



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

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 23 | JUNE 2012

## MASTER PIECE

We are just over half way through the current Company year. It has been a year of considerable innovation. The team of Master, Wardens, Clerk, Court Assistants and members of committees have put in a lot of useful work, and have had some notable successes. I emphasize the team nature of this effort. The Master is merely the figurehead, the front man, but he would get nowhere without the efforts of all those I have mentioned. Among the innovations I would particularly mention:

The implementation of many of the changes in the 10 year review.

An event for members to invite guests interested in joining the Company.

A bricklaying day at Chatham which was fun and enabled participants to get hands-on experience of this trade.

The Company's first real trip abroad with the recent walking of the Camino Ingles in Northern Spain. The only previous venture outside the UK was a golfing weekend in Ireland. The Camino trip is covered in more detail later.

I have made a major effort to increase the profile of the Company with the

launch of [www.liverycompanies.com](http://www.liverycompanies.com) which lists all the Livery Companies in alphabetic order, has pictures of their masters and their company badges. This has been presented as an initiative of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company.

A further part of my 'outreach' programme is the annual Max's Walk on 12 July which will be joined by the Lord Mayor this year. Starting at City Hall, it enters the City near Tower Hill and proceeds past Guildhall and through the Barbican to end up at the Tylers' and Bricklayers' sundial near the



*The Company's new gowns*

Millennium Bridge. Masters of other Companies have been invited to join the walk. Many have accepted and I look forward to their company and that of the Lord Mayor.

A further innovation is our Charter Day visit to Gorhambury near St Albans where, 444 years ago our charter was signed by Queen Elizabeth. It seems appropriate that we celebrate our Charter Day there. I hope that this will become a tradition.

Lastly, the innovation of which I am most proud as it was a personal initiative in which I was much helped by the support of Past Master Julian Gordon, is the launch of the new gowns which reflect the Company's uniqueness in having three crafts.

My design proposal was that each gown should reflect one of these crafts - displaying bricks, tiles and roof tiles in bands of colour around the hems of the capes. I am pleased to pass on this reminder of my tenure to my successors.

I have been much concerned by our poor charitable giving record - three quarters of the Livery make no regular contribution to our charities at all! Charity is at the heart of the raison d'être of all livery companies and we must do better in the future than we currently do. I hope that all members will respond to my recent appeal to fill out a standing order form for one or more of our three charities. Details can be found on the website.

*Piers Nicholson*

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 12 Jul      | Max's Silver Jubilee Walk - 3 miles  |
| 3 Aug       | Charter Day outing to Gorhambury where our Charter was signed in 1568                                      |
| 12 Aug      | Sundial Walk with Clockmakers Company [Westminster-Tower]  |
| 6 Sep       | Court & Livery Dinner - Cutlers' Hall  |
| 21 Sep      | Visit to Horniman Museum and Lunch   |
| 1 Oct       | Common Hall for election of Lord Mayor   |
| 4 Oct       | Installation Court - Carpenters' Hall, Annual Service - St Margaret Lothbury and Lunch at Carpenters' Hall |
| 22 Oct      | Visit to Spencer House + Reception   |
| 22 Nov      | Visit to Geffrye Museum and light lunch  |
| 12 Dec      | Court Meeting, Carol Service and Supper  |
| 12 Dec      | Court Meeting, Carol Service and Supper  |
| 16 Jan 2013 | Butchers' Company Carvery Lunch at their Hall  |
| 7 Feb       | Court, Common Hall and Livery Dinner - St Botolph's Hall   |
| 13 Feb      | Pancake Day Races - Guildhall Yard   |
| 11 Mar      | Court Meeting and Crafts Awards Lunch - Trinity House  |
| 22 Mar      | United Guilds Service and Lunch  |
| 12 Apr      | Ladies Event - Visit to 2 Temple Place and Lunch   |

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE LIVERY

|                |  |                 |  |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Bob Haville    | City broker  | James Belassie  | Computer Services for the public and private sectors |
| Graham Latter  | Insurance broker   | Geoff Mann      | Director - architectural practice                    |
| Tony Mugridge  | Specialist Brickmaker  | Nicholas Woolf  | Chartered Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor       |
| Ian Henning    | National Federation of Roofing Contractors - Technical Officer | Paul Cano Lopez | Director - Construction Training Organization        |
| James Houston  | Client advisory assistant in UBS AG Wealth Management          | Edmund Herter   | NHS Project Manager                                  |
| Jonathan Ford  | Secretary of The Athenaeum                                     |                 |  |
| James Crossley | Director, Strategic Alliances - Jupiter Unit Trust Managers    |                 |  |
| Roger Salmon   | Director, private development company                          |                 |  |

# THE DEATH OF BUGGINS AS WE KNOW HIM

One of the outcomes from the Strategic Review last year was the significant change to the way in which Assistants are selected to serve on the Court. No longer will the choice be made on the basis of Buggins' Turn.

Unlike the Hobson of Hobson's choice, Buggins wasn't a real person. Buggins is one of the generic names, like John Smith, Joe Blow etc., that were given to the typical man in the street; the ubiquitous 'man on the Clapham omnibus'. A reference to the undistinguished

*"moving with the times - new rules, new assistants"*

nature of Buggins as a name was printed in *The New York Times* in August, 1859 which noted that 'No man likes to be known as Buggins, or Noggs, or Shufflebottom.'

