



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

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 26 | JULY 2015

## MASTER PIECE

### *A Year of Space ...*

**I have always been fascinated by the passage of time. We all remember how long as a child were the weeks before Christmas. And we all know how quickly a party in the right company can flash by. Whenever I mentioned this to my parents, their invariable reply was “Mark my words, my boy, it goes all the faster as you get older”. And, my goodness, were they right. My year as your Master is simply whizzing by. What an honour and a pleasure it has been to represent the Company at so many and so varied occasions.**

Two, which I will particularly remember, were those which brought me closest to the young people who are training in the crafts which we have the privilege to represent in the City. To see the dedication, the enthusiasm and the expertise shown by the apprentices participating in the SkillBuild competitions at the NEC was to confirm confidence in the continuation of these crafts.

And to welcome some of the winners and others to the Crafts Awards Lunch was a great pleasure. The Company was fortunate that the Aldermanic Sheriff, Dr Andrew Parmley, was able to accept our invitation to the awards ceremony. Sheriff Parmley spoke with great relevance but also with great humour, and his words to individual winners could not have been more apposite or more informal. Indeed, informality was the keynote of the event.



*The Master thanking the Aldermanic Sheriff, Dr Andrew Parmley at the Crafts Awards Luncheon at Trinity House.*

The last thing we wanted was the winners to be overawed by the splendours of Trinity House and the formality of a City luncheon. From their charming letters of thanks, they clearly were not. They had enjoyed a really special day and that, of course, has been our objective.

My year started with a kerfuffle about the Installation Luncheon. Asbestos in the roof had driven us from Carpenters' Hall. But the Clerk found us a most agreeable alternative in Stationers' Hall. The actual Installation, for the second time in St Margaret's Lothbury, seemed to go smoothly, assisted by the outstanding contribution of the choir conducted by Freeman Richard Townend, and the mellifluous words of the Dean of Westminster who preached the sermon. Robert Turner later enlivened the lunch proceedings with a vivid description of the Trial of the Pyx.

One of my main preoccupations is the recruitment of new members. It has therefore been a huge pleasure to go so far eight times to the Chamberlain's Court at Guildhall to see Company members admitted to the Freedom of the City and thereby to the Livery.

The high spot of the Civic Year for the livery companies is the coincidence of the Lord Mayor's dinner for the companies and the United Guilds Service in St Paul's Cathedral. The dinner is in the Mansion House and while being very formal, manages at the same time to be fun, with each stage heralded by the State Trumpeters. The next day twenty-four livery companies process in St Paul's and form a Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor. Whilst the Great Twelve are on parade every year, this year, to my delight, it was the turn of the Tylers & Bricklayers to lead the representative companies (nos. 37-48). After the service, we lunched with the Carpenters and it fell to me to thank them for their hospitality.

My year has been given an additional perspective by the fact that one of our Liverymen, Dr Christine Rigden, ran for the post of Lay Sheriff. I served on Christine's campaign committee and no other candidates presented themselves. Duly elected on 24 June we lunched afterwards with Christine at Vintners' Hall.

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### The Worshipful Company of Tylers & Bricklayers

The Newsletter is compiled by the Upper Warden  
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[www.michaelosullivan.co.uk](http://www.michaelosullivan.co.uk)

Past and present newsletters are available online at:

[www.tylersandbricklayers.co.uk](http://www.tylersandbricklayers.co.uk)

*(Continued from page one)*

We have made two visits to great Victorian buildings, both outstanding examples of the skill of bricklayers and tilers.

The first was to Dulwich College, my old school, where we lunched with the Master and visited not only the buildings designed by Barry but also the new Science Block which is nearing completion.

Thanks to Liveryman Colin Menzies, we also visited Keble College, Oxford. The Company was received by the Warden, lunched in Hall and saw the Butterfield buildings and later brick buildings of great quality which have been shoe-horned onto a difficult island site.

I met Onyinye Udokporo, the Company's student at Christ's Hospital in March. Onyinye had invited the Bishop of London to participate in a sixth form discussion group and I was delighted to receive an appreciative message from Bishop Richard Chartres after this visit. See page 17.

The Company dined at the Factory House in Oporto on St George's Day. The Factory is not a manufacturing enterprise but the headquarters of the factors (ie: businessmen), in this case entirely port wine shippers. It was a splendid and memorable occasion which formed the focal point of the Company's overseas expedition for my year. I have written separately about this on page 18.

The Annual Guest Banquet on 14 May in Drapers' Hall was a sell-out and most enjoyable, the evening only slightly marred by very heavy rain and the severe traffic delays experienced by some attending. More on page 19.

I conclude by thanking you all for your unstinting support throughout the year. It has been inspirational. And, finally, I thank the Clerk for all his help and advice.

*Roger Westbrook*

## FREEMEN WELCOMED TO THE COMPANY DURING PAST YEAR

<b>Mr Frank Clarke*</b>	Roofing Contractor
<b>Mr Alan Croucher</b>	Manager with Building Merchant Federation
<b>Mr Simon Hughes</b>	Real Estate and Financial Services Advisor
<b>Mr Richard Jordan*</b>	Roofing Contractor

<b>Miss Emma Simpson</b>	Heritage Skills Bricklayer
<b>Mr Patrick Smart</b>	Account Manager
<b>Mr Karl Terry*</b>	Roofing Contractor
<b>Mr John Scott**</b>	Tile Collector

*\*Indicates previous Craft Freeman \*\* Honorary Freeman*

## ELEVATED TO THE LIVERY DURING PAST YEAR

<b>Dr David Allen</b>	Historic Buildings Conservator
<b>Mr Colin Beeck</b>	Accountant
<b>Mr Simon Hay</b>	CEO Brick Development Assoc.
<b>Mr Peter Lynch</b>	Building Project Director
<b>Mr Terry McMillan</b>	Property Developer

<b>Mr Malcolm Murray</b>	Management Consultant
<b>Mr Douglas Wass</b>	Solicitor
<b>Mr Piers Wigan</b>	Insurance Broker
<b>Mr Jason Wright*</b>	Roofing Contractor

*\*Indicates previous Craft Freeman*

## THE MASTER ELECT - TOM RIDER



**I am thoroughly enjoying my year as Upper Warden. The Master has organised some wonderful events and, of course, I have had the privilege of a 'front row' view. Caroline and I found the trip to Oporto to be huge fun, greatly benefitting from the Master's inside knowledge and local contacts, and we also thought the Annual Guest Banquet at Drapers' Hall to be a particularly splendid occasion.**

As Upper Warden, I have also had the opportunity to accompany the Master to some of the events organised by other Companies and to represent him and the Company at others when he was unable to attend. In May, I attended a reception at the Royal Engineers' Headquarters in Chatham, a regiment with which the Company has close ties, and watched the Beat Retreat. It was an impressive spectacle on their magnificent parade ground, and the evening gave me the chance to meet some of the regiment.

As well as being fun, my time as Upper Warden is proving to be an excellent learning experience for my turn as Master, which seems to be approaching with ever increasing speed. It is enabling me to get to know more of you and to gain a better understanding of the Company's inner workings, our relationship with the City Corporation and the livery world, as well as our role in supporting our crafts. I will leave you to judge next year whether I have studied hard enough!

