



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

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24 | JULY 2013

MASTER PIECE

Three-quarters of the way through the year I continue to be surprised at what a privilege it is to be able to attend the vast range of events to which Masters get invited. The involvement both with our own events and those of the City and other Livery Companies, has served to remind me of the relevance of the Livery in the life of the City and beyond.

There are, as we tell candidates for admission to the Freedom of the Company, four core values that underpin the roles of Companies. Firstly, there is the support of our three crafts; successive Lord Mayors have stressed the need for Companies to give active support to their historic crafts and we are fortunate that ours are as relevant today as they were in the Middle Ages.

Secondly, there is the support of the Civic City. We enjoy the hard won privilege of electing the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs and other City office holders at Common Hall each year and I would encourage all Liverymen to do so. These are historic and colourful ceremonies; the proceedings are not without interest and entertainment. Then, too, there are the great services at St Paul's Cathedral which can be attended by Liverymen. Again, please seize the opportunity.

The third facet of livery life is the important issue of support of charity. My predecessors have invested much energy in promoting this cause to good effect but the fact remains that not all members give and this limits our ability to do as much as we could.

The last broad area is that of fellowship. The occasions that are offered for like minded people to get together are numerous in the average year. All Masters set out their own programmes with a view to offering something for everyone across a range of event costs. Not everyone can attend banquets at The Mansion House or can take off time in normal working hours but it would be great if we were able to see everyone at least once in the year.



Sarah Stroud; UW Andrew Stroud; Lady Mans; Gen Sir Mark Mans; the Mistress; Ald Sir Michael Bear; the Master David Cole-Adams; Lady Bear; HH Judge Brian Barker; Joan Bird; RW George H L Bird; Chaplain John Cook; Mr Sheriff Nigel Pullman.

I have been gratified by the attendance at events so far this year. A virtually full house for the Installation Lunch and the Mansion House Banquet (the official party is pictured above), high levels of take up for other less formal events and a generous response for volunteers to join me on the trip to France in late April. Those who visited the Loire Valley rated the visit a success and future Masters may feel tempted to repeat the exercise to other destinations. Such trips engender a certain esprit de corps among the group and give rise to much good humour. My abiding memory will be of having to struggle with schoolboy French in thanking the Mayor of Richelieu for the civic welcome he gave to the group and the bronze medallion presented to me.

It is proving a rewarding experience and I am taking pleasure in the seeing the Company being well regarded in the City. My aim as Master was to provide an enjoyable year and, in whatever way I could, make a modest difference to the perception of the Company.

David Cole-Adams

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www.tylersandbricklayers.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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17 Jul	Escorted City Gardens Walk with the Gardeners' Company
4 Aug	Charter Day outing to Layer Marney Tower with buffet luncheon
5 Sept	Court Meeting, Court & Livery Dinner Cutlers' Hall
9 Sept	Company Golf Day
30 Sept	Common Hall for election of Lord Mayor and Livery Hall luncheon
3 Oct	Installation Court - Carpenters' Hall Annual Service - St Margaret Lothbury and Lunch at Carpenters' Hall
25 Oct	Informal lunch at the Garden Museum and visit to Lambeth Palace
19 Nov	Visit to College of Arms followed by supper
10 Dec	Court Meeting - Wax Chandlers' Hall Carol Service St Margaret Lothbury Supper at City University Club
2014	
13 Feb	Common Hall and Livery Dinner Cutlers' Hall
4 March	Pancake Day Races - Guildhall Yard
10 March	Court Meeting and Craft Awards Lunch Trinity House
4 April	United Guilds Service St Paul's Cathedral

WELCOME TO RECENTLY ELECTED FREEMEN

Mark Gordon	Finance	Simon Hay	Chief Executive Brick Development Association
Peter Bell	MD, Ardex (UK) and Building Adhesives Ltd.	Radiah Binns	Ministry of Defence
Ian Kershaw	MD, Tiles UK; Chairman The Tile Association	Keith Cawdell	Chartered Financial Planner & Lecturer
Andrew Cox	Director Security Company / Estate Agent	Douglas Wass	Solicitor Partner MacFarlanes
Roger Dupenois	Builder	Stephen Capon	Investment Banker

ELEVATED TO THE LIVERY

Stan Valler
Peter Bell

James Crossley

SECOND TRIO OF COURT ASSISTANTS TAKE OFFICE

Members will recall that one of the major innovations adopted following the 2010 Strategic Review was the process by which Assistants are selected to join the Court. In 2011, in place of the 'Buggins' Turn' succession, the first three candidates to be proposed by the Nomination Committee were elected. Last October they were joined by a further three.

In the obituary of 'Buggins' Turn' in last year's newsletter, the then Upper Warden pointed out that not all those joining the Court under the new arrangement will necessarily go forward to be Master. Some will step down after two or three years to await possible recall at a later date as Renter Warden in Nomination.

The three new Assistants are:

DR MICHAEL HOLLIDAY



Mike was born in London and educated at St Joseph's College, Beulah Hill and Queens' College, Cambridge. After a BA in engineering and a PhD studying multifilamentary superconductors Mike began working on Fibre Optic communications at the Plessey research centre in Havant.