While the Company has inevitably been well served by generations of Masters selected through the time honoured route, there was the concern that, with new members coming to the Livery later than in earlier times, there would inevitably be some who would make excellent Masters being prevented from reaching the position through age.

This year we have three new Assistants proposed by the Nominations Sub-committee and elected to the Court under the new rules. Not all will necessarily go forward to be Master and some or all of them may be retired to the benches after a period of two or three years for a period awaiting possible recall as

Renter Warden in Nomination.

The three new Assistants are:

## ROGER WESTBROOK CMG

Roger was educated at Dulwich College and Hertford College, Oxford where he read Modern History. He entered the Diplomatic Service with an early spell in charge of the 'fish and ships' desk at the Foreign Office and as Assistant Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster – George Thompson. He was then sent to a selection of newly independent countries in what had been French West Africa then to Brazil where his flat overlooked the beach volleyball courts of Botafogo. Imagine his disappointment at not getting tickets for the events on Horseguards Parade this summer!

He served as Private Secretary to two Foreign Ministers – Roy Hattersley and David Owen, was the FCO spokesman during the Falklands War as Deputy Head of News and, as the Diplomatic Service Inspector, he travelled the world 'being beastly to his elders and betters'.

He went on to be Head of Mission in Brunei, in Zaire during the troubled times which led the removal of President Mobutu and in a Tanzania flooded with Hutu and Tutsi refugees. His Foreign Office career came to an end as Ambassador in Portugal.

Following retirement he became Chairman of Spencer House (which the Company will visit later in the year). He has been chairman of numerous other organizations, is a Governor of the Sons of the Clergy, Chief Honorary Steward at Westminster Abbey and was on duty for the Queen's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday visit to distribute the Royal Maundy (pictured above right) and for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.



Roger, a Man of Kent, escapes from London to 'a beach-bum existence in my little house on the sea wall at Whitstable'.

## LESLEY DAY



Lesley Day was born in Sutton Coldfield in 1953 and spent a normal childhood until she was ten, at which time her father was offered the opportunity of moving to Sao Paulo, Brazil to set up an agency for his firm. Five years later she returned to the UK having gained a myriad of friends from around the world, a love of music and having seen sights and aspects of life in poorer countries which made her realize it was important to "give back" to others.

After returning to the UK Lesley completed her education and began work. Having taken a few years out to bring up two children she started working with the UK trade associations in the tile industry. In the 25 years she has been in this industry she was involved in the launch of a tile exhibition, tile trade magazine and the amalgamation of existing associations and subsequent inauguration of The Tile Association in 2000. Her work has included involvement in technical, training and marketing for the industry and has seen the TTA grow in membership from 300 at its launch to over 900 in 2012.

Outside work, Lesley is involved in Lions Club International, enjoys gardening, travelling and most especially spending time with her husband, children and growing number of grandchildren.

#### DAVID SZYMANSKI



David was educated at Bedford Modern School, and then, happily for the brick industry, was sponsored by London Brick Company(LBC) to attend Bradford University where he gained an Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He repaid his sponsors by joining LBC on a full time basis as a Project Engineer in their Engineering Department. In 1977/8 he spent 5 months in Iran responsible for the building of a new brick factory a trip that was cut short due to the revolution against the Shah. Between 1983 and 1985, he was Resident Engineer

for a new brick factory in Swaziland, before returning to UK to move into Works and General Management. He joined ARC Pipes (Hanson) as Managing Director in 1991 and ARC Southern as Operations Director in 1995. In 1996 became MD of Desimpel, a brickmaker in Belgium, Holland and France 1998, returning to UK as MD of Hanson Brick, and then of Hanson Building Products in 2002.

David retired from Hanson in November 2009, and now works on a semi-retired basis with a non-executive directorship of the Building Research Establishment and non-executive Chairmanship of National Buying Group, a builders merchants buying group. He is also involved in a small building company with another T&B, Steve Trott.

For relaxation David and his wife Hilary spend time in their house in France(Languedoc), and he plays golf 2/3 times per week. Increased involvement with the T&B's has meant that his diary is mostly full!

A busy retirement all round.

### THE COMPANY'S NEW STEWARDS

At its March meeting the Court confirmed the recommendation of the Nomination Committee that the following should be appointed as Company Stewards for a three year term: Liverymen **David Armitage, George Clark, David Fensom,**

*"an honour in recognition of their contribution to the work of the Company"*

**Adrian Houstoun and Brenda Upton-Kemp.** They now share the privilege of wearing the blue Stewards gowns with **Ray Baker, Rex Levi Bob Howard, Michel Saminaden** and **Don Slade.**

In congratulating the new Stewards the Master emphasised that their appointment was first and foremost an honour in recognition of their contribution to the corporate life of the Company. They have a visible role at our major events and a responsibility to keep in touch with the members - particularly with those who seldom attend functions.

The new stewards fill vacancies resulting from the recent retirement of **John Ockenden** and **Eric Maxwell**, the election of other former Stewards to the Court and the appointment of Melvyn Newell as Charity Steward.

### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



**Past Master Sir Idris Pearce** (Master 2000-01) has been awarded The Chief Royal's Gold Medal for 'constant, generous and wholehearted support for the Royal Engineers since his time as a National Servicemen in 1957.' During his Master's year he was responsible for the

presentation of the Millennium Polar Sundial which stands in the grounds of the RE Museum at Chatham. Among his many involvements with the Corps Sir Idris has been a Trustee of the Royal Engineers Foundation (Chairman 1989-91) and he has had a close association over many years with the Museum and its plans. An honour well merited.