The arrangements for my year as Master are well advanced. I have had much support and advice from the Master, the Clerk, the Anniversaries Committee, and the Events Sub-Committee, as well as from individual members, for which I am extremely grateful.

The Installation will take place in St Margaret's, Lothbury, before the Annual Service. This will be the third such occasion and so I think the innovation introduced by David Cole-Adams as Master can now be counted amongst our 'ancient traditions'! The lunch afterwards will be close by in Grocers' Hall; Carpenters' Hall is shortly to undergo some major building work.

It has been several years since we have dined at Grocers as a Company and it should be a great occasion. My guest of honour and principal speaker will be Bishop Graeme Knowles, the former Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and I am grateful to Colin Menzies for introducing us.

In November, the Company will be visiting Southwark Cathedral, where we will be given a guided tour, followed by a reception. My family has had close connections with the Cathedral for many years. The family building firm of T Rider & Sons Limited was located nearby in Union Street from 1797 until it ceased in 1975. It undertook much of its work in the City of London, specialising in heritage work, and in the late nineteenth century it was responsible for rebuilding the nave at the cathedral. There is a window in the retro-choir commemorating this, which contains a small etched portrait of my great grandfather (later to be Master of the Company) along with other etchings showing the various trades carrying out their work.

2015 will end with the Carol Service and a reception afterwards at the City University Club. If you have not been to the Carol Service before, I would strongly recommend that you come. It is always a warm and friendly occasion to put you in the Christmas spirit.

The much anticipated publication of Dr Penny Hunting's history of the Company is to take place in February at Cutlers' Hall, immediately after Common Hall. Penny will be attending and Dr James Campbell, architect and architectural historian, who has appeared on a number of television and radio programmes, will give a talk before dinner about the book and our crafts. I urge you to be there, when you will be able to pick up your pre-purchased copy or buy one.

We are planning to hold a special event on Monday 18 April 2016 to celebrate the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first recorded Master. Please put the date in your diary now! The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is arranging a concert for us to be given by a number of their students in the School's new, state of the art, concert hall in Milton Court. It will be followed by a reception in the building. I am grateful to George Mann for helping to bring this about. We will be inviting many of the Masters and their Ladies of other livery companies to join us in our celebration. The Company has been putting aside funds for the two anniversaries. This is with a view to keeping the ticket prices low in the hope that it will encourage not only most of the Company to attend but to bring a party of guests as well. It should be a hugely enjoyable occasion.

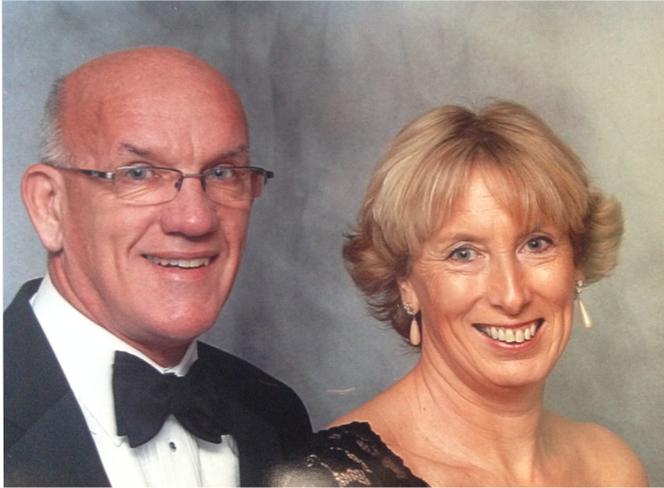
The celebration will continue at the Livery Banquet in May at Carpenters' Hall, where the dinner will be preceded by a special exhibition of the Company's treasures. I am delighted that the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, the Dean of Southwark, has agreed to be my principal guest and speaker at the dinner. In addition to his ministry, he is familiar with the livery world, being honorary chaplain to the Innholders' Company and a member of the Glaziers' Company.

*Tom Rider*

# THE UPPER WARDEN ELECT

## THE RENTER WARDEN

David Szymanski



*David and Hilary Szymanski*

**I still find it rather surreal at times that I am a member of a City livery company with such great history and traditions, when it was not that many years ago that I had no knowledge or indeed awareness of the Livery movement.**

Having been associated with the brick industry all of my life, the Tylers & Bricklayers is a natural fit, and I was delighted to be asked to join the Company in 2004. Many of my family were employees of the London Brick Company (LBC) and unusually I was raised in a village that was owned by the Company, the village of Stewartby in Bedfordshire - in many ways similar to a mining community where family, social, leisure and work are all interlinked. LBC sponsored me to university after which I joined the company on a full time basis as an engineer. Work experiences in both Iran and Swaziland provided fantastic experience at a young age, providing the necessary grounding to move into general management.

Although currently in semi-retirement, I retain a real passion for the industry, which fits well with my enthusiasm and respect for our great company, the T&Bs. Our connection to both the Craft and the City has endured the centuries and thankfully remains as strong today.

Being a member of the Court and also a Warden has educated me further in the traditions and protocol of the Livery, and I am grateful to the Master, Upper Warden, the Clerk and many fellow Liveryman for their help and direction. It is indeed an honour to wear the gown of office and somewhat revealing to observe the workings of the Company from a different position.

I was reminded recently of the benefits of being a nomadic company. Whilst there are advantages in a livery company having its own hall, it does restrict the opportunity to visit the many other wonderful livery halls in the City. I was discussing this with an 'Armourer' the other day, and he had visited just two other halls! I find our visits to the halls absolutely fascinating; and whilst being able to admire the different styles of architecture and decoration, one can only but imagine what might have taken place in those halls in years gone by!

***“Looking forward to my year as Master with excitement and some trepidation”***

It is a pleasure to support our Master, Roger Westbrook, during his year of office. He brings a refreshing approach to our company with his amazing experience in the Foreign Office. Tom Rider will change the emphasis in a positive way yet again, with a long family tradition in the Company - Tom being the fourth generation 'Rider' to be Master.

If elected as Master in 2016, I look forward to my year with excitement and some trepidation. It is a position that is quite unique and one that should be cherished, but I am sure it will feel that 'more training is required'!

Inevitably one starts to have thoughts and early plans for the year. I would like to focus activities towards the Craft, linked of course to the City. Our tradesmen of bricklayers and tilers have had a massive influence on the City and continue to do so to this day. I will aim to make our members more aware of this valuable work.

*David Szymanski*

*P.S. Don't forget to let me have your news and any photos you take at social events attended for next year's T & B newsletter!*

## ELECTION AS THE NON-ALDERMANIC SHERIFF GUILDHALL - 24th June 2015

**At our Installation Lunch on 2 October 2014, the Master announced the launch of my campaign to be elected Sheriff in 2015 – the campaign got off to a flying start.**

My campaign team had members from a wide range of Livery and City organisations – three of my companies, and representatives from the wider Livery - Great 12 to Modern Liveries, City Livery Club, Common Council, Clerks, and Past Sheriffs. The 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta had taken place this year. The only article remaining unchanged in law since this time states that: *The City of London shall enjoy all its ancient liberties and free customs, both by land and by water.* One of these ancient privileges is to elect the Sheriffs on Midsummer's Day. The nomination forms were signed by 16 Liverymen, including the Master, and submitted to Guildhall in late February. The die was cast!