After moves within the company to Roke Manor (more recently better known for its involvement with the development of the Hawkeye system) and finally at the company's principal research centre at Caswell, Mike left to work as a consultant on optical fibre components. He is currently working with Oclaro, an optical components manufacturer, which took over the Caswell site in 2002 after Marconi, which owned the property at the

time, had its well publicised financial problems. He is currently mainly working on the reliability of lasers and optoelectronic components.

An interest in wine was originally sparked by experiences in Cambridge, and has since led to tastings for Wine Magazine in the International Wine Challenge and now has a slightly out of control wine collection.

When not at work Mike also enjoys DIY (including bricklaying!), travel, music and theatre.

DAVID ARMITAGE



Born in Leeds a long time ago, son of a distinguished surgeon. But the rest of the family, for five generations including his own, were involved in brickmaking and also in natural stone. David was educated at Winchester College and McGill University in Canada where he read Politics and Economics.

He returned to the UK in 1961 and joined the family firm of George Armitage & Sons which was sold in 1988 at which time he purchased the York Handmade Brick Co. where he has worked for the last 25 years. A proud family man, David has four children and they have always been at the centre of his own life. David has a strong interest in craft training and is a past chairman of the Brick Development Association. His outside interests include education. He was chairman of his local village school for 25 years during which time it became the first Grant Maintained School in North Yorkshire. Amongst his other interests have been shooting, from which he is now retired, and country life in general.

A very keen sports enthusiast he can often be found at Twickenham and Wembley. He also plays golf but freely admits that it is more for the exercise and company than a display of his own expertise.

MICHEL SAMINADEN



Michel was born in 1955, of Mauritian parents. He was brought up and educated in Harlesden, North London. He started work in 1973 for the London Borough of Brent, as a clerical assistant in the Insurance Section of the Finance Department. After a few months Michel decided he needed to obtain some qualifications, so commenced his studies, part time, to become an accountant. After qualifying, the study bug got to him and he continued his part time studies with several Universities to obtain various qualifications over the following decades.

Over the years Michel moved jobs, always in local government in London, until he was appointed as chief executive of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in 1996. Michel is married to Maureen and they live in Watford, Hertfordshire. Michel likes to keep fit and healthy and enjoys practising yoga regularly, walking, dancing, music reading, and, of course, holidays to exotic locations!

He was appointed as a magistrate in 2008, sitting on the West and Central Hertfordshire Bench and takes active part in the work of the Bench. Michel is Hon. Treasurer for many organisations, and of course tries to devote as much of his energies as he can to the Tylers & Bricklayers, ably supported by Maureen.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

That Golden Summer

Two members of the Court had the privilege of serving as Games Makers at London 2012.

Lesley Day below was an Olympic Event Services Team Leader at Wimbledon seen here on Murray Mount during the men's Gold Medal match.



At the Paralympics **Andrew Stroud** below was a Protocol Team Leader at the stunning Aquatics Centre. Both Lesley and Andrew agreed that supporting the London 2012 Games was an unforgettable experience.



Victor Ludorum

At the Shrove Tuesday Guildhall Yard Pancake Races, Liveryman **James Hockley** left the other competitors trailing in his wake, winning first the 'Fancy Dress' class (aptly disguised as a brick wall) and then the Grand Final.

Each prize pan is engraved with the name of the Company which, thanks to James's success, is now guaranteed its place in next year's races.



Prizegiving

At The Tile Association's Annual Awards in April, the Master presented the 'Floor Tile of the Year' trophy to Brhugesha Panchal of N&C Nicobond. TTA Chairman Freeman Ian Kershaw is on the left.



Howard's Honour

Liveryman Bob Howard was invested in November by Her Majesty the Queen as a Member of the Order of the British Empire.



Award for Master Craftsman's company

Jordan Heritage Roofing, headed by recently recognised **Master Craftsman Richard Jordan**, won the Heritage category in the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' Annual Awards in May for the restoration of an historic farm building in Caernarfon.



Let us have your news and copies of your photos for next year's newsletter!

THE 2013 CRAFT AWARDS

Trinity House, with its stunning views of the Tower of London, proved an ideal venue for the sell-out Craft Awards Lunch and Presentations on 11 March.

The Senior Alderman below the Chair, Fiona Woolf CBE, presented the Fuller (bricklaying), Mason-Elliott (roof slating and tiling), Montgomery (wall and floor tiling) and Stokes (Royal Engineers construction trainees) Awards as well as the Adult Volunteer and Cadet of the Year Awards to the RE Army Cadet Force Units in London.

The Master, with Sir John Armit CBE FREng, Chairman of City and Guilds, then marked the culmination of 12 years' planning by the Company and two of its allied craft organisations by presenting its first four Master Craftsman certificates in modern times. The recipients were each still practising their craft and had not only advanced their skill beyond the measure of conventional qualifications but were also acting as mentors and role models to those following in their footsteps.

Following the presentations, Alderman Woolf spoke of her recent first-hand experience of bricklaying and tiling during a visit to Nicaragua to see the work of Raleigh International.

The charity, of which she is a Trustee, provides a platform for young people to be the agents of sustainable development in very poor rural communities. She saw the Raleigh teams in action, living with families in the communities, and building houses, community centres, and sanitation and water projects.

"The humility comes when a local bricklayer comes and sorts out the mess for you"

Having willingly agreed to provide a photo opportunity by turning her hand to bricklaying and tiling, Fiona Woolf commended the experience to those who have never tried it as an exercise in humility.