**Tony Mugridge** – pictured below - is an independent brick maker whose work and premises have been much on the television in recent months.



Although he has been somewhat itinerant after making his first bricks and tiles in 1982, his base since 2007 has been the Madeley Wood

Brick and Tile Works in the Blists Hill Victorian Town in Shropshire. It is his work here which has led to his recent TV appearances on 'Britain's Heritage Heroes' and 'The Restoration Man'.

**David Armitage** – a fifth generation brick maker has also had a long association with the brick making industry and currently plies his trade from the York Handmade Brickworks outside York. The Company enjoyed a happy visit to the works earlier in the year and learned just how much goes into the manufacture of what we regard as a simple object. If you take out the clever machines which mix the ingredients and sort out the colours chosen by the architect the process is probably not dissimilar to that used by the makers of the Jericho brick held with the Company's treasures.

He now produces building components which cater for a niche market.- current projects have included the new building for the Chetham Music School in Manchester and that at the base of London's Shard.

David (pictured here) has been recently been rewarded for his service to the Brick Industry with the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Brick Development Association annual awards ceremony.



David Armitage at York Handmade

Another craft member of the Company – **Stan Valler** – has also been recognized by his trade association for long and distinguished service. In this case the Special Achievement Award made by The Tile Association on behalf of the industry 'recognizes a special achievement by an individual who has made a difference to the wall and floor tile industry as a whole.

Well done Stan.

## A CURIOUS POST TO BE ELECETED TO

### *Your City Ale Conner: Liveryman Dr Christine Rigden - strange but true!*

Elected by the Livery, along with the Sheriffs and other Officers, every Midsummer's Day are the four City of London Ale Conners. Christine has been elected annually since 2006 following an uninterrupted succession for over 700 years – the first lady to hold this post.

For centuries water was not fit to drink in the City, and the Ale Conners tested and maintained the quality of ale in the City of London as ale, along with bread, formed the staple diet. It was a serious offence to sell ale which had not passed the Ale Conner's test. Records from 1316 indicate an early example of "three strikes and you're out": first offence – he shall lose his brew, second offence – he shall abjure his trade, third offence – he shall abjure the City forever. In 1417 it is recorded that Ale Conners were paid £40pa; equivalent to a six figure sum today. However, with changing times, the role of the Ale Conners reduced and, in 1755 Dr Johnson referred to the post as "purely a sinecure for decayed citizens"- somewhat harsh!

Today, the post is unpaid, but Ale Conners can still perform their test on certain occasions, and at the request of an Alderman. The test involves pouring a small quantity of ale onto a wooden bench and, dressed in leather trousers, sitting in the resultant pool. After a few minutes, the Ale Conners attempt to rise. If the ale is too sticky it is deemed improperly fermented and failed. If we can stand freely the ale is passed fit to drink by the good citizens of the City of London.

## THE RENTER WARDEN - Andrew Stroud



photo - Michael O'Sullivan

When he joined the Company in 1985 at the instigation of Bryan Montgomery, Andrew was Director of Information and Marketing of the internationally respected and influential Cement and Concrete Association. Aggressive dumping of cement from Eastern Europe forced the UK cement makers to abandon their Common Price Agreement and the Association was, sadly, wound up at the end of 1987.

Encouraged by professional colleagues, Andrew set up a consultancy which provided both challenges and rewards. Particular satisfaction came as a result of his appointment as founding administrator of the British Construction Industry Awards. These established themselves as the most highly prized accolades for buildings and civil engineering schemes. Rigorously judged, they rewarded not only all-round excellence in design, construction and delivery but also, crucially, client satisfaction with the end product. His final contribution before retiring in 2001 was to see a 'Prime Minister's Award for Better Public Building' added to the BCIA portfolio. Despite the 2010 change of government, it is still going strong.

Additionally Andrew had a wide range of interests. He joined the Honourable Artillery Company in 1962, serving in its (then) infantry battalion for ten years (and playing for rugby for them team till neck problems forced him to take an early bath). This was followed by ten years in the HAC's detachment of special constabulary and, concurrently with that, 25 years in the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers – the Lord Mayor's bodyguard - few know the route of the Lord Mayor's Show better - he has marched it – in one uniform or another - some 35 times.

At home, in Claygate, he has been deeply involved with both the parish church and community as some time PCC Secretary and a member of Guildford Diocesan Synod and of the Diocesan Board of Finance Executive Committee.

He has always been a keen traveller, an enthusiasm fuelled by a year's exchange scholarship to a school in the USA after leaving Dulwich College. This brought the added privilege of crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Mary and returning on the Queen Elizabeth.

A shared enjoyment of travel was one of the common interests which led to Andrew's marriage to Sarah in 1998 (his first wife, Valerie, died in 1990). Each had two daughters of which Andrew's younger is the only one yet to have produced a grandchild. Andrew had long delighted in fell and mountain walking (as he still does, as long as the gradients aren't too challenging) while Sarah, on the other hand,

loved cruising. To mutual surprise, she managed to persuade him of its sybaritic delights - always provided that the destinations were of sufficient interest. They consider themselves very lucky to have been able to travel so widely to fascinating and varied places (not only by sea!) in the 11 years since they retired

Both are guides – Sarah at Lambeth Palace and Andrew at The Homewood in Esher, a modern movement National Trust house, and both will be volunteering at the Paralympic Games this summer. He has been a St John Ambulance Divisional President since 1998 and is also a volunteer usher at a newish local theatre – The Rose in Kingston.