The campaign was extremely busy, with friends and supporters, old and new, very generously inviting me to events in the City. The United Guilds' Service at St Paul's on 20 March was the 100<sup>th</sup> function in less than five months of my campaign; the election itself was number 150. The aim has been not only to 'press the flesh' and gather support, but also to engage the Livery in the election process. The deadline for nominations was 1 May and on this date I knew the election would not be contested.

Electing the Sheriffs is the only real power that a Liveryman has in the City. Relatively few take the opportunity to involve themselves in the process; I would therefore very much like to thank all Liverymen who exercised their ancient right and participated in the election. It was fantastic that the Tylers & Bricklayers were present in strength for the election on 24 June at Guildhall, and also at lunch afterwards at Vintners' Hall. A celebration was certainly in order!

Having been fortunate enough to be elected on Midsummer's Day, a busy summer follows in preparation for the Admission of Sheriffs on 28 September - then the work really begins!

The position of Sheriff is the most ancient in the City, dating back to the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. The role is a full-time one, with three main areas of responsibility – Legal, Civic and Livery. The two Sheriffs reside at the Central Criminal Court, better known as the Old Bailey. As well as opening daily proceedings, the Sheriffs also have responsibility for the "comfort and well-being of Her Majesty's Judges", hosting lunches each day.



*2015 Sheriff-elect Liveryman Dr Christine Rigden*

The Civic Team comprises the Lord Mayor and the two Sheriffs. The Sheriffs play an important role supporting the Lord Mayor in promoting UK financial and business services worldwide. Accompanying the Lord Mayor to business meetings in the UK, Europe, and further afield is also involved, the two Sheriffs also attend major Civic and State functions in the City.

Other Civic duties include conducting meetings and speaking at functions in place of the Lord Mayor or in their own right, attending meetings of Common Hall, and participating in ceremonial occasions.

The Non-Aldermanic Sheriff also has a role to play in liaising with the Livery, advising on the activities of the Mayoralty, and updating the Livery on key aspects of the City Civic. Supporting the livery is an important role, and one which I will relish, working alongside Alderman Charles Bowman.

The coming months will be tremendously exciting for Stephen and me, and I very much hope that the Tylers & Bricklayers will be able to share in the fantastic opportunity presented.

*Christine Rigden*

# THE COMPANY'S CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

**Support of charitable causes is one of the four core values which underpin the role of the Tylers & Bricklayers Company and all Liverymen are encouraged to participate in this element of our activities.**

The Company's Charitable Trust enables gifts to be made to a number of causes with the emphasis on those with connections to the City of London and activities involving young people. The Craft Trust focusses on the crafts of tiling and bricklaying and our associated Regiment, the Corps of Royal Engineers. There is also a small Relief in Need fund which offers financial help to the elderly and needy of the Livery or their close family.

The Relief in Need Charity provided a charitable donation to one person and details of the grants made by the Trusts over the past 12 months are listed on these pages.

## CHARITABLE TRUST

The Amber Trust  
Freddie Farmer Foundation  
City of London Endowment Trust  
for St Paul's Cathedral  
The Brunswick Club Trust  
St Margaret's Church  
Guildhall School Trust  
Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy  
City of London School for Girls  
City of London School for Boys  
City of London Freeman's School  
City of London Police Widows'  
& Orphans' Fund  
St Paul's Cathedral School  
Mudchute Association  
Keepout  
St Luke's Parochial Trust  
Lennox Children's Cancer Fund  
Kids N' Action  
DreamArts  
Peach  
RampAge Holiday Project  
Mayor's Fund for London  
Tower Hamlets Friends & Neighbours  
Kensington & Chelsea Mental Health  
Carers Association  
Unit Number One:  
World Scouts Jamboree 2015



## VISIT TO MILTON COURT, GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**Nick Carter, Chairman of the Trustees of the Company's Charitable Trusts, Lesley Day, Hon. Secretary and Piers Nicholson, Charity Steward, paid a visit to Milton Court, which is part of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on 22 January 2015.**

The Scholarship Fund is a beneficiary of a charitable grant from the Company and it was as a result of our latest donation that prompted an invitation to visit.

Milton Court, based across the road from the current Silk Street building, opened in September 2013, providing the School with state-of-the-art performance and teaching spaces including a 608-seat Concert Hall, a 223-seat Theatre, a Studio Theatre, three major rehearsal rooms and a TV studio suite.

Our hosts explained that the design process of the Concert Hall had included advice from specialist acoustic consultants to ensure that the hall would have the best available acoustics. This included separating the entire hall from the rest of Milton Court by way of specialist acoustic rubber material.

Guildhall School currently has some 850 students studying all aspects of music, drama and the technical elements of putting on productions in the 21st Century. The cost per student runs to some £27500 per annum. Potential students have to audition and pass an interview before they can be considered and the Scholarship Fund steps in to assist students who may not be able to fund the process.

## CRAFT AWARDS

### CRAFT TRUST

Ironbridge Museum Trust

The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment

CRASH

Construction Youth Trust

Sue Ryder's Thorpe Hall Hospice Appeal

The Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Canal & River Trust

Winners of Skillbuild Competition

Winners & Participants of the World Skills Competitions

Corps of Royal Engineers – Craft Awards

Winners of the 2014 Triennial Awards

## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE TRUSTS

*It's really quite simple!*

*You can complete a gift aided Standing Order*

*Form for the Charitable Trust, Craft Trust or*

*Relief in Need Charity, all available on request from the Honorary*

*Secretary and Treasurer, Lesley Day.*

*Lesley would be delighted to assist any Freeman or Liverymen who would like to make a donation to the Trusts and Charity.*

## ALL RISE!

Another of the beneficiaries of the Company's Charitable Trust is the Mayor's Fund for London. As a result of our recent donation the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the Trust was invited to the Royal Courts of Justice to see the work of the Fund in action.

School children from St John's Catholic School, Rotherhithe, had been invited to take part in the Theatre of Law, a scheme to teach school children about the justice system and how it operates in the UK. The children had been asked to script a court case, based on a true story, involving a 15 year old boy, Nathaniel, who had been accused of robbery. Students had been told that Nathaniel had been part of a gang who had stolen cash, with force, from a local supermarket and that there were witnesses to the event. The children had been asked to appoint a judge, accused, barristers, solicitors, witnesses, court clerk and usher, and the jury, so that every student had a role to play on the day.

Court 4, the Lord Chief Justice's Court Room, was where the scene was played out with children wearing the clothing of the judge, barristers and court assistants, and working from the actual places in the court room used by true officials. After both sides had put their case, the jury deliberated and found Nathaniel not guilty, explaining that because he hadn't put his hands in the till, he could not be guilty. After the case closed, the school children were joined by a Barrister who was happy to answer all their questions, some of which were very pointed! One or two of the students said that they may even be interested in taking a career in Law.

To end the morning, we were told that in the real case involving Nathaniel, he had been found guilty and was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in a Young Offenders Institute. The explanation being that he knew what the gang planned was illegal, even though his hands did not go into the till.

