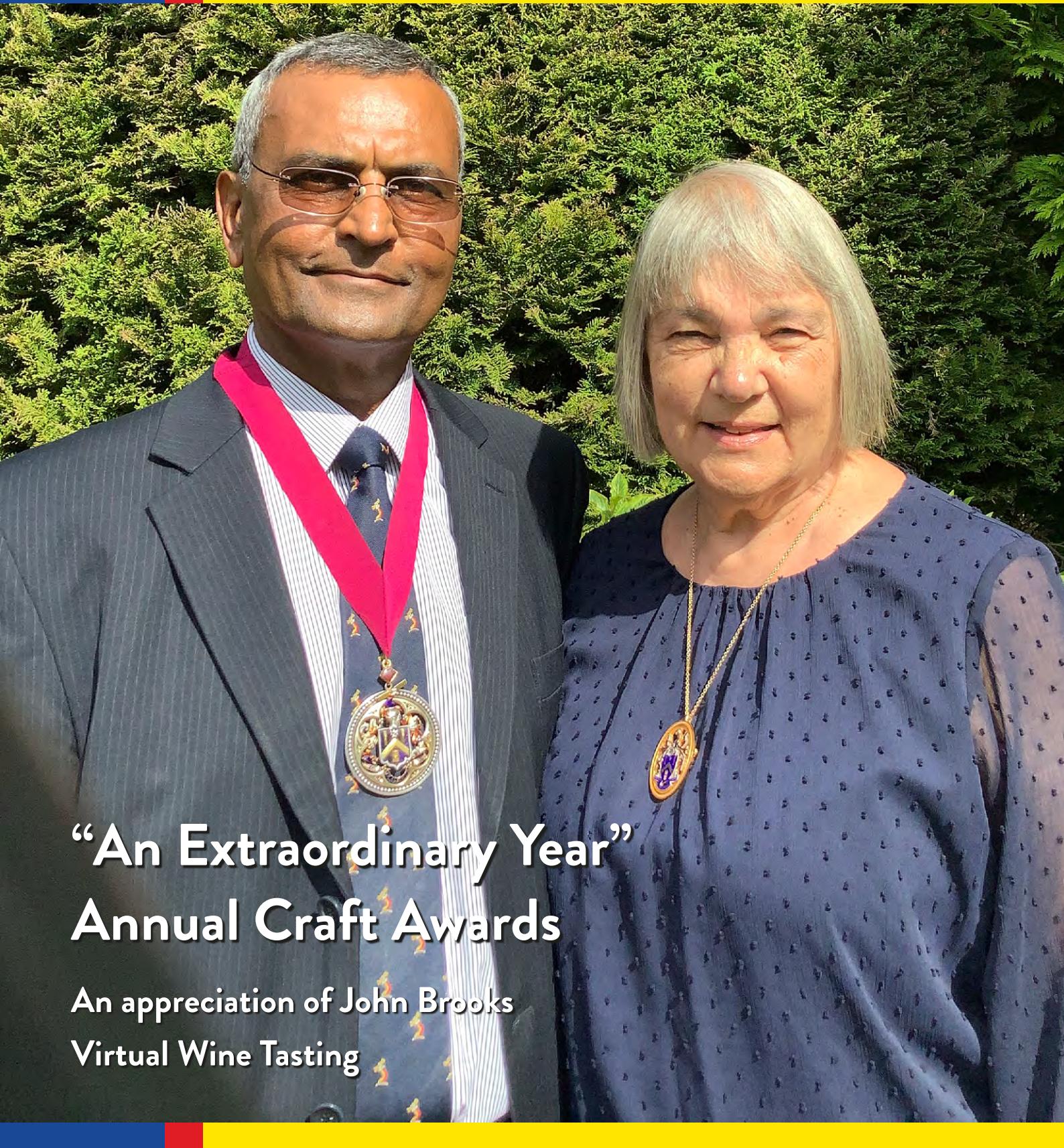




Worshipful Company of
Tylers and
Bricklayers
Chartered in 1568

Newsletter

ISSUE 31 | OCTOBER 2020



“An Extraordinary Year” Annual Craft Awards

An appreciation of John Brooks
Virtual Wine Tasting

In This Issue

Master Piece	3
Editorial	4
Installation Court Meeting	4
Annual Craft Awards Luncheon	5-7
The Company's Charities	8-11
John Brooks	12
Master Mason Christine Rigden	13
The Humble Brick	14-15
New T&B Regalia	16-17
Members Coping with Covid-19	18-23
Tom Hoffman MBE - Chief Commoner	24-25
Our Church - St Margaret Lothbury	26-27
The Wardens	28
New Court Assistants	29
New Freemen	30-31
New Clerk appointed	31
Renter Warden in Nomination	32
Triennial Awards	32
Strategic Review update	33
Anglian Brickwork (sponsor)	33
Accessible Housing	34
Election of Lord Mayor	34
T&B Golf Day	35
Lord Mayor's Banquet (poem)	35
Then and Now - history article	36
Bookshelf - Brick, A Social History	37
Sir Lindsay Hoyle becomes Speaker	38
Winchmore Brickwork (sponsor)	39
Obituary Jeremy Stokes	40
Obituary John Griffiths	41
Obituary Jean Stokes	42
The Fuller and Stokes Families	43
A Virtual Wine Tasting	44-45
Order of Precedence (song)	46
Photographic Competition	47
Dates for your Diary	48
Contact Information	48



“I wish it need not have happened in my time,’ said Frodo.

‘So do I,’ said Gandalf, ‘and so do all who live to see such times.

But that is not for them to decide.

All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers

www.tylersandbricklayers.co.uk

Front cover:
The Master Dr Michel Saminaden and Mrs Maureen Saminaden

Master Piece

Reflection on the

Year 2019/20

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. ‘So do I,’ said Gandalf, ‘and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

I could not resist starting the reflection for my year with such an apt quote from J R R Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings Trilogy – and what an extraordinary year it has been! But let’s start from the beginning. I was thrilled and honoured to be installed as the Company’s 439th Master in October 2019 at the beautiful church of St Margaret’s Lothbury, followed by the Company’s Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving. The lunch which followed at Carpenters’ Hall was, as always, a splendid affair with excellent champagne and the best food. It was very special to have the Chief Commoner, Past Master Tom Hoffman MBE as my principal guest, as Tom was the Master of the Company when I was admitted as a Freeman. It was particularly touching to have my family around me for this memorable occasion, with some travelling all the way from Florida. What a wonderful start to a long anticipated and highly planned year ahead. Little did I know what was to come!

The year started fantastically well as I was very quickly drawn into the wonderful world of dinners, talks, Installations, award ceremonies, and the many other events that a Master gets invited to during the year. In the period from September 2019 to March 2020 I attended over 50 events, all of which were incredibly interesting and varied. Although it is always difficult to pick out individual events from such a fantastic array, the ones that stand out for me are the events that highlight and show off

the magnificent skills of our trades and the craftsmen and women who excel in them. Events such as the Youthbuild UK Awards held at the wonderful Houses of Parliament, the Brick Development Association Awards held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel and the magnificent World Skills UK Live event held at the NEC Birmingham are all examples of fantastic events that exemplify our living crafts. Long may they continue. Another event that really touched Maureen and me was a visit to Treloar’s School and College in the company of the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs. Treloar’s has been supported by successive Lord Mayors since its foundation in the early 20th century and is one of the UK’s leading centres of excellence for children and young people with complex physical disabilities. They offer outstanding teaching, professional care therapy, advice and guidance to enable every individual to live, learn, achieve and work towards a future that is as independent as possible. A truly remarkable college.

Things were going so well. I was getting to know many of my fellow Masters and beginning to really get into the swing of my “Masterly” duties – and then the dreaded Covid-19 virus struck and turned all our lives upside down.

The great lockdown began on 23 March 2020 which meant the cancellation of all City events and everybody started keenly watching the news and the Prime Minister’s nightly briefings. There was a huge thirst for knowledge in the country. Simultaneously, people were beginning to think of new ways of communicating with each other, new ways of shopping and of socialising, rapidly giving rise to the Zoom generation and the establishment of a “new normal”. Although it has been incredibly

disappointing to have cancelled all my planned events for the remainder of the year, including our long awaited trip to the wonderful St Kitts, the main thing is to ensure that everyone stays safe and well. I am delighted to have been invited to serve a second term as Master which will give me another chance to host and attend many of the events that have been cancelled or postponed. I am pleased to report that planning is well advanced for 2020-21 in the hope that life will have returned to something close to normal by the end of the year.

I end by paying tribute to our learned Clerk, John Brooks, who, very sadly, has taken the decision to retire from his position due to ill health. John has been an excellent Clerk to the Company and a great friend to all of us – he will be missed.

The good news is that we have managed to appoint a new Clerk to the Company following a series of challenging interviews, both face to face and virtually. Heather Smith has been the Cathedral Administrator (in effect the Chief Operating Officer) at St Albans Cathedral since 2012 and before that was a senior Civil Servant at the Ministry of Defence. Heather will take up the role of Clerk on 1 January 2021.

Finally, sincere thanks to Deputy Master Lesley Day who has taken on the mantle of Acting Clerk since February of this year and has carried out the task brilliantly, and a big thank you to the Wardens, Simon Martin and John Schofield for their invaluable help and guidance over the year.

**Dr Michel Saminaden
Master 2019-20 and 2020-21**

Editorial

When the Upper Warden and I met late last year to discuss this year's newsletter we had no idea of the unprecedented restrictions about to descend on all our lives in March 2020.

Without the full programme of social, professional and formal events we had planned to report, we have space to give you more news from around the Company and other articles of interest. We are particularly indebted to Skyline, the magazine of the Friends of City

Churches, for permission to reproduce two articles. Elsewhere in this newsletter I introduce reports on how Covid-19 has affected and tested some of our working members, particularly those employing people needing to be furloughed or laid off during the lockdown.

The Company would wish to express its thanks to Winchmore Brickwork and Anglian Brickwork for their generous sponsorship of the newsletter. This support is much appreciated and has enabled us to provide members with more articles in print.

It is always gratifying as editor to see that, given the invitation, members are found more than ready to contribute excellent content. In a year largely devoid of our normal ability to socialise face to face, I trust you will find items that both inform and entertain. I also hope you enjoy the new look we have given to the newsletter as we move it ever forward as an important channel of communication and archival record.

**David Williams
Liveryman and Steward**

2020 Installation Court Meeting

Prior to 2012, the new Master and Wardens were installed at a meeting of the Court traditionally held in the Courtroom at Carpenters' Hall on the first Thursday in October. Since 2012 the Master and Wardens have declared their oaths and received their badges and gowns of office in St Margaret Lothbury, immediately prior to the Annual Service, thereby allowing friends and family, as well as members of the Company, to witness this important event.

The Court agreed in June that the present Master, Dr Michel Saminaden, should be invited to serve a second year as Master, recognising that the continuing Government restrictions on large gatherings would necessitate the cancellation of all events for the foreseeable future. Accordingly at a



virtual Court meeting held on Thursday 1 October 2020, Dr Saminaden was re-installed via Zoom as Master of the Company for a second year and Upper Warden Simon Martin and Renter Warden Professor John Schofield were also re-installed for a further year in their respective offices. Past Masters Jeff Fuller and Mrs Lesley Day continue as Deputy Masters for the 2020-2021 year and two new Court Assistants were installed: Mrs Jenny Rolls, who returns to the Court having previously served for a three year term, and Dr Keith Cawdell, who also takes over as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Ordinarily after the important business of the Installation and the Annual Service, we look forward to the Installation Lunch at Carpenters' Hall and the opportunity to catch up with old friends in the Company. In this strangest of years, social-distancing restrictions meant that the Installation Lunch could not be held and the Master, Wardens and other members of the Court therefore enjoyed a lonely glass of champagne, at home alone!

**Simon Martin
Upper Warden**



Annual Craft Awards Luncheon

The Craft Awards Luncheon is an important event in our Company's calendar, at which we are able to recognise the achievements of apprentices and expert practitioners in our crafts. We also acknowledge those who are tutoring in the skills of bricklaying and tiling. In recent years the Craft Awards have outgrown the seating capacity of Trinity House where it has been held for some time. We therefore relocated this year to Carpenters' Hall, a venue well known to our Company as our mother hall and where we have for many years held the luncheon after the installation of the new Master.

On 6 March 2020, at what proved to be our last function possible with the fast emerging Coronavirus pandemic and before the lockdown later in the month, we were already becoming conscious of the need for some social distancing and the avoidance of shaking hands. We were requested to bow when welcomed by the receiving line, and instead of the

principal guest shaking hands with the award winners we had polite nods or bows, or in the case of the winners in uniform, bracing up (the principal guest being a Lieutenant Colonel!). We were not to know at the time that far greater changes were to be required in our day to day lives in the coming weeks.

While lunching formally in a City livery hall is a very familiar experience for

members of the Company, we should recognise that the occasion may well be a daunting experience for some of our prize winners. It is certainly sure to be found memorable, and hopefully surprisingly enjoyable, due to the warm welcome of our members and the acclamation given for skills acquired. The thank you letters received after the event invariably say how well looked after the guests feel.



After a splendid lunch of Smoked Haddock Timbale, Cannon of Lamb and Vanilla and Cinnamon Cake, with wines selected by our wine committee, and Loyal and Civic toasts, the guests were welcomed by the Master Dr Michel Saminaden, followed by a response by our principal guest, Lt Col Mark Stephenson RE. Colonel Stephenson is the CO of the regiment providing instructors at the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham, where T&B members have had enjoyable days out learning to lay bricks. In his speech Mark valued the relationship long established with the Tylers and Bricklayers and the support the Company gives to encouraging high standards of craftsmanship both to the trade and to the Royal Engineers. After the toast to the Company proposed by the Junior Liveryman James Wheeler we then proceeded to the main business of the day, the presentation of awards. These were introduced by the Chairman of the Craft Committee, Court Assistant Christopher Causer, with the Master and his principal guest giving the prizes to the winners.

There were three awards from the SkillBuild National Finals:

- The E&R Fuller Award for Bricklaying – Adam Batty from Barnsley College (Course Tutor Michael Lindsay)
- The Mason-Elliott Award for Roof Slating and Tiling – there were two winners this year,

Jordan Condren from Newcastle College (Course Tutor Alan Bessford) and

Philip Houghton from Eastern Roof Training (Course Tutor Clive Coutts)

- The Montgomery Award for Wall and Floor Tiling -

Dylan Calvert from Southern Regional College (Course Tutor Master Craftsman Paul Doran)



Dr Gerard Lynch signing the Register of Master Craftsmen



The Master, Lt Col Mark Stephenson RE and Mrs Saminaden



From L-R: Jordan Condren, Philip Houghton, Adam Batty, Dylan Calvert, Col Mark Stephenson RE, The Master Dr Michel Saminaden, Lance Corporal James Burd, Sapper Mark Jones, Dr Gerard Lynch, Captain Mev Arnon, Cadet Jordan Miles

The Stokes Royal Engineers Awards are made to the best trainees in Bricklaying and Concreting at the Royal School of Military Engineering; Class 2 is drawn from a pool of about 100 trainees, while Class 1 comes from a smaller group and includes supervisory skills in the syllabus. The awards went to:

- Class 1 - Lance Corporal James Burd
- Class 2 – Sapper Mark Jones.

The Company also supports Royal Engineer badged cadet units in the London District.

Best Cadet was Cadet Jordan Miles; Best Adult Volunteer was Captain Mevindra Armon.

Our final award this year was the well-deserved recognition of Heritage Bricklayer Dr Gerard Lynch as a Master Craftsman. Gerard, who is of course one of our Liverymen and a member of the Craft Committee, proudly signed his name in the Register of Master Craftsmen. In his introductory remarks about Gerard, Chris Causer referred to his huge experience as practitioner and teacher, not just in the UK but overseas. He had carved the T&B crest in brick in 2016 (see the picture in the awards brochure) and generally helped pass on his knowledge to others by writing four books on Brickwork.

Master Craftsmen are recognised in each of our three crafts and their names can be found in the White Book. Very often an individual chosen for the award then goes on to join the Company as a Freeman.

The formal proceedings were concluded with a closing address from the Master, looking forward to the excellent events he had planned, but sadly these were postponed or cancelled as a result of the imposition of lockdown restrictions.

Our new photographer then went into wedding mode and spent twenty minutes arranging groups of prize winners for photographs in front of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands – her portrait that is. You can see her delightful portrait behind the winners.

**Dr Michael Holliday
Liveryman**



Liveryman Dr Gerard Lynch added to the Register

The Company's Charitable Trusts and Relief in Need Charity

GENEROSITY

The past few months have proved to be particularly challenging for individuals, businesses, and organisations. COVID-19 and the ensuing pandemic has caused serious disruption and often life-changing consequences for many thousands of people in the United Kingdom. This is no less true for the Company and its members, those who may be experiencing a difficult 'lockdown' with the accompanying lack of physical contact with their loved ones. Many of us are in the 'at-risk' age group. Others will be shielding. Some have had their work and businesses disrupted beyond what was once considered normal. Thankfully, the fellowship of the Tylers and Bricklayers has persisted, as has members' support for our charitable trusts. Even though these are difficult times, I will endeavour to be positive and report on the generosity of the Tylers and Bricklayers past and present.

Charity and charitable giving have, over the years, taken many forms. However, one constant is generosity. The Tylers and Bricklayers are no strangers to charitable giving and for their support of those in need. Even in the leanest of times members of the Company have shown resolve and initiative when raising funds and donating to causes deemed worthy of support. Indeed, there are numerous references to the generosity of the Company and individual members in your copy of *A Short History of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers of the City of London**.

