



Worshipful Company of Constructors

Quarterly Newsletter — April 2019

ISSUE 7

The Newsletter

This issue of the Newsletter is the next in our quarterly series of Newsletters, and is focused on our recent activities, City initiatives, and the success of the “Jaco” robotic arm.

Company News

Since the last Newsletter was issued the Company has held its annual Livery & Awards Dinner, which this year was held in the modern surroundings of Haberdashers’ Hall, one of the more recently constructed halls in the City of London.



The above photograph depicts the Master and Mistress, the Wardens, our Honorary Chaplain and our guests of honour at the Dinner. We were particularly pleased that many of our scholarship and other prize-winners were able to attend as well as a number of our newest Freemen, who were all invited to take wine with the Master during the course of the dinner.

November 2018 also saw the election of the son of one of our Past Masters and Clerk as Master of the Worshipful Company of Cooks. Lt Col Marcus Appleton, the son of PM Tony Appleton, spent much of his time in the Army Catering Corps, and is currently the Deputy Chief Executive and Club Manager at the Union Jack Club. Given his lifetime involvement with catering it is perhaps not surprising that his Livery association is with the Cooks rather than the Constructors. We are in debt to Tony for all his input to the Company and have no doubt that, as we did, the Cooks will benefit greatly from their association with the Appleton family.

In March, Tony Ward, the immediate Past Master finally met up with the real Jaco, the bionic arm that he raised £30,000 for in his Masters Year. He and Jan were invited as special guests to Treloar’s College on the 7th March, to meet Sally, who is trialling “Jaco” through the initial stages of implementation. She is seen in the photographs offering the IPM a ‘Malteser’ and helping herself to a drink, something that she hitherto was unable to do for herself.



Sally described “Jaco” as ‘her new body extension’. She was truly thrilled to be able to now do all those things for herself and “Jaco” also allowed her to play the piano as well!

‘Her smile says everything’, commented Tony, ‘Jaco will bring untold advantages to these deserving and delighted youngsters. My fundraising and Sky Dive were worth every last penny raised by the generous contributions of so many friends and colleagues’.



Message from the Clerk



Our Gallant Clerk is Kim Tyrell, and it is he who manages the majority of our workings, administration of the Court, payment of our dues and all our communications with Members. Whilst this newsletter replaces the “Clerk’s Notes” the Clerk will still provide information to members as needed.

The latest message from the Clerk is:

“Places at the Companions’ Lunch on 8 May are rapidly being filled, so if you wish to attend please let the Clerk know as soon as possible. There is also a lunch at Painters’ Hall following the election of the Sheriffs on 24 June (£64pp). If you would like to attend or to vote (Liverymen only may vote), do please contact the Clerk.

The Sheriffs have written to the Master to inform him that they are organising two important events in the City to support the Sheriffs and Records fund. The first is “Bridge at the Bailey” on Tuesday, 11 June 2019, when teams of four are invited to what is described as “a fun evening for bridge players of all levels” that will be held in the Grand Hall of the Central Criminal

Court at the Old Bailey and on this occasion the fund will be targeting “Working Chance”, a charity working with female prisoners to help them find work and learn computer skills.

The second is the Sheriff’s Horse ride through the City of London on Wednesday, 10 July. The ride will start at 9.30am from Warwick Square and will visit a number of Livery Halls and businesses, ending up at Armoury House (the home of the HAC) for a fundraising lunch. The Sheriffs would be grateful for any support, either by walking along with them on the day, donating £10 via “Just Giving” or attending the fundraising lunch at Armoury Hall.

Details of “Bridge at the Bailey” are on our website, together with a downloadable copy of the flyer.

Members of the Company are also reminded that this year’s Sir Christopher Wren Banquet will take place on 6 June 2019 in the splendid surroundings of Fishmongers’ Hall. A flyer is being produced and early application for places at this important event is essential if you are not to be disappointed.

Your support for both the Sustainability and Sir Ian Dixon Awards presentations is also encouraged.”

The Master writes ...



“It has been a hectic time since the last Newsletter was published.

In February we held our annual Livery and Awards dinner at Haberdashers’ Hall. We changed the format slightly this year to reduce the length of the formal speeches and thus provide more time for the Stirrup Cup. I was delighted to be able to make the formal presentations to our various scholars and prize-winners as well as our Military Affiliates.

Early March brought our presence at the Annual Inter-Livery Pancake race in Guildhall Yard. But this time it was different - we WON the Ladies Race. Unfortunately my surgeon was not happy that I should participate, so while I watched from the side-lines, my doppelgänger (Court Assistant Derek Farrow), took my place. But it was Anjali Pindoria who stole the limelight by winning the Ladies Race. The Constructors’ will now hold the ceremonial frying pan for the coming year, and our name will be

for ever engraved thereon.