## SCHOLARS RECITAL

The Master was joined by Past Master Piers Nicholson and his wife Gillian, and Court Assistant Lesley Day at the first ever Scholars Recital held at Guildhall School to thank sponsors and donors. Guests were welcomed by Professor Barry Iffe CBE, Principal of the School, who thanked the 800 donors who had contributed over £3 million to the Scholarship Fund during the past year. Without the Fund, many talented scholars would not have been able to study music, acting or technical theatre production.

Following his speech, the music began with a programme performed by Chloe Abbott, Edmund Whitehead, Erdem Misirioglu, Rose Hsien, Tom Blach, Francesca Chiejina, Dylan Perez, Vijah Prakash, Charlotte Keeffe, Alex Veitch, Ed Ireland and Tom Jiggins.

## THANK YOU!

These are just some of the comments in the letters received from beneficiaries in the last six months:

**"Our work makes a difference to the lives of children with cancer or leukaemia. The trust's donation has been put towards our ongoing Respite Break project where it will help to make a huge difference"** *Lennox Children's Cancer Fund*

**"I am planning to spend the prize money (Noreen Dickens Prize) on some mathematical books. One particular book I am interested in is called 'Why do buses come in threes?'"** *Student, City of London School.*

**"Be assured that every penny of your donation will be spent wisely and will benefit children with autism and their parents in a significant way"** *Peach*

**"Your donation will help us continue to ensure there will be somebody to go to see the elderly, isolated and vulnerable residents of Tower Hamlets"** *Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours*

**"The grant is a massive godsend for us as we need floor mats, wedges, balls etc. for one of our therapy rooms"** *Freddie Farmer Foundation*

**Contact Lesley via: [charities@tylersandbricklayers.co.uk](mailto:charities@tylersandbricklayers.co.uk)**

# IN MEMORIAM

## IAN DEVON FAIRLIE PICKEN 1914 – 2015

Ian was born and spent his childhood in Crouch End, North London. He went to Bishops Stortford College in 1927 and then to the Architectural Association School graduating in 1937. He saw wartime service with the Royal Engineers in North Africa and the invasion of Germany attaining the rank of Captain before returning to civilian life in 1946.

He then joined into an architectural partnership with Laurence King and undertook many commissions over the years - principally schools and churches. Most notably they restored St Mary-le-Bow in the City following wartime damage, Walsingham Parish Church following a fire, and converted the existing parish church to create Blackburn Cathedral. He carried out his last church survey at the age of 88.

He worked on several schools; Sutton Valence, Eastbourne College, Framlingham, Emmanuel, Coopers' Coburn and St David's & St Katherine's (renamed now to Greig City Academy) to name but a few. He married Jocelyn 'Jo' Powell in 1949. They lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb until Jo's death in 2000 after which he moved to a flat in Highgate. Resident in Highgate Nursing Home he celebrated his 100th birthday in April last year with family and friends, a joyful occasion recorded in the 2014 T&B newsletter with the photograph below. Ian was always very active, walking miles well into his nineties. He was holidaying abroad up until he was 95.

He much enjoyed his involvement with the Tylers & Bricklayers in which he made many friends. He became a liveryman in 1963 and joined the Court in 1985. He was saddened that one of the consequences of living so long was that so many of his contemporaries pre-deceased him. But he was well known to many younger members as he regularly attended functions until about 5 years ago.



## JOHN KEITH PRITCHARD 1930 – 2015

John was born and educated in North Wales completing his teacher training at Bangor after completing national service in 1950.

He subsequently acquired a BSc from the London School of Economics. His teaching career began in South East London culminating in an appointment as Deputy Head of the Christopher Wren School in Shepherds Bush and subsequent headship of a new secondary boys' school - Scott Lidgett - in Bermondsey in 1968.

He remained active in education in that area becoming involved in all manner of committees until his retirement in 1990; by this stage he was the longest-serving secondary headmaster in Inner London. He also played an integral part in the establishment of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

John had many other interests. He played rugby for the RAF and for London Welsh and enjoyed nothing more than a Welsh victory over the 'old enemy'; he enjoyed his red wine and being involved with the reconstruction of his mid-Wales farmhouse.

He was a keen Rotarian and was involved in the running of various youth clubs in South East London.

He was an enthusiastic member (long-term honorary Clerk) of a Court Leet in Southwark and greatly valued being admitted as a Freeman of the Tylers & Bricklayers following his introduction to the Livery by his great friend Denis Munnery.

He leaves behind his widow Doreen to whom he was married for 61 years and son Siôn.

## GEORGE JAMES FLORENCE 1946 – 2014

**The Livery never had the chance to engage with the real George Florence; a man of immense integrity, strong character, endless wit and engaging personality. He was snatched away from us far too early.**

A very successful Detective Inspector from the Essex Police Force; he went on to qualify as a Podiatrist with a flourishing and respected practice.

He was a lifelong cyclist with a considerable bank of knowledge gained from years of experience; which he was always willing to share to the benefit of others.

His genuine interest in the City of London and its glorious heritage and history was the driving force behind him becoming a Tyler & Bricklayer; and along with his dear wife Janet they were able to enjoy just one Annual Guest Dinner; at Goldsmiths' Hall in 2014.

## FORTHCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

### What a couple of years it has been for major anniversaries.

2014 saw, most importantly, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of WWI but also the 700<sup>th</sup> of the Battle of Bannockburn and the 60<sup>th</sup> of the first 4 minute mile. The current year has seen or will shortly see the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta, the 600<sup>th</sup> of the Battle of Agincourt and the 200<sup>th</sup> of the Battle of Waterloo. As a company we look forward to two significant anniversaries of our own in 2016 and 2018. 2016 witnesses the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first known Master while the granting of our first Royal Charter – that signed by Queen Elizabeth 1 – will be marked by 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2018.

A number of surprises have emerged as Dr Penelope Hunting has carried out her researches into the History of the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company. This splendid volume is to be ready for publication, appropriately, in the 2016 anniversary year. Among the surprises was the identification of the first Master in 1416 – one Thomas White who was sworn in along with two wardens in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen on 12 September that year – just under a year after Henry V's victory at Agincourt. Dr Hunting notes that *'the events of 1415-16 .... also prompted the Tylers of London to confirm the position of the mistery alongside the other crafts at City events and that prospect for members looked promising as the king was building a major residence at Sheen using, for the first time in an English royal manor house, bricks. This greatly stimulated brickmaking and bricklaying in this country'*. It all adds up to good and sufficient reason for marking the 2016 anniversary.

Some one hundred and fifty years later Queen Elizabeth I was ten years into her illustrious reign and, as was her wont, sought refuge from the squalid heat and odours of London by heading to the country. There seems to have been no shortage of nobles and courtiers who were prepared to accommodate a royal visit. Some even built additional wings to their already substantial homes in the hope of attracting the royal entourage. One such was Sir Nicholas Bacon, the Queen's Lord Keeper (of the Great Seal) and trusted lawyer who had built his modest home – Gorehambury House - between 1563 and 1568 partly from bricks purloined from the sacked Benedictine Priory in nearby St Albans.

The Grade 1 listed ruins of this once imposing house are shown below.