And, "Charity is a major function of the Company, as specified in the 1568 charter which licensed the Tylers and Bricklayers to possess corporate property held 'forever in aid of the support of poor

men and women , brothers and sisters of the society.'" **THEY BUILT LONDON, The History of the Tylers and Bricklayers' Company. Dr Penny Hunting 2016**

Many more acts of generosity are referred to in **THEY BUILT LONDON**. "...Corporate finances might be precarious, nevertheless individuals were generous with charitable donations." The Company was no less generous. Approached as long ago as 1555 by the Governors of Christ's, St Thomas' and Bridewell hospitals their appeal, made to the 'Bricklayers' (thirteen years before the mystery of Tylers and Bricklayers received its charter from Elizabeth I), resulted in a donation of five pounds. Founded by royal charter in 1553 as a charity school, Christ's Hospital became a school that, "...housed and educated orphans collected from the streets." Now a modern, co-educational independent school, it is unique in that almost every pupil is supported by a bursary.

In 1630 the Court voted for a donation towards the rebuilding of its then adopted parish church of St Katharine Cree.

In 1640 Liveryman 'Generous George' Benson, a descendant of two former Masters, gave £40 to the poor of the Company and John Wiggett, Master 1639-40 left £10 for the Company's poor. "...Through such bequests, the Company provided financial support to pensioners, poor men and women who were referred to as brothers and sisters."

Generosity was displayed on other occasions, though some may question whether this was of a 'charitable' nature. For example, at the beginning of the 19th century and, "...in patriotic indignation at Napoleon's aggression, the Tylers and

Bricklayers Company resolved to give £100 to the voluntary subscription for the country's defence." The Company also possesses the South African War Medal, with clasps, awarded by King Edward VII for, "...the Court's patriotic liberality in assisting with a grant to 200 guineas, in raising and equipping the City of London Imperial Volunteers." During the four years of the Great War 1914-18, the Company devoted its revenue to the maintenance of the almspeople and pensioners, and its educational activities, and made large donations to patriotic and charitable funds. (as reported in **A Short History**).

On page 49 of **A Short History**, the author, when referring to the Company's Almshouses writes, "...In the Company's long record of endeavour this charitable work is a most pleasing passage." The decision to provide Almshouses, "...for decayed Liverymen of the Company or their widows." was made by the Court and Livery in November 1832. Unfortunately, there was no money and the members were frank about it. The Court minute shows, "...that while this meeting considers Almshouses necessary, they exceedingly regret that the Company does not possess the funds applicable to carry into effect so desirable an object." Fortunately, members were not disheartened and recommended a subscription be opened. Without delay a treasurer and a committee were appointed and, with a £200 donation from a member who could not be present, the fundraising began! A little over five months later, on 19 April 1833, the Master announced that donations and pledges amounted to 1,191 pounds and 15 shillings. Enough for the project to proceed. A suitable plot of land on which to build was bought for £300 and the seller returned £50 to



St Paul's Cathedral receives an annual grant of £1000 towards its work in the City

the Charity. The architect donated his services free of charge and in November 1835 the main block of eight Almshouses had been completed. Mr and Mrs John Vale, described as “...liberal contributors to the building fund.” set up a clock in the centre of the Main Building at their own expense, “...a welcome and useful gift.” Four more Almshouses were completed in 1839. The cost of £830 came from further voluntary donations. The Almshouses were sold in 1937 when, to all intents and purposes, today’s Relief in Need Charity came into existence.

Reports at the end of the nineteenth century show the Company’s sponsorship of bricklaying apprenticeships and its support for classes and examinations in bricklaying. Again, “...By the close of the century the Company was banking rents dispensing charity, supporting technical education and was sufficiently affluent to increase pensions given to almspeople...”. It was co-operation between the Tylers and Bricklayers and the Carpenters’ Company that set up a technical school in 1893. A tiling and bricklaying class was started and the Tylers’ first contribution was £100.

In 1945 the Company renewed its support of the City and Guilds Institute with prizes, diplomas, and an annual donation of £200. Around the same time, Captain Philip Gardner VC, MC founded the Brunswick Boys’ Club, named after Brunswick Camp, Oflag 79 where he had been held as a prisoner of war. Captain Gardner joined the Company in 1958 and later served on the Court. Following his death in 2003, the Company raised £500 for a special prize or project at the Brunswick Boys’ Club and, through the Charitable Trust, the Company

continues to give a regular donation to the Brunswick Youth Club Trust.

The generosity of members of the Company has included prizes for educational achievement. In 1997 Honorary Freeman Noreen Dickins donated £20,000 for academic prizes at the City of London Schools. Past Master John Martin (2002-03) donated the Martin Cup and a capital gift for prizes at St Paul’s Cathedral Choir School. The E & R Fuller Award for Bricklaying, the Mason-Elliott Award for Roof Slating and Tiling, the Montgomery Award for Wall and Floor Tiling and the Stokes Royal Engineers Award are eponymous prizes awarded under the auspices of the Craft Trust. These acts of generosity by Freemen and Liverymen are further evidenced by the number and value of bequests and legacies made to the Company and Charitable Trusts.

In the 21st century the Tylers and Bricklayers’ generosity and its relationship with Christ’s Hospital continued when Past Master (2006-07) and Common Councilman Tom Hoffman MBE persuaded the Company to fund presentation rights for the support of a pupil there. (Presentation is an ancient right enjoyed by the Company). Tom Hoffman asked fellow Freemen and Liverymen to help raise £16,000. Members of the Company responded in tremendous and generous fashion. In 2008 he reported in the Company Newsletter that

£34,500 had been donated. More than double the original target, this meant there was a place for a second child.

Legacies and bequests, especially those of pecuniary nature, have already been mentioned and play an extremely important role in Company’s ability to engage in even more charitable giving. Legacies have supported many different aspects of charity, ranging from almshouses and pensions to more specific acts in craft and education. Recently the Charitable Trust and the Craft Trust have benefitted from two legacies. Court Assistant, the late Andrew Stroud, bequeathed the sum of £5,000 to the Craft Trust and Past Master Jeremy Stokes left £10,000 each to the Charitable Trust and the Stokes Royal Engineers Craft Awards for Brickwork.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS – WHERE THE MONEY GOES!

The three charities and the prize funds under their trust have, in the last year, supported numerous worthwhile projects with grants and donations. Many of these are recurring annual grants while others are for a maximum of three years and a small number are one-off donations.

CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2020 YOUTHBUILD UK. Liverymen attending Common Hall are eligible to vote for nominated charities. Youthbuild UK was a clear winner. The charity’s mission is “To promote engagement with young people to combat social



The London Air Ambulance is one of the charities that receive an annual grant of £1000 from the Charitable Trust.

exclusion, through the development of construction based support services, and celebrate young people's success."

The support of all members of the Company will be greatly appreciated. The target this year is £2,500.

Thanks to the generosity of Freemen and Liverymen of the Company the Trustees have been able to support a range of charities and causes. While single donations, especially to our Charity of the Year, are gratefully received it is your regular donations by standing order that allow the trustees to efficiently plan their giving, to budget for any emergency and to allow for contingencies.

THE CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trustees recommended the following grants and continued their practice of choosing five new charities to support for each of the next three consecutive years.

Recurring grants

- The Lord Mayor's Appeal
- St Paul's Cathedral Foundation
- The Brunswick Youth Club Trust
- The Church of St Margaret Lothbury
- The Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy
- (Clergy Support Trust – March 2019)
- City of London School for Girls
– Noreen Dickens prizes
- City of London School for Boys
– Noreen Dickens prizes
- City of London Freemen's School
– Noreen Dickens prizes
- City of London Police Widows and Orphans Fund
- St Paul's Cathedral School
- St Paul's Cathedral School
– Martin Fund prizes
- Royal Engineers Cadets – London area prizes
- Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch (ABF The Soldiers' Charity)
- London Air Ambulance

Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund
City of London (Guildhall Library & London Metropolitan Archive)
Royal Engineers – Royal School of Mechanical Engineering
Cadets' Open Day

Three-year grants

- The Fifth Trust
- Spitalfields City Farm
- Young and Inspired Sunshine Club
- Second Chance
- React
- Clapton Common Boys Club
- Breast Cancer Haven
- Cure Parkinson's
- Hot Lines Meals Service
- Tower Hamlets Friends & Neighbours

The five new charities selected by the Trustees this year are:

- Newham All Stars Sports Academy - All girls' basketball and anti-knife crime programme
- The Salvation Army - Supporting families in dire financial crisis
- The Bletchley Park Trust - The Code Breakers' Wall Project
- The Medway Queen Preservation Society - Restoration of Dunkirk 'Little Ship'
- KidzAware - Provision of services for children with disabilities

Each of the above are in receipt of a grant for three years from October 2019.

THE CRAFT TRUST

The Trustees of the Craft Trust agreed the following grants be awarded:

Recurring annual grant

- Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (Jackfield Tile Museum)
- The Prince's Foundation for building

community – apprentice craft training towards Master Craftsman
Weald and Downland Open Air Museum - conservation and repair of historical buildings
Bursledon Brickworks Museum
Building Crafts College – Bricklaying prize

One-Off grants

Construction Youth Trust
Building Heroes
Heritage Crafts Association

National Heritage Training Group
YouthBuild UK (Charity of the Year)
The Parish Church of St Matthew
Craft Committee Master Craftsman scheme materials

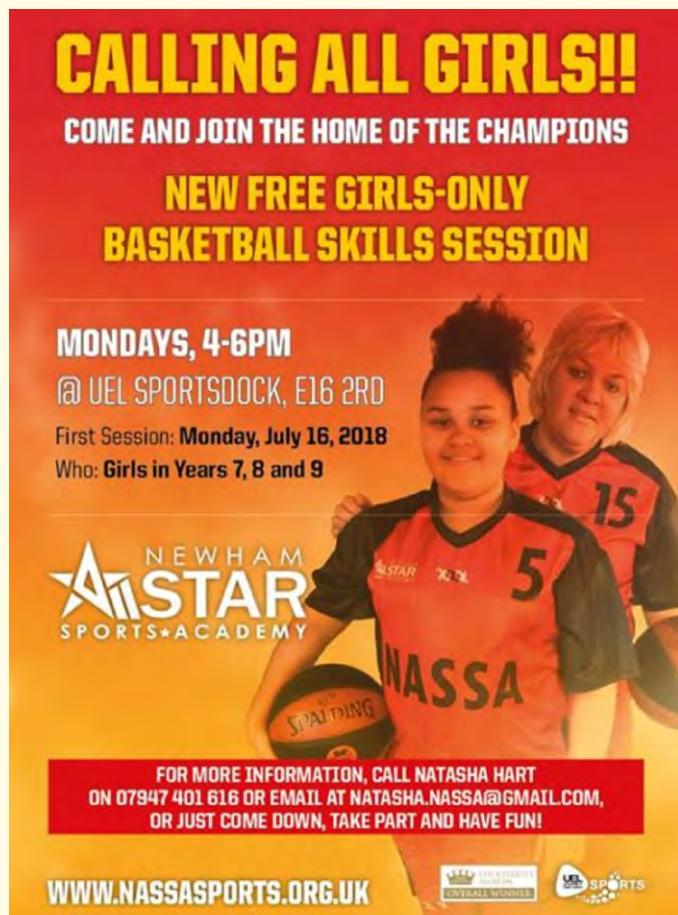
In closing, the Trustees extend their thanks on behalf of all the beneficiaries to all Freemen and Liverymen who have supported the Charitable Trusts. THANK YOU.

Alan Dodd
Court Assistant

For more information about any aspect of charitable giving or, if you have any questions, please contact Court Assistant Alan Dodd, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer to the Charitable Trusts.

charities@tylersandbricklayers.co.uk

*By Walter George Bell FSA, Third Edition, 2012



CALLING ALL GIRLS!!
COME AND JOIN THE HOME OF THE CHAMPIONS
NEW FREE GIRLS-ONLY BASKETBALL SKILLS SESSION

MONDAYS, 4-6PM
@ UEL SPORTSDOCK, E16 2RD

First Session: **Monday, July 16, 2018**
Who: **Girls in Years 7, 8 and 9**

NEWHAM STAR SPORTS ACADEMY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL NATASHA HART ON 07947 401 616 OR EMAIL AT NATASHA.NASSA@GMAIL.COM, OR JUST COME DOWN, TAKE PART AND HAVE FUN!

WWW.NASSASPORTS.ORG.UK

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP CENTRAL WINNER

NASSA requested funds to run girls-only basketball taster sessions that will include an educational element on the dangers of knife crime and gang culture. The funds support their ambition of creating a team of female Carry A Basketball Not A Blade (CABNAB) Young Ambassadors to deliver talks about knife crime to their peers.



The Brickworks Museum at Burlesdon is a regular beneficiary of the Tylers and Bricklayers Craft Trust.

An Appreciation of John Brooks



There are probably at least as many views about the proper role of the Clerk in the life of one of the City of London's livery companies as there are livery companies. Obviously, the role of the Clerk in a company with its own Hall is very different from that without but whatever the nature of the company perhaps the hallmark of a good Clerk is that he or she organises the smooth operation of the company as unobtrusively as possible.

By that standard John Brooks has been an outstanding Clerk to our Company and I am proud to have been involved in his recruitment back in 2010.

A Clerk has a wide variety of responsibilities and faces many challenges. One of those is that he or she usually has to 'cope' with a new Master each year. A new 'boss' but one that is generally something of an ingénue. Incoming Masters will obviously have experience of the Livery but even after a lead in period of preparation most will not have experienced the whirl of City events, the formalities, the line-ups and processions by order of precedence

nor, of course, presiding over their own Court and Livery events. And each Master brings their own interests and priorities to their year and some need more help and support than others.

A good Clerk mentors an incoming Master guiding them through the first weeks as they learn the ropes to become a trusted colleague and friend, all the while making sure that the Company continues to operate smoothly through this major change in 'administration'.

I am not a 'Brooks' Master having served in office before John became our Clerk. But everyone who served as Master during the John Brook years has praise for him and speaks of his great support, his guidance and his unstinting help through their years. Lesley, our first ever Lady Master spoke for all of them and for many of the rest of us when she said that she was 'honoured to call him a friend as well as our Clerk'. Another Past Master refers to John as a 'rock' in difficult times, while all comment on his excellent stewardship of our finances and organisation of the Company.

I worked closely with John in my role as Chairman of the Wine Committee. Many will know about John's background in the catering industry but fewer have been able to appreciate, at first hand, the impact he has had on our principal functions. From a career that included the Grill Room at the Dorchester Hotel and senior management roles in catering companies John is extremely well known throughout catering circles in London. And not just well known, he is very well respected. Sometimes watching him deal with a caterer one had the impression they were somewhat in awe of him. PM Jeff Fuller relates that when he and John went to Merchant Taylors' Hall for a tasting menu in preparation for the Company's 450th Anniversary

Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers 2010-2020

Banquet they found a Hall Catering Manager who had been trained by John at the Dorchester! These relationships, the respect in which John is held and his knowledge meant that we always got the best possible treatment.

John, as a Past Chairman of the Champagne Academy, is an expert on champagne but is also very knowledgeable about still wines. This knowledge, his pragmatic approach to the choice of wines to lay down and to consume at functions, and his careful control of our wine stocks have been of immense value to the Wine Committee. Those of us on the committee have enjoyed John's company at his most relaxed when meeting together to enjoy wines both in London and on our visits to Bordeaux and Burgundy. And I have had the pleasure of joining him at one or two wine tastings hosted by his mates in the wine trade!

As one of his Past Masters remarked, John has often passed off compliments with the comment that he was 'just doing his job'. But John has never just done his job as our Clerk. He has always done it superbly.

I am delighted to say that John has accepted an invitation, in due course, to become an Honorary Liveryman of our Company. Let us make sure that when he attends our functions he is as well looked after as he has looked after us for 10 years.

**Philip Parris
Past Master**

Liveryman Dr Christine Rigden

A Virtual Master

Many of you will know me as a Liveryman of the Company and a Past Sheriff. Some will even remember me as Master Constructor, but few will know me as Master Mason.

As a “serial offender” in Livery terms, I was installed as the first lady Master Constructor in October 2009, and the first lady Master Mason in June 2020. There the similarity ends. In 2009 I was installed in the splendour of Drapers’ Hall, and a banquet followed. In June 2020 my installation took place via Zoom in our kitchen at home. The Coronavirus pandemic has managed what the Great Fire of London and the Blitz failed to do – cease all City Livery activities. Our usual events, focused closely on meeting in fellowship, have been put on hold. Unlike the Ts & Bs, the Masons decided to remain with the usual progression to Master, but as a result of lockdown this year’s installation ceremony was carried out remotely. However, the formality of occasion was maintained, with the Officers donning Morning Dress; my husband, Stephen, did likewise for his walk-on part placing the Master’s Badge around my neck at the appropriate moment! Whilst the usual lunch at Mercers’ Hall could not take place, we did manage to celebrate with a glass or two of champagne in the garden.

The usual gatherings of the Livery at Common Hall in Guildhall have not been possible this year, and the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and other Officers (Auditors, Bridge Masters, and Ale Connors) are all completing a further year in office. I enjoyed a fabulous year in as Sheriff in 2015-16, but I think it would have killed me to have extended this for a further



twelve months! I have served as an Ale Connor since 2006, with the ancient remit to test and maintain the quality of ale in the City of London. You can rest assured that these duties have not been forgotten during lockdown!

Like the Ts & Bs, the Masons are an ancient Livery with strong links to their craft. The strapline of the Company is Encouraging the Use of Natural Stone. In doing this, we support very many young Masons in training around the country, especially in our great cathedrals, and we make awards for excellence our craft. As Master, I would usually be out and about in the City and further afield, shining a light on this, as well as representing the Company at Livery and Civic events. This has not been possible during lockdown, but

the business of the Company has been continuing remotely with meetings via Zoom. We have all become proficient in its use allowing social events to take place – a quiz challenge, and a lecture series.

It is a very strange start to a year as Master, but I look forward to leading the Masons’ Company out of lockdown, and to meeting with fellow Ts & Bs once again.

