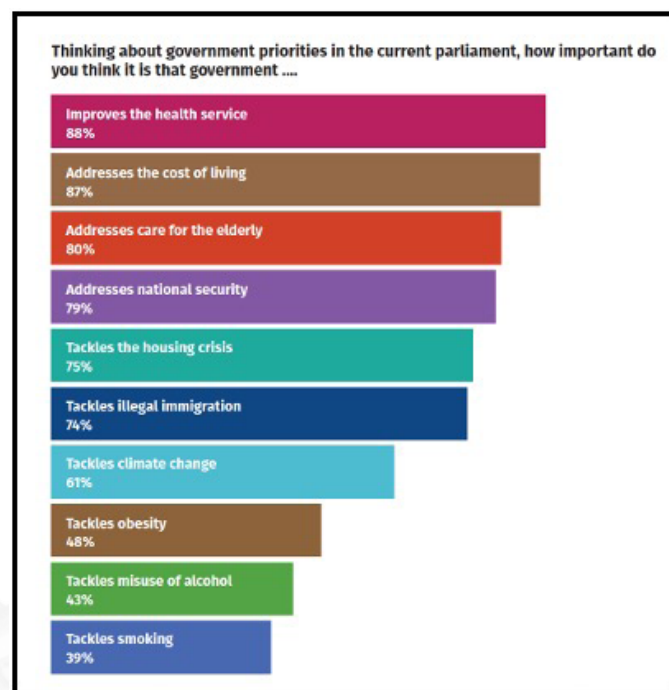


- Asked to choose amongst keeping the legal age at 18, raising it to 21, or introducing a generational ban, 58% supported alternatives to a generational ban.



- 57% believed a generational ban will drive more consumers to illegal tobacco. Only 13% believed it won't.
- A large majority (67%) believed that buying illegal tobacco is an understandable response from consumers faced with the UK's high costs for legal tobacco.

The surveys also found that people think the Government has more pressing priorities than tackling smoking - such as improving the NHS and addressing the cost of living. Of ten current issues, 'tackling smoking' came last.



The NHS came top, and of ten issues for the NHS, 88% put ambulance response times and waiting times for treatment at the top of the list. 'Tackling smoking' again came last, with fewer than half (42%) thinking it important.



Has the Government listened?

It seems not. When the Tobacco and Vapes Bill was in the House of Lords, peers proposed several amendments opposing its more egregious policies. The Government rejected them.

But Simon Clark says: “There may yet be a twist in the tale. It’s been suggested that introducing the generational ban in Northern Ireland could bring the UK into conflict with the EU, because the Bill does not comply with the Windsor Framework, so could break EU law. We shall see!

“Ironically, Brexit enabled the UK to repeal or amend over-reaching Brussels regulations, but the UK has brought in a prohibitionist policy on tobacco that’s far more restrictive than anything the EU has imposed.”

The ‘generational ban’ is now law. Perhaps we can only hope that common sense may prevail at some point in future, and that it will be abolished.

Of ten Bills going through Parliament, respondents said the most important were on Crime and Policing; Border Security, Asylum and Immigration; and Children’s Wellbeing and Schools. Again, the Tobacco and Vapes Bill was down at the bottom, with only the House of Lords (Hereditary) Bill seen as even less important.

Fran Morrison
Court Assistant



The Cigar Slow Smoking World Championship 2026

The 2026 Cigar Slow Smoking World Championship (CSWC) season has started! The CSWC is the largest cigar community in the world with competitors from 57 countries competing this year. The official CSWC competition Mareva cigar, especially blended for the CSWC competition by our current sponsors Oliva, and recently rated 11th place in Cigar Journal magazine. Previous competition cigars were made by Rocky Patel, Macanudo, and Montecristo (the first competition cigar was a Montecristo No.4).

The World Final will be held in Dubrovnik this year, on 29 - 31 August and we know we will have a strong UK team there. Indeed, the world number 2 seed is a Brit.

The individual winner and National team competitions are both well rewarded with prizes into the 1000's of Euros! We have a fantastic team of judges, co-organisers and hosts amongst the cigar retailers here in the UK, making the UK one of the top competing countries, and we are incredibly grateful for all the support we receive from this community and not for profit organisation.