*Gorehambury House*

While staying in this fine establishment the Queen graciously signed the Company's first Royal Charter on 3 August 1568. Sadly, it is not known who promulgated the Charter but we can presume that an Elizabethan Red Box travelled with or after the monarch so that the business of state continued to be dealt with irrespective of the conditions in London. Sadly also, the original Charter has been lost but the Company does possess a copy of the wording from which we can learn that the two crafts of tiling and bricklaying were at that stage united *'in one mistery or art of the Tylers and Bricklayers of our City of London'* and incorporated as *'one body and one perpetual society'*. Following the Charter came the Grant of Arms in 1570 and the Book of Ordinances of 1571. We were up and running.

Given the reference to the 'perpetual society' it is appropriate that 2018 should see the Company celebrate the succeeding 450 years.

It is of interest to note that the original house was subsequently occupied by Sir Nicholas's younger son Sir Francis Bacon, the noted polymath – scientist, philosopher, statesman and essayist.

Plans for celebrating these two important anniversaries are evolving under the watchful eyes of Upper Warden Tom Rider and the Renter Warden in Nomination Jeff Fuller. It is expected that there will be some special events in each of the years which will hopefully give all members of the Company the chance to participate in the celebrations. Some funds are being set aside and some wine is being laid down.

*David Cole-Adams*

# CRAFT COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL AWARDS

**The Craft Committee performs one of the more important roles within the Company, being responsible for maintaining links with our three crafts and their related industries, and particularly for encouraging training and excellence.**

Primarily we achieve this via our awards given on an annual basis for individual attainment. We celebrate those practitioners and schemes which demonstrate the very best examples of our Crafts by awarding Master Craftsman status and via the Triennial Awards which next fall due in 2017.

In the course of the past twelve months it has been pleasing to see a high proportion of our Master Craftsmen progress to full liverymen status. This continued influx of practitioners can only serve to enhance our standing in the three Crafts and underpin the validity of our awards, as well as contributing to strong and varied membership. The success of our Triennial Awards depends greatly on the number of entries received. All members are encouraged to nominate any schemes worthy of consideration.

The qualifying criteria are that the schemes have been completed since February 2014 and fall within the geographical area bounded by the M25. The final date for completion of a scheme is 31 January 2017 although entries can be accepted after this date as the judging process usually begins in late February. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Company website or requested from the Chairman of the Craft Committee.

Those who attended this year's Annual Awards ceremony at Trinity House will have been impressed by the achievements of all the winners. The three principal Craft Awards (supported by the Mason-Elliott, Montgomery and Fuller families) are given to the winners of the annual SkillBuild competition, the finals of which are held at the NEC in Birmingham in November. Members who have not had the opportunity to do so are encouraged to visit SkillBuild and view at first hand the complexity of the tasks facing the finalists. The high quality of the workmanship exhibited is itself testament to the high standard of teaching present in our construction colleges.

Indeed we were delighted to recognise Sean Sullivan of St. Austell College whose students have won each of the last three Mason-Elliott awards – an incredible achievement given the level of competition.

The Annual Awards also celebrate our links with the Corps of Engineers by the presentation of the Stokes Awards to the best trainees in the Royal School of Military Engineering and by awards to the best adult volunteer and cadet in the Royal Engineer badged cadet force units. This year it was a particular pleasure to welcome Sapper Terrie Cooper. She not only became the first female bricklayer in the armed forces but excelled to win the Stokes Class 2 Award. Plans are also in hand for another bricklaying day at the RSME which, as those who attended the last will testify, is an event not to be missed. A full list of the winners can be found on the Company's website. We are now approaching the point in the Livery cycle where we shall need new members of the Craft Committee and if anyone would be interested in serving on the Committee please contact the Chairman.

*Jeff Fuller*



*The Master Roger Westbrook CMG with Aldermanic Sheriff Andrew Parmley and the 2015 prizewinners.*

## CRAFT AWARDS MADE AT TRINITY HOUSE

### The Stokes Royal Engineers Awards

These annual Awards are given to the best Class 1 and Class 2 Bricklaying and Concreting Trainees at the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham.

Winners were:

Class 1 - **Sapper Dhiraj Rai**

Class 2 - **Sapper Terrie Cooper**

### Royal Engineers Army Cadet Force Awards

These annual Awards were initiated in 2009 to establish cadet corps links and also to further the Company's connection with the Royal Engineers. The Awards are made to the Best Adult Volunteer and the Best Cadet chosen from the Royal Engineer's six London Region Cadet Units.

Winners were:

Adult Volunteer of the Year - **Sgt Instructor Chris Sullivan**

Cadet of the Year— **Cadet Sgt Rajan Gopalji**

### The E & R Fuller Award for Bricklaying

The Regional heat winners were given the materials and a set time to complete a prescribed piece of work designed to test a range of skills to NVQ Level 3. These included setting out, cutting, bonding, incorporation of different brick types and pointing. Most observers felt this year's piece to be one of the most difficult set at SkillBuild and it was testament to the quality of the competition that the judges were unable to **choose between the two best pieces.**

Winners were:

**Thomas Sinfield** of Leicester College, and

**Tom Dixon** of Hull College

### The Mason-Elliott Award for Roof Slating and Tiling

The finalists who won their regional heats worked against the clock to prepare and complete a roof testing piece utilising a preformed standard rig, simulating typical roofing techniques which included ornamental detailing in both **natural slates and concrete plain tiles.**

Winner was:

**Kyle Friendship** of Cornwall College St Austell

Kyle's Course Tutor was Mr Sean Sullivan

### The Montgomery Award for Wall and Floor Tiling

The selected tiling finalists tackled a competition which required the competitors to prepare the backboards for the execution of two decorative tile panels needing elaborate circular or raking cutting with hand tools only and a section of floor tiling.

Mindful of the next WorldSkills event in Sao Paulo the piece had a suitably Brazilian theme.

Winner of the 2015 Award was:

**Armondas Tamulis** of Southern Regional College Northern Ireland

Armondas's Course Tutor was Mr Paul Doran

## THE TYLERS & BRICKLAYERS GOLF DAY 2014

Warley Park Golf Club

2 September 2014

**The Annual Golf Day was a great success; whilst never pretending to be a 'major' event in the Livery golfing calendar; this day continues to be played with a sense of fun and charm all of its own.**

The '3 Clerks Trophy' was the prize for the competing Livery Companies; and yet again the Constructors were triumphant, meaning they have won the trophy now on seven occasions. The only other two time winners of the trophy being our own Tylers & Bricklayers.

Teams from the Constructors, Paviers, Masons, Makers of Playing Cards and of course the T's and B's have been represented in recent years; and we are hoping that the Carmen may join us later this year.

The individual competition played for by golfers from the Tylers & Bricklayers is the renown 'Paul Harris Trophy' and it was great for us to recognise a new and deserving winner; no less than Renter Warden David Szymanski.

We are always trying to encourage new golfers to join us and so it was a delight to have Court Assistant Simon Martin and Liveryman Paul Cano Lopez along on their first occasion to experience the fun.



*St Alban's Cathedral forms a prominent landmark visible from several holes of the challenging par 72 course at Verulam Golf Club, this year's venue.*

For this year's Annual Golf Day, the event will move to Verulam Golf Club, St Albans; the home of the Ryder Cup, and will be held on Tuesday 1 September 2015.