Keep safe!

by Michael Young with photos by Thomas Voelker

The Humble Brick

Flemish Bond at
St Benet's Pauls Wharf

It is usually to the interior of our delightful City churches that we pay attention when visiting, although most of us do look up at the tower and spire, and observe the entrance porch and the principal elevations. In many cases elevations are hidden from view by other buildings and are inaccessible. These were often pretty roughly built because of the proximity and abutment of adjacent structures. In other cases, brick has been employed fairly widely. Indeed, over half of the City churches possess exposed brickwork.

Brick as a building material has been around for at least 8,000 years. In warmer climes the bricks were usually sun dried. The Romans brought brickmaking to these shores and many of their bricks survive albeit in much later structures – the most famous probably being the tower of **St Albans Cathedral**. Like so many of the Roman skills, brickmaking was not continued here and did not commence again until the 13th century, predominately in East Anglia where the proximity and trading ties to the Low Countries meant that the wonderful brick churches there could well have inspired merchants to tell of these on their return. Some continental bricks even made their way across the North Sea as ballast in trading vessels. Immigrants would also have brought brickmaking and laying skills with them. Brick was a particularly attractive building material in those parts of East Anglia where there was good clay and little building stone other than flint. Thus brickmaking restarted in these parts.

Traditionally bricks were made from clay, the better ones usually from two different types of clay, one a plastic type clay and the other sandy, which were puddled together, moulded into shape and then fired in a kiln, not sun dried.

Brick sizes were not standardised at this time but averaged 9 x 4 ½ x 2 inches basically to facilitate laying and bonding. The 4 ½ inches width was comfortable for the bricklayer to hold in his hand, the 9 inches length allowed bonding, being twice the width, and the depth was determined by the weight of the brick, so that it could be lifted in one hand whilst it was buttered with the mortar using the other hand. The brick was then laid and tapped into position. Brick sizes were regulated in 1571 but variations persisted. External brick walls had to be at least one brick thick (9 inches) but usually thicker for stability and waterproofing. This required bricks to be bonded (the arrangement by which bricks are laid).

In the early days this was often fairly haphazard but gradually a pattern emerged which became known as English Bond where one course (row) of bricks was laid showing the stretcher (long) face of the bricks and the next course showing headers (short) face, vertical joints being staggered. During the 17th century as brick became increasingly popular especially in the south-east and East Anglia, the Flemish Bond, where stretchers and headers alternated in each course, became a regular feature. Most of the City churches employ Flemish Bond although **St Mary Le Bow** uses English Bond. Flemish bond is often thought to be the more attractive. Bricks were laid in mortar, a mix of lime and sand around ¼ inch thick.

Bibliography: Alec Clifton-Taylor, *The Pattern of English Building*, Faber and Faber, 1972

Angelo Hornak, *After the Fire: London Churches in the Age of Wren, Hooke, Hawksmoor and Gibbs*, Pimpernel Press 2016





St Mary at Hill

King James VI and I came down from Edinburgh in 1603 and was horrified at the timber buildings in London which he saw as a fire risk, Edinburgh being predominantly a stone city. As King of a major trading nation he, like Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I before him, was concerned about the loss of timber from the forests, timber being needed for ship building. All this led him to decree that 'the houses in London should have their forefronts built of brick or stone as much for decency as to save the wastage of our forests'.

Brickmakers were quick to exploit this and increased their prices and, sometimes the size of bricks. Whilst length and width remained constant for practical reasons, the depth could be increased provided that the weight was constant; hence the introduction of an indentation or frog, which was not seen once laid but allowed an increase to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Thus the standard English brick became 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and so it remains to this day albeit now recorded in SI (metric) units. Various attempts were made at larger bricks especially after the Brick Tax was introduced in 1784 because the tax was per 1000 bricks, but found impractical as they considerably slowed down the laying process.

After the Fire of London in 1666 and the subsequent London Building Act of 1667 brick became the principal material in the City for all but the grandest buildings where stone was still seen to be more appropriate. For the building of **St Paul's Cathedral**, Wren needed vast quantities



St Giles Cripplegate

of Portland Stone and thus its use was limited on other buildings. He even persuaded William and Mary to have Kensington Palace built mainly in brick thus starting a fashion for the material. Brick also had the advantage of being cheaper than stone, involved much less transportation and bricklayers earned less than stonemasons. In London and along the Thames Valley between Tilbury and Hayes, as well as around Enfield, there were excellent clays for the making of bricks. On the other hand there was no good building stone in London, so any used had to be transported from afar.

Wren and his contemporaries such as Hooke had to be sparing in use of Portland stone on the City churches and whilst there are examples of City churches in stone, many use some brick in their construction. Several churches use brick extensively such as **St Benet Paul's Wharf**. **St Anne and St Agnes** is a particularly fine example, which also used projecting rubbed brick details. **St Andrew by the Wardrobe** and **St Mary Abchurch** are largely brick. Brick was also used over the years in patch repairs as on the south wall of **St Stephen Walbrook** and in upward extension of towers as at **St Giles Cripplegate**.

Post 17th century churches in the City continued to use brick extensively as in **All Hallows London Wall** and **St Botolph Aldgate**, whilst even in the mid 20th century the **Jewin Welsh Church** was built in brick.



St Benet Paul's Wharf

Bricks come in a wide variety of colours relating to the composition of the clays used, although time and pollution often dim these colours. The principal colours in our churches are brown (eg **All Hallows London Wall**), red (eg **St Anne and St Agnes**) blue (eg headers in **St Benet Paul's Wharf**) yellow (eg **St Mary at Hill**). In some cases walls are stuccoed (eg **St Clement Eastcheap** and the east wall of **St Botolph Aldersgate**) but behind both stucco and stone facings usually lie bricks.

Brick has proved to be an attractive and durable material that has stood up well to pollution. For such a humble material it requires remarkably little maintenance. Next time you visit a City church spend a few minutes studying the brickwork and you will be well rewarded.

New Regalia for the T&B

The Company has acquired three magnificent medals in the last two years: the Consort's Badge, the new Renter Warden Medal and the Moreland Medal.

THE CONSORT'S BADGE

A generous gift to the Company by Past Master Peter Dickins and his wife, Honorary Freeman Mrs Noreen Dickins. Peter and Noreen commissioned the badge to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the granting of the Company's Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I in 1568. The Consort's Badge was presented to the then Master, Jeff Fuller, and his wife Catherine, at a Court Lunch held in September 2018.



The Badge was manufactured in 2018 by Thomas Fattorini Limited and comprises a silver gilt and enamel pendant showing the Company's arms, set on an oval gold plate. The badge can be worn as a brooch or as a pendant on a ribbon.

The Consort's Badge was worn by Malcolm Day last year as in photo and is now passed on to Mrs Maureen Saminaden.

Simon Martin
Upper Warden

I had recently been looking at the funerary hatchments of the Cavendish Family at Chatsworth and decided to take the lozenge shape of the hatchments as our starting point. The creation of the new medal would provide us with the opportunity to display the revised Company coat of arms which we have become accustomed to see on our stationery on an important piece of regalia. The coat of arms would be displayed in enamel against a background of textured silver. The remainder of the medal in hall marked Sterling Silver would be gilded to form a border of four enamelled tiles and sections of brickwork to mirror the design of the gowns currently worn by the Master and the Wardens. The design was approved by the Court and executed by Thomas Fattorini Ltd.



THE RENTER WARDEN'S MEDAL

The mid 19th century Renter Warden's Medal was stolen last year. It was quickly established that it would cost very substantially more than the Company had insured the medal to have an 18ct gold replica made. Taking a deep breath, I said I thought it would be hard to justify such expenditure and suggested to the Court that we should take the theft as an opportunity to create an addition to the Company regalia which would reflect contemporary design. That is what our Victorian predecessors would have done; they would not for one moment have thought in terms of a replica. The Court accordingly invited me to present them with a design which met this challenge.

The medal, the cost of which was more than covered by the insurance payment, was delivered in time for me to hand it to the Master at the Court Meeting on 5 March 2020. The Master immediately presented the medal to the Renter Warden who was able to wear it that same day at the Craft Awards Luncheon.

To my relief, the badge was much admired and can be regarded as a worthy acquisition as part of the Company's regalia.

Roger Westbrook
Past Master

THE MORELAND MEDAL

Many members of the Company will be familiar with the names of the families who have supported and served the Company over several recent generations: the Birds, the Wards, the Riders and the Fullers. I suspect that fewer members of the Company will be aware of the equally significant contribution made to the Company by the Moreland family, nine of whom served as Master between 1866 and 1968. The family's connection with the Tylers & Bricklayers dates from 1723 when Thomas Moreland served his apprenticeship with John Dawes. Thomas's son, John, was apprenticed to William Pettit from 1752. John Moreland's medal, dated 1770, is held by the Company and is one of the Company's oldest possessions.



The most recent of the Moreland family Masters was Kenneth Moreland Percival, who served as Master in 1968-69, and was subsequently the Father of the Company. Ken wore as his Past Master's medal, a magnificent medal made in the 19th century for his great grandfather, Richard Moreland Junior, who served as



Master in 1888-89. The medal (known in the family as the "Moreland Medal") is made of gold, with an enamel pendant showing the Company's arms, set off with small diamonds. The reverse of the Moreland Medal is inscribed with the dates on which Richard Moreland was admitted to the Livery (1866), joined the Court (1878), became Master (29 September 1888) and was the Father of the Company (1918-1927).

Richard Moreland Junior's father, also named Richard Moreland, served as Master in 1866-67 and was the first of the Moreland family Masters. Richard Moreland Junior's son, Richard Moreland the Third, served as Master in 1916-17 and the Moreland Medal passed to Ken through his mother, Gwen Moreland, who was Richard Moreland the Third's daughter.

Earlier this year, Janet MacLachlan and Louise Beauchamp, Ken's daughters, contacted Past Master David Szymanski and offered the Moreland Medal to the Company as a long term loan, in fulfilment of Ken's wishes. The Court was delighted to accept the generous loan and have decided that the Moreland Medal should be worn by the Immediate Past Master in the year following the completion of his or her year in office. It is hoped that Jan, with her husband Grant, and Louise and her husband, Freeman John Beauchamp, will be able to attend a future Company event when things resume to formally present the Moreland Medal to the Company. The first Past Master (since Ken Percival) to wear the Moreland Medal will be Lesley Day.

I discovered when researching this article that there is another Moreland family medal. Past Master William Fuller wears a beautiful medal originally made for Richard Moreland the Third. This medal was given by Ken Percival to William's father, R H (Bob) Fuller, in 1962 and passed to William on his father's death. The medal is inscribed on the reverse with the year that Richard Moreland the Third served as Master (1916-17). In the 1990s, William commissioned Toye Kenning to add a backplate to the medal on which are inscribed the dates that Bob (1962-63) and William (1995-96) served as Master.



**Simon Martin
Upper Warden**

To find out more about the Moreland family connections with the Company, see pages 185-187 of the Company history, *They Built London* by Dr Penelope Hunting

Coping with COVID

Editor: The onset of a pandemic earlier this year presented the country and our relatively new government with many problems. The lock-down was necessarily imposed on 23 March 2020 due to the rapid spread of Covid-19, the government requiring everyone to stay at home except for very limited purposes. This meant that most construction activity ground to a halt so that safe social distancing could take place.

Every effort was made to control the coronavirus, and reduce its impact on an overloaded NHS and save lives. While many computer based office workers could safely continue useful employment at home, construction on sites could not operate for a time except for a few special exemptions such as emergency repairs, work on hospitals and essential transport systems.

The government supported employers financially with a package of financial measures including a furlough scheme aimed at encouraging the retention of labour until some safe resumption of work was found possible. This scheme is now due to come to an end.

We have asked some of our members variously involved in manufacturing or construction to tell us how their companies, employees and sub-contractors, have fared in this unprecedented situation. They appear to have risen to the challenge well.

ROWLANDS ROOFING

As a NFRC Centre of Excellence we were chosen to hold the eliminator for selection for the 28th IFD Roofing World Championships to be held in Beijing. The competitors were selected from participants of previous Skillbuild Finals which is supported annually by the Tylers and Bricklayers and included three previous winners of the Mason Elliott Award.

After much discussion with regard to the impending pandemic and the likelihood that the Finals would not be taking place in China the decision was made to remain optimistic and hold the competition on the 11-12 March. On the Wednesday competitors were required to watch a demonstration of a two tile valley made with Biber Tiles imported for the competition from Austria. Having no previous experience of the tiles or the valley detail the competitors were then required to demonstrate their abilities by creating their own two tile valley on the Thursday. The standard of workmanship

was first class with all the young roofers demonstrating skills beyond their years.

The competitors turned out completed tasks that made the judges job difficult to decide on a winner but after careful consideration the decision was made that Will Emerton would lead the team to the finals with a choice of either Jordan Condren or Philip Houghton as the second team member to be decided at a later date.

Disappointingly, Covid arose and the finals were cancelled and rearranged for October 2022, again in China, and with agreement from the IFD that the same participants will be granted age eligibility to be able to compete in two years time. We will now work with the team for the next two years and if we can build on the skills they have already demonstrated will look forward with optimism to the final in Beijing.

Andy Rowlands
Liverman



CRAVEN DUNHILL GROUP

As a manufacturer and supplier of ceramic tiles since 1872, our Company has encountered a number of crises over its time, but the Coronavirus pandemic has been perhaps the most unique in terms of its widespread speed-of-impact on business. Like many others, we have had to act quickly, to adapt and evolve our operations to the new environment. At our manufacturing sites in Jackfield (Ironbridge) and Stoke, by quickly implementing social distancing and risk mitigation measures, we were able to continue with production throughout lockdown. Our team of craftsmen at Craven Dunnill Jackfield have remained hard at work, handmaking tiles in a safe and secure way for ongoing projects. Only this week, the final encaustic floor tile has come out of the kiln for



the Central Lobby roundel at the Palace of Westminster - the final 'piece of the puzzle' on a project spanning 13 years, with the production of over 38,000 individually handcrafted floor tiles.

Our ceramic tile retail and distribution divisions were severely impacted from the closure of non-essential retail back in March, resulting in the furlough of a sizeable proportion of our workforce in those areas. However, we have been rebuilding our operations over recent months, and have seen a bounce back in demand with the easing of restrictions with customers eager to carry out home improvements as they refocus spending away from travel or social activities. Our goal has been to be as adaptable as possible in all our retail spaces, offering customers a number of safe ways to browse and buy tiles to suit them. We offer personalised 1:1 appointments in store, phone or video consultations with an expert, or the option to drop into store at their own convenience, alongside a home delivery service and contact-free collections.

We are a proud Shropshire-born business, always looking for ways to play an active and supportive role in



our local communities. Throughout the past few months this has felt more important than ever. We have gladly been able to support and make donations to local hospitals, medical services and food banks, with some employees using the lockdown to hand sew critical PPE equipment for NHS staff.

It has been a challenging period for all, but I am exceptionally proud of the support and flexibility our teams have shown in a constantly shifting environment, and we remain cautiously optimistic about the longer term health of the industry for ceramic tiles and home improvement.

**Simon Howells
Liverman**

CLARKE ROOFING (SOUTHERN) LTD

On hearing about a virus prevalent in China, we like many others paid little attention to the news until it was reported that it had started to spread across the world.

The virus we now know as Covid-19 came silently and landed on our shores with consequences few would have imagined. Like many businesses we had a directors meeting to address how we would minimise the effect it would have on the company, most importantly our staff and operatives.

We are fortunate to have strong accounts and work orders to enable us to set aside finance to ensure we could

keep our staff secure for many months regardless of the financial loss. On the day Rishi Sunak addressed the nation, all directors sat around the table in our training room watching with bated breath and were astounded when he said the government would contribute 80%, we anticipated it would be 60%. This made our position stronger and we were able to top up salaries and maintain pension contributions. Our staff were very thankful when we told them everything was secure for at least five months ahead.

It was a sad day when we had to close down all site operations except the hospital contracts which had to continue, and it made us feel that at least we were doing our bit for the UK. Previous disaster planning now really paid off as we already had remote offices

at home linked to our server to enable us to work in the background, planning and looking at forward events. Sadly on a few contracts we were really pressured to return under contract conditions, the companies and persons having no consideration to our workers welfare and that of many families. I am more than tempted to name and shame but I will have to refrain from doing so but it did make me sad that they put financial gain in front of peoples welfare.

We have had constant advice from the national Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) and the Construction Leadership Council and that has helped us greatly in getting the information to our team and clients.

We are now fully operational, albeit with

rules, social distancing and sanitisation programmes. We are also using media such as Zoom, Teams and iAuditor to conduct meetings away from a live site.

Thankfully we have had no Covid cases for which we are thankful but we are maintaining vigilance in every aspect of what we do.

We are now planning positively for the predicted downturn in trade but we have very strong order books and enquiries. We are looking at November when this could kick in but again provision has been made to keep all staff employed. This country is too good at being pessimistic but we all need to stimulate trade through all mediums. We are encouraging our trade organisations led by the NFRC to lobby government to maintain local spending,

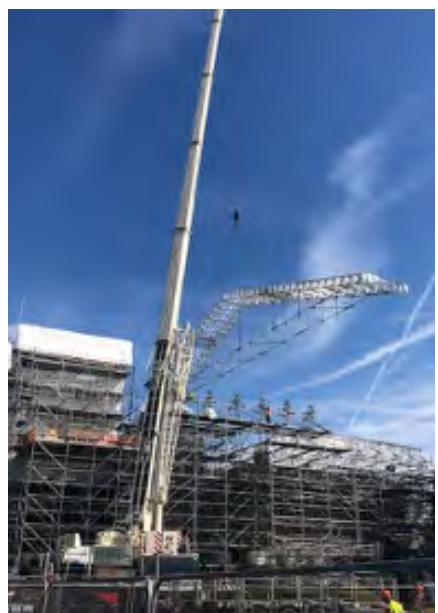
cut through red tape and commit to government spend on infrastructure, housing and education construction.