"They gave me bricks that the communities had made to build a wall three bricks high but this is not at all like making a triple-decker sandwich. The mortar was very wet and badly behaved. It does not operate thinly like butter, it gets all over you and likes to slop over the sides. The bricks are more attracted by the force of gravity and to sliding around on the uneven surface you have managed to create.

The humility comes when a local bricklayer sorts the mess out for you in a matter of minutes. The tiling on an external wall went no better – in fact it was worse. They showed me how to throw the plaster on to the wall – but it went all over me. I couldn't even get to the starting line!"

Bricks and tiles – the sustainable solution

"The communities seeking development out of poverty agreed universally that construction of their chosen projects with bricks and tiles was the only way to make them sustainable (as indeed the City of London learned after the Great Fire!).

What you do is so important for both sustainability and the triple bottom line – 'people, planet, profit'. Half of the planet lives in an urban environment where your crafts are even more important to sustainable development.

The rudimentary tiling and bricklaying skills that Raleigh's next generation volunteers acquired were empowering for them, giving them the self-confidence that they can learn – and do anything".



Back row standing L-R: Graham Burns (Montgomery winner), Lt Col Gareth Baker (CO 1 RSME Regt) for Sapper Simon Borrell (Stokes Class 2 Winner), Cdt Cpl Adrian Makarewicz (RE Badged London ACF Cadet of the Year), Sir John Armit, Master, Ald Fiona Woolf, LCpl Damian Wilson (Stokes Class 1 winner), Sgt Instructor Paul Tyrrell (RE Badged London ACF Adult Volunteer of the Year), Richard Jordan (Master Craftsman), Upper Warden
Front row: Peter Breathwick (Master Craftsman), Jeffrey Sharp (Master Craftsman), Nathan Shaw (Mason-Elliott winner), Jason Whitehead (E&R Fuller winner), Jason Wright (Master Craftsman)

THE CITY AND THE COMMON COUNCIL

Tom Hoffman - Common Councilman of the City of London

Throughout our long history, only seven Tylers & Bricklayers appear to have served on the Court of Common Council, of whom two - Sir Samuel Fludyer and Sir William Plomer - went on to serve as Lord Mayor. The most recent is Past Master (2006-7) Tom Hoffman who has been a Common Councilman since 2002 and was re-elected for a further four year term in the March City elections. Andrew Stroud asked him about his role and life as a Common Councilman.

Congratulations on becoming the T's & B's longest-serving member of Common Council. Tell us a little about how the City is run, and where you fit in?

TH: The City - or Square Mile - comprises 25 Wards, each with an Alderman and two or more Common Councilmen of whom there are 100 in total. Together they comprise the Court of Common Council which, either directly or through its committees and boards, takes all decisions concerning the running of the City which is unique among local authorities in that 'Party Politics' play no part in its government.

I am one of two Common Councilmen elected by the Ward of Vintry. Its electorate consists almost entirely of businesses ranging from large financial institutions and professional firms, to small enterprises, shops and bars.

How different are the City's issues from those of other local authorities?

TH: Little more than one square mile in size, the City is the world's leading international financial, business and maritime centre. It is a leading driver of the national economy, contributing an estimated 8.5% of the UK's GDP. It is densely developed and provides employment for over 370,000 people most of whom commute by public transport; over 70% of its buildings are offices.



Tom Hoffman, as Chairman of the Reception Committee for the 2009 State Banquet for the President of Mexico, receiving the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor at Guildhall.

The City is home to approximately 10,000 residents and a centre of learning with over 29,000 students. At the hub of an extensive regional public transport network, it houses arts and cultural facilities of international renown and is a visitor destination with a distinctive combination of modern architecture within a rich historic environment. The City's economic dynamism means there is a high rate of change and development, putting particular pressure on its transport and utilities. The need to accommodate new office development competes with demand for new housing, social and community facilities and improved infrastructure. These pressures are felt City-wide.

The central challenge is the delivery of sustainable long-term economic growth to support the economies of London and the UK, whilst providing for population growth and protecting and improving the environment and quality of life.

Is the City really the wealthiest local authority in the UK? How is this wealth used for the public benefit?

TH: It is. The City of London Corporation receives business rates (of which, however, HM Government re-distributes 90% to other boroughs throughout the UK), council taxes, and grants, which pay for all the services, including policing, which it has to provide as the local authority for the

Square Mile. The total cost was £286 million for the last financial year.

The City also has a fund known as City's Cash, built up over a period of more than 800 years, which supports and promotes the City as a place to do business and as a civilised environment in which to work and live. It provides valued services including education through the world-class Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the three City schools, and financial sponsorship of three City Academies, maintaining public open spaces including Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches and Hampstead Heath, the markets at Smithfield, Billingsgate and Spitalfields and funding for the City's culture and heritage assets.

The costs of these activities in 2012-13 totalled £145.6million, funded almost entirely from investment income. In addition the City's Bridge Trust makes charitable grants totalling £15million annually and the Bridge House Estates fund pays for the maintenance of the Tower, London, Southwark, Millennium and Blackfriars Bridges.

How do Members of Common Council engage in such a broad range of issues?