**All are welcome;** and if you are unsure or require further information please contact Barry Blumsom at [blb406c@gmail.com](mailto:blb406c@gmail.com) or telephone 07875 391212

**Barry Blumsom**

# THE WORK OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**Someone once described the Communications Committee as “the Committee which does everything that no one else wants to do but about which everyone has an opinion”! There is, perhaps, a truth in this description – certainly the work of the Communications Committee is wide ranging, embracing membership, events, the website and publicity for the activities of the Company.**

The Committee, which is currently chaired by Simon Martin, was created following the 2010 strategic review and comprises three Sub-Committees: Membership, Events and Website.

## The Membership Sub-Committee:

Chaired by Michel Saminaden. The Sub-Committee’s principal responsibility is to formulate proposals for increasing the size of the Company’s membership.

It is not proposed to hold any specific ‘new members’ events in the foreseeable future, in the belief that our regular programme of events provides a good opportunity for liverymen to entertain guests who may wish to experience the activities and atmosphere of the Livery before being put forward for membership.

As a modest incentive for liverymen to introduce friends and colleagues as potential new members, it is now possible for liverymen to either (a) reclaim the cost of entertaining a guest at a lunch or dinner when that guest is subsequently elected to the Freedom of the Company or (b) dine as a guest of the Company on the occasion when the new member introduced by him or her also dines as the Company’s guest.

The ‘incentive’ payment will only apply when the new member pays the full entry fine on admission. Any questions should be referred to the Clerk.

It is hoped that this initiative will overcome any reluctance which liverymen may feel over bringing guests to Company events due to cost.

## The Events Sub-Committee:

Chaired by Peter Rogerson. This Sub-Committee supports the Master and the Upper Warden in planning and organising events for their respective years in office. Peter and his Committee would welcome ideas and suggestions from Liverymen for future Company visits and activities.

## The Website Sub-Committee:

Chaired by Dr. Mike Holliday. A key member of this committee is Alex Maclean Bather, who is the Company’s Webmaster, carrying out this often time consuming role in his spare time.

The principal responsibility of the Website Sub-Committee is the maintenance of the Company’s website which is, of course, the most visible ‘public face’ of the Tylers & Bricklayers. The task of ensuring that the website is current, with up-to-date reports and photos of recent activities, details of forthcoming events, profiles of the Master, Wardens and members of the Court, not to mention the members’ database, is never ending. In addition to the routine day-to-day maintenance and administration of the website, the Sub-Committee is also currently engaged on a number of projects to expand the use of the website, including online booking and payment for events and the creation of a new page for Members’ News.

The fourth major limb of the work of the Communications Committee is to “develop and coordinate all areas of the Company’s internal and external communications”. The Committee has been greatly assisted in this task by the recent appointment of Alan Dodd as the Company’s first Publicity Officer. (*See next page*). Alan will lead our efforts to publicise the Company, our activities and, in particular, our support for the Company’s crafts through the timely issue of press releases. Alan is also leading the development of a social media policy although we do not anticipate that the Master will be tweeting regularly!

## THE NEW COMPANY PUBLICITY OFFICER

*Alan Dodd reflects on taking up a new role:*

The Upper Warden placed what can only be described as a “small ad” in last year’s newsletter. It simply said, “A volunteer is needed.” The job description followed. It was also brief and to the point.

“We are keen to improve our profile with the City and the Company’s crafts and would like someone to assist with writing press releases for Company events and disseminating them to the trade and City press.”



I was, I am happy to admit, a very willing volunteer. I thought my background may qualify me for the role. Until I retired in 2013, I worked in the charity sector for 26 years, initially as a regional fundraiser for the National Children’s Home, then as deputy director of a national charity supporting disabled people, and latterly from 2003 as the first chief executive of the Children Today Charitable Trust. My primary task was to fundraise. This requires a number of skills including copywriting and media relations.

Having read the newsletter, I mentioned my interest to Court Assistant Lesley Day and Tom Rider. I later met with Simon Martin who, as Chairman of the Communications Committee, is responsible for overseeing activities to do with communications, membership, events, the website and “new” media such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn et al. I was subsequently co-opted to the Communications Committee. It is my opinion that for the Company to raise its profile within the City and the crafts and with a wider audience it will require a strategy that is consistent, coherent and congruent. This requires a much greater commitment than simply sending out a few random press releases. That is my challenge!

I look forward to working with Simon and supporting the Master, the Court and the Clerk in their task of promoting the many positive aspects of the Company, its charitable works and contribution to the crafts.

## STRICTLY THE ROOFING AWARDS!

The Chairman of the Craft Committee was delighted to be asked to help judge the annual NFRC Roofing Awards and to attend the presentation ceremony which took place at London’s Hilton Metropole on 15 May 2015.

A wide range of impressive schemes were commended and the very best recognised by awards. It was particularly pleasing to see so many liverymen present in the audience and especially Master Craftsmen Karl Terry and Richard Jordan who were amongst the award winners. Karl Terry Roofing also collected a special award for consistent excellence to mark the tenth anniversary of the event.

The event was superbly hosted by BBC newsreader Louise Minchin ably assisted by our own Liveryman Ray Horwood who between them coped admirably with a room full of roofing contractors. The image of Ray and Louise dancing on stage will live long in the mind – fortunately for Ray Louise has sworn never to appear on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

*Jeff Fuller*



*Photo of Liveryman Ray Horwood with co-host Louise Minchin*

***“The image of Ray and Louise dancing on stage will live long in the mind - fortunately for Ray, Louise has sworn never to appear on Strictly Come Dancing!”***

## PRE-PLANTATION BRICKMAKERS IN ULSTER

**Until recently it was generally believed that brickmaking was not undertaken in Ulster prior to the “Plantation” under the reign of James I in 1609. However, the ancestors of the great Irish Earls, whose reputations were largely redrawn following their defeat in the Nine Years War (1594-1606) had been great patrons of the brick trade and even today there are a number of edifices still extant.**

The work on the study of this subject is still in progress and certainly there had been a number of brickmakers in Ireland at various stages during the 15th Century. The earliest reference is to a brick vault in Bunratty Castle, Co. Clare completed in 1467.

My particular interest is in the huge building business of William Veysey, King Henry VI’s Master Brickmaker from 1437 to 1466. After William’s death the part of his business in the Midlands was managed by John Bird and later his son Robert and Veysey’s Children, Thomas and Margaret.

### ***Master Robert Bird and Thomas Veysey known to have worked in Ireland making bricks from 1467***

The London portion of the business was in the hands of William Veysey II and managed from their Isleworth brickyard, but following the deposition of Henry VI the business was no longer prominent in the Home Counties.

Master Robert Bird and Thomas Veysey are known to have been in Ireland from 1467 and it is likely that the Bunratty bricks are their work. Also bricks of similar dimensions and of the same period exist as window quoins at Carrickfergus Castle. Wealthy lords could afford to pay for Master Brickmakers to travel from England to make “state-of-the-art” building materials for them.

Messrs Bird and Veysey seem to remain working on various projects until some stage before 1488 when they are back in England, working at Dawley Castle, Shropshire. Thomas Veysey’s son, also called Thomas and inheritor of the Midlands part of the business is then commissioned once again to return to Ireland (1512 to 1533). Bricks by him have been found in Co. Antrim and Co. Fermanagh.