Above all our aim this fiscal year is to protect all our workers from redundancy even if we have to use past profits to do this. Without our team we would have no business!

There are times like this that makes you feel proud to be British, proud of our key workers, the NHS and so many other positive results from this dreadful virus.

I look forward to the Tylers and Bricklayers and the NFRC getting back together in good health and good spirit.

**Frank Clarke
Liveryman**



Westdean Arts and Crafts Building near Chichester. Each roof frame lifted weighed 6 tons

J WRIGHT ROOFING

We are a traditional family business which has been established for just over 29 years, a multi-disciplined company with a strong emphasis on slating, tiling and flat roofs. We cover most of the central England area from the Humber and over to the Bristol Channel and East Anglia and employ just under 80 people from our main Nottingham office and also our Leamington Spa office. We put a strong emphasis on training and apprenticeships and currently have 12 apprentices in the system with a view to recruiting another four for this year both in pitched and flat roofing.

From the PMs announcement on Monday 23 March we immediately ceased works on the Tuesday after making sure all sites and roofs were secure and wind and waterproof. We mothballed all our vehicles at both of our offices/yards and furloughed all staff and employees. A further 27 sub-contracted labourers were given advice and support where required.

For the first few weeks I was busy in my garden doing all the jobs I had been putting off for years like everyone else. We had some key staff working from home and picking up emails, paying suppliers, putting valuations together and also trying

to get our heads around the furlough scheme which has been a tremendous support from the Government to all businesses, especially the SMEs.

Unfortunately we saw many sites still operating with many merchants still operating up to the end of March and even after then saying they could supply materials by delivery. The message was mixed and as such many smaller companies clearly flouted the stay at home message and put their staff/operatives in harm's way which cannot be right.

Guidance has at best been very generic with many grey areas. The soft return has proved challenging in terms of implementing the new Covid-19 guidelines within our site teams and in providing the confidence to our key clients that we can work safely but still provide a service. The main problem is that we can only have a skeleton office staff due to the social distancing conditions, and site teams being limited to two per van with face masks compulsory. Getting hold of the correct PPE has been an absolute nightmare - we have been quoted inflated prices of up to £15 for a 75p P3 mask! We will cease to use certain PPE suppliers who we feel have exploited the situation and I would assume this will be the same right across the sector.

We have genuine staff/employees who cannot return to work because they live with vulnerable partners/parents and others who quite frankly are very comfortable on furlough. So even if we wanted to go back up to 100% capacity we simply cannot and this must be the same right across the construction industry.

For the foreseeable future this will have to be the norm and can only be for the good of our industry and making basic hygiene second nature. How many times do you see lads using the toilet and not washing their hands??

With the PMs announcement that construction can go back if deemed safe to do so on the 11 May we have been put under pressure by some key clients to do just this. I am still not entirely comfortable with this but also appreciate that we have to provide a service and also the needs of both our employees and the economy in general.

We have been warned that further down the line there may be material shortages and also price increases due to supply and demand. So far we have been ok as we also have our own merchants so have stockpiled certain materials in order to weather the storm, but for how long we do not know.

We have experienced very good relationships with our main suppliers who I am pleased to say all shut up shop in the first week and have been excellent with updates regarding supplies and deliveries.

A key thing learned was not from this current situation but from the last recession which left my company and myself personally very exposed with key clients going under and owing us

several hundred thousand pounds, with our suppliers at the same time calling in our debts with no thought of loyalty. With our bank wanting to close us down we survived by the skin of our teeth and since then I have made sure both the company and myself are always in a sound financial situation in order to weather any situation for up to 12 months. Not only are we in a strong position

financially but also in our long term frameworks. Having key and loyal staff and qualified employees we will come out of this current situation stronger and more humble. I hope a lot of other companies will be able to do the same.

**Jason Wright
Liveryman**

A VIEW FROM THE BDA

On 23 March following Government advice, the clay brick industry made an announcement that it would close its production facilities in a safe and orderly manner so as to protect its workforce and customers. Kilns, mills, quarries, rollers and other such heavy clay machinery cannot simply be turned off easily, certainly if one wants to preserve the UK's strategically important capability to continue to make bricks!

Hard as it might seem with approximately 466m bricks in stock, any demand from constructors could be met in the shorter term without too much difficulty. 466m bricks equates to about three months clay brick use in the UK, pre Covid.

During the lockdown the wider market obviously suffered substantial loss too but since we are selling to a sector where 'cash' remains king, it was important for all businesses to keep their liquidity. The Clay Brick Sector like most others was going to find this time tough. We used our time during the shutdown

to good effect, quickly developing Covid-19 protocols and carrying out essential maintenance on plant. And by closing carefully and safely, our members were able to make sure that their kilns and production facilities would be able to re-start safely at the other end of the lockdown, without problems, as the demand rose, and when government guidelines allowed.

It takes between three and seven days for a brick factory's production to start up fully and to achieve full volume dependent upon the manufacturing process. Just as if you are baking a pie at home, you have to do a lot of preparation and wait for your oven to get to temperature, before you can even begin to cook.

The government's 'big state' interventions such as Covid business loans, Job Retention Schemes and the like have helped tremendously but even with these in place, all of our firms have unfortunately had to make cuts. How can one not if losing several months' worth of production

and sales? And in this, the BDA is no different. I had the unfortunate task of reducing our costs by approximately 40% in line with many of our members, who in turn would lose about 25% of their business for 2020 and similar numbers in terms of employees and potential costs. One of the things that all trade associations need to have is an empathy with its customer base. Our highly well known and successful Brick Awards ceremony for 2020 has been cancelled and will next be held in 2021.

We are hopefully coming towards the end of the crisis and with the constructors beginning to get going again, we are preparing to move ahead onto bigger and better things. At the time of writing (22 June) approximately 60% of the housebuilding sector is now back working, albeit in a controlled manner using appropriate Covid-19 protocols. It is the same with our factories. Given also that most Builder's Merchants closed during the crisis we are seeing more constructors of all types seeking to buy stock directly from the factories. This is one of the new ways of working that we are going to have to get to grips with. The challenges remain the same as ever - ensuring that the right clay brick is delivered to the right customer at the right price and at the right time - but this down time has given many firms the opportunity to hone their systems to meet these specific needs and wants. Each member of the BDA is keeping an independent eye on developments and members will make their own business decisions as to their speed of re-opening. I am hopeful that by this time next year, the industry will be fully back up to speed

**Keith Aldis
Liveryman**

Ibstock Brick Factory



THE MOSAIC RESTORATION COMPANY

Asked how the Covid-19 shutdown has affected my business I'd like to think I'm an optimistic person and give the standard 'we'll be alright' answer.

However, from the start it has been challenging. As a result of us not being able to work on sites and social distancing in the workshop almost impossible I found it necessary to furlough all my staff. As soon as we could, work resumed at the end of May, but one of my team still remains furloughed being in the vulnerable category.

During the shutdown I delivered food to the older members of my family who were self-isolating and made the occasional visit to the workshop for office admin. I found the time useful to reflect and as a result made some changes to the way the company will operate in the future. It was also an opportunity for a late Spring clean and getting geared up for the return to some normality. All necessary PPE and risk assessments have been put in place, but it remains difficult to maintain social distancing both in the workshop and office. I have concerns about the medium term future for despite a healthy future order book

and surprising number of recent new enquiries, work is likely to reduce. Hopefully it will not dry up with many of our Clients in the Culture and Leisure sector, potentially worst hit by the Covid outbreak. We also work closely with the Construction Industry - generally they seem relatively sound at present but historically they are challenging and reluctant to pay on time when the opportunity arises.

It has taken me over 20 years to build up the business and have a great team around me, but I fear that the end of 2020 might prove the most challenging time for us.

I've selected two images to best illustrate the effect of Covid-19 on my business.

Gary Bricknell
Liveryman



Exhibition Road in the morning on the walk to the Royal Albert Hall mosaic project, nobody in sight



My local railway station, usually full!

ANGLIAN BRICKWORK LTD

It's not every year that we suffer from a pandemic. Spanish Flu had a far greater number of fatalities and seemed to just disappear. Will Covid-19 be the same or will a vaccine be discovered? Who knows and this adds to the uncertainty of the situation. A fundamental problem forming a strategy is uncertainty!

Anglian Brickwork is a family run business that has followed business plans plotted through the seas of economic and social storms; a pandemic was not on our "radar".

Planning through Brexit was our 2-5 year aim from 2019; we targeted defined sectors that we felt would provide a haven from Brexit effects. These were Education, Defence and Justice - these we calculated would be relatively unaffected by political

pressures and generally would have safer state funded budgets.

As a consequence and almost by accident, we appear to have been relatively unaffected by Covid-19, albeit the social distancing of bricklayers and other trades was initially challenging. However with planning and cooperation of our labour force there has been no real issue so far!

The effects on our supplies have been somewhat more troubled, the trading style of Anglian has changed from "just in time" deliveries to "look at it, rather than for it". Our relationship with our supply chain partners has been established with collaborative trust and integrity over decades.

Material lead times have extended with sundry manufacturers now often quoting 10 days rather than traditional

48 hours. The only serious delay we have suffered has been lime imports from Europe, all other supplies generally unabated from the UK.

The brick industry will doubtless be affected through this uncertainty; residential house building is probably the biggest player in the market and currently appears to be poised with more questions than answers. Primarily will the customer base be able to afford the mortgage and will they have the desire or the necessity to move home?

What now, a second spike or Brexit issues?

Ian Wilson
Liveryman

WINCHMORE BRICKWORK

As we see the London construction market slowly getting back to the activity levels pre Covid-19, we took the time to reflect on how the pandemic 'really' impacted our company as a bricklaying sub-contractor. Speaking of getting back to 'normal' within our trade, we note as have others that getting to and operating at this level, however, is much more challenging.

We, like so many business professions and other walks of life, have had to adapt and put our shoulder to the wheel to reassure our economy and the mechanisms of our society.

Keeping our office operational throughout lock down has helped us to 'hit the ground running' so to speak. We aimed to be at 100% staff levels by the first week in June which we achieved and now its fingers crossed going forward diligently and safely with our in-office and on-site teams. As always however, we are mindful of our wider society role in getting through this and must add that

the biggest impact seems to have fallen on the 'training and development' and 'apprenticeship' part of our company.

As a main employer for apprenticeships within Enfield and the surrounding home counties, we had initially intended to visit schools before the 'Covid' situation arose, in the hope of being able to convince the students of the merits of coming into the construction industry and the opportunity of apprenticeships with Winchmore Brickwork. We have not yet been able to do so. The current situation presents such a high-risk factor we cannot see in the near future that this can go ahead thus the academic year of 20/21 will not be allowed to be made aware of the benefits of construction following seeing a drastic decline in the applications for bricklaying courses within our borough.

We have made a conscious effort to ensure our current trainees undertaking their Level 2 NVQ in bricklaying see the completion of this working together with their training providers and ensuring they have completed their practical and written work. The challenges faced

working with these trainees on such a personal and intense level is the ability to keep them motivated and ensure that the trade they have chosen will not fail them, even in the most challenging times such as we have seen over the past 4 months. Winchmore Brickwork working together with Hertford Regional, one of our local training providers, have now succeeded to re-introduce the NVQ Level 3 qualification, allowing our current apprentices to continue to upskill and develop what they have learnt over the past two years. In an aim to really push through 'to the other side' after Covid-19 we see this as a positive impact within the industry, allowing the future of our bricklayers to excel beyond 'improver' status.

Our aim is to continue to put our all into the future of bricklaying, ensuring the next generation get the opportunity to be part of building London and a traditional trade.

**Tony Yianni
Liveryman**

to source masks of any kind, let alone quality ones for the task at hand, in the end we resorted to respirators; these proved cumbersome and expensive. We are keen allotmenteers and so have had time to tend our plots producing a tidy surplus of crops which we have distributed to pensioners locally, and I think we are all a bit fitter for it as well.

On a personal note, I have lost my brother in law to this dreadful plague and attending his funeral with 12 people present was one of the saddest days I can remember. However on the upside, I have had time to revisit my passion for the exploits of some of our great polar explorers, including Shackleton, Scott and Franklin, men who showed great courage, endurance, discipline and practical skills at the worst of times, things I think our society will need in the near future if we are to return to a normal world.

**John Gorman
Liveryman**



HERTS RENOVATION

Being specialist restoration brick masons, we tend to have a full order book for the upcoming lime season (March to

early November) and so it was the case for 2020, several quality jobs including one high profile project restoring a former Victorian pumping station in London. Unfortunately the corona virus put paid to that. Numerous other projects have either been postponed or cancelled altogether, one project that did go ahead was the repairs to Monson stables, Broxbournebury, Hertfordshire (pictured) where our operatives worked so hard in difficult circumstances.

We have been working on a part time basis on works that have survived, more of a semi furlough as my wife describes it! Sadly my apprentice Nathan has had his education interrupted just as he was progressing so well, hopefully he can pick up where he left off before the crisis.

Working safely has proved to be difficult, in particular using shared plant, safe distancing has also been problematic, so the use of PPE was stricter than usual. On the subject of masks, we found it almost impossible

Past Master Tom Hoffman

A Year as Chief Commoner



To become Chief Commoner I had to enter a hotly contested election amongst three senior Members of the Court of Common Council, all of whom were very well qualified for the role. All committee and board chairmanships are the result of democratic election, and this appointment is the most senior of all and lies in the hands of the 25 Aldermen and 100 Common Councillors who together elect one of their number to this ancient office established in 1440. The votes are cast at the commencement of the October Court, counted during the Court meeting, and the result announced before the Court rises. This was a very public and nerve-wracking experience,

and I was surprised but thrilled to win the contest by a convincing majority.

I knew that I would have a busy year ahead, but I had no warning that two months after the election I would be diagnosed with oesophageal cancer. So my year was peppered with hospital visits which invariably wiped the smile off my face; in spite of this I was determined to fulfil my duties as Chief Commoner to the full.

The role of the Chief Commoner involves chairing certain committees concerned with Members' privileges and hospitality offered by the Corporation,

as well as playing a leading role within the Corporation. In addition to being a full member of certain major committees the Chief Commoner also has the right to attend and speak at every committee, of which there are many. He is regularly consulted by other Members of Common Council and has the power to agree any urgent decisions that cannot wait for the next Council meeting.

As there is a heavy workload I was in my office at Guildhall five days a week, and spent time each day in the Members' Room listening to Members' concerns on a myriad of issues. Disciplinary cases were also sometimes laid at my door. This was a 9.00am – 5.30pm job, which sometimes also involved 8.15am breakfast meetings. And then there was too the social side of the role which involved luncheons, receptions, social engagements and dinners most evenings which would usually end by 10.30pm. I had the use of the Chief Commoner's flat in Guildhall and a car and driver to transport me from one function to the next and take me home or back to Guildhall for some sleep before the new challenges of the next day.

During my year I attended more than 200 engagements including a large number of City banquets. Many of these took place in or around Guildhall.

The Chief Commoner has a splendid Parlour suitable for hosting small dinners for up to 24 guests, and this was used for five Civic Dinners that I hosted and a number of celebratory luncheons for recipients of the Freedom of the City by Special Invitation which included Baroness Hale (President of Supreme Court), Sir Simon Rattle (Music Director of the LSO), Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons and Bishop Designate of Dover), Sarah Lancashire (actress), and Dame Carolyn Fairbairn (Director-General of the CBI). The Chief Commoner's



Lord Mayor's Show 2019

Parlour was also used to entertain Lady Justice Hallett to dinner following her special lecture marking the 125th anniversary of the Bar Council, and to similarly entertain Cambridge academic Dr John Guy after his special lecture commemorating the 500th anniversary of Sir Thomas Gresham's birth.

I was entertained to Luncheon or Dinner by many livery companies including the Mercers, Grocers, Fishmongers (attended by HRH the Princess Royal as one of their Wardens), Ironmongers, Vintners, Carpenters, Barbers, Weavers, the Elder Brethren of Trinity House (where HRH the Princess Royal as Master received us), Leathersellers and the Installation Luncheon of our own Company.

Two unusual dinners were the Lord Mayor Elect's Presentation Dinner given by the Court of the Haberdashers' Company where the menu and fine wines replicated that enjoyed by the Lord Mayor Elect's grandfather some 50 years previously, and the Gresham Dinner given by the Mercers' Company at which there were eight courses accompanied by seven exquisite wines. I also attended a Service in

the Temple followed by a Reception in Middle Temple Hall given by the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the grant of their first Royal Charter.

I participated in an amazing range and diversity of events in London and much wider afield. I saw many City friends and met many interesting national figures and other personalities including the Queen, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Princess Royal, Prince Edward, Prince Harry, the Constable of the Tower, the Chair of UK Sport, the Chair of the UK Olympic Committee, the Deputy Prime Minister of Kuwait, the Senior Minister of Singapore, Sir John Major, Alan Titchmarsh, the US, Polish and Slovak Ambassadors, and many others.

The single event that I have yet to record but the one that gave me the greatest pleasure was the Luncheon at Guildhall given in my honour in June 2019 by the Court of the Tylers and Bricklayers' Company at which I was presented with the most beautifully engraved claret glasses, and six bottles of very fine claret. The engraved decanter and glasses continue to remind me of that very special luncheon and of

a very privileged and enjoyable year serving the City as its Chief Commoner until the Covid-19 pandemic brought everything to a shuddering halt.

And what, if anything, will others remember of my year in office? Maybe in years to come some will be thankful for a confidential counselling facility that I established for Members suffering distress or difficulties, similar to employee assistance programmes that are common in the workplace; or some young artist may have gained wider recognition through the Artist-in-Residence programme that I established at Guildhall; or last, but not least, perhaps a young person who attended the conference which I established at Guildhall for London sixth formers about what goes on in a guildhall or town hall, and what services are funded by council taxes, may perhaps have been inspired to pursue a career in local government, or even to seek election as a local councillor or as a 'Common Councilman' of the City of London.