Within the Company, he has been a long-standing member of the Craft Committee – which he now chairs – and he oversaw the 2002 Triennial Awards . He was involved with the 2010 Strategic Review Group and its implementation.

Whereas Andrew's involvement with the HAC had introduced him to the City and its ways (he became a Freeman in 1976), it was a new world to Sarah. Fortunately, his fellow Liverymen made her so welcome at events that she feels that she is now part of the family. So much so, in fact, that she and the Master's Lady teamed up to take on the men at the Master's bricklaying event at Chatham. Sarah recently affirmed her recognition of the role of the City by becoming a Freeman herself. She and Andrew are now waiting patiently for a chance to drive their sheep over

*a Craft Committee member par excellence*

## THE FATHER OF THE COMPANY

## CRAFT NEWS

### KENNETH PERCIVAL MA MICE



*The Master welcomes the Father of the Company at the Installation Lunch*

The new Father of the Company – Ken Percival – joined the Livery in 1934, was admitted to the Court in 1963 and served as Master in 1968. He was presented with the badge of the Father of the Company at the installation Lunch in September 2011.

Ken offers the following insight on where he was when informed that he had joined the Livery of the Tylers and Bricklayers.

*'I had two years (instead of 3) at Cambridge reading Mechanical Sciences during which time I joined the Senior OTC (Officers Training Corps) before being called up for 6 months at Colchester, serving in the ranks, then had a further 6 months in the OTC at Aldershot.*

*My first posting as a Second Lieutenant was to Nom 8 Group CWRE (Chemical Warfare Royal Engineers). We started at Barton Stacey but soon moved to Dunster in Somerset. I am not sure that many people knew we existed. We had 15 trucks on which were mounted 4.2" mortars capable of firing multiple shells containing mustard gas or chlorine. We had several operational outings to Exmoor for testing - In the sake of self interest I became very proficient at weather forecasting!*

*After my marriage in 1942 (we managed our Diamond Jubilee) I was posted shortly after to No 2 group CWRE and left Avonmouth for we knew not where. We had a stop in Durba, finally disembarking at Suez for a camp at Mena, beside the Pyramids. We later moved to the front line and it was at this stage that I received a letter from the Clerk – John Bird – to say that I could be put on the Livery of the Company by patrimony if I so wished and that all formalities could be completed when and if I returned. John thoughtfully included in his letter a packet of pipe tobacco for my use!*

*At the Battle of El Alamein - October 1942 - all our mortars were taken over by other companies in the group who fired high explosives to help with the terrible barrage put up by the Artillery – all under the direction of Monty. From that time we never heard of Chemical Warfare and reverted to being a normal RE Company. I stayed with the 66th Coy right through to 1945 after Sicily and Normandy. After disbandment in Holland we were sent to 52nd Lowland Division.*

*Little did I know in the RE that my family firm Moreland Hayne & Co was back in Silvertown assembling and fabricating Bailey Bridges and was responsible for the 'Whale' sections (joining the pontoons) for the Mulberry Harbours. Before my time with the firm they had erected a number of notable steel framed buildings including Broadcasting House in Portland Place.'*

Perhaps the tradition of sending prospective new Liverymen a packet of pipe tobacco might be revived; but then again, perhaps not.

There have been two significant events in the past year which demonstrate the Company's commitment to quality in the crafts in our care. The **Triennial Awards for 2011** have been well publicised with a copy of the brochure produced by the Craft Committee to mark the awards ceremony being sent to all members of the Company.

The awards were presented by the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Alderman Michael Bear at Carpenters' Hall. While it was particularly fitting that Sir Michael should have made these presentations (he is probably the first holder of the office to come from the construction sector in over 800 years), it is hoped that, with careful planning, we shall be able to attract his successors to this event in the future. In addition to his presence, we were pleased to have a keynote address from prominent architect Dr Ken Shuttleworth who was fulsome in praise for the work he saw during the judging process and encouraged the Company to keep recognizing such quality workmanship.

*"it was refreshing to see that the world is not entirely digital and that intuitive skill still has value"*

*Dr Ken Shuttleworth*

## CRAFT AWARDS PRESENTATION 2012



Photo of award winners with Master and Wardens  
(photo by Michael O'Sullivan)

*Sadly, Roof Slating and Tiling was missing from the programme of 46 separate skill contests because, for reasons best known to themselves, the organizers had replaced it with Jamaican Hairdressing! The UK's Philip Green who carried off the Bricklaying gold medal - one of five won by team UK - was presented with the Company's silver medal in recognition of his achievement.*

*WorldSkills took place at ExCel which will be the venue for fourteen Olympic and Paralympic sporting events this summer. Let's hope that many of the UK competitors in these and all the other events will achieve similar success!*

Andrew Stroud, Chairman of the Craft Committee reports

*Tallow Chandlers' Hall was filled to capacity for the Company's Craft Awards Luncheon on 15 March. The Senior Alderman below the chair, Alderman Roger Gifford, presented the Fuller (bricklaying), Mason-Elliott (roof slating and tiling), Montgomery (wall and floor tiling) and Stokes (Royal Engineers construction trainees) Awards as well as the Company's Award to the RE Army Cadet Force units in London.*

*Special recognition was also given to the Team UK competitors in two of our crafts, Bricklaying and Wall and Floor Tiling in the biennial WorldSkills competition which took place in London last October.*

## OF BIRDS AND BEASTS

Some months ago a new species of dinosaur that is believed to be the world's smallest was discovered in a pit at the Ashdown Brickworks near Bexhill. The fossil of the bird-like dinosaur was upwards of 40cm long and is thought to be some 250 million years old.