The most impressive structure identified and still standing is Belle Isle Castle, built for the Maguire, Lord of Fermanagh, on a large island in Upper Lough Erne. Whilst the present structure is predominantly post-Plantation, the impressive 5-storey Tuscan Tower is built of bricks matching the size and making of Veysey.



Brickmakers were encouraged to travel from England to work in Ulster before the 1609 Plantation and the ensuing development that followed. The remains of an imposing brick block-house overlooking Lough Neagh known as Mountjoy Castle at Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, was built to control the shipping on the lough by Lord Mountjoy in 1603. It was besieged several times and eventually razed in 1643.



Pity the poor English brickmakers labouring to get the bricks made while in such inhospitable country. Evidence lies in the bricks themselves which show signs of being made in the late Autumn. Badly formed and black-walled, they were hurriedly made and fired while still not fully dry. Many subsequently cracked and fissured. In spite of all this they stand as testament to the art and permanency of brick.

***Tony Mugridge***

## LADY'S EVENT VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE

**On a beautiful day in early June, the ladies of the Livery accompanied by several of their partners visited Hampton Court Palace.**



The party were taken round by guide Ann Crack, who explained the history of this great palace. The first tenant was the courtier Giles Daubeney, who took out a lease on the property in 1494. Cardinal Wolsey acquired it in 1514 and immeasurably transformed a grand private house into a magnificent bishop's palace, adding sumptuous private chambers for his own use, as well as three suites for the new royal family.



A grand processional route led from these grand apartments to the imposing double-height chapel. En route, the party were taken through the warren of vast kitchens put in place during Henry VIII's reign, which were built to feed the six hundred or so members of the court, entitled to eat at the palace twice a day.

From the Tudor part of the palace, the party moved to the buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren for King William III and Queen Mary II after they came to the throne in 1689.



William liked both the pleasant site and the good hunting at Hampton Court, but thought the Tudor buildings needed replacing. Fortunately, for those of us today, he ran out of money before completely rebuilding the palace.

Following the guided tour arranged by Caroline Rider, the party adjourned to the Tiltyard Café for a delightful lunch, after which many took time to visit the wonderful gardens surrounding the Palace.

*Lesley Day*

# THE GREAT BRITISH BRICK SHORTAGE

*Liveryman David Williams summarises the reports in the trade press of brick shortages across the country, the prospects for finding early resolution, and the possible consequences to the house building industry:*

**The global financial crisis of 2007-08 manifested itself in our own rural village of Tilmanstone in East Kent with the closure of a nearby factory – a modern brickmaking plant operated by Hanson Building Products. Constructed in the late 1980's on the site of the old colliery it specialised in the manufacture of familiar yellow London bricks, using shale from the spoil tip of the mine as part of the manufacturing process. A busy yard once completely full of tall stacks of newly made bricks has lain forlornly empty for the past five years. The building and its kiln currently remain unused.**

T&B members involved with recent projects specifying 'facing brick' may be all too aware of the 'great brick shortage'. It has been having a considerable impact on many construction sites across the UK and a problem first becoming apparent in 2013 now looks likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

## Market Downturn

The problem is a direct consequence of the downturn in building that quickly followed the global financial crisis of 2007/08. The construction industry suffered a huge impact. Almost overnight a previously vibrant market for mortgages all but collapsed as our High Street banks struggled to find capital to fund their own survival. Prices achievable for new housing fell substantially and builders and developers could not raise the finance necessary for commencing new housing construction.

For the brick industry, this led to a sudden fall in prices with UK manufacturers caught out over producing bricks no longer needed by sites. As UK housebuilding in particular collapsed back to levels not seen since the 1920s, brickmakers were left with an enormous stockpile of 1.2 billion unsold bricks – over half a year's normal demand.

Very soon the industry was forced to reduce production by the closing or 'moth balling' of factories. Hanson, one of the UK's largest brickmakers, reduced its workforce by half and shut five plants – including the one close to my home, hence stimulating my personal interest in this subject. UK brick production fell from almost three billion per year in the first half of the 2000's to well under half that by 2012. The other two market leaders, Ibstock and Wienerberger quickly followed suit also with factory closures.

## Demand fluctuation

Brick remains the nation's favourite construction material with over 50% of new buildings having a brick facade. The industry is not well placed to cope with such large fluctuations in demand. A recent fresh surge in the number of houses being built has led to a difficult situation. Today's demand greatly outweighs the much reduced supply. A new modern house typically needs 10,000 bricks – traditionally costing the builder around £3000-£5000 but now likely to cost rather more as demand outstrips supply. In addition to bricks used in office construction, the industry needs around 2 Billion bricks a year to build 200,000 new homes. In the last year, the industry made just 1.56 Billion bricks and short term solutions are being taken by builders merchants sourcing bricks from Spain, Belgium, Holland or Denmark. The industry has not helped itself by producing some 1200 individual styles and sizes of brick. While manufacturers may carry excess stocks of one brick, they may have insufficient stocks of another more favoured by specifiers or planners.

## Recovery in Housebuilding

Assisted by a fresh political will to generate more house starts, and governmental initiatives such as the 'Help to Buy' scheme, the industry is certainly bouncing back, 17% growth in 2013. The huge brick stockpile built up was able initially to cater for increased demand but was soon all but exhausted. Residual stocks held by manufacturers have fallen to 336 Million - a record low.

## Inelastic production characteristics

The response has been an increase of 20% in brick production in 2014 with 1.8 Billion supplied to the industry. A similar increase will be needed in 2015 to meet current demand for new housing starts.

However, the truth is that the remaining factories are simply not able to produce enough. Extended lead times running into many months for major development projects are now being quoted. A brick factory once closed is not that easy to start up again. It takes time to restore production and the present environment is a challenging one in which to rebuild a workforce with the requisite skills.

The volume of bricks no longer made here in our own UK factories will increasingly be made up with imports, copying the trend seen in the ceramic tile market once also dominated by our own manufacturers. Providers of alternative construction methods will also benefit - timber and steel framed housing common in other countries like the USA has previously been less used in Britain. There is a requirement for cheaper housing. Any shortage of traditional materials like brick, plus fewer skilled bricklayers, may provide increased impetus for adopting new ways of building the houses we so desperately need.

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

Onyinye Udokporo, the Company's Presentee at Christ's Hospital School, has continued to keep in close touch with the Master and Past Master David Cole-Adams following her attendance at the Livery Dinner last September. She did superbly in her GCSEs and is currently in the throes of sitting her AS level exams.



*The Bishop of London with Onyinye Udokporo in the library of Christ's Hospital*

We wish her well. She was recently instrumental in arranging for the Bishop of London, the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Richard Chartres, to spend an informal day at the School and to take part in a Sixth Form discussion group. He had been the one to present her to the School on behalf of the Company six years ago, following Past Master Tom Hoffman's successful appeal during his year. After the visit, he sent the following letter to the Master:

*Dear Master*

*Onyinye Udokporo was loud in her appreciation of the generosity of the Tylers and Bricklayers when I visited Christ's Hospital last week. I am also very grateful for the opportunity to introduce a very talented young woman to Christ's Hospital where it is obvious that she has used her time very well and where she has been a superb ambassador for the Worshipful Company.*

*With all good wishes*

*+Richard Londin*

*The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA*

## MORE TOSSING SUCCESS!

Under the leadership of Liveryman Christine Rigden, the T&B team again performed strongly in the Inter-Livery Pancake Races.