**Tom Hoffman
(Master 2006-7)
August 2020**

The Tylers and Bricklayers and St Margaret Lothbury

St Margaret Lothbury is first mentioned in 1185 and its name comes from the virgin Margaret of Antioch. The patronage of the church belonged to the abbess and convent of Barking until the Dissolution when it passed to the Crown. It was rebuilt in 1440, mostly at the expense of Robert Large, Lord Mayor 1440. He is remembered as the Master under whom William Caxton served his apprenticeship. Like so many City churches it suffered during the Great Fire of London of 1666, and was rebuilt by Christopher Wren from 1686 to 1690. The tower by Robert Hooke was finished in 1700.

In 1781 the parish church of **St Christopher le Stocks** was demolished, when Robert Taylor expanded the Bank of England, and the parish was united with St Margaret Lothbury. Sir John Soane appointed Henry Lee, a member of the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company, to succeed Thomas Poynder & Son as bricklayer at the Bank of England. From 1824 his work was of a general nature – making good, drains, chimneys, the lamplighters' cellar and setting up stoves. Lee, under the Directors of the Bank, executed the brickwork for a new burial ground for the parishioners of St Christopher le Stocks in 1827-28. This was situated in the churchyard on the north side of St Margaret Lothbury. Henry Lee's work at the burial ground is the first recorded connection between the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers and St Margaret Lothbury.

In the late 15th century Tylers' Hall was situated near London Wall and the Company used the church of **All Hallows** which was nearby.

When Bricklayers' Hall was established on the south side of Leadenhall Street in the 16th century the company was associated with **St Katharine Cree** opposite. From 1762 to 1838 the Hall was leased to the Dutch Jews, who had recently seceded from the Ashkenazi synagogue in Dukes Place, Aldgate, so the Company patronage thereafter

went to various churches. The Hall was in a very dilapidated state after the Jewish congregation left and was let to various tenants. Eventually it was sold in 1919 to the City of London Freehold Property Company for redevelopment.

After WW2 the Company revived the custom of an annual church



This article first appeared in the May 2020 issue of Skyline, the Magazine of the Friends of the City Churches

service to mark the installation of the new Master. In 1948 **St James Garlickhythe** became the church of choice, but during 1950 the service moved to **St Mary Aldermary**. Since 1960 St Margaret Lothbury has been adopted, and the service has been conducted by the Rector The Revd Prebendary Jeremy Crossley, together with the Company Honorary Chaplain and Liveryman The Revd John Cook and the music is under the resident recitalist Richard Townend, an Honorary Liveryman since 2005. Since 2013 the installation of the New Master, Upper Warden and Renter Warden are now performed at St Margaret prior to the annual service of thanksgiving.

The interior of the church contains exceptional 17th century woodwork that has been saved from other, now demolished, Wren churches. The reredos, communion rails and the baptismal font, which are thought to be by Grinling Gibbons, came from **St Olave Old Jewry** along with a bust of John Boydell, Lord Mayor of London 1820, by Thomas Banks. The pulpit sounding board and the rood screen, one of only two in Wren churches, came from **All Hallows the Great**, Thames Street in 1894 when that church was demolished. The paintings of Moses and Aaron on either side of the high altar and the bust of Sir Peter le Maire on the north side of the nave came from St Christopher le Stocks when it was demolished. The sword rests were originally installed in City churches to hold the Lord Mayor's sword of state when he visited a different church every Sunday, although this practice ceased in 1883. The sword rests are surmounted by a royal crown and have the City's coat of arms, as well as those of the livery companies that are associated with the church. The fine English classical organ was built by



George England in 1801. Despite the repeated rebuilding and restorations, the last in 1984, it still retains its original case and most of its original pipework. The church was designated a Grade 1 listed building on 4 January 1950. In 1995-96 William G H Fuller had the idea of a Tyler and Bricklayer window for the church. This suggestion was taken up by Sir Idris Pearce, who as a former Chairman of Higher Education Funding Council for Wales alerted the Company to the high standard of work at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education. After due consideration and advice from the Glaziers' Company a commission was directed and Jaroy Mylifa's work was selected. Her composition now fills a window at St Margaret Lothbury overlooking the chancel. It was unveiled by Sir Idris, who was by then Master, on 21 December 1999 with the words 'Rector, in order to mark the Millennium celebrations of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the long connection of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers with the ancient parish of St Margaret

Lothbury, we give to the church a window depicting our Coat of Arms'.

At the installation of the 439th Master of Tylers and Bricklayers, Dr Michel Saminaden, the Company was presented with a banner stand by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. Crafted by Simon Grant-Jones the banner stand is now permanently positioned in front of the Altar Candle on the left-hand side. The Company banner is also kept there.

St Margaret Lothbury is the church of four other livery companies – The Armourers and Brasiers, the Glovers of London, the Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers and the Scientific Instrument Makers, two Ward Clubs – Broad Street and Coleman Street, one professional institution – the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and is the parish church of the Bank of England and several local firms.

Maureen Saminaden

Bibliography: Penelope Hunting, *They built London, The History of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company* 2016

Simon Martin

Upper Warden



Normally, writing this late in the Livery year, the Upper Warden would be feeling a mixture of relief and anticipation. Relief because the planning for his or her year as Master is complete and most of the content of the Annual Newsletter is safely gathered in (one of the Upper Warden's main tasks!) and anticipation for the coming year as Master. But

this year has been unlike any other, with the enormous challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the inevitable cancellation and postponement of events due to lockdown and social distancing restrictions.

In the early days of lockdown the Master, Wardens and Acting Clerk quickly realised that there would be no swift end to the restrictions. We therefore proposed to the Court that the Master and Wardens should serve a second year. This was the right decision. It is fair because otherwise the Master would miss many of the long anticipated highlights of his year – not only T&B events, trips and visits but also those of other Companies and the great civic occasions of the spring and summer months such as the Lord Mayor's Banquet and the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

A second year has also enabled us to be pragmatic in taking decisions to postpone events as they can be rescheduled to the 2020-21 year with the Master still in the chair. And our decision was vindicated when the Corporation announced that the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs would also serve a second year, and the approach taken by a growing number of other livery companies.

My year as Master is therefore deferred for twelve months. I will have to reorganise some planned events and speakers but this is a small inconvenience. I can look forward to another twelve months of anticipation. And once again, I can face the challenge of finding content for another Annual Newsletter!

John Schofield

Renter Warden



Installed as Renter Warden in October 2019 I am a consultant cellular pathologist at the Kent cancer centre and a visiting professor at the University of Kent. Cellular pathology is the analysis of cells within body tissues and fluids to reach a diagnosis and then to determine the best treatment, working in a medical multidisciplinary team. My main areas of interest are the diseases of blood and lymph nodes,

leukaemias and lymphomas. The last few months have been a very busy time professionally, with Covid 19 causing great pressure within the NHS and on society in general. Patients with leukaemia and lymphomas are at increased risk because they often suffer from immunosuppression, so it has been important to modify treatments where possible to take this into account.

I have been involved in medical research for many years and have published over 100 original articles and chapters. I continue to enjoy training doctors and biomedical scientists, and also undertake medicolegal work.

Actively involved with the Company since 2007, I have served on the Court since 2014. I am currently chairman of the communications subcommittee,

and also serve on the craft, finance and treasures subcommittees. I have recently led one of the three working groups considering the Company's 2020 strategic review.

I am passionate about ensuring the Company continues to develop and support its crafts and charitable objectives. I am committed to recruiting new members to increase both our numbers and diversity, whilst retaining existing members and maintaining the Company's core values. My priorities include a strong focus on our trades of bricklaying, wall and floor tiling; increasing charitable giving; and our ongoing support for the Royal Engineers and their cadets. I have confidence that the strategic review 2020 will ensure that the Company remains healthy and vibrant in the 21st century.

New Court Assistants

Keith Cawdell



I was born and spent the early years of my life in Orpington, then in Kent. At seventeen I parted company from things educational and joined the drive-in branch of the Westminster Bank at Watford Junction. Whilst that relationship was short-lived the association with the

world of accounting and finance in its many forms has been life-long.

Having worked within a broad range of sectors including light engineering, taxation forestry, electrical retailing, fashion and agricultural supplies, I opened a personal lines insurance brokerage in Bedford in 1975. As the world changed so did the nature and needs of our business. After re-engaging with the world of education, I qualified as a chartered financial planner in 2005, a year when I also gained an MBA. Invited to join the staff of the University of Bedfordshire as a senior lecturer, the habit of study led to my completing a doctorate in 2015. With my partner Juliet we continue to look after the financial planning arrangements of a cohort of very interesting clients.

My sporting interests include rugby, cricket and golf with only the latter

suffering from my continuing active participation. A long connection with Rotary International has included spells as chairman of various community-focused committees, president of my club, trustee and funds administrator.

I have three children, two in teaching and one involved in the training of public servants. They have provided me with four grandchildren.

My firm belief is that education is the key ingredient in the breaking of moulds and I was therefore pleased to accept an invitation to join the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers with its charitable aims embracing a range of such vehicles. I was admitted to the Livery in 2013. Participation in the various functions and enjoying the abundance of good fellowship has been an added bonus.

Jenny Rolls



I was admitted to the Tylers and Bricklayers in 2002 after enjoying many events whilst accompanying my father, Christopher Bull. I am a member of the rather widespread Bird family.

My great grandfather, Stephen Bird, was Master in 1914. Unfortunately, his only son, Eric was killed in that war, thus missing a generation until my father joined the Livery.

I was delighted when my eldest son, Edward, became a member of the Company in 2010, making three generations of the family in the Livery at the same time. I was born in London, and brought up and educated in Grimsby, Lincolnshire. I trained as a paediatric nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital, during which time I met my husband Nigel, a GP, and moved to Norfolk where we still live.

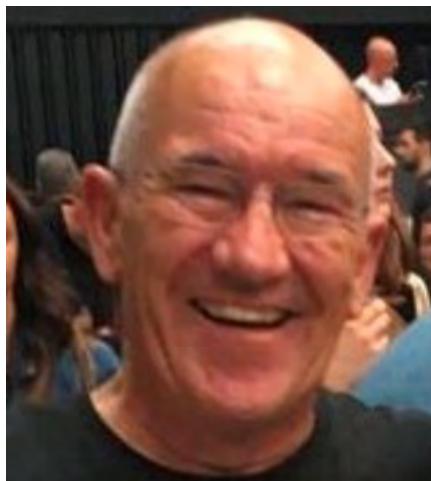
We brought up our four sons there, and I started and owned a nursery school

which kept me busy for seventeen years, only retiring when our first grandchild was born. My husband has also retired, and we spend a great deal of time visiting our family - the grandchildren now number seven! I enjoy music, and sing with two local choirs, as well as enjoying country walks around Norfolk.

I was first admitted to the Court in 2014, only the second lady to do so. I thoroughly enjoyed my three year term and am delighted to have been asked back. I was also very honoured to be asked to be the Company Almoner, a very rewarding and enjoyable job and one which has enabled me to get to know and to keep in touch with so many of the Company.

Alan Lander

New Freeman



I am a Slater and Tiler of 50 years standing. At the age of 12 I started going to work with my father during weekends and school holidays. I believe he was probably babysitting really but I loved it from day one. When I left school I started work in an ironmongers store to try something different, as my father had said that if I still wanted to go into roofing it would always be

there. I soon found that working inside was not for me, I missed working outside and moving around from one roof to another on a regular basis.

I worked with my father longer than I should have, I had been offered my own work at 18 but I wanted to ensure that I had sufficient knowledge and skills to cope with any roof. My father was always given the prestigious, difficult jobs to do, which meant that I was involved in them as well; this has stood me in good stead throughout my subsequent roofing career.

I worked as a sub-contractor for many years, and a contracts manager for a large company in Bristol. I started RoofCraft Bristol & Exeter Ltd with my wife in 1981, we carried out varied roofing projects both large and small for private clients, local and county councils. We were members of the National Federation of Roofing Contractors

from 1987 until 2013 when we closed the business in order to concentrate on teaching and assessing within the industry. This started when I was asked if I would give something back to roofing and become an assessor for NVQs, which I readily took up. From the assessing came the teaching of slating and tiling, leadwork, solar installations, health and safety and estimating courses. I am still assessing and teaching and I still love the industry after nearly 50 years - a great advert for being a roofer. I am sure my father would be proud of the fact that through him teaching me, I have gone on to teach a lot of people who now have a career that will last them a lifetime.

I have been involved in SkillBuild competition for many years having had several lads in the national finals with some success. I have also had two lads highly commended in the first two years of the Redland Apprentice of the Year competition.

Roger Booth

New Freeman



I was born in London nearly 65 years ago and grew up near Chelmsford. When feeling mellow I consider myself a Londoner. When feeling otherwise I embrace my Essex roots with enthusiasm and pride.

I studied Modern Languages at Emmanuel College, Cambridge speaking German and Dutch well and French like an Englishman.

After Credit Training at Chase Manhattan in London I was transferred first to Frankfurt and then to Amsterdam where I met and married Marijke. We returned to the UK via Chicago in

1985 where I worked for two more US banks and then Deutsche Bank in Syndications and Securities Processing. There followed five years in the not for profit world before I finally left corporate life in 2006. Since then I have researched and written historical novels, informally catching up on the PhD I never had time to do when younger, looked after my father until his death, and after Marijke's retirement have generally enjoyed myself.

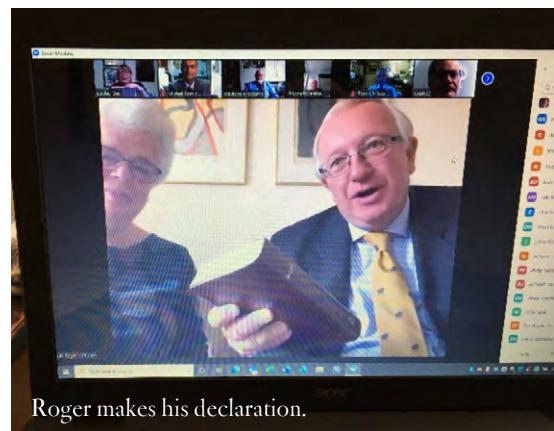
I am in the process of self-publishing my first novel set in the dying years of the Roman Empire. Should you meet me at a Livery event, for your own sakes do not

mention Visigoths or, for that matter, the Dutch 80 Years War. Trust me on this! Safer subjects include classical music and guitar, wine, Surrey County Cricket Club and Burnley FC, this latter an abiding example of the quality of geography teaching to the young.

I applied to join the Tylers and Bricklayers following a suggestion from Chris Causer, an old friend. In a small way it marks a return to the corporate world and closes a circle. Marijke and I both look forward to many years of good fellowship with you all.

Editor's Note: Roger became the first Freeman of the Company to be admitted through a virtual ceremony during the online Court Meeting held on 3 September 2020. Our Acting Clerk Lesley Day took photos of her computer screen to record the online event for the Newsletter.

(Right) Wearing his badge and collarette after admittance as a Freeman



Roger makes his declaration.



Heather Smith The New Clerk

I am greatly looking forward to starting as Clerk to the Company in January.

I grew up and went to school in Lewisham in South London. After university, I joined the Civil Service and spent many happy years mostly in the Ministry of Defence, looking after civilian and military personnel, managing budgets and advising Ministers. In 2006, I was promoted to the ranks of the Senior Civil Service. I met my husband Robert Raine in the MOD and in 1997 we moved to St Albans.

We started worshipping at St Albans Cathedral and when the position of Cathedral Administrator became vacant in 2011, I decided to take what was for a career civil servant, the rather bold move of applying. I was honoured to be appointed and have now spent nearly nine years doing my bit to maintain and make sustainable this amazing 11th century building and its vibrant community.

Of particular interest to this Company might be the Norman tower, made of recycled bricks from the Roman city of Verulamium, mirrored in the 1980s Chapter House for which Bovingdon Bricks won an award, and again in 2019 in the new Welcome Centre with three hues of beautiful bricks made by York Handmade Brick Co Ltd.

This year I decided that, having just completed a major Lottery-supported development project, it was time for me to look for new challenges and for the Cathedral to choose someone new to take them forward in the next phase of their history. I was very excited when I saw the role of Clerk to this Worshipful Company and grateful to the panel of interviewers for giving me space and time in my first interview process for nine years.

Outside of work, between us, Robert and I have five children and four grandchildren and two nonagenarian



parents to keep us challenged and amused. When there is spare time we like walking, cryptic crosswords and visiting cathedral cities.

We both look forward to learning more about the world of Livery Companies and getting to know you all soon.

Christopher Causer

Renter Warden in Nomination



Joined the Tylers and Bricklayers in 2002, having been introduced to the Company by Past Master Tom Hoffman MBE. Tom was my first boss in banking in the late 1970s and early 1980s and we kept in touch after we both moved on to other posts in the City. I worked for 35 years in and around the City of London, first in the Temple as a barrister, then in banking and finally as a City solicitor. Company events were the chance to walk down familiar streets

and see what had been pulled down or put up! I hope we can return to the streets of the City in the near future.

For the last 20 years of my working life I specialised in advising clients (some public sector, some private) on PFI or Public Private Partnership projects. I found this very satisfying for though I have no practical skills of any sort, I do like working with architects and the wider construction industry to create fine buildings. Major projects on which I advised include new teaching hospitals such as the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. I advised the Government on setting up a JV company with Wellcome to build and operate the UK's synchrotron (a nuclear research facility like CERN) near Oxford and also helped develop a mass transit bus system for Thimpu in Bhutan.