The end of March saw two more events - the Mistress’s Chinese Cookery Demonstration and the United Guilds Service in St Paul’s Cathedral. The cookery demonstration was a new event in the calendar and seemed to go down well with all who attended, in particular Jessica’s fellow Mistresses and Consorts. It was also attended by Amanda, the Aldermanic Sheriff’s wife, and a vote of thanks was given by the Mistress Grocer. The event was, however, cheek by jowl with not only the UGS (the following day) but also a formal City Banquet at Mansion House (the same evening), so it was quite a challenge!

The United Guilds Service at St Paul’s Cathedral was the usual grand occasion, and as the Bishop of London recalled “It is not often that the ceremonial dress of the Church is outdone by that of the congregation”. The picture on the right is of me in the nave of the Cathedral.



Looking forward, our next event is my Master’s Weekend in Hong Kong from 12– 14 April. Some 30 members and their wives/partners are attending the weekend, including Freeman Ruth Bailey, who is based in Hong Kong. Jessica and I are just about to depart for Hong Kong to make sure that everything is in place before everyone else arrives.

We are being welcomed by both Mr S H Lam, the Permanent Secretary of the HKSAR Government, Mr Robin Lee, the Chief Assistant Secretary of the HKSAR Government and Ms Frances Moffet-Kouadio, the British Consul. We have a very exciting and interesting programme including a visit to Ap Chau Island, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Coast, where we will present an engraved Constructors’ plaque to the Islanders’ story room, which forms part of the permanent exhibition that is now on the island.

Soon after we return from Hong Kong we have organised the presentations by both our Sustainability Scholars on Thursday 2nd May at the Royal Society and this year’s recipient of the Sir Ian Dixon Scholarship on Wednesday 8th May at the Building Centre. Our Sustainability Scholars are Sorella Smith and Laura Burke of Laing O’Rourke. Sorella has considered “Exploring the potential of Blockchain technology for the UK Construction Industry” and Laura has considered “Mental Health in the Construction Industry”. The recipient of this year’s Sir Ian Dixon Scholarship is Anna Koukoullis of Willmott Dixon Interiors, who has considered “The UK’s forgotten Youth: training and employment opportunities in Construction.” These evenings promise to be both extremely interesting and informative, so I urge all members who can do so to attend.”

If you would like to take part in our UK Master’s Weekend in Cambridge please book your rooms in Downing College by 31 May otherwise they will be no longer available.

Mike Parrett - Master

City Briefings

These are aimed particularly at new Liverymen and Freemen; partners are also welcome, as are Court Assistants and Liverymen of longer standing, who have not previously been to a Briefing, who are also encouraged to attend.

They give a short introduction to the work of the Corporation, especially the relationship with the livery companies. The presentation is given by an Assistant Town Clerk and a member of the Livery Committee. There is opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a light finger buffet, which provides the chance to mix with other Liverymen and Freemen.

The briefings are held at the Livery Hall, 71 Basinghall Street, Guildhall, London EC2V 5DH and there is a non-refundable charge of £20 per person for the course.

There are several Briefings a year and the next Briefings will be held on Wednesday, 15 May; Monday, 21 October and Tuesday, 19 November. Once you have selected and applied for one of the Briefings, you will be able to change the date and carry your payment forward, providing 10 days notice is given. To change the date of the Briefing you wish to attend you should contact the [Course Administrator](mailto:liverycourses@cityoflondon.gov.uk) at (liverycourses@cityoflondon.gov.uk) stating your and your guest's (if applicable) name, your livery company, the date of the course you were originally booked on and the new date of the course you wish to attend. Please also note that bookings can only be made up 10 days before each course and that bookings will close when the maximum number of attendees (120) has been reached.

Programme and timings:

- 5.00pm **Registration**, tea/coffee served
- 5.30pm **Welcome:** Vicky Russell, Chairman of the Livery Committee
- 5.40pm **Livery companies, their membership, and activities:** Vicky Russell, Paul Jagger, The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists
- 6.00pm **The role of the City of London Corporation:** Lorraine Brook, Town Clerk's Department
- 6.15pm **The Freedom of the City of London:** Murray Craig, Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court
- 6.45pm **Panel discussion with Q and A**
- 7.00pm **Closing remarks:** Chairman of the Livery Committee
- 7.05pm **Drinks Reception**
- 8.00pm End

Chinese Cookery demonstration



On 28th March the Mistress Constructor organised an highly enjoyable and instructive demonstration of Chinese Cookery which was followed by a buffet lunch that was prepared by the demonstrator - Master Chef Andy Chu. 14 members of the Company, their wives/partners and friends joined several Consorts of the Masters of other Livery Companies, and the wife of Sheriff Vincent Keaveny, at the Dutch Church in Austin Friars.