The creature was not thought to be particularly friendly and was probably part of the two-legged, man-eating dinosaur family called theropods.

Perhaps if the Company is ever casting round for a new heraldic beast this might be our chap.

Those involved in the assessments of the Triennial awards were amused to learn that the use of crushed bricks found on the site of the Olympic Power Station at Stratford as ballast for the flat roof had scored environmental brownie points as the material encouraged the survival of the Red Black Start - a Robin family member which is among the most endangered species in the UK. The site was thought to be that of a long-gone brickworks - who said that such places were devoid of interest?

## SOMEONE'S GOT TO DO IT



Among the more arduous tasks the Master has to undertake is travelling the length and breadth of the country judging and presenting awards related to our three crafts. He is seen here in Birmingham after presenting an award at The Tile Association annual awards ceremony. The Mistress was also present but declined to take part in the photo opportunity.

Prizes might be given for the best caption.

# THE COMPANY'S SUPPORT OF CHARITY

At the **Annual Guest Dinner** held at Vintners' Hall in May the Master's principal guest was the Speaker of the House of Commons - the Rt Hon John Bercow MP (*pictured below*). The capacity crowd present was treated to excellent entertainment from Mr Speaker in his response to the toast to the Guests. The Speaker chairs a charity of which the Master's wife is a Trustee - **AFASIC** - and to which the Company is making a donation in the current year.



The Rt Hon John Bercow  
*photo courtesy of Brian Angel*

AFASIC is a UK-wide charity which represents parents, families and carers of a child affected by the hidden disability of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). The work is rooted in the experience and perspective of parents and the organization has a membership which includes parents, professionals and young people with SLCN.

The over-arching goals of the charity are to raise awareness and understanding of the hidden disability of SLCN and the full inclusion in society of children and young people with SLCN.

*"Livery Companies have always been concerned with philanthropy and, in 2010 they gave a total of £41.85 million to charitable causes."*

The quote above is the background against which the Master's plea for charitable giving support from the whole Livery is best seen.

In the course of the past year the following charitable donations have been made:

## THE CHARITABLE TRUST

The Lord Mayor's Appeal  
RAF Benevolent Fund  
Christ's Hospital School  
City of London Endowment Trust for St Paul's Cathedral  
The Brunswick Youth Club Trust  
The Church of St Margaret Lothbury  
Guildhall School of Music & Drama  
Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy  
City of London Police Widow's and Orphans' Fund  
St Paul's Cathedral School  
RE Cadets London Area  
King Edward School Whitley  
Guildhall Library  
Sunny Days Childrens' Fund  
The Robes Project (night shelter)  
Quest School (for autistic children)  
Gift of Sight (to fund clinical trials)  
Tower Hamlets Mission  
KEEPOUT (helps young people in custody)

## SCHOOL PRIZES

### (The Noreen Kerr Fund)

City of London School  
City of London School for Girls  
City of London Freeman's School

### The Martin Fund

St Paul's Cathedral School

### Awards to the Royal Engineers Army Cadet Force

Adult Volunteer - SSI David Kracke  
Cadet of the Year  
- Cadet Corporal Jordan Lewis

## CRAFT TRUST

Construction Youth Trust  
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust  
The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment  
CRASH (construction industry's charity for the homeless)

## CRAFT COMPETITION PRIZES

### The Stokes RE Awards for brick-laying at the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham

**Class 1** - Sapper Stuart Coleman  
**Class 2** - Sapper Bal Kumar Budha  
Magar

### The E&R Fuller Award (Bricklaying)

Chris Taylor (Preston College)

### The Mason-Elliott Awards (Roof Tiling & Slating)

Kevin Barker (Leeds College)  
Stephen Harkin (NFRC Training Centre, Northern Ireland)

### Montgomery Award (Floor and Wall Tiling)

Harry Coyle (Leeds College)

### WorldSkills Bricklaying Gold Medalist -

Philip Green (Belfast Metropolitan)

### WorldSkills Tiling Contestant

- Ian McMahon (Northern Ireland)

## TRAINING IN THE CRAFTS



The winners and runners-up received suitably inscribed medals while the Fuller team came away with a brick each into which had been set a suitably inscribed wooden spoon. These (and, of course, the medals) will be artifacts to be treasured and which may well end up as items of curiosity on the Antiques Road Show in due course.

*Pictured below are the winning team with the Master and their Instructor - Corporal Bowles.*



Precedents can be dangerous. Such was the success of the Master's **Brickwork Training Day** at the **Royal School of Military Engineering** at Chatham in mid April that successors will now face pressure to ensure that willing participants are to be given the opportunity to become similarly skilled in roof tiling and slating and wall and floor tiling. Watch this space.

The picture above - kindly supplied by the Royal Engineers - shows the general scene of activity in the training facility at the School where several two person teams were set to work to complete a section of brick wall the base courses and corners of which had been thoughtfully put in place before our arrival. The challenge was to complete the wall in simple English bond up to and including a brick on edge coping and incorporating a bit of projecting work to provide both decorative interest and additional challenge. Each pair had the guidance of a professional and the Company's bricklayers (who had been forbidden to enter) moved constantly between the works in progress judging and awarding marks for something more than style and artistic interpretation. Time off was allowed for a buffet lunch and the chance to apply yet more barrier cream to hands unused to dealing with lime mortar.