Here in the UK, we have already staged one of our official Pre-Qualifier events, with the London and South East event being held at City of London Cigars on 12th May. The BIG CSWC events for us in the UK are the CSCW GREAT BRITISH OPEN on 25th July at the Caledonian Club, Belgravia, and the UK CSWC Final on the 26th July at City of London Cigars, Liverpool Street.

ANYONE is eligible to compete in the CSWC Great British Open, and we warmly invite members of the Livery to join the fun. Places are limited and tickets are on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cswc-great-british-open-tickets-1988009441756?aff=eb-dssbdestsearch>

Tickets include entry to the competition (or spectator attendance), a reception glass of champagne with canapes, 2 cigars, and whisky tasting. I hope to see some of our cigar lovers there.

On a personal note, I am honoured to have accepted the role of International Head Judge and Chair of the CSWC International Judges Association, sitting on the new CSWC Board, bringing UK representation to this global competition.

Please follow us on Instagram [cswc_uk](#) and contact me directly if you would like any further information about the UK events, or World Final.

Sarah Saunders
sarah@womenscigarclub.com
07802777366



A Memorable Evening at HM Tower of London

On a gloriously warm Saturday evening, 28 June 2025, at the invitation of our then Beadle, Yeoman Warder Wayne Glynn, 48 members of our Company and their guests were hugely privileged to be among the very few to attend the nightly Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London – a tradition steeped in over seven centuries of history and one of the oldest surviving military ceremonies in the world.

Sadly, Wayne was unable to join us, having recently come off second best in a biking altercation with a wall. While he recovered, Yeoman Warder Nev Dednum kindly stepped in to do the honours. In true Beefeater tradition, Nev began the evening with an insightful and entertaining introduction to the Tower's rich history and the enduring significance of the Ceremony. He then led us on a private tour inside the walls, guiding us through the history of the ancient buildings and recounting the (often horrific and bloody) events that have taken place there since William the Conqueror first established his white fortress on the edge of the Thames. History was embellished with stories of French elephants, murdered princes and an opportunity to see the famous ravens in their night-time quarters.

A particular highlight was the opportunity once again to see the striking porcelain poppy displays, originally part of the WW1 remembrance in 2014 but now reimagined and reinstalled at the Tower to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

After our tour we enjoyed a visit to the Warders' Bar, generously hosted by the Master and his Consort, along with the opportunity to take part in the "traditional" fundraising raffle.

Then, as night fell, we were ushered towards Traitors' Gate, where we gathered in respectful silence to witness the Ceremony itself. The ancient gates of the Tower were secured in the precise ritual that has taken place every night, without fail, for more than 700 years. The Chief Yeoman Warder, dressed in his traditional red coat and Tudor bonnet, emerged from the Byward Tower carrying a lantern in one hand and the King's Keys in the other and flanked by members of the Irish Guards in scarlet tunics and black busbys.

The ancient lantern has been used in this ceremony every night since it was given to the Tower in 1919 by the Honourable Artillery Company. The glow of its single candle as the party approached in the gathering dusk lent a quiet dignity to the proceedings, punctuated by the sound of army boots on cobbles, the crisp commands of the guard and the shout of the sentry issuing the traditional challenge. The Tower clock chimed ten as the party passed through the Bloody Tower archway and ascended the steps to the Inner Ward to announce that all was safely secured for the night. It was a truly memorable experience.

After the Ceremony, we were invited back to the Warders' Bar before eventually making our way out of the Tower, escorted by a Yeoman Warder who unlocked—and then relocked—the ancient gates behind us. We learned, intriguingly, that there are no keyholes on the exterior: the Tower can only be locked and unlocked from within.

Our sincere thanks go to Wayne for arranging the event and to Nev and all the Yeoman Warders for their warm welcome, and for preserving such an important part of our national heritage. It was an honour to witness history in motion – a powerful reminder of the rich continuity that underpins the City of London and its institutions.

Jacqueline Burrows
Senior Warden





The Lady Mayor's Show 2025

On 8 November 2025, the Tobacco Pipe Makers made history: we took part in the first-ever **Lady Mayor's Show**. We weren't alone of course: this is the "oldest, longest, best-loved and least rehearsed" civic procession in the world, and in 2025 it celebrated the inauguration of Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley DBE as the 697th Lord Mayor of the City of London. The third woman to be elected to the role but she is the first to formally adopt the title of "Lady Mayor".