Organised annually by the Poulterers' Company, it took place on a sunny Shrove Tuesday morning in Guildhall Yard. Initially we thought we had won all four of our heats.

Sadly, on count-back of time-penalty faults, it transpired that James Parris had been pipped to the post and only three of our runners had made it through to their respective finals.

The Upper Warden, Tom Rider, who represented us in the Masters' race, and James Hockley in the Novelty Class, running in his 'Brick-wall' costume (see below), then went on to win their group finals and the coveted Copper Pancake Skillets, with Clare Banks in the Ladies' Race narrowly missing out on the 'copper-ware'.

For James, it was a case of retaining the trophy, and in the Victor Ludorum race he finished in second place, a thin pancake's distance behind the Butcher.

A good time was had by all, including by the team's very vocal supporters, and thanks to some generous sponsorship we raised some more funds for the Craft Trust.



*James Hockley does it again for the T & Bs, retaining the copper frying pan for the novelty race on Shrove Tuesday*

# THE MASTER'S VISIT TO OPORTO

22nd to 24th APRIL 2015

**Everyone knows Oporto as the second city of Portugal and as the centre for the export of wine from the upper Douro. But not everyone knows that it is a city of Dickensian charm magnificently sited on the steep north bank of the Douro near the river mouth.**

A party of thirty Tylers and Bricklayers, led by the Master, arrived determined to make the most of all that Oporto had to offer in April. Our base of operations was a boutique hotel created in three merchants' houses on the quayside with marvellous views across the river to Vila Nova de Guia, where most of the port shippers have their lodges. The hotel is also conveniently adjacent to the bars and terraces of the Praca da Ribeira, one of Oporto's liveliest waterside meeting places.

The party drove down to the Atlantic Coast at Matosinhos to dine at the Gaveto seafood restaurant on the first evening. There seemed to be some doubt on arrival as to whether a table had been booked but that doubt was soon resolved and the party feasted on sea bass and turbot washed down with local wines and a glass of Madeira.

Day 2 was spent at the Taylor's Lodge on a glorious day of intense sunshine. We were taken round by Chris Forbes, the Director with responsibility for developing markets.

He was an engaging and informative guide and, even those of us who thought we knew a bit about port, learned something new. After a tasting of five ports, including one vintage, we tottered into lunch, sharing the restaurant with a gay wedding, a first for most of us and, one suspects, Portugal.



In the evening, the Company enjoyed a St George's Day Dinner at the Factory House - this is not a factory in the sense of manufacture but the headquarters of the British factors (businessmen in Eighteenth Century parlance) in Oporto. It is an elegant neo-classical building.

*(Continued next page)*

The Managing Director of Symingtons, Paul Symington, together with his wife Jane, were our hosts. White port with ice, tonic and mint and salted almonds were served in the drawing room before we moved into dinner. We were thirty-three at a table lit by single silver candlesticks and decorated with superb arrangements of white stocks and apricot roses which echoed the colour of the walls.

After a dinner of spinach soup with Marscapone, pork, a trio of three typical Portuguese puddings and a mountain ewes' cheese, plus a hard cheese from the Azores, Paul invited us to bring our napkins and menus into the dessert room.

This is always the high spot of Factory House dinners. You move from one dining room into its mirror image, its table ablaze with candlelight from four-branch candelabras and laid with a lovely Staffordshire dessert service and crystal finger bowls.



We were there to enjoy our port away from any lingering odours of our dinner. And what a port! The Graham's '77 circulated generously, nuts were cracked, and apricots and dates enjoyed.

Paul's hospitality was warm and genuine and one could not but be impressed by his dedication to his company and its endeavours. We all felt very privileged to be there and the Master reflected that in his short reply.

The following morning's weather could not have been more different from the day before. An Atlantic squall coincided with our river crossing.

Graham's production of port wine is very different from Taylor's but their presentation was equally informative. The tour was followed by a tasting in the christening room where we were shown a barrel labelled 'Ambassador', against which the Master had thrown a full glass of port during his official visit to the Lodge in 1998. After the tasting, we proceeded to a merry farewell lunch before leaving for the airport. Paul Symington had promised that we would be well received when we visited the Graham's Lodge and this certainly proved to be the case.

*Roger Westbrook*

## ANNUAL GUEST BANQUET

The magnificent Drapers' Hall was the venue chosen for this year's event on 14 May.



Over 200 liverymen and their guests dined in the sumptuous surroundings on saffron crusted halibut, tournedos of beef, mango terrine coconut ice cream and black bomber rarebit, with the London Banqueting Ensemble providing music and entertainment.

Our guests included Master Draper, the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers Company, Master Mason, Master Plumber and their Ladies.

Principal Guest and Speaker was Professor Nick Cave, FGS, the Woodwardian Professor Emeritus of Geology and a Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge. After a witty Welcome to the Guests from the Master, Professor Cave gave an amusing reply, extolling the virtues of mud!



*“Professor Cave gave an amusing reply, extolling the virtues of mud!”*

## NEW COURT ASSISTANT

Jenny Rolls



**I was admitted to the Tylers & 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. I currently work one day a week, still with mothers and their babies. I enjoy music and singing in two local choirs now I have more time.

I was admitted to Court in 2014, only the second lady to do so. My husband is also enjoying retirement, so we can spend more time in Somerset and London with our sons and their families.

The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers  
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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2015

- Saturday** Charter Day  
**1 August**
- Thursday** Court Meeting and Livery Dinner  
**3 Sept** Apothecaries' Hall
- Tuesday** Common Hall for the Election of the Lord  
**29 Sept** Mayor and optional lunch
- Thursday** Court Meeting - Grocers' Hall  
**1 October** Installation and Annual Service  
St Margaret's Lothbury  
Lunch at Grocers' Hall
- November** Visit to Southwark Cathedral, Evensong and Reception
- Thursday** Court - Wax Chandlers' Hall  
**17 Dec** Carol Service, St Margaret's Lothbury  
Buffet Supper - City University Club

### 2016

- Tuesday** Pancake Races, Guildhall Yard  
**9 February**
- Thursday** Common Hall & Dinner - Cutlers' Hall  
**11 February**
- Monday** Court Meeting and Craft Awards Lunch -  
**7 March** Trinity House
- Friday** United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral  
**11 March**
- Monday** 600th Anniversary Concert and Reception  
**18 April** Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Tuesday** Sons of the Clergy Festival at St Paul's  
**10 May** Cathedral
- Thursday** Annual Guest Banquet and Exhibition of the  
**12 May** Company's Treasures - Carpenters' Hall
- Thursday** Court Meeting and Masters & Clerks Lunch -  
**9 June** Pewterers' Hall
- Friday** Election of Sheriffs and optional lunch  
**24 June**
- Saturday** Charter Day  
**30 July**
- Thursday** Court Meeting and Livery Dinner  
**1 Sept**
- Thursday** Court, Installation and Annual Service, and  
**6 October** Lunch

*The above list gives basic details of functions currently planned. Full information on these and other events will be sent out by the Clerk in good time to allow for bookings to be made.*