In the final analysis, when the marking was done, there was a ceremony to announce the medallists and other prize winners who were as follows:

Gold Medallists: Natasha Nicholson and Pam Charlick

Silver Medallists: Philip and James Parris

Best Endeavour Award: Jeff Fuller and his son Jack

There was, needless to say, murmuring about family connections but it must be said that the judges, George Clark and Paul Cullen (experienced bricklayers both) were scrupulously fair and painstaking. They and David Fensom who had, in conjunction with the Master and the officers at Chatham organized the event deserve profuse thanks as do the Company's other bricklayers Steve Trott and David White who acted as instructors.

*'an opportunity to  
share with one of  
the Company's more  
illustrious members -  
Ben Jonson, the joys of  
bricklaying'  
- like him, most of us  
would be well advised  
to stick to the day job!*

# THE CAMINO INGLES - 20 to 27 MAY 2012



Sunday 20 May found a party of 15 Tylers & Bricklayers and guests in Ferrol, Galicia, NW Spain to walk the Camino Ingles - an ancient pilgrim route, or as the Upper Warden described it "an absurdly long walk", to Santiago de Compostela.

The Master's enthusiasm and passion for the Camino de Santiago is the inspiration for the journey and our route the shortest of the Caminos. The Master has travelled both this and other routes.

We share many motives for undertaking this challenge - the spiritual, the temporal and the physical challenge. I told anyone who asked that my only pilgrimage would be to the next wine and tapas bar! Whatever our original motivations, by the end of our journey we will all have discovered unexpected value in and meaning from the experience.

*"But whatever our original motivations by the end of our journey we will all have discovered unexpected value in and meaning from the experience"*

On our rest day in Ferrol the Master arranged a guided walking tour of

the old town. Warned not to expect too much we find unexpected pleasure in the distinctive Galician "closed balconies" style of architecture and the work of one man – the Modernist Rodolfo Ucha – the town's architect from 1908 until 1936.

The Master gives us the first of his nightly "power wows" to share his knowledge and experience of the Camino and to brief us on the next day's walk. A support vehicle will transport our overnight luggage from town to town leaving us to carry what we need for the day and pick up those needing rescue at pre-determined points.



Our route is marked appropriately with a tile depicting a yellow scallop shell design on a blue background and by less formal yellow arrows painted on walls, roads and lamp posts etc. We are all armed with the excellent guide to the Camino written by the Master's good friend John Rafferty.

Day 1 - our Camino baptism! We have a bus ride from the hotel to the port where the harbour steps mark our official starting point.

The day's walk is mostly on roads around the somewhat smelly estuary on which Ferrol sits, circumnavigating industrial developments and motorway junctions. At lunchtime, having walked some 15km, we note that Ferrol seems still to be in touching distance. Only later in the afternoon do we finally leave the tarmac and start the first of many steep climbs before descending to **Pontedeume**. The weather has been variable but by the time we reach our destination it is raining hard.

The official distance is 25 km but our apps tell us we have walked just



over 27 km and acquired our first batch of blisters!

Leaving Pontedeume on day 2 we have a long climb out of the valley. The weather has improved and the first suntan lotion is applied. The scenery improves, the roads are more minor and we have more tracks through woods and fields. Blister dressings are tested!

At only 20km the day ahead seems straightforward and even though it gets hotter we make better progress despite the many changes in altitude. The naturalists among us start to point out interesting flora and fauna and the promised fragrance of the countryside has replaced the stench of estuary sludge.

We arrive in groups in Betanzos from mid-afternoon onwards. Blisters have become a real problem and the local Farmacia, specializing in pilgrims' feet, is much visited and appreciated.



*a Past Master get the work /play balance right*

The next day is the longest walk and the one with the most changes in elevation. Betanzos lies a little above sea level and **Bruma**, our destination, at around 450m. But as the 29km includes many downhill sections we have to climb a lot further than this implies. It is hot!

With such a long walk ahead we leave in groups starting at 6.30am and concentrate on getting some distance behind us before the day gets really hot. The big climb after 18km is, for some, a target to be achieved before lunch. Some of the scenery, though not dramatic, is lovely. In the morning we pass through a number of villages but everyone finds the last part of the day's walk with little, if any, shade pretty enervating. Arriving in Bruma we feel a deep sense of satisfaction and having looked in on a traditional pilgrim's hostel (reminiscent of an army barracks with rows of bunk beds on two levels and little privacy), we are happy to be staying in the comfort of the nearby Meson Nova Hotel! Another early start on day 4 with the first stretch along a minor road through some lovely countryside and villages as the sun rises.

The walk is much flatter and it is again very hot and the final section into **Sigueiro**, with no shade or watering points and hard surfaces, is somewhat tiring. The leading group is enjoying beers in Sigueiro by 2.00pm!



*that Ice Cold in Alex moment*

The weather changes for our final 16km walk into Santiago de Compostela. To reach our destination before lunch we set off early in a damp mist that alternates with a light drizzle. The temperature has fallen considerably.