Tradition dictates that the Pipe Makers are represented by the Master, Senior Warden and Renter Warden, but this year Tony Scanlan and Jacqueline Burrows were accompanied by Third Warden Terry Fenner-Leitao, jaunty in the most comfortable shoes he could find.

An early start is essential: gowns, churchwarden pipes, sign board and holster must all be retrieved from the cages in the vaults at Stationers' Hall, before we walk fully robed across Paternoster Square to gather with the other Modern Livery Companies and an eclectic assortment of floats and participants, including Pearly Kings and Queens, historic fire engines, beyond-enormous farm machinery (declaring "Give Peas a Chance"), the original Sevenoaks stage coach and a great many horses (plus their inevitable deposits).

After a long wait in what seemed to be the only coffee shop open in the area, the procession began to move off, with the Modern Livery Companies jostling for position.

The usual scrum saw the Launderers manoeuvring their sign board into position alongside the International Bankers: another Show tradition! We kept a steady pace behind the Master Mariners, anxious not to be overtaken by the Air Pilots coming up behind.

Sir Malcolm Campbell's fully restored and gleaming Bluebird was a highlight, as was the "Pollinating London Together" float, festooned in fresh flowers and improbably carrying a baby grand piano complete with pianist. Several steam-powered vehicles were cheerfully flouting the clean air zone, leaving the accompanying firemen coughing in their smoke-filled wake.

As we rounded the corner by Mansion House, we waved our clay pipes enthusiastically at the Lady Mayor in her magnificent, feathered, black tricorne hat, while also attempting to catch the attention of the BBC cameras — just as the Third Warden inadvertently knocked the Senior Warden's smoking hat clean off with our signboard.

We swept along Cannon Street and past St Paul's Cathedral, where ranks of small choristers waved to us from the balcony, before proceeding along Fleet Street and the Strand. Eventually, a sizeable contingent of Masters and Wardens squeezed into the ancient Cheshire Cheese pub behind Temple Place to find our lunch, a glass of wine and a grateful sit-down. Rested and refreshed we set off once again, together with hundreds of fellow participants, along the Embankment before finally turning for home.

All along the route we were cheered and waved at and photographed all along the route, although the loudest reactions seemed to come when our signboard and churchwarden pipes were spotted among the throng.

It's a Great Day Out! So do make sure you add it to your diary for 2026 and come and support the Pipe Makers: the Lord Mayor's Show 2026 is already booked for Saturday 14 November!

Jacqueline Burrows
Senior Warden





The Inter-Livery Clay Shoot 2025

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” Eph.6:12.

And so it was that on the 15th May 2025 that a gallant team of Tobacco Pipe Makers battled against the variable speed signs of the M25, the makers of traffic jams and those evil forces in the skies over the West London Shooting School that had ultimate control over the Clay’s speeding through the heavenly realms!

Yes, here we were again for another year of representing the Company. Our 14th (and my 12th) year of doing so).

We four, Liverymen David Smith and Sam Bondarenko, Assistant Colin Ritchie and I, met as usual at breakfast at the West London Shooting School for another day of the Inter-Livery Clay Shoot Competition.

The weather was looking good, the team were looking good, we were registered, lessons had been learned by the organisers from the previous 2 years of bedding in after moving from the Holland and Holland grounds, and we were ready along with a couple of hundreds of others to get moving off.

After the usual briefings, everyone moved off to their first stand and an eventful day’s shooting began.

14 stands in all this time round, but we had a slight twist to the format in that we now had a Two Man flush to do as well as the usual Team Flush.

Well, all we can say is that this year was obviously going to be another “Absolutely Average” year as far as the scoring went!

Of a possible 304 on the main 12 stands, we were a total of 167 or 55%, and of the flushes, 18 out of 40 or 45% on the two-man flush and 37 out of 80 or 46% on the four-man flush. It was clear that any game would be safe in the impending 25/26 shooting season.

But one piece of good news, at lunch afterwards, Assistant Colin Ritchie won the best dressed gun amongst the 225 participants.



