

The Constructor

The Journal of the Worshipful Company of Constructors



The Master's focus this year has been on diversity and international relations and in furtherance of that focus he was pleased to host a Master's Weekend in Hong Kong, SAR. The weekend was attended by 36 members and their guests, and culminated in a visit to Ap Chau (Duck) island where the Company presented the islanders with a special plaque that was installed in their Story Room which forms part of the permanent exhibition that is now on the island.

The Ap Chau Islanders were all originally fisherman, many of whom have migrated all over the world including the UK and who flew in specially to give the Constructors a traditional Ap Chau Dragon Boat welcome.



The photograph shows a view of Ap Chau Island from the top of the Island

Whilst in Hong Kong, the Company was pleased that the Master was able to announce that two of our distinguished guests had accepted our offer of Honorary Membership. The first was Ms Frances Moffet-Kouadio, the UKTI Trade Commissioner for Hong Kong and Macao, who was presented with her certificate at the formal black tie dinner held in the Hong Kong Club. The second was IR S H Lam, the Permanent Secretary (Works), Hong Kong SAR. Mr Lam was presented with his certificate at a private dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, London on the occasion of his visit to London to speak at a conference at the Institute of Civil Engineers.

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The Journal of the Worshipful Company of Constructors

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The Worshipful Company of Constructors is a modern City of London Livery Company for professionals working in, and in support of, the Construction Industry. Members of the Company are drawn from all sectors of the industry, including architects, surveyors, engineers, builders, legal professionals, developers, clients, building owners and accountants.

There are various grades of Membership. Most new members join as Freemen, in the process of making certain commitments, or Obligations to the Company. Freemen are entitled to apply to the City Chamberlain to become a Freeman of the City of London. That achieved, and after a period of satisfactory service with the Company, a Freeman can apply to become a full Liveryman, which entitles him or her to vote in City elections and attend certain events, like the United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

Other grades of membership include Yeomen – most of whom have been scholars or prize winners; Apprentices, bound to a Liveryman or member of the Court for a prescribed period of indenture, and inrolled at Guildhall; Companions, the widows or widowers of a member of the Court or a Liveryman. The Company also has several International Constructors.

There are charges for entering into the Freedom and Livery of the Company as well as an annual quarterage (subscription) charge. Members are also expected to contribute to the Company's Charitable Trust.

Fellowship is a key aspect of the Company's activities. Each year there are three formal dinners and a programme of informal smaller events or activities. These provide an excellent opportunity to meet and entertain friends, colleagues, clients and family members in either one of the City's splendid livery halls or other suitable venues.

Those wishing to know more about the Company should view the Company website (constructorscompany.org.uk) or contact the Clerk.

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The Constructor

Autumn 2019

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EDITORIAL