Much of this final leg follows the N550 but there are pleasant heathland sections. Near Santiago we find ourselves walking around or through industrial developments though the walk into the City itself is nicer than we anticipate. I am with the leading group of eight walkers and we reach our destination, the Plaza del Obradeiro in front of the Cathedral by about 11.45am. Photographs are followed by a quick first visit inside the Cathedral and then our hotel where, within the hour, the whole party of 15 is re-united with many congratulations, kisses and (somewhat unusually for the Tylers & Bricklayers) man-hugs all round!

### **Some reflections**

The guide we carried identified by bar/cafes along our route, the

distances from each day's starting point. These cafes and pick-up points became targets to measure our progress or for a welcome stop for a coffee, cooling beer or water and a rest.

Over the five days we established our own walking rhythm and speed and found our preferred pattern of rest stops. Some decided to restrict long stops because, after sitting down for any length of time, every blister and every muscle needed to be settled and got going again.

The pain and discomfort that everyone experienced should not be forgotten or understated. Some suffered more than others and some went beyond any reasonable pain threshold in their determination to walk. These discomforts were undoubtedly an integral part of the journey - a soothing hot bath or shower at the day's end was a great relief.

One of the great joys of the Camino was the spirit of great camaraderie - there were always others to walk with and to talk to. We really got to know one another and there were many funny moments to share.



*generally, nothing a swift brandy couldn't cure*

In Santiago we visited the Pilgrim's Office. There, on production of our Credencial (Pilgrim Passport), stamped everywhere that we had stopped along the way, we were awarded our Compostela certificates of completion of the Camino.

I briefly became a tourist attraction when, bedecked with my scallop shell (carried by all on the Camino) I was spotted by a guide with his group of American tourists. They wanted me to show them my documentation. As my Credencial carried the Company crest I embarked on a brief explanation about the Livery and the grant of our Charter by Queen Elizabeth 1 in 1568. Many photographs of me (as a pilgrim) were taken back to Texas and Virginia!

Our reaction on arrival in Santiago was of a great sense of achievement. We had seen few other pilgrims on our journey but there are several different Camino routes leading to the city and suddenly there were lots of other Camino walkers, cyclists and a lone horse woman celebrating their arrival. 1,000 pilgrims were "registered" the day we arrived and with other tourists the city and its Cathedral very definitely had an atmosphere of pilgrimage. Before leaving Ferrol the Master had told us that Santiago de Compostela is the third most important place of pilgrimage after



*We happy band of pilgrims - the group at its destination in the impressive square in front of the Cathedral of St James in Santiago de Compostela*

Rome and Jerusalem because it is believed that the bones of the Apostle St James are entombed in the Cathedral.

He was sent to spread the gospel in what we now know as Spain. Legend has it that after his return to, and death in, the Holy Land his bones were brought to Galicia in a stone boat pulled by Angels.

There is no evidence that St James ever set foot in Spain and in reality, belief in Santiago de Compostela being his resting place is a matter of faith.

Sitting in the Cathedral awaiting the daily Pilgrim Mass the morning after our arrival I reflected on this. What struck me as more important than my own belief in the legend, or the lack of actual fact behind it, was the knowledge that over centuries countless others had undergone far longer journeys with privations immeasurably worse than anything we had experienced to journey to Santiago believing in the power of their faith and of their pilgrimage. That, of itself, gives the Camino spiritual meaning.

## THE CHURCHILL YEAR

Immediate Past Master Michael Christopher sought, in his year in office, to put the life and work of Sir Winston Churchill firmly in his events programme. We had a fascinating visit to the Cabinet War Rooms and another to Sir Winston's country house at Chartwell. It was here, during his 'wilderness years' and after his retirement, that he developed his skills as a bricklayer of above average competence. The legacy he left in this particular field is a considerable length of garden wall to his orchard.



*Michael braves the elements to unveil the Company's plaque at Chartwell*

Michael was able to persuade both the Churchill family and the National Trust that this work should be commemorated and the cast bronze plaque below was erected by the Company.



## THE EMPEROR'S (& HIS COURTIERS') NEW CLOTHES

The installation of Piers Nicholson as Master marked the occasion on the first wearing of the new robes for the Master and Wardens - the culmination of an ambitious project spanning several months. The Robes are illustrated on the front page.

The company selected to undertake the project, *Outrageous Fortune Design*, have an interesting and varied portfolio of clients ranging from sheepskin coat manufacturers, through luxury retailers Harrods and Selfridges to Victoria's Secret Stores in the USA. The managing director is Catherine Fuller, wife of Court Assistant Jeffrey Fuller.

Part of the brief for the design of the 3 robes was to represent the crafts of tiling, bricklaying and roof tiling. Past Master Ian Mitchell Grimshaw had generously donated a splendid unplucked Canadian Beaver fur coat which was included in the design brief.

Wanting to work with traditional British companies, Catherine chose Yorkshire weavers Marton Mills and Denholm Velvet. She also worked with exclusive London embroiderers Hand and Lock, who produced the hand embroidered ceramic tile motifs, depicting the Company crest, and machine embroidered tiles illustrating the Company Shield, and the arm and brick hammer motif.