Past Master Adam Bennett



The Company Golf Day 2025

This year's annual Company golf day was once again held at the wonderful club Tandridge - on a rather windy but dry summer's day. Tandridge, as always, was in magnificent condition with lightning-fast greens which proved somewhat of a challenge!

We had 14 golfers (6 members from the Company and 8 guests), and we shared the day with the Old Davorians (Dover College) who had 10 players. Past Master Michael Walter happens to be an OD. The Master and Consort joined us for lunch, as did another 5 Liverymen / guests. The Master was great company, mingling with participants presenting the prizes.

Following the early morning registration, players, in groups of 4, set off for 4 hours of golf – returning to the clubhouse to join non-playing members for a well-deserved drink before entering the dining room for the signature Tandridge carvery lunch – outstanding, followed by a choice of puddings and of course the famous Tandridge Pudding!

Amongst those joining for lunch were Past Master Michael Walter and Hilary, Herchel Jordan, 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	Past Master Ian Panto – huge congratulations!
1st	Honorary Freeman: Sharon Taberer
2nd	Guest: Tom Golding (son of Past Master Andrew Golding)
3rd	Guest: Tom Keevil and Honorary Freeman Sharon Taberer
Best 4-ball (2 to count)	Cynthia Rich, Honorary Freeman Sharon Taberer, Charleen Hollington, Tom Golding
Closest to the pin	Past Master Paul Taberer

The range of prizes included very kind donations from:

*Mark Johnson-Hill: Chateau Meaume Wine
(Reserve 2022 x 12)*

Past Master Nigel Rich: Mirabeau Rose

Nikesh Madhvani: Kakira Gin, Rum and Vodka

Another wonderful day on the golf course.

Past Master Paul Taberer









The Inter-Livery Pétanque Competition 2025

How does one define summer? Well in the Livery World - pétanque is the correct answer. On 31st July 2025, the Pipe Makers team, consisting of Past Masters Charles Miller and Elise Rasmussen and Immediate Past Master Henry Tuck donned caps and miraculously bowled into the semifinals. Our best ever result?!?!

Having lost the first match against the Butchers' Company, they trundled off for a refreshing glass of wine. However, Charles Miller's deft hand behind the scenes had the Pipe Makers back in group A! We overtook the Needlemakers' Company to achieve victory and a place in the semifinals against the Makers of Playing Cards' team. Actually, there were only two Makers of Playing Card members and a ringer in the form of Master Distiller. Regrettably time was called before they finished as there was a good chance the Pipe Makers would have been victorious.

Ultimately the Butchers' Company won, which was a good result! An excellent rain free evening, lovely competitors, a great picnic and fine wine sustained the team and kept everyone's spirits high.



Past Master Elise Rasmussen



The 3rd Inter-Livery Crazy Golf Competition

On 16th October 2025, a Pipe Makers' team of Past Master Charles Miller, Assistant Jon Fell, Clerk and Liveryman Sandra Stocker, and Clerk's Assistant Bill Curran entered the third annual Carwright Cup, the thrilling Inter-Livery Crazy Golf Competition, at Puttshack in Bank. There was an amazing turnout with 21 teams from 17 different Livery Companies across the City of London.

The Entrepreneurs who organise the event said "We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend. The event was packed with excitement, fun, and fantastic energy! It was a truly thrilling gathering, celebrating the spirit of inter-livery camaraderie and teamwork".

In the team competition, the Insurers' first team emerged victorious with a remarkable score of 1481 taking home the silverware, and breaking the Entrepreneurs two-year winning streak, closely followed by the Founders in 2nd place, the Actuaries in 3rd place and the Pipe Makers in 4th place. On the individual front, Phil Cohen from the Plaisterers led the way with 448 points, with Rob Hartley from the Insurers in 2nd place and Jon Fell from the Pipe Makers in 3rd place.

It was an unforgettable evening of laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Sandra Stocker
Clerk and Liveryman





Inter-Livery Pancake Race 2026

The scene was set at the General Purposes Committee meeting in December 2025 with the Master looking to pick the team members for the forthcoming pancake race; Team Manager, must be the Learned Clerk, The Master's and Ladies race spots were filled by the Master and Consort, no one fills the fancy dress brief better than International Lady of Fancy Dress, Past Master Elise Rasmussen leaving one space to be filled. In a master stroke of addressing the person sitting directly opposite him, Court Assistant John Clark was selected for the final spot.