TH: Through membership of the Court of Common Council and the committees and boards to which they are appointed or elected. It is in these that most of the debate takes place and most decisions are taken, which are then ratified by Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL (cont)

NEW STEWARDS

The major committees are Policy & Resources, Finance, Investment, Planning & Transportation, Community & Childrens' Services, Port Health & Environmental Services, Markets, and Culture, Heritage & Libraries.

In which of these have you been involved?

TH: I have served on all, with the exception of Policy & Resources. I am passionately interested in the arts and in education and have been fortunate to be elected by Common Council to the boards of a number of other City of London bodies including the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Chairman 2009-12), the Barbican Centre, the Museum of London, the City Arts Trust that runs the City of London Festival, the City of London School for Girls (Chairman in 2003-06) and the Gresham Committee (current Chairman) which, with the Mercers' Company, funds Gresham College and appointed as the City's nominee on the Council of Birkbeck, University of London and an Almoner (Trustee) of the Christ's Hospital Foundation. I have hugely enjoyed my involvement with them all!

How did the election go and what are the issues in which your electorate are most interested?

TH: We have to stand for re-election every four years, and in March this year most of the wards including mine were contested resulting in a 25% turnover in Common Councillors. While overall turnout of the City's electorate was 25% it was 40% in Vintry Ward reflecting the fact that I have been able to get know many of my electorate.

Many of the issues brought to me by the Ward electors may be similar to those faced by most local authorities but are of a very different order of financial and environmental magnitude, security and safety. These include the consequences to the City's businesses and populace of constant newbuild and infrastructure construction work, not least street closures and noise; making safer provision for

pedestrians and growing numbers of cyclists; improving street lighting, signage and traffic management; enhancing the environment of the public realm and providing higher levels of security for the business community. Some, too, relate to the wide range of cultural facilities and activities.

"We do it for love...it is a privilege to serve the City in this way"

*Tom Hoffman
Common Councillor
& Past Master*

Finally, what motivates you to devote your time and energies to this role?

TH: We do it for love, because we are not paid. Indeed we even bear our own expenses. After a lifetime in the City, it is a privilege to serve the City in this way. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Guildhall School, during which time I sought to inspire it to become a truly world-class conservatoire and hugely enjoyed serving on the governing council of Birkbeck College.

Although we are unremunerated, there are privileges, such as invitations to the Lord Mayor's and State banquets and attending Services at St Paul's marking great national events; and some other dinners and receptions are thrown in too, just to ensure that we don't go hungry!

PM Tom Hoffman in conversation with UW Andrew Stroud

Liverymen Simon Martin and Natasha Nicholson were appointed for a three-year term as Company Stewards with effect from the last Installation Court, filling the vacancies created by the election of David Armitage and Michel Saminaden as Court Assistants.

The privilege of wearing the Steward's gown is awarded in recognition of service to the corporate life of the Company. Stewards play a visible and valuable role in welcoming guests and assisting the Clerk at our major events and have a responsibility for keeping in touch with the members, especially those who seldom attend functions.

There is a full list of Stewards on page 2 of the Livery List.



Natasha Nicholson



Simon Martin

THE COMPANY'S SUPPORT OF CHARITY

As the Master emphasised in his introduction to the Newsletter, support of charitable causes is one of the four core values which underpin the role of the Tylers and Bricklayers and every other City livery company.

Each year the Charitable Trustees make a visit (accompanied by the Master) to one of the charities the Company supports: this year saw the party on a rainy day in the mud at Mudchute City Farm on the Isle of Dogs. The name of the area is a reminder that, when Milwall Dock was being constructed in the 1860s, spoil from the excavation of the Dock, and silt from its channels and waterways were dumped on nearby land. It has proved to be a valuable resource in a deprived part of London. The charity was set up some 40 years ago in the wake of a successful campaign to save the area from high rise development.

The site houses the busiest Nursery in East London (looking after over 100 children in a 12 hour day) and, as the name suggests, there is a 35 acre farm supporting a range of animals and growing vegetables – these activities contribute to providing educational opportunities to a range of underprivileged children and young adults.

Pictured here below is a photo of what may well be London's only brick built tree house - not that this magnificent structure had any influence of the choice of the charity.



“Support of charitable causes is one of the four core values which underpin the role of the Tylers & Bricklayers”

Mudchute City Farm struggles for funds. They have been badly hit by the local authority having to withdraw most of its subsidy in these difficult times and lottery funding for the East London Area went substantially to projects connected with the Olympics.

Local businesses offer support but this worthwhile Charity well deserves our continuing contribution.

In the course of the last year, the Company has made the following charitable donations:

CHARITABLE TRUST

The Lord Mayor's Appeal
Afacic
(research into communication disorders)
Church of St Mary's Ashby Suffolk
Confraternity of St James
City of London Endowment Trust for St Paul's Cathedral
The Brunswick Youth Club Trust
The Church of St Margaret Lothbury
The Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Corporation of Sons of the Clergy
City of London Police Widows' and Orphans' Fund
St Paul's Cathedral School
RE Cadets London Area
King Edward School Witley
Tower Hamlets Mission
GSMD Milton Court Arts Centre
KEEPOUT
(helps young people in custody)
Westminster Boating Base
Endeavour
(helps young people in deprived areas)
St John's Youth Centre
Fight for Sight
Teenage Cancer Trust
London City Mission
Riding for the Disabled
Mudchute City Farm
Willow Foundation