Catherine produced the remainder of the decorative stitchery incorporating silk douppion appliqué with

Pictured right is the decorative panel of the Master's gown illustrating tiling. The Upper Warden's gown depicts brickwork with the Renter Warden sporting roof tiles



*grosgrain ribbon, to depict bricks and roof tiles. The contrasting colour of ribbon appliqué were chosen to represent mortar for the brickwork design and moss for the roof tiles.*

*The design selected was a simplified version of the original gowns, incorporating a cape with a decorative border representing one craft on each gown. The design also featured velvet trim to the front and hem. The Master's gown had the addition of a fur trim to the front panel and the edge of the cape. The specialist fur work was undertaken by Nursey of Bungay (from Suffolk).*

*Each gown has an embroidered panel commemorating the donors - Past Master Julyan Gordon, The Master and the senior members of the Court below the Chair.*

*In the spirit of sustainable fashion and recycling, the remainder of the fur coat was transformed into hats for the ladies, and these were presented at the Carol Service in December.*

*Catherine Fuller*

The gowns have been greatly admired on the occasions on which they have been worn and are a handsome addition to the Company's regalia. Catherine is to be congratulated on her work and the donors thanked for their generosity.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



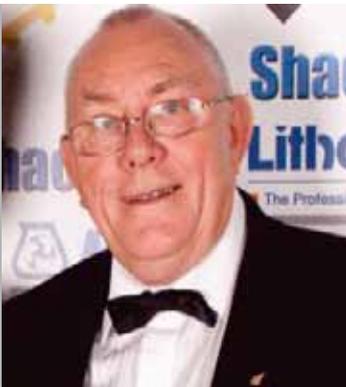
### Ringling the changes for BAL

It's fortunate Peter Bell is very fit, because it takes energy to manage a major company – and, from his Stoke on Trent and Haverhill offices, he has two to run. With more than a decade at the head of ARDEX (UK), he has added stewardship of Building Adhesives to his responsibilities. As if being managing director of these two were not enough, he also has Building Products Ireland reporting to him. All in all, the buck ultimately stops with Peter Bell on anything concerning three leading brands at the heart of the tiling industry: ARDEX, BAL and Dunlop.

An extensive business background means that, in Peter, ARDEX and BAL have an MD with unusual breadth and depth of expertise.

He is committed to developing and growing the Building Adhesives business so that it remains strong, as it forms an integral part of the Group's growth plans for the future. The instantly recognisable BAL brand has led the UK market for professional tile adhesives and grouts since the 1960s. Peter notes, that "BAL products remain, as they always have been, the professionals' first choice." The range is now so comprehensive that it is possible for a fixer or specifier to select a BAL product for virtually every aspect of a tiling project. "We don't make the actual tiles," says Peter Bell, "but we can offer everything the tiler needs to fix them in place."

Under Peter's leadership, BAL will also build on its well-deserved reputation for total support. They maintain a free Technical Advisory Service, an RIBA-certified range of CPD seminars and a nationwide network of product support technicians.



### Ian Kershaw appointed TTA Chairman

At the Annual General Meeting held on 21 April 2012, Ian Kershaw was elected Chairman of the Tile Association. In taking over the chair from Ian Crowther, Ian Kershaw said that he was looking forward to taking the Association forward over the next two years.

Group Managing Director of Tiles UK, one of the leading ceramic tile distributors in the UK, Ian has over 20 years of experience within the tile industry. Tiles UK are this year celebrating 65 years serving the industry and Ian is proud to be at the helm during this period. Ian has played an active role in The Tile Association's development having sat on the board as Chairman of TTA's Supply Training Committee, with the responsibility of working with training organizations such as Association for Ceramic Training and Development on all matters relating to training for the supply chain.

## STOP PRESS

**Liveryman Bob Howard** (pictured right) has been awarded the MBE in the Queen's Jubilee Honours List announced on 16 June. The honour is given in recognition of Bob's services to the British wall and floor tile industry. From the age of 15 Bob started his career with a five year apprenticeship and attendance at Manchester College of Building - while there he won a National Tiling Competition at Olympia. He moved on through the industry to his present post as Managing Director of Wilson Wylie Contracts Ltd and, during his time in the post, has seen the Company win a number of Tylers' and Bricklayers' Triennial Awards for tiling. He has always been one to share his knowledge with others and has given much time and energy to his various trade associations.



An unlikely story emerged from the excitement of the Jubilee celebrations in June. The Master together with his wife and other members of the Company were privileged to attend the Jubilee Lunch hosted by the Livery Companies at Westminster Hall. Details can be found on the Master's blog, but he is too modest to note that, by being photographed on the occasion he is probably the only Master to appear in Hello magazine!

Hearty congratulations Bob.



And finally - the Master and his Wardens pictured outside St Botolph's Church, Aldgate in company with representatives of other companies and sponsors at the 'launch' by the Master Pavior - Alderman Sir Michael Bear of the New Aldgate monument to which the Company subscribed.



The Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (continued)

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 23-28 Apr 2013 | Company Visit to Loire Area of France  |
| 16 May         | Annual Guest Dinner with the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House                                   |
| 6 June         | East India Town Walk, visit to Brunel Museum + afternoon tea                                   |
| 13 June        | Court & Masters' and Clerks' Lunch   |
| 24 June        | Common Hall for Election of Sheriffs & Livery Hall Lunch                                       |
| 18 July (TBC)  | Escorted City Gardens walk with members of the Gardeners' Company followed by a drink (or two) |
| 3 Aug          | Charter Day visit to Layer Marney House in Essex followed by Company picnic / lunch            |
| 5 Sept         | Court Meeting and Lunch  |
| 30 Sept        | Common Hall for Election of Lord Mayor & Livery Hall lunch                                     |

The above list gives the basic details of the functions currently planned for the coming year - further details will be sent out by the Clerk in good time to allow for bookings to be made. Please keep the dates in your diaries.