The team members met in the cloakroom area of the Guildhall on a surprisingly mild and sunny 17th February. Much concentration was required as the competitors demonstrated an alarming inability to dress themselves in the Company's gowns and supplied race clothing (aprons and paper chef hats). Fortunately, the Clerk was on hand with a seconded family member to assist and the competitors suitably dressed ventured upstairs to watch the preliminary

racers and try and work out what the rules were. The only person missing at the time was Elise, the reason why would become apparent.

Having gone back upstairs the team were met with relative pandemonium, the place was packed with participants, livery supporters, media and camera people, in the know city folk and curious tourists who clearly found it a delightful mix of British eccentricity and spectacle. It was there, the team caught up with Past Master Rasmussen who was wearing the most elaborate London Bridge outfit (representing one of the Lady Mayor's chosen charities), which was far too wide to get through the Guildhall doors, a smash with the general public though and many photos with tourists and onlookers were taken.

On to the racing, the Master was up first and following the thunder of the starting cannon, made a sterling effort. Despite his two bionic knees offering a distinct advantage, he sportingly elected to show all the other teams how to properly stop, toss the



pancake and place the pan at the end in the correct position. The consort came next and amid her obvious amusement set a very respectable time in her race with no question of a disqualification. Following this it was the turn of Court Assistant Clark, who blitzed the “slightly older” than him opposition to win his heat. Unfortunately, he’d done his customary preparation by not reading the race info and realising that it was race times that qualified for the finals and not heat wins, meaning his decision to a. not Sellotape his hat to his head and b. stroll the last part of the race lead to an early lunch.



Finally, it was the Past Master’s turn and despite having more wind resistance than a wind turbine, made a good showing. This was no doubt recognised by the judges of the fancy dress competition (who without acknowledging their previous year’s oversight) duly awarded Elise the prize for best dressed entrant.

Then it was off to the crypt for a slap-up lunch.

Thanks to all the supporters and to www.jampondphotography.com for the images.

John Clark
Court Assistant



Social Committee Event at Puttshack

The first event of the new Social Committee didn't quite start with a bang, but rather a putt!

Twenty of us met at Puttshack in the City on 10th March 2026. Sandra, Clerk had organised drinks and food, which fueled a keen competition between five teams. Some players were keen golfers, some – well – less so, but we all had a blast playing two rounds through increasingly difficult obstacles.

The Sapphire range was the opportunity for those of us who hadn't played crazy golf since childhood during seaside school holidays, to score points despite rusty – or non-existent skills. After more drinks, we moved to the Emerald range where your author's hand-eye discoordination became all too apparent. Meanwhile the golfing (one glove, checked trousers) members of our Company shone exceedingly bright.

At the end of the evening, Sandra, Clerk presented the trophy to the evening's winner who, it was decided, was the player who gained the least points. In bronze position Past Master Charles Miller, silver went to guest Harrison Myles and gold to me, Martine!

A great opportunity to practice my crazy golf skills and we look forward to seeing many of you at the next Puttshack or Social Committee evening!

Martine Petetin
Court Assistant and
Co-Chair of the Social Committee







The Master's Weekend 2026

Bordeaux welcomed the inaugural 'overseas' Masters' Weekend on 16th April and what a fine event it proved to be. A thoroughly convivial and memorable occasion with a modest gathering of just seventeen Liverymen and their partners. A small and mobile group but one that provided lively social company that was blessed by magnificent weather throughout

Thursday evening, we gathered in the hotel for a drink before heading out to eat, setting the tone for how the weekend went; with excellent food, generous hospitality, and more than sufficient liquid sustenance to encourage good spirits and conversation. Sally and Roger Brookes, Jacqueline and Simon Burrows, Kate and Andrew Golding and Richard and Adrienne Yeo arrived from the UK, Archie & Miriam Smith with Maureen Edmondson locally by train, Karen and Neal Neilinger from the US and of course our Master Tony Scanlon and consort Maggie from Greece.