SCHOOL PRIZES

The Noreen Kerr Fund:
City of London School
City of London School for Girls
City of London Freeman's School
The Martin Fund:
St Paul's Cathedral School

AWARDS TO RE ARMY CADET FORCE

Adult Volunteer
- Sgt Instructor Paul Tyrell
Cadet of the Year
- Cadet Corporal Adrian Makarewicz

CHARITABLE AWARDS (CONT)

CRAFT TRUST

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment

CRASH
(construction industry's charity for the homeless)

CRAFT COMPETITION PRIZES:

The Stokes RE Awards for bricklaying representing the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham

Class 1 - Lance Corporal Damian Wilson
Class 2 - Sapper Simon Borrell

The E&R Fuller Award for Bricklaying
Jason Whitehead
Barnsley College

The Mason-Elliott Awards for Roof Tiling & Slating
Nathan Shaw
Cornwall College St Austell

The Montgomery Award for Wall and Floor Tiling
Graham Burns
Southern Regional College
Newry Campus NI

Master Craftsmen Certificates:
Richard Jordan
Roof Slater and Tiler and NFRC
RoofMaster
Jason Wright
Roof Slater and Tiler and NFRC
RoofMaster
Peter Breathwick
Wall and Floor Tiler and TTA
Mastercraft
Jeffrey Sharp
Wall and Floor Tiler and TTA
Mastercraft

Congratulations to all our Craft Award Winners

VICTORIAN TILES STAR ON ANTIQUES ROADSHOW



'Harvest Time', the hand-painted tile panel shown on Antiques Roadshow

If you happened to watch the Antiques Roadshow in March, you may recall seeing the experts describing an unusual tile panel which turned out to be an early example of 'loss leading' marketing. Liveryman Stan Valler tells the story.

In 1833, William Butler Simpson (1798-1882), an artist, set up in business in London to offer good design and decoration to Architects and Builders. He won a gold medal in 1849 from the Society of Arts, and a bronze in 1851 from the International Exhibition of Decorators. In 1860 his two sons, William and Edward, were made partners and the business was restyled "W. B. Simpson & Sons" (WBS). In 1868 the firm moved to purpose built offices and tile painting studios at 100 St Martin's Lane - the first "St Martin's House".

This coincided with the growth of building work in churches, hospitals, theatres and ultimately the construction of the London Underground. In all these endeavours WBS were to the fore in providing decorative wall and floor tiling and stained glass, especially promoting the use of hand painted tile pictures in the children's hospital wards, often donated by prominent ladies and gentlemen of the day.

Of course, WBS then went on to secure the order for the rest of the tiling in the hospital, amounting to several thousand square yards of plain tiling - a pioneering 'Loss Leader'!

An early example was Charing Cross Hospital (1890). On its demolition, the tile panels were preserved for display in the New Charing Cross Hospital in Fulham.

The example shown is one of these and can now be seen at the latest "St Martins House" in Redhill. Other hospitals which followed suit in such tiling included; Bedford General 1898, Belgrave Hospital for Children 1906, Boscombe Hospital 1911, Bolingbroke Hospital 1925, Central Middx. Hospital 1933 and The Kings Fund Miniature Hospital 1933 (now in the Science Museum).

No doubt, it was these decorations which began the tradition of providing the bright and cheerful artworks, a feature of children's wards today. WBS saw four generations of the Simpson family before liveryman Stan Valler became owner and MD, passing the business on to his sons, Paul & William on his resignation in 1998 after 42 years service. The story continues !!

WBS also produced large, painted single tiles to decorate the ward fireplaces:





UW Andrew Stroud; the Mayor of Richelieu M Hervé Novelli; and the Master

After such a long and cold winter and somewhat delayed Spring, a warm welcome awaited the TGV's arrival in St Pierre des Corps Station in Tours. Not a breath of wind and not a cloud in sight. Instead, clear blue sky and sunshine – plus an enthusiastic greeting from the Master.

We set off by coach for Richelieu and had our first introduction to this 17th Century "Ideal City" drawing up at our hotel Le Puits Doré. Having found our most comfortable rooms it was soon time for drinks on the terrace overlooking the "square". Changing for dinner, we then gathered again slightly later for drinks in the square itself, familiarising ourselves with the neat symmetry and carefully considered planning and construction of the town before us – the vision of Cardinal Richelieu (statue below) and commenced in 1632 to a grand design.



Dinner on this our first night was served within the hotel, all twenty-nine of us seated at one long table.

The group was up bright and early the following day and having all breakfasted we were off in our coach at 8.30am heading for Chinon. This is a place with history – Chinon has a Royal Fortress perched overlooking the town and a reminder of the time when the histories of France and England were closely entwined. It is a very strategic and coveted site located at the meeting point of three French provinces – Anjou, Poitou and Touraine. In 1429 a historical meeting took place in the main hall of the fortress of Chinon between Joan of Arc and the Dauphin – the future Charles VII. That was to lead to much trouble for the Brits.



Our focus in Chinon was with the town itself rather than the fortress above us on the hill and our guide Auzelle explained the way in which Chinon and its buildings had developed and pointed out things we might otherwise have missed. Still basking in hot sunshine, we struggled to find shade in which to enjoy alfresco lunches variously around the town.