My other interests include politics (former Parliamentary candidate in

Manchester - 2001 General Election), sailing, cricket, music and fell walking. I am trying to complete all 214 Wainwright fells in the Lake District by my 70th birthday but I have allowed an extra year now because of Covid travel restrictions! Following retirement, I was appointed Chairman of the Independent Advisory Panel for the Army Training Regiment (Winchester) and this takes up a day each week – it is very worthwhile, mostly outdoors and huge fun.

I am married to Gilly, also a lawyer, and we have a son George and a daughter Rosie in their twenties. We live in the Test Valley in Hampshire.

With the Master and Wardens staying in post for a second year, I will be serving a second year as Renter Warden in Nomination and handing over the chair of the Craft Committee to Court Assistant David White.

Triennial Awards 2021

The Company has been running its Triennial Awards competition for many years, with Battersea Power Station winning a brickwork award when first built! The awards cover new buildings or projects in Greater London, executed in one of our three trades: brickwork, wall and floor tiling or roof slating and tiling.

Normally the competition covers three years but the 2020 awards were postponed because of Covid and the plan now is to hold them next year. All being well, we will give out the prizes at a luncheon in Painter Stainers' Hall on 21 July 2021, with Sheriff Hayward presiding. Prizes go to the owner of the winning building, the contractor

responsible for the work and the lead tradesman in charge of the job.

The judging process will commence next March and the final deliberations will be chaired by the distinguished architect Richard Lavington.

Members of the Company are encouraged to recommend buildings or projects for consideration. Although we are able to use competitions run by trade associations such as the Tile Association, the Brick Development Association and NFRC to identify possible entries, it is always good to have direct entries from architects or contractors or from individual liverymen. You can start the process by downloading a nomination

form from our website and while you are there, have a look at the previous winners of Triennial Awards which are shown on the website. We are often short of entries in wall and floor tiling and roof slating and tiling, so if you know of a good piece of work likely to be completed by next February, please feel free to submit a nomination. Many prize winning roofs these days are 'green' roofs or made from materials other than tile and slate, so they do not qualify for the Triennials.

Good hunting.

**Christopher Causer
Renter Warden in Nomination**

2020 Strategic Review

Many members of the Company, but not all, will be aware that there is a requirement under our governance procedures to carry out a strategic review of the Company every 10 years. It is now 10 years since the last review, and consequently a new review is taking place this year.

As part of this process we asked ourselves key questions. Are we **Relevant**, are we **Responsible**, are we **Reliable**, are we sufficiently **Radical**? How do we see the Company in 2030 and what do we need to do to get there? We do not plan for ‘revolution’, but a controlled ‘evolution’, aiming to change and adapt to the ‘modern’ world without casting aside our long-held customs and traditions.

I was asked by the Master to chair a steering committee which I gladly accepted. Three working groups were formed in order to find answers to the questions posed. The steering committee consists of the Master, Upper Warden and myself, along with three working group chairmen:

Members – Court Assistant Jenny Rolls

The Company – Renter Warden John Schofield

Charities – Past Master Roger Westbrook

These are broad groupings that cover all of the Company activities. We encouraged all members of the Company with views to forward them on. We must look proactively and creatively to the future as well as learning from the past. Valuable comments have already been received.

Obviously, the Coronavirus pandemic could have had an adverse effect on the completion of the review, but the working groups and steering committee have made excellent progress meeting by using Zoom. The first draft of the report has been completed and this will be fully reviewed and amended by the steering committee, and a final report will be presented to the Court for approval at the December Court meeting. The original aim of completing the review so that the recommendations can be presented to Common Hall in February 2021 will hopefully still be achieved.

This review is a fundamental part of Company governance and one that demands rigorous discussion and debate between as much of the Company membership as possible. I am confident that we will be able to put together recommendations as to how the Company acts and operates in the future, and that these ensure we remain fully active, populated, financially sound and generous.

David Szymanski
Past Master



Anglian Brickwork are in their third decade of proudly maintaining a standard of excellence in brickwork. Partnering with the country's largest contractors we maintain 70% repeat business year on year.

Our extremely highly motivated and skilled artisans bring a dimension not often seen in this sector, apprenticeship schemes and constant training maintain a workforce that is able to cope with the most complex major new build and restoration schemes. We have become the “go to” brickwork contractor for those that appreciate traditional standards that are not often seen, lime mortar being our mortar of choice and not “how quick but how good” being our watch words. Cambridge University and its colleges are a frequent client with prestigious and successful projects including Peterhouse, Gonville and Caius, Trinity Hall, Selwyn, Jesus, Fitzwilliam & St Edmunds. The Department of Engineering, Biodiversity Conservation and Eddington, a university multibillion development in North West Cambridge, are also clients from the University that has recently celebrated its 800th anniversary. Each project is a testament to our skilled team.



We also bring our traditional skills and values to the modern commercial world, successfully undertaking buildings for ABCAM, ARM, Red Bull Racing etc. and in the military sector at RAF Marham.

This year sees us being once more recognised by our peers for the successful completion of challenging structures, these have manifested in shortlisting of these buildings in RIBA Stirling Prize, 5 separate categories of the BDA Awards.

The dynamic management team led by Liveryman Ian Wilson and ably supported by Charlotte Pienaar make this father and daughter team a popular choice when quality, cooperation and traditional values are sought.

Anglian Brickwork is delighted to help sponsor this T&B newsletter

The need for more

Accessible Housing

According to estimates, the population of the UK aged 65 and over will increase by almost 5 million over the next 20 years – but the UK's housing stock is failing to keep pace with the needs of a growing older population. Accessible housing targets are repeatedly being missed and only 7% of English homes currently provide even the most basic accessibility features. Combine this with the fact that at least 80% of UK homes that will exist in 2050 are already built and it's clear to see we are facing an accessible housing crisis. We urgently need to start building homes suitable for all ages – as well as adapting the housing we already have. Throughout our lives our needs change and our home should be able to change with us. As we get older, the chances of mobility or visual impairment issues increase so the need for simple adaptations also increases. Falls are a major factor in serious health conditions and reduced independence. Simple adaptations such as grab rails would help prevent these and enable people to

remain in their homes for longer. Poor housing costs the NHS an estimated £513 million in first year treatment costs alone – with around £177 million of this relating to falls in the home. Providing housing that is more accessible is therefore necessary not just to improve people's lives, but also to make real savings to the NHS and social care. The average Disabled Facilities Grant, which can be used for adaptations, is £7,000 (one-off payment) while residential care costs an average of £29,000 per year. The homes we live in can have a huge difference on our health and wellbeing and with the right changes, everyone can live in a home which enables them to stay safe and independent for longer. If the housing stock currently available is repaired and made adaptable, and new houses are built to be flexible, this will enable us to remain in our houses and adapt to changing needs over our lifetimes. The Centre for Ageing Better wants everyone to enjoy their later life. Their goal is for more people approaching



later life to live in safe and accessible homes which will support them to live independently for as long as possible. The Centre is campaigning to ensure all new homes are future proofed and that there is a diversity of suitable homes, that current homes are adapted, and better information is available for people approaching later life.

Simon Martin
Upper Warden

Simon is the Protector (a quasi trustee role) of the Centre for Ageing Better, a Lottery funded charitable trust. The Centre's objective is to address some of the major challenges that we face in the UK as a consequence of our ageing population, driving change in national and local government policy and practice across the public, private and voluntary sectors. By using evidence and working with partners, the Centre enables more people to enjoy a better later life with a particular focus on employment, housing, health and communities.

Election of the Lord Mayor for 2020-2021

The Lord Mayor is traditionally elected at Common Hall in Guildhall on Michaelmas, 29 September but with the Covid-19 pandemic still having a major impact on City activity consideration had to be given on how to proceed. Anyone who has attended a meeting at Common Hall will attest to the fact that it is the antithesis to social distancing with chairs clearly designed for smaller bottoms.

With the intention to return the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell for a second term careful thought was given on how to comply with both the City of London Corporation's electoral procedure and the government's legislation and guidance aimed at



controlling the coronavirus. The solution found to pare back on numbers and to facilitate social

distancing was to limit attendance to one Liveryman per Company.

The Master attended on behalf of the Tylers and Bricklayers. As part of the health and safety measures liverymen attending were required to pre-notify their attendance for purposes of Track and Trace, stagger their time of arrival, wear face masks and not to wear gowns. The Masters' procession was also dropped.

The historical role of the Livery in the annual election of the Lord Mayor was thus maintained while controlling the spread of the virus among those attending.

T&B Golf Day

The Company's annual golf day was held at Burnham Beeches Golf Club on Friday 11 September 2020 in glorious sunshine. This was the first face to face Company event since the Craft Awards Lunch in early March and the start of lockdown.

We decided to limit the golf day to members of the Company and their personal guests because of the continuing social-distancing restrictions. We were therefore unable to invite the livery companies which have entered teams in recent years (the Masons, Constructors, Paviours, Carmen, World Traders, Actuaries and Makers of Playing Cards) to join us this year and there was no inter-company competition for the Three Clerks Trophy.

There were eight T&B golfers plus five guests (including Roz Gee who

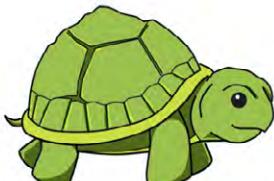
accompanied husband, Liveryman Mike Gee). Competition was fierce but good natured. The winning pair were Charlotte and Andre Pienaar who are Liveryman Ian Wilson's daughter and son-in-law. The individual competition was won by Upper Warden Simon Martin, who also won the Paul Harris Trophy for the best score by a member of the Company. The nearest the pin competition was won by Liveryman Paul Cano-Lopez.

Livery company golf has been inevitably severely restricted this year due to Covid-19. We hope that golf will continue to be possible, with appropriate social-distancing, when the new season starts in Spring 2021 and that livery company golf days will resume. We also plan to return

to Burnham Beeches for the next Tylers and Bricklayers Golf Day in September 2021. If you would like to play in livery company golf days, please contact David Szymanski or Simon Martin. All golfers, of any standard, are most welcome.



Simon Martin, trophy in hand, with members of the Company and their guests at Burnham Beeches Golf Course



Lord Mayor's Banquet

Five penguins, and Myrtle, a turtle
Went to London to meet the Lord Mayor.
He's invited them all to his banquet
A somewhat upmarket affair.

He'd asked Myrtle to get along early.
"To meet Royalty" he told her. He lied.
As soon as she got to Guildhall,
She was hurriedly bundled inside.

When the penguins arrived sometime later
In their cummerbunds, tails and white ties,
They had to sit down without Myrtle,
Unaware of her sudden demise.

Surrounded by gold plate and silver,
And enthralled by the glittering venue
They flapped with delight when they read
Of the good things to come on the menu.

'Till they found, by tradition the soup,
The Lord Mayor had ordered was turtle.
They diluted the broth with their tears,
As they sipped up the remnants of Myrtle.

Though they felt being his guests, it was thoughtless
But accepted his motives were genuine
Yet if asked again, they'd decline,
As next time the soup might be penguin.

Anon

(Reprinted from T&B Newsletter no 4, Spring 1994)

Then and Now

The Company has come into possession of three menus and two programmes for sumptuous Tylers and Bricklayers events back in 1882 and 1883, involving singing and feasting on an epic scale. How the other half lived! While we are rightly proud of our Company dinners and our musical traditions, a quick scan of this menu reveals that we are simply not in the same league as our predecessors; as a more recent Past Master commented “My goodness they did themselves well in those days. I wonder they had the puff to sing!”

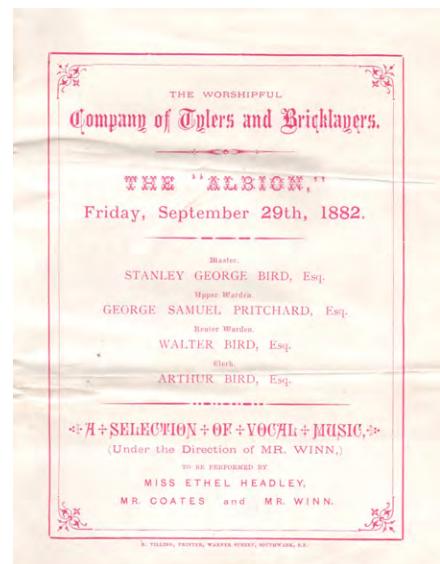
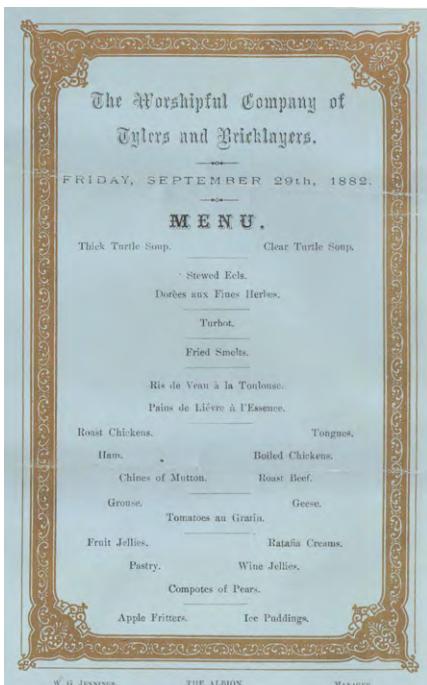
All three menus show that the meals were not started with “mock turtle soup” as was on occasion served elsewhere, but real turtle soup in both its clear and thick forms, followed by eels, smelts, turbot and just about every form of meat available, and then a sumptuous range of puddings. In her *Soup, A Global History* (2010) food historian Janet Clarkson remarked of turtle soup that “from 1761 to 1825 it was never absent from the London Lord Mayor’s Day Banquet. It is probably not unreasonable to hold several generations of aldermen and other civic leaders responsible for eating the turtle almost to extinction.” The Tylers and Bricklayers were clearly doing their bit in terms of following City tradition but

also, unfortunately, contributing to the demise of the once common turtle.

The musical programme is entitled “The Albion”. *They Built London* by Penelope Hunting relates that The Albion on Aldersgate was the regular venue for Company meetings and dinners through the 19th Century when the Company’s Hall had been leased to others. That was until the relationship came to an abrupt halt in 1906 with an outbreak of typhoid fever among those present at a Company dinner, resulting in the death of one of the guests. After experiments elsewhere, the Company moved its dining base to Carpenters’ Hall, for which we all can be grateful!

The Tylers and Bricklayers were not alone in their heroic dining ambitions in the 1880s, and the events illustrated here coincide exactly with a movement against what was seen as City and livery company excess, and which did much to shape the livery companies that we know today.

Attacks against the perceived excesses and lack of relevance of the livery companies, with calls for their suppression and the confiscation of their assets, led to a Royal Commission into the Livery Companies in 1880, which reported in 1884. So just at the very time the Commission was requiring each livery company to complete a questionnaire into its assets, purpose and charitable role, our predecessors (and their counterparts around the City) were living the high life at events such as those here recorded. While the City and the individual companies argued strongly to the Commissioners that they continued to provide important civic and charitable benefits, it seems they were equally staunch in continuing to enjoy to the full the fruits of their accumulated wealth. At our company’s level, the presiding Master at these feasts, Stanley George Bird, was also particularly active in supporting brickwork and tiling courses at the City and Guilds Institute, reflecting the balance the City was trying to explain to the Commissioners.



In the event, a change of Government resulted in the Royal Commission’s 1884 Report being quietly shelved and the livery companies lived to fight another day. But the writing was clearly on the wall and the years that followed saw many gradual but long-lasting changes to how the companies saw themselves and their roles. Charitable funds were reinvigorated and their purposes more clearly defined, and many companies started the long process of re-establishing links with their original trades; links that by the 1880s had often become largely historical.

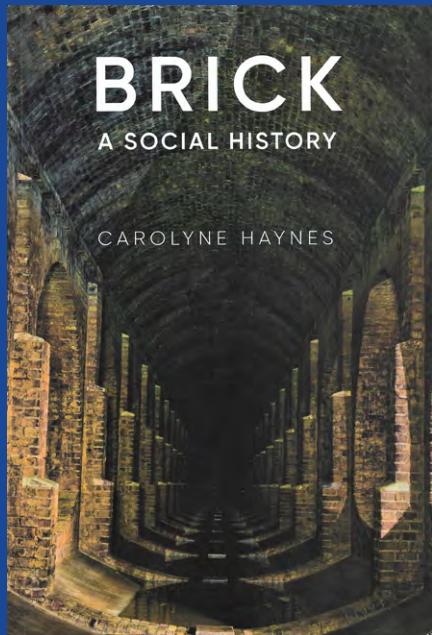
So the programmes and menus recently returned to the Company represent both a glimpse into another exotic world and one of the most important turning points in our company’s history; a view of a world which would be a distant memory within thirty or so years as the modern version of the Company came into being.

Do the Master, Clerk and Wardens presiding over these bacchanalian festivities from another era still have a role in our celebrations today? In a way, they do: Master Stanley George Bird donated the Master’s Badge still worn by the Master at Company events, and his younger brother Arthur (then Clerk) contributed one of the pair of silver gilt urns which adorn our top table. In the longstanding ways of the City, some things are always changing but others remain very familiar.

**Tom Christopherson
Court Assistant**

Bookshelf

Brick - A Social History



Carolyne Haynes, who trained as an architect and is well known to the Company through her involvement with Bursledon Brickworks, has written an engaging book on Brick and its history which will appeal to many Tylers and Bricklayers.

Essentially three strands are woven together: the chemical and scientific background to the making of bricks and the less well covered subject of lime mortars; English history (and yes, it is an English book which does not cover other parts of the UK); and the development of different architectural schools in England.

Professional brickmakers, of which we have a few in the Livery, will no doubt know all about the science but for the rest of us it is an interesting review. Why is clay slippery? Because its molecules are flat – virtually two dimensional

– so they slide all over each other.