Friday's programme took us, somewhat extravagantly for our number, by private 55-seater "minibus" to Saint-Émilion. Here, amidst the rolling vineyards and honey-coloured stone, we explored this most celebrated of wine towns by means of an entertaining audio road-train tour, which neatly revealed both its history and charm. A classic French bistro lunch followed, but not before a much-needed thirst quencher, and coffee for some! We ventured deeper into the wine producing countryside to visit fellow Liveryman Mark Johnson-Hill and his wife Sandra at their beautiful Château Meaume, as you can now see on the ITV programme Chateau DIY! They produce a very good Bordeaux Supérieur—well known to many as Majestic's most popular claret. After a generous wine tasting session accompanied by cheese and an abundance of "nibbles" we had a sleepy return to our hotel where we saw a natural divergence of energies. Some elected for a quieter recovery after the exertions of the afternoon, while the 'die hards' pressed on to further sample the considerable culinary delights of Bordeaux.

A bright and breezy Saturday morning took us by train along the Dordogne to the delightful old town of Bergerac. Maggie our train "tour guide" managed a significant group discount, so not only the fun of trams and trains but a bargain to boot! Bergerac is well known

to many Brits as the arrival point in the Dordogne region. In fact, it is a town of considerable charm and character and well worth wandering the narrow streets and perhaps pausing for coffee or a drink by the river before a leisurely lunch, which is exactly what we did! Do give yourself plenty of time though as our four-course set lunch only just fitted the 2 hours we had before our visit to the Tobacco Museum. A large part of the Dordogne and surrounding areas were major tobacco producers, and many drying barns can still be seen as you drive around the area. An excellent English-speaking guide hosted our trip around the three floors of the museum, and she did well to handle a notably well-informed and enthusiastic audience. Richard Yeo contributed significantly ensuring a lively and engaging exchange.

Another "dozy" return journey brought us back to Bordeaux just in time for the Master's Champagne Reception, before the weekend's principal dinner. This was held in one of the city's oldest and most atmospheric restaurants, discreetly tucked away behind a modest entrance in a cobbled riverside street. Inside, we were seated around a single table, surrounded by generations of family portraits whose watchful gaze accompanied a memorable meal of local and traditional food served in seemingly endless shared courses. An abundance of wine led to a very lively dinner with even a little singing. Some of us late to leave the table were stopped until the Master was made to return and pay the bill in full! We hope it was an oversight, having paid a significant deposit in advance.

Sunday, sadly but inevitably, brought departures—but not before a final gathering along the bustling quayside market. Here, coffee and pastries from the local boulangerie stalls were enjoyed in the morning sunshine, with oysters providing a fittingly indulgent finale for some.

It was a splendid weekend, combining friendship, discovery and shared enthusiasm in equal measure and one that should be a staple in the Company's calendar. Our sincere thanks go to the Master, Tony Scanlon, and particularly his wife Maggie, whose careful planning and organisation ensured the event's resounding success.

Liveryman Archie Smith





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@pipemakerslivery.org. If you are ordering a Company Cap, please confirm the size required.



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)



Bow Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)



Velvet Smoking Hat
(£65.00 including P&P)

Please confirm size required when ordering

Small = 57cms,
Medium = 59cms,
Large = 61cms

(There are no large size in stock.)



Black & Gold Scarf
(£65.00 including P&P)



Gold Scarf
(£65.00 including P&P)



Silver Scarf
(£65.00 including P&P)



Company Cap
(£65.00 including P&P)

Please confirm size required –
7", 7¼", 7½", 7¾"



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

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

Tuesday 16th June 2026

AITS Lunch at Lords.

Wednesday 24th June 2026

Common Hall Election of Sheriffs.
(Liverymen only. Details have been circulated.)

Thursday 2nd July 2026

Company Golf Day at Betchworth Golf Club.

Thursday 10th September 2026

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

Wednesday 23rd September 2026

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

Tuesday 29th September 2026

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

Monday 19th October 2026

Annual Banquet at Trinity House.

Saturday 14th November 2026

Lord Mayor's Show.

Tuesday 1st December 2026

Carol Service at St James Garlickhythe.

Wednesday 20th January 2027

January Court and Dinner at Vintners' Hall.

Tuesday 16th March 2027

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



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Master Antony Scanlan

Clerk and Editor Liveryman Sandra Stocker

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