The afternoon found us back at school – well, an école de vin to be precise, receiving tutelage in the art of winemaking at Domaine Langlois – Chateau. After a brief look at the modern equipment we entered the extensive excavated caves now used for storage and maturation of sparkling wines. And then at last to the wine tasting where we sipped our way through a selection of wines placed before us with the temptation to purchase a few souvenirs to take home.

Friday saw us at leisure in Richelieu, looking at the town and picnicking in the park before having our guide Auzelle show us the church and some of the houses on the Grand Rue – the main axis of the town.

We adjourned en masse to be entertained at the home of a friend of the Master, Howard Copping, who is on the Court of the Chartered Architects Company. An enthusiast about Richelieu, he bought a house and has done much fine work in improving its spacious rooms.

The next port of call was to see the Mayor and to bring fraternal greetings from the City of London, and in particular our Lord Mayor. The Master delivered a commendable address in French introducing ourselves as a Livery Company and more drinks and presentations followed in the Mairie.



The Master clearly delighted with the handsome town medallion received from M. Hervé Novelli, Mayor of Richelieu at the Vin d'Honneur for the T&B visitors

LOIRE VISIT (CONTINUED)

We then met up for a very fine and most enjoyable dinner in Le Cardinal restaurant (below), at which we hosted the Mayor and Mr Howard Copping.



Saturday took us to the Chateau du Clos Lucé the home of Leonardo da Vinci in his closing years. The Museum boasting forty models of his inventions left us with a new appreciation of his genius and foresight - a man before his time. Next stop was the Royal Château D'Amboise which was again spectacular and extensive with commanding views over the huge river Loire and its valley.

After grabbing a quick bite we were off in the coach again, this time to the beautiful gardens at Villandry. While early in the season, the gardens at Villandry are a spectacular work of art, careful design and pruning of bushes and other greenery creating a sculptured look that is most impressive and memorable. The pollarding of fruit trees was also undertaken with precision. This is a garden that is different in every season, and bordered by another beautiful château.



The beautiful gardens of Villandry present a great variety of shapes and colours

This was to be a busy day and the Master kept us on the move. Our venue (above) for dinner was the Auberge de XIIème Siècle in Saché and we arrived early. The restaurant quickly found a bottle or two to refresh us and the Master had already threatened us with "our best meal".



The Twelfth Century venue chosen by the Master for a most memorable feast

Seated in a characterful reconstructed barn we were treated to a gastronomic tour de force which would have done credit to a Michelin three star restaurant. Course after course came out, each beautifully presented and of quite exquisite taste.



It would be hard to imagine receiving and enjoying a better steak – for flavour and texture. And looking around plates afterwards it was noticeable that the majority were totally clean – nothing had been left – and that must be a sure sign of really fine dining. But more courses followed, and coffee, and just when we thought we had all finally finished, yet another irresistible dessert or amuse-bouche appeared before us.

By common consent, the meal was exceptional and introduced a standard of catering and service that would be hard to find in the City of London.

Our last day was Sunday and our trusty coach and its petite female driver now headed for Fontevraud Abbey with our suitcases safely stowed in the luggage compartment below us. Fontevraud, billed as 'La plus grande Cité monastique d'Europe' has a mixed history.

Its foundation dates back to 1101 by Robert d'Abrissel – an itinerant priest. It became a famous monastic "Ideal City" – yes another - developing into a magnificent Royal Abbey.



Queen Eleanor setting an example to us all as a good reader with Henry

It boasts a unique connection to English history in that Eleanor of Aquitaine, her husband Henry II (Plantagenet) and their son Richard The Lionheart are all buried here.

Later, thanks to Napoleon, in 1804 this fine building was converted into a prison, but that probably served to save the Abbey from destruction. However, one picks up a sense of distress and desolation in any place that has once incarcerated and ill treated its occupants – and this beautiful place did just that for 180 years. The struggle now is to find new uses and reasons to visit such a mammoth building which boasts some impressive architecture. The trip was beautifully constructed and thoughtfully organised by the Master and Mistress and I much enjoyed the fellowship of the T&B's and got to know a number of members I had not previously met socially at functions.

David Williams

A DAY ON THE TILES - 2013 CRAFT EVENT

Around 30 Tylers and Bricklayers and guests made their way to Stoke on Trent for the 2013 Craft Event on 29 May.

At the Johnsons tile factory in Tunstall, we had the rare opportunity to see home grown ceramic tiles in manufacture. After a group welcome and introduction by Tony Cotton, Operations Director, we walked the factory floor in small groups each including a Johnsons expert following the production of the tile from the raw materials through wetting, drying, pressing, glazing, firing, packing to the vast racks of finished tiles in the warehouse. The choreography of the automated production process was fascinating, from precision alignments and rotations of tiles on the conveyor belts to the heavy lifting operations by yellow robot trucks transporting full racks of tiles to the kilns. There were around 70 humans on shift in the factory as well, but they seemed few and far between in the vast space.



Tile production is energy intensive and reducing consumption of energy and materials is an ongoing challenge. There's a strong incentive when your energy bills are £5 million + per year, and when major customers favour suppliers who can prove their green credentials. Johnsons are audited through ISO 14001.

We were told about recent introduction of LED lighting in the factory, recycling tile seconds as raw material for new tiles, the benefits of inkjet technology over screen printing for speed and reducing waste and the single firing production process which saves energy. Energy saving measures have to yield payback in two years or less, which limits the field considerably.