The author explains how and why lime is always looking to become hard and later on in the book there is a fascinating description of the hunt for a mortar that sets and remains hard under water. The development of the canal system and its infrastructure in brick meant we needed to have a way of fixing bricks together under water. Brunel experimented for a year before deciding on the cement fixing for his brick built tunnel under the Thames in 1824. The railways needed bricks too: by 1850 Great Britain was using 1.8 billion bricks a year.

The history is relevant because one of the author's main theories is that the use of brick for construction is influenced by the comparative safety of the period. Making bricks, burning them in clamps or kilns and then laying them is a time consuming and expensive process. Not attractive if a horde of Danes and Norwegians in pointy hats are going to turn up next week and destroy your hamlet. So although the Romans occupied us for 400 years and built in brick, there was no interest in carrying on the process when they left, not because the Britons, Angles and Saxons were incapable of learning but because there was insufficient stability in society. Choosing brick for your domestic property did not really start again until the early 14th century, when prosperous wool merchants on the East Coast began to copy the construction methods of the highly desirable merchants' houses they saw in Germany and the Low Countries. The east side of England has plenty of estuarial clay so brick was an ideal choice. The book contains a detailed review of brickmaking and brick construction in and around Hull to illustrate the point.

The third strand, architects and their response to brick, is a good concise

primer on the architects working in England and the use or rejection of brick in their buildings. Familiar names such as Wren, Inigo Jones, Robert Adam, Barry, Street, Pugin and Lutyens appear and most of us will find out something new about each of them. For example, Inigo Jones preferred to build in brick although most of his buildings were then clad in stone. Robert Adam specialised in creating warm and comfortable spaces for women to sit in, a more attractive ambience than the open draught swept halls in a Palladian country house! The architectural review includes descriptions of various brick built domestic buildings in England, from different periods. Many Tylers and Bricklayers like to visit houses and their gardens, so reading this book will suggest some new places to visit. I have made a note of Tattershall Castle, Raynham Hall and Canons Ashby, as well as smaller houses and cottages in places such as Farnham and Chichester.

Although the book includes much detailed financial and scientific information, it is well written with the occasional authorial aside which made me smile. I also learned that there is a Facebook page called Brick of the Day which will appeal to many in our Livery.

**Brick – a social history
Carolyne Haynes
The History Press 2019**

**Chris Causer
Renter Warden in Nomination**

Sir Lindsay becomes Speaker



He is a former bricklayer and was our principal guest at the Annual Craft Awards on 4 March 2019 at Trinity House. Sir Lindsay Hoyle is the Labour MP for Chorley and has been an MP continuously since 1 May 1997. He has a strong parliamentary pedigree – he is the son of former Labour MP Doug Hoyle, later created Baron Hoyle of Warrington and a current Member of the House of Lords.

However, since we had the privilege of his presence last year he has been further thrust into the limelight, always being the clear front-runner to eventually succeed John Bercow as Commons Speaker. After ten years in the role, often controversial, John Bercow told MPs in the House of Commons that he would step down in the event of a General Election – that he would not defend his Buckingham seat.

As the senior Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Ways and Means at the time, and very popular with Labour back benchers, Sir Lindsay quickly became the bookies' odds on favourite to replace John Bercow. He confirmed he would stand as a candidate and in September

2019 said “*As Members of Parliament we are clearly in unprecedented times and it will be vital to have an experienced Speaker who can provide the stability and leadership the House of Commons requires to remain at the centre of our political system*”.

On 4 November John Bercow was appointed Steward and Bailiff of the

Manor of Northstead, effectively a process to resign immediately both as an MP and Commons Speaker.

Competition for the role of Commons Speaker is always fierce. The voting took place the same day as John Bercow’s departure. Sir Lindsay was elected by a substantial majority and following tradition, dragged “reluctantly” to the Speaker’s Chair in the House of Commons.

Sir Lindsay has been married to his wife Catherine for 26 years and they took up residence in Speaker’s House, Westminster. Despite the substantial Conservative majority gained in December’s General Election, Sir Lindsay was unanimously re-elected as Speaker by the new Parliament on 17 December.

Since then he has been responsible for making the new arrangements for Parliament to continue during the pandemic with the necessity in the House for social distancing – also enabling MPs to participate in the House remotely from their home constituencies or offices.





WINCHMORE BRICKWORK

complete brickwork management service

This is Winchmore Brickwork

Winchmore Brickwork is a North London based brickwork contractor established in 1985. The Winchmore Brickwork team is headed by Tony Yianni the Managing Director and owner of the business, who has managed the company's growth from the 'scaffold to the boardroom' for over 30 years. With a long standing track record of working closely with blue chip contractors across London and the South East, Winchmore Brickwork delivers not only outstanding service but a willingness to offer their complete expertise.

Involvement in the design, planning and logistics enables us to advise our clients on the most efficient construction processes saving them time and money. It is this expertise and desire to work as partners with our clients that sets a standard for the level of service we offer and ensures the strength of our relationship with our clients. We are proud of our long standing reputation and continue to earn the trust, confidence and respect of our wide range clients.

Traditional Values

I am proud to be born and raised in a City with such a proud history in the traditional methods of bricklaying. Traditional brick built buildings define the London landscape.

I feel this landscape drew me into the trade. Winchmore Brickwork trades on my passion for bricklaying. Through a sensibly managed growth structure, we have developed a significant portfolio of blue chip clients with dozens of key London projects and excellent references. Our commitment to training over the years is one we are particularly proud of. The needs and benefits of investing and developing in skills in our trade is an obvious one. To this end and as part of marking our thirtieth year in business we were pleased to announce the rolling out of our bricklaying development centre.

Our London based initiative involves Winchmore Brickwork's three key training facilities and several local schools and councils. Adding to our existing apprenticeship scheme, we hope to be providing additional training in our trade for a significant number of students each year, calling on our more experienced bricklayers to pass on specific key skills, "tricks of the trade" and of course their love for the craft. Key to the success of the programme is a steady flow of work from our clients. It is our hope that together with our concerned clients, we can ensure that this skill base is developed and available to fulfill the requirements of our industry well into the future together as numerous other benefits to the labour market.



Our thanks for sponsorship support

The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers is always delighted to receive offers of sponsorship towards the costs of printing and distributing our annual newsletter each October. Please contact the Upper Warden if you can support the Company in this way.

(Above) Winston Churchill relaxing bricklaying, building a garden wall at Chartwell around 1930. He also built a small cottage, a swimming pool and a goldfish pond. He told Stanley Baldwin he was laying 200 bricks and writing 2000 words every day.

Obituary

Jeremy Stokes: 17 April 1933 - 4 December 2019



Jeremy Stokes was born in London, the second son of Norah and Noel Stokes. Jeremy was Master of the Company in 1989-90. His brother Christopher who was three years older had also served as Master, in 1984-85. Together, Jeremy and Christopher founded the Stokes Royal Engineers Awards given annually at the Craft Awards Lunch to the best sappers on the bricklaying and concreting courses at the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham.

Jeremy attended Bloxham School from 1943 to 1950. On leaving, Jeremy was apprenticed as a builder and then started working for the family building firm. He was called up for National Service in 1955 and trained as a gunner with the Royal Artillery. He remained in the Army Reserve after completing his National Service – a significant later in his life as it led to him joining the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC), initially in G-Battery and then later as part of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers who provide the ceremonial

the UK before retiring in 1998.

Jeremy joined the Tylers and Bricklayers in 1958, becoming a member of the Court in 1980. Jeremy was an active member of the Company until his final illness, attending almost every formal and social event both in the UK and overseas. The friends Jeremy made and the fellowship he found in the Company were important throughout his life.

Jeremy enjoyed sport. In the 1960s he played hockey with the Crostyx Hockey Club in Woodford Wells, Essex. He was a debenture holder at Twickenham for a number of years where he enjoyed watching England play, meeting up with friends and picnicking with them in the car park before and, more importantly, after the match. West Ham was Jeremy's football team. In later years, Jeremy made full use of Sky Sports. Jeremy learned to ski during his National Service and this became a lifelong passion. Jeremy was still skiing with his children

bodyguard and escort for the Lord Mayor when on official business.

Jeremy married Annette in 1960 and set up home in Woodford, Essex. Andrew was born in 1964 and Pauline in 1966. Jeremy had three grandchildren: Eloise, Sébastien and Benjamin.

In 1976 the family building firm moved wholly into property management and Jeremy left to work for Henlys as their buildings manager, looking after sites across

and grandchildren in his 80's. Jeremy's other passion was sailing. He owned five boats over the years which were the focus of many family summer holidays. Jeremy was also a keen gardener, particularly his vegetable plot, which he and Annette created together, and his roses.

When Jeremy retired in 1998, he and Annette planned to go travelling but, sadly and unexpectedly, Annette died in July 1999. Jeremy coped with this terrible blow – outwardly, at least – better than the family expected. He had to learn new skills, for example, using the washing machine and cooking for himself, but he established a daily routine, determined to get on and enjoy life. He kept himself socially active, particularly with the HAC and T&B.

Jeremy was in good health until 2011 when he suffered a heart attack. He made a full recovery but over the last twelve months his health deteriorated. Despite this, Jeremy was unfailingly cheerful and optimistic. He valued his independence highly and wanted to remain in his own home. Jeremy was able to achieve this with the help of carers until October 2019, when he had a second heart attack from which he never fully recovered.

Jeremy's many friends in the Company will remember his kindness, his good sense of humour, his cheerfulness and the accompanying twinkle in his eye. Perhaps most of all, we will remember Jeremy's good fellowship and generosity.

**Simon Martin
Upper Warden**

I gratefully acknowledge the considerable assistance of Jeremy's son, Liveryman Andrew Stokes, who kindly allowed me to use the address he gave at his father's memorial service as the basis for this obituary.

Obituary

John Griffiths: 27 September 1930 - 13 April 2020



John Griffiths was admitted to the Livery in 1981 and served as Assistant Clerk in 1995-96, and as Clerk 1996-97 in succession to Tony Rider. John was an architect by training and also served as Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects from 1995 to 2000 – installed by David Cole-Adams in the year that he was Master Chartered Architect (1995-96).

John spent much of his career working in heritage building conservation. John's

Design Centre, the latter affiliated to the Building Centre and Design Centre in Haymarket, London. For this he was named 'Man of the Year' by the Architects' Journal.

John joined the Civil Service as Head of Technical Information for the Ministry of Public Building and Works (now DEFRA, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), responsible for government building exhibitions, films and HMSO leaflets on good building

grandfather had a building firm and, after the Second World War, undertook war damage repair work. John's interest in building conservation began then. He qualified as an architect and worked in northern Nigeria for the international architect, Maxwell Fry, before returning to the UK to become Staff Architect for Granada Television. He was Founder Director of the Manchester Building Centre and the Manchester

practice. Seeing a need for more public involvement, he set up the Building Conservation Trust which established a permanent exhibition in Hampton Court Palace, where the public could access practical building conservation advice. David Cole-Adams remembers that John lead a T&B visit to Hampton Court in the year that he served as Clerk.

John and his wife, Helen, moved to Rye following retirement, a town where his grandparents had lived and where his mother was born. John joined the committee of the Rye Conservation Society and became its Chairman in 2011 and President in 2018. John loved Rye, its old buildings, cobbled streets and setting, a love which is vividly illustrated in his book 'A look at the buildings of Rye' which also highlighted his skill as a photographer. John and Helen hosted a T&B visit to Rye in July 2012 (Piers Nicholson's year).

John is survived by Helen and by three children – Matthew, Jonathan and Jay.

**Simon Martin
Upper Warden**

This obituary is based on an article published by the Rye Conservation Society and an appreciation written by David Cole-Adams for the Architects' Company.

Obituary

Jean Margaret Stokes: 30 January 1932 - 10 April 2020



Jean Stokes was married to Christopher Stokes who served as Master in 1984-1985. Chris was the older brother of Jeremy Stokes (Master 1989-1990) whose obituary also appears in this newsletter. Chris died in 2009. In 2013, Jean became one of the first Companions of the Company.

Jean was born in West Wickham, Kent, to Gladys and Ernest Dawes. She was the elder sister of two identical twin brothers, Roger and Michael.

She trained as a nurse from the age of 18, and lived in Bayswater, London. She achieved State Registration at 21 and later became a ward sister at St Mary's, Paddington.

Jean met Chris at a dance, at St. Mary's Hospital. They were married in 1962 at St. Botolph's without Bishopsgate, in the City, near Liverpool Street station.

Jean and Chris moved to the village of Rickling in Essex after getting married. Jean left nursing and had three children,

Tim in 1963, Lucy in 1964 and Sarah in 1968. She also has three grandchildren. Lucy married Simon and had Oliver and Harry, and Tim, who had moved to Australia when he was about 25, had Henry. Jean visited Tim in Australia a couple of times, once with Chris and once on her own, shortly after he died.

Chris and Jean lived in Rickling for 37 years and were active members of the village community. Jean was a tireless supporter of the village church (where Chris was a

church warden), sold poppies in the village and joined in and encouraged carol singing at Christmas. There was also an annual Daffodil Festival. Chris planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs in the churchyard over the years. Jean and her children helped out yearly with the fun but lengthy task of snapping the stems off each and every one, from the bottom, after they had died, so that they would grow back well each year.

Jean would regularly accompany Chris to various social events in London, which included the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) and the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers. She was especially busy during the years of 1984-85 when Chris was Master and is seen here accompanying him to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace (right) with daughters Sarah and Lucy.

In 1999 Jean and Chris sold their cottage in Rickling and moved to Wapping in London. They wanted to move before the maintenance of the house and garden became too much for them.

They bought a new riverside apartment, with the security of a concierge service, and were well placed to enjoy all that London had to offer. Jean spent some time as a volunteer at St. Paul's Cathedral, where she became a 'Friend' of the Cathedral.

After Chris died in 2009, Jean coped very well for a few years until, with gradually worsening physical and mental health, she moved into a care home in Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex. She was visited regularly by her two daughters, Lucy and Sarah.

Jean will be remembered fondly by her friends in the Company for her kind and easy-going nature, her smile, and keen sense of humour.

The Master and Mrs Maureen Saminaden attended Jean's memorial service, held in Rickling church on Saturday 12 September 2020.

**Simon Martin
Upper Warden**

This obituary is based on the eulogy given at Jean's memorial service and was kindly provided by Sarah Stokes.



The Fuller and Stokes Families

Unlike the Bird, Ward, Grellier and others, the Fuller family have had only three generations and the Stokes two generations of Liverymen of the Company.

My father, Edward William Jack Fuller, known as Jack, was apprenticed in the building trade in the 1920's to Colonel W.W. (Bill) Dove, Managing Director of the long established family Company of Dove Brothers of Islington, founded in the reign of George III and known for their restoration and new build of churches in London and the Home Counties. At the conclusion of his apprenticeship he was invited by Colonel Dove to join the Company and in 1934 he was followed by his brother Robert Henry, known as Bob.

Colonel Dove was our Master both in 1950 and 1955 and previously had been a Master of the Carpenters' Company; Dove Brothers restored the Carpenters' Hall after World War II when the interior was completely destroyed by an enemy incendiary bomb. Many of our functions took place there after it was re-opened and this continues to this day.

I was proposed by my father to join the Tylers and Bricklayers in 1954 at the age of 21 years whilst I was still following in his footsteps as an apprentice at Dove Brothers. The company was completing the construction of Guildford Cathedral at that time.

Bob Fuller's son Hugh also joined in 1954; my brother David followed in 1958 and Hugh's brother William in 1965.

My father met his lifelong friend Noel Stokes when they were both at Forest School, Snaresbrook. He was Noel's



Best Man at his wedding to Nora and Noel was my Godfather. My father proposed Noel's sons to the Company, Christopher in 1955 and Jeremy in 1958.

The Fuller and the Stokes families both had family building companies in the East End of London.

In the next generation are my son, Jeffrey; David's son, Julian (Freeman); Hugh's son, William Martin who currently runs the family

building business; Jeremy's son, Andrew; and William's son, James.

Jack, Bob, myself, Hugh, Chris, David, Jeremy, William and Jeffrey have all served as Masters of the Company.

**Peter Fuller
Father of the Company**



Virtual Wine Tasting

A T&B first! Over 30 members of the Company including the Master, Wardens and Acting Clerk, met using Zoom videoconferencing for “A Virtual Vinous Journey Through France”, organised by Past Master Philip Parris, Chairman of the Wine committee.

The tasting was led by Francis Flavin, Head of Wholesale at Davy's Wine Merchants, the company who supply us with much of the wine consumed at our functions.

The Tylers and Bricklayers are very proud to have an excellent cellar, supervised by our Wine committee, and are one of the few Companies able to serve our own wines rather than choosing from a caterer's selection.

On 3 September we were guests of the Wine Committee on a Zoom meeting hosted by our Acting Clerk, Deputy Master Lesley Day. In a matter of weeks she has become an expert in setting up such meetings. Easy-to-follow instructions were supplied for those less accustomed to the technology. In the Covid era, we are all having to get used to new ways of communication, and Zoom is a market leader.

In preparation for the tasting, six half bottles of wine had been previously delivered to each household directly by Davy's, at a cost of £66. The logistics of this were remarkable, with the wine arriving by courier within two days of orders being placed.

Following an introduction by Past Master Philip Parris, Francis took us on a journey through some of the top wine regions of France, with accompanying wines tasted in pairs.

Francis introduced each of the six the wines individually, explaining the process of wine making along the way, and comparing and contrasting the different qualities of each wine. He discussed the importance of grape varieties, soil types and climatic conditions. Together

Brouilly les Thibaults, Jean Loron 2018

- Region : Burgundy
- Sub Region : Brouilly, Beaujolais
- Grape : 100% Gamay
- Annual production : N/A
- Soil : Granite, Diorite (blue volcanic stone)
- % Vol : 13.5 %
- Maturation : Stainless Steel
- Ageing potential : Up to 3 years
- Food pairing : Richer fish dishes, poultry, charcuterie, grilled/bbq meat, Brie, Asian cuisine.