A most enjoyable time was had by all.

There were several reasons why there was such a Chinese flavour to one of our events, not only does the Mistress have Chinese roots but this year is the Chinese year of the Pig. As the Master's declared aims for the year are to improve diversity amongst the company and to further international relations, the Mistress's event ticked all the boxes.

Chef Chu is one of Bournemouth and Pool Colleges best known catering graduates whose knowledge of Chinese food is second to none and is a leading advocate of Chinese culture in the South of England. He is also chairman of the Dragon of the South School, helping to promote the cultural diversity of China and he's built a reputation as an entertainer and demonstrator in the fine art of Chinese Cooking. Chef Chu's demonstration was both entertaining and informative.



At the start of the event, the Master introduced Chef Chu and explained that the menu was based on the Livery, albeit somewhat loosely.

Indeed, as the Master went on to explain, he had looked at the several Companies who were represented at the event and had taken note of their Company's position on the order of precedence.



Then, using the menu from his favoured Chinese Take-Away The Master had converted those numbers into the dishes that were prepared by Chef Chu and enjoyed by all.

The Inter-Livery Pancake Race



Shrove Tuesday dawned bright and fair in London and our intrepid team of pancake tossers duly assembled in the Courtyard of Guildhall to compete in the 15th annual Inter-Livery Pancake Race.

The team was Court Assistant Derek Farrow (who stood in for the Master who, following his recent issues, was declared medically unfit to participate, Liveryman Jon Coles, Yeoman Anjali Pindoria and our "comic turn", Yeoman Gavin Li-Parrett, who ran the race in an inflatable pig costume to emphasise our theme this year - International relations (2019 being the Chinese Year of the Pig).

For the first time ever, the Constructors' team actually featured in prize ceremony, as Anjali won the Ladies race, and thus a certificate and a year's tenure of the ceremonial Frying Pan.

Unfortunately Shrove Tuesday was also a very auspicious day in the Hindu calendar, so Anjali was fasting and unable to attend the buffet lunch that followed on from the races, so her prize was collected on her behalf by the Master.



The ceremonial frying pan and the certificate are depicted here. Whilst Anjali will hold the certificate in perpetuity, the frying pan is being engraved and will be held by the Company until it is competed for again next year.

But - we can be justifiably proud of Anjali's efforts on our behalf and that the name of the Worshipful Company of Constructors will be for ever inscribed on the trophy.

We have at last made our mark on this part of the Livery activities in the City of London and we can look forward to next year's event.

If anyone reading this would like to be considered for next year's team then please let the Clerk know - we have a lot to live up to. We would also be pleased to receive ideas for how we might portray the Company in the Novelty category.



Membership News

As an organisation for members, we value greatly our membership, and at Court on 13 February 2019 the following changes were made to our membership:

- Colin Delaney, Ciaran O'Reilly, David Gough and Paul Wilby were admitted as Freemen.

The new Freemen who attended the Livery and Awards Dinner later took wine with the Master.

The current average age of the Company is now about 55, with over 60% of our members being over 50 years of age, so we have a long way to go to meet the aspirations of the Membership Committee.

It was with great regret that early in January we learned of the passing of Muriel Booth, one of our Companions, on 21 December 2018. She had not attended our functions of late as she was 94 years of age, but she was highly regarded among our Companions and her funeral at Chelmsford Crematorium in January 2019 was attended by a number of our Liverymen.

Forthcoming Events

12 Apr 19	Master's Weekend in Hong Kong	31 May 19	Inter-Livery Rifle Shooting
2 May 19	Sustainability Presentations	6 June 19	Sir Christopher Wren Banquet
8 May 19	Companions' Lunch	24 June 19	Election of Sheriffs and Formal Lunch
8 May 19	Sir Ian Dixon Award Presentation	4 July 19	Court Lunch
15 May	Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot	10 July 19	Visit to Bloomberg Building
20 May 19	Informal Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall	12 July 19	Master's Weekend in Cambridge
24 May 19	Evening Cruise on River Thames	18 July 19	Constructors' Golf Day

Where the above details are in **BLUE** a Flyer or other notification has already been issued, and bookings should be made in accordance with the instructions contained in the Flyer.

We are also hoping to arrange several other informal events as the year progresses, so please look at the website for details of these and updates on any of the events listed above.

We are always looking for people to arrange our technical visits and informal events. If you are able to assist in this way, please contact [Iain Meek](mailto:iain@meek.demon.co.uk) (iain@meek.demon.co.uk) who is the Chair of the Events committee.