Johnsons provided an energy-restoring and delicious buffet lunch in their tile showroom, with a great display of their own tiles and of others sourced from alternative manufacturers and supplied by Johnsons.

Next stop BAL Adhesives in Trentham where Freeman (now Liveryman) Peter Bell, Managing Director, welcomed the group. In a brief presentation Steve Brooks, Technical Director shared his clear passion for the science of cementitious materials and using them to solve difficult problems. We were suitably reassured that the tiles we were about to lay wouldn't fall off the wall.



We all gathered round as Lewis Lupton, BAL trainer, gave an informative but speedy demonstration of the basic skills we would need for the afternoon's competition, from priming the wall, setting up a level batten and using tile spacers to set out the tiles and finally grouting. In the teaching room, materials and workspaces were set out ready for each team of two.

The white heat of competition and a protective boiler suit left everyone a bit pink around the edges, but we surprised ourselves that - within the hour provided - each team had 'fixed' their assorted piles of red white and blue tiles into convincing union jack design panels on the wall. It was an immaculately planned and fun exercise that produced three worthy winning teams. If you happen to notice a Howard and a Master amongst the winners, and begin to wonder... just remember our scrupulous team of judges armed with spirit levels, tape measures... and probably a large ball bearing (Don Slade).

The winners (right) were 'The Bonding Agents', Christine Howard and Michael Holliday
Second prize went to 'The Combination Cutters', David Cole-Adams and Philip Parris
Third prize to 'The Crazy Cutters', David Fensom and Michel Saminaden

"there's nothing like trying it out yourself to begin to understand the materials and techniques involved"

As a souvenir of the day, Johnson Tiles presented each participant with a specially made commemorative tile bearing the Company's coat of arms and BAL prepared them for their next tiling challenge with a tape measure and pen. As with last year's bricklaying event, the practical exercise of trying out a craft skill was a lot of fun and also served to underline the skill of the real experts. But there's nothing like trying it yourself, with the benefit of expert tuition, to begin to understand the materials and techniques involved. In our crafts. I would strongly recommend anyone who hasn't yet taken part in one of these events to attend in 2014.

To round off the day in style, the group headed by coach to Liveryman Brenda Upton-Kemp's home in the delightful wilds of Staffordshire where she and Paddy treated us to a wonderful evening of abundant and delicious food and drink. They were extremely generous hosts and provided the perfect convivial ending to a memorable day.

Many thanks to everyone who made the Craft Visit such a success.

Natasha Nicholson



MANSION HOUSE REVISITED THE COMPANY'S ANNUAL GUEST BANQUET

It's not everyday that the Company gets to dine in the Mansion House - what a past Lord Mayor described as his 'temporary town house' - so it was a real pleasure to be allowed to hold our annual Guest Banquet in this special City venue in May.

It was also good to have Alderman Sir Michael Bear representing the Lord Mayor. He and Lady Bear are old friends of the Company; Sir Michael presented our last Triennial Awards. Sheriff Nigel Pullman with whom the Master shared many years as Clerks was also welcome.

It was one of those evenings on which all went well. It was generally felt that we ate one of the best meals that many could remember at a City function and we enjoyed the Company's wines – well chosen by the Wine Committee. The speeches were entertaining and we were treated to a first class musical interlude provided by our Honorary Freeman Richard Townend on the Queen's Organ accompanied by Simon Sturgeon-Clegg on trumpet. The organ is spending a year in the Mansion House being tuned up before it is relocated to Westminster Abbey where it will take pride of place in the Lady Chapel. It is a gift from the City to Her Majesty in honour of her Diamond Jubilee.



The long top table in the Egyptian Hall allowed us to give our Company Guests pride of place. Our principal guest was the Recorder of London, His Honour Judge Brian Barker QC, and we also entertained General Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL representing the Royal Engineers and his wife as well as six Masters from other Companies with their wives.

The Master was grateful to the Livery for the tremendous support he received in filling the Egyptian Hall almost to capacity. He was also most grateful to Past Master Jeremy Stokes for generously arranging for the Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company to be on parade for the evening. They added real lustre to what was a splendid occasion.

UPPING OUR ONLINE PRESENCE

As part of the 10 year review the Website Sub-Committee was asked to design and launch a website that would take the Tylers & Bricklayers into the digital era.

In planning the new website the Sub-Committee asked themselves who would use the website and why? It was our view that the website was not only the official and only shop window of the Company but also a valuable resource centre for liverymen and freemen to keep in touch with future, current and past activities.

As a result, the site had to offer information about our history, our trades, our charitable work, our news, how to become a liveryman,

how to book and pay for an event, enable committee members to download meeting papers, and so the list went on, in other words, the website had to be all things to all men.

We are also planning to have latest news and the Master's blog based on the home page rather than in a password protected area. Our first task will be to design a site that reflects the Company's corporate style, is user friendly and is easy to navigate. With the opportunity of viewing websites via smart phones, IPADs, Computers and internet enabled televisions, it is important that the site is pleasing to the eye viewed from all formats.

"Website is a valuable resource centre to keep in touch with future, current and past activities"

After agreeing a design, work begins on creating new pages and transferring data across from the current site. It is all going to mean a lot of work for the Website Sub-Committee over the coming months but we are looking forward to the challenge ahead and we hope to launch the site in the Autumn.

Lesley Day
Chairman, Website Sub-Committee

KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT!



The Silent Ceremony in Guildhall

Photo by Clive Totman

The Silent Ceremony on the day preceding the Lord Mayor's Show, is perhaps one of the most whimsical and anachronistic of the City's traditions.

Dating back for many hundreds of years it takes place in Guildhall watched by Aldermen, the City Officers, Masters of Livery Companies and several hundred liverymen.

On 9 November last year, with much pomp and pageantry, and in a carefully choreographed piece of theatre undertaken with the solemnity befitting the occasion, the incoming Lord Mayor Roger Gifford swore his oaths of office and undertook to safeguard the silver and furniture at Mansion House, signing for the "plate".

The custom is that the outgoing Lord Mayor David Wootton then beckons the incoming Lord Mayor to his seat, the latter donning his tricorn hat at the precise moment David removed his – the hat symbolising the official transfer of the mayoralty and the power that accompanies it.

There then followed a series of presentations to the new Lord Mayor of various symbols of office all made with a series of reverences, three steps, bow, three steps, bow, etc.

All the symbols are touched by the Lord Mayor to signify receipt before being put down on the table. The whole procedure is then reversed with another series of approaches, this time the objects being removed with the officers walking backwards, still reverencing every three steps. It is a prolonged and somewhat tedious process, all watched by hundreds in deathly silence and seriousness. The Ceremony concludes with congratulations being made to the Lord Mayor, also in silence.

Yet there is one remaining act to perform. When the new Lord Mayor is in the Mayoral limousine on the way to his home at Mansion House the final piece of ceremony takes place totally out of sight – the Swordbearer removes his fur hat and retrieves from it the key to the seal of Christ's Hospital. It is handed to the incoming Lord Mayor, who returns it to the Swordbearer who promises to "keep it under his hat".

So are the many ancient City customs and procedures religiously safeguarded and maintained over centuries.

David Williams

CAN YOU SPOT A WINNER?



2014 is Triennials year, when the Company will make its premier Awards to newbuild or heritage buildings and structures which best demonstrate all-round excellence in the use of bricks, of roof slates and tiles, and of wall and floor tiles and mosaics. We seek outstanding exemplars of our crafts and materials. Quality of workmanship is paramount.

The search for entries is has now begun and members of the Company are urged to keep their eyes peeled for and nominate worthy contenders which might otherwise slip through the net. Do also help by telling friends or colleagues who are architects and general or specialist contractors about the Awards.

Closing date for nominations is 1st February 2014. To be eligible schemes must be located within the area bounded by the M25 Motorway and have been completed since 1st February 2011.

The Judging process is rigorous. Craft Committee members select and visit an initial shortlist of entries and recommend the schemes to be inspected by the final Judging Panel, which includes the Master and will be chaired by eminent architect Rab Bennetts, founder of Bennetts Associates.

The Triennial Awards will be presented, hopefully by the Lord Mayor, on a date to be set in July 2014. The Awards are made to the buildings themselves; certificates are presented to their owner, designer, main and specialist contractors: the Craft Foreman also receives a silver medal.

If you spot a potential winner for any of the categories, don't delay! Just send a request for a nomination form and brief details (type of building and why it should be considered, address, name of architect/contractor) to:

Triennial Awards, 10 Salisbury Road, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6LG

email: jeffdfuller@hotmail.com



Pictures show winners of the 2011 Triennial Awards;

(above left) Refurbishment of the V&A Medieval and Renaissance Galleries

(above right) The Marianne North Gallery at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

(left) The new roof to the Reform Club Building, London

COMPANY MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE FROM THE CLERK



Tylers & Bricklayers "Formal" Tie	<i>Incl postage</i>
<i>Dark Blue/Black with Brickaxe pattern</i>	£15.00
Tylers & Bricklayers "Social" Tie	£15.00
<i>Blue or Red with '37' motif</i>	
Collarettes (medal ribbons)	£20.00
<i>Burgundy, Blue or Yellow</i>	
Tylers & Bricklayers Cufflinks	£35.00
<i>Single sided with T&B Crest and swivel bar coupling</i>	
A Short History of the T&B Company	£6.25
<i>by Walter George Bell FSA 1938 (reprinted 2012 in p/b)</i>	



The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers

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

STOP PRESS



NEW RENTER WARDEN

At the meeting of the Court on 13 June 2013, Assistant Roger Westbrook was elected Renter Warden to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of George H L Bird. A full biography appeared in last year's newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(continued from Page 2)

2014

- 8 May** Annual Guest Dinner - HAC HQ
Armoury House
- 13 May** Festival of Sons of the Clergy
St Paul's Cathedral
- 12 June** Court & Masters' and Clerks' Lunch
- 24 June** Common Hall for Election of Sheriffs
and Livery Hall Lunch
- July TBC** Triennial Awards Presentations
- 2 Aug** Charter Day Eve
Thames Sailing Barge Cruise upstream
from City
- 4 Sept TBC** Court Meeting and Lunch
Girdlers' Hall
- 29 Sept** Common Hall for Election of Lord Mayor
and Livery Hall Lunch
- 2 Oct TBC** Installation Court and Annual Service
Installation Luncheon

The above list gives the basic details of functions currently planned for the coming year - please note the dates. Full information on these and any further events will be sent out by the Clerk in good time to allow for bookings to be made.