MacBook Air

we explored the differences between Pouilly Fumé (from the Loire), and Pouilly Fuissé (from the Mâcon area of Burgundy). Whilst they sound similar and are both dry white wines, they are made from different grape varieties and they taste very different!

The wines of the “left and right banks” of the Garonne river which runs through Bordeaux are much closer in character, but the relative proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot vary, as well as that of the less common grape varieties of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and others. The two wines we tasted are often provided at our functions and have been much enjoyed by members of the Company.

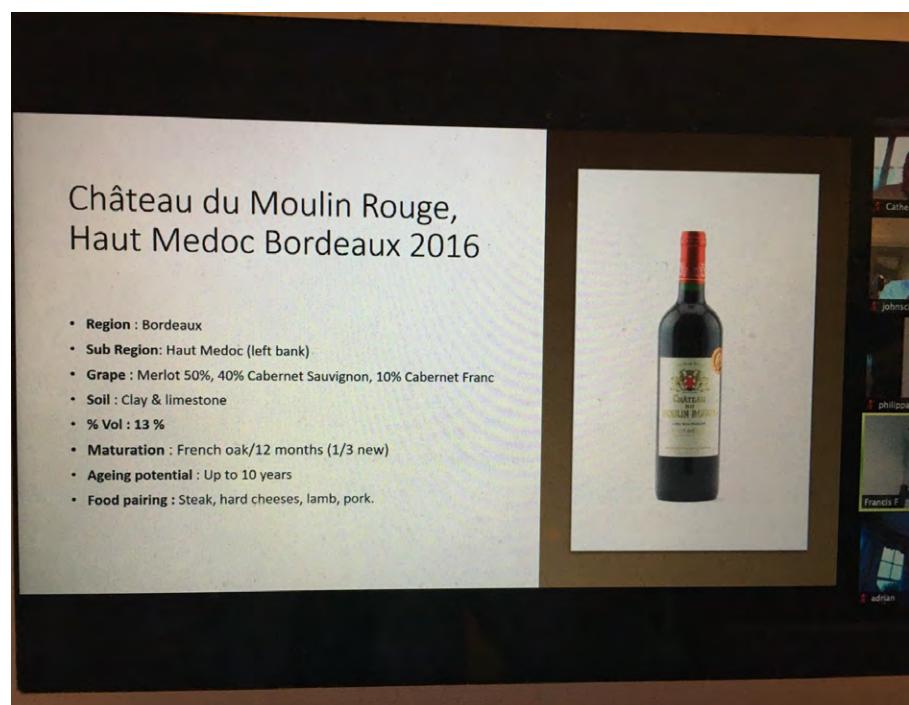
The wines of Burgundy and Beaujolais are quite different in character despite originating from nearby regions. Beaujolais relies strongly on the Gamay grape variety, although many other types contribute. Burgundy relies on two principal grape types, Pinot noir for the red wines and Chardonnay for the white.

Using maps and diagrams, Francis brought the wine-making regions to life, and was able to demonstrate the importance of blending several grape types to produce a more interesting and complex wine. He also explained the contribution of barrel type (new oak vs old) and the value of maturation of wines, both in cask and in bottle. Finally, he pointed out that all of the wines could be purchased direct from Davy's Wine Merchants at an advantageous price, specifically available to members of the Company.

After Francis Flavin completed his excellent presentation, he was thanked by the Master, and many of those attending stayed on-line until 8 pm, catching up with friends in the Company in small groups arranged into virtual “chat rooms”.

At the end of the break-out session, we re-joined the Master who concluded the evening by thanking all who had attended. A first for the Company indeed, but certainly we hope not the last!

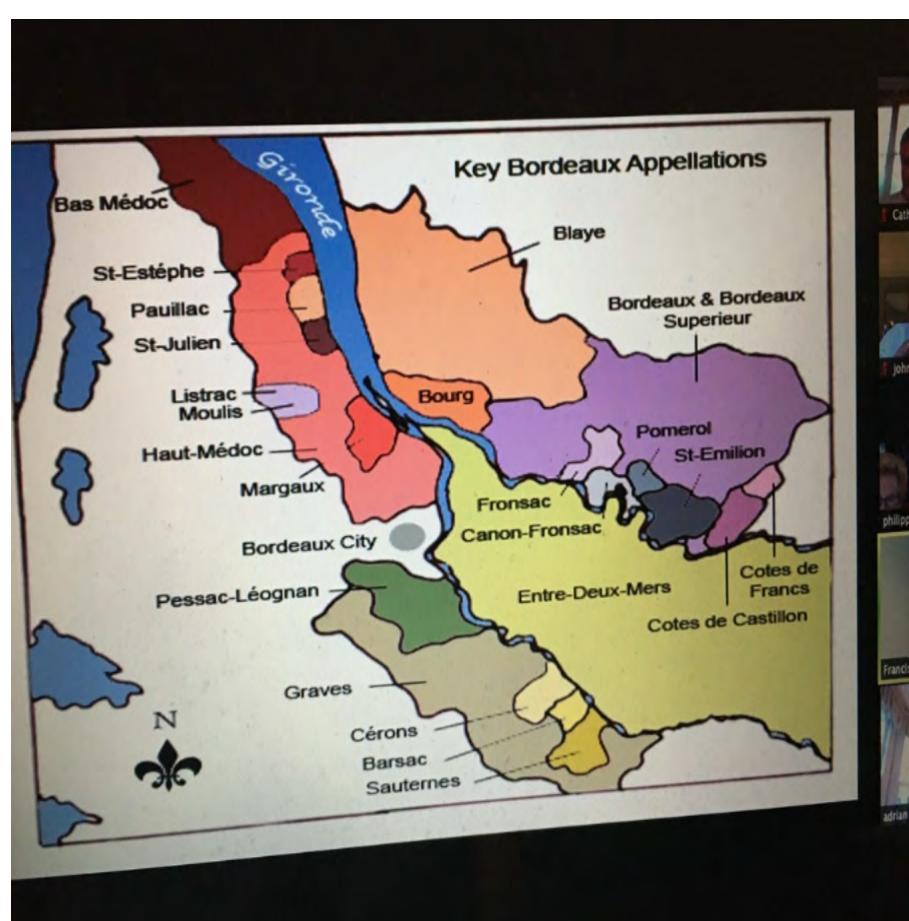
Whilst we look forward to resuming face to face meetings and dinners, tougher



government restrictions make this unlikely at present. Video-conferencing does mean that we can continue to stay in touch with each other, and maintain the fellowship which is such an important aspect of being a T&B member. Looking forward, perhaps virtual meetings will become regularly

used to supplement our formal events, enabling us to remain in touch with those who cannot easily travel to London.

**Prof John Schofield
Renter Warden**





The Order of Precedence Song

(*Allegro vivace*)

The origins of Liv'ry in the City are a "mystery";
The reason for the numbering is lost in mists of history;
It was in 1515 when the precedence was ratified;
Since when the Great Twelve Companies have always
seemed quite satisfied.

The Mercers sit at number one, the Grocers are at
number two;
Then Drapers, Fish and Goldsmiths come, with Skinners
and the MTs, who
Not wanting to be number seven, assert they should be
number six,
A paradox the Lord Mayor sorted with a simple City fix:
To be at sixes and at sevens is an English paradox,
To be at sixes and at sevens is an English paradox,
To be at sixes and at sevens is an English paraparadox

The Haberdashers, Salters and the Ironmongers
follow next;
The Vintners and the Clothworkers and Dyers –
thirteen – always vexed;
In short in matters civic and in language mathematical
The Weavers are the hardest hit by order categorical.
The Brewers, Leathersellers and the Pewterers are
next in line;
Then Barbers, Cutlers, Bakers and Wax Chandlers in
their liv'ry fine;
Then Tallow Chandlers, Armourers and Girdlers and the
Butchers trot;
With Saddlers, Carpenters and Cordwainers – oh! what
a funny lot!
The Company of Painters and the Curriers
established next
Then Masons, Plumbers, Innholders and Founders found
the ancient text
To welcome Poulters, Cooks and Coopers, Tylers and
Bricklayers too;
And male-only Bowyers' Master who uniquely serves for
two. (*Years, that is.*)
**A two-year term for Bowyers – it's a job that only men
dare do,**

**A two-year term for Bowyers – it's a job that only men
dare do,**

**A two-year term for Bowyers – it's a job that only men
dare men dare do.**

The Fletchers and the Blacksmiths and the Joiners are
the next in line;

Then come ourselves at 42, some say the finest
of the fine;

In short in matters civic and in language mathematical
The Weavers are the hardest hit by order categorical.
(*Slower*)

There follow many more – some ancient and
a few contempor'y'

The modern ones include the Cleaners and the
jolly Actu'ry;

The Educators and the Art Scholars are new kids
on the block;

The ITs and the Firemen and the Woolmen with their
City flock;

The Horners are a happy lot, the Framework Knitters
know what's knot;

The Mariners are "hon'rable", the Gardeners tend their
little plot;

Distillers know their armagnac, their gin and scotch and
vodka too;

(*a tempo, vivace*) Musicians like a tipple and, believe me,
they can sink a few!

**The Weavers are the oldest and they should be known
as number one,**

**The Weavers are the oldest and they should be known
as number one,**

**The Weavers are the oldest and they should be known
as number number one.**

The Liv'ry is an ancient lot of Masters quite adventury,
And Weavers know that they've been number one across
the centuries;

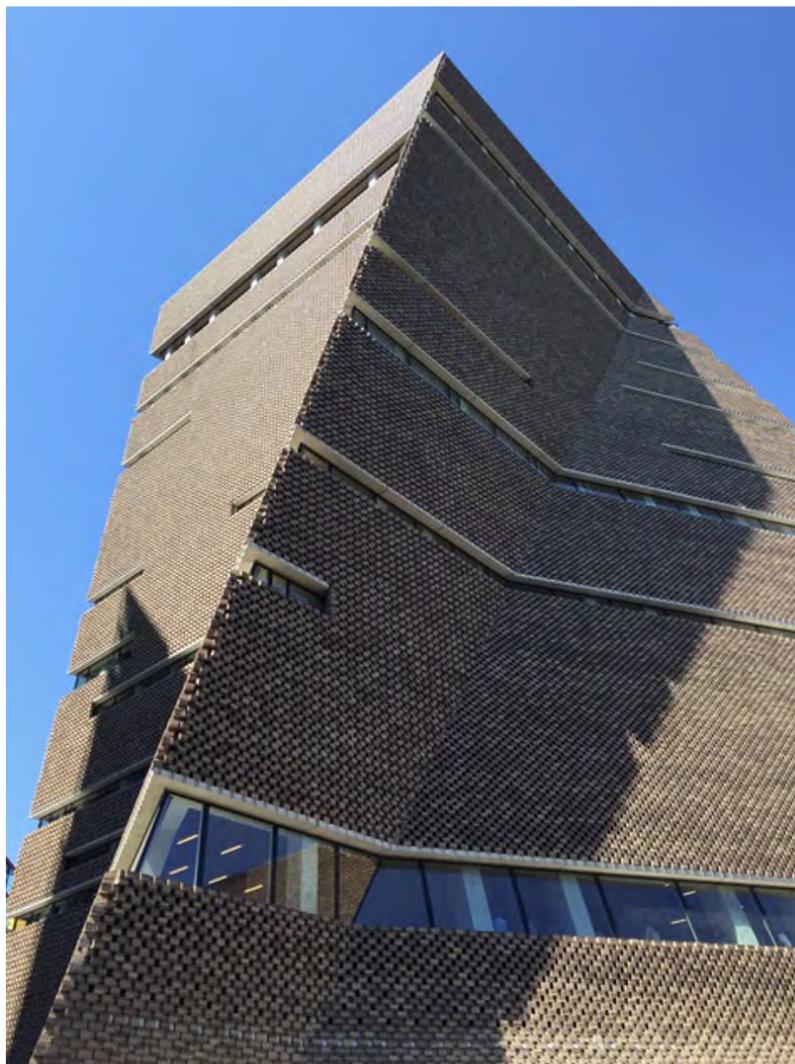
In short in matters civic and in language mathematical
The Weavers should be number one in order categorical.
(*Encore verse 3: "Presto agitato, per favour, Maestro!"*)

**Sung to Modern Major General
from Gilbert and Sullivan's
Pirates of Penzance.**

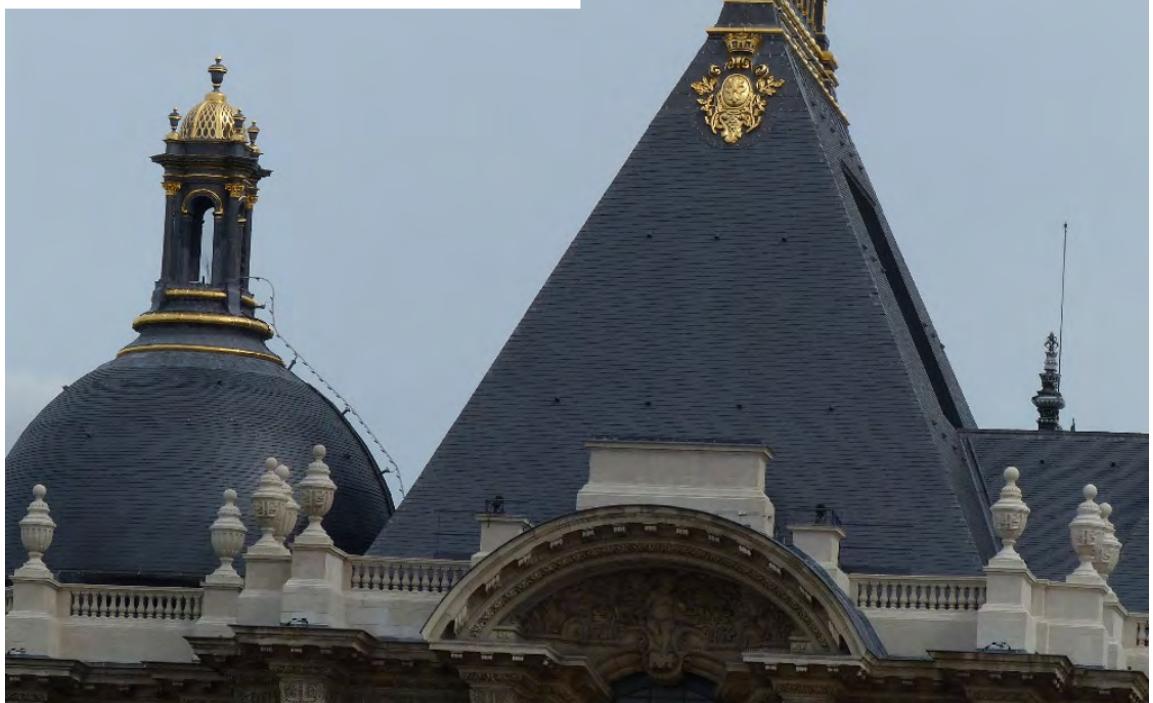
Words by Alderman Professor
Sir Andrew Parmley for
the Weavers' Company

To hear performed brilliantly online,
simply Google search the title or:
[https://www.plumberscompany.org.uk/
the-order-of-precedence-song/](https://www.plumberscompany.org.uk/the-order-of-precedence-song/)

Photographic Competition



(Above)
Brickwork:
David Cole-Adams
Extension to the
Tate Modern



(Right)
Roofing:
Christopher Causer
Art Gallery in Lille

All Tylers and Bricklayers take interest in facets of our industry when out and about, perhaps seeing fine examples of craftsmanship or just quirky examples of tiling, roof tiling or bricklaying catching the eye or imagination for whatever reason.

The Company runs an annual competition to encourage you to take photographs "worldwide" on your phone or digital camera. The images you capture will be judged by the Craft Committee both on the interest of the subject matter and of course for the quality of the photography.

Subject to submissions made we wish to be able to award bottles of champagne to a winner capturing a subject in each of our three trades. The winning photographs will be published in the newsletter in October 2021. All entries should be made as jpg images and sent by 31 December 2020 to the Chairman of the Craft Committee, Court Assistant David White with details of the subject matter taken. (eg: date and place).

Last year's winning photographs are shown here:

Diary Dates

2020

Thursday 1 October	Court Meeting, Carpenters' Hall. Installation and Service, St Margaret Lothbury. Luncheon, Carpenters' Hall (Changed due to Government restrictions on meetings)
Thursday 17 December	Court Meeting, Wax Chandlers' Hall. Carol Service, St Margaret Lothbury. Buffet Supper, Guildhall Club

2021

Thursday 4 February	Common Hall & Dinner, Cutlers' Hall
Tuesday 16 February	Pancake Races, Guildhall Yard
Thursday 4 March	Court Meeting, Craft Awards Luncheon, Carpenters' Hall
Friday 19 March	United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral. Optional lunch Carpenters' Hall
Tuesday 11 May	Sons of the Clergy Festival, St Paul's Cathedral
Thursday 13 May	Annual Dinner, Saddlers' Hall
Monday 7 June	Court Meeting. Court & Livery "Master & Clerks" Lunch, Trinity House
TBA June	Partners Visit and Luncheon, Royal Opera House
TBA June	Election of Sheriffs
Wednesday 23 June - Sunday 4 July	Master's Trip to St Kitts
Wednesday 21 July	Triennial Awards Luncheon, Painters' Hall
TBA 31 July	Charter Day visit, Hatfield House
Thursday 2 September	Court Meeting. Court & Livery Luncheon, Apothecaries' Hall
TBA September	Election of the Lord Mayor
TBA September	Craft Visit to Herefordshire
Thursday 30 September	Court Meeting, Carpenters' Hall. Installation and Service, St Margaret Lothbury. Luncheon, Carpenters' Hall

This 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 by the Clerk in good time to allow for bookings to be made.

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Renter Warden in Nomination:

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Clerk (from January 2021):

Heather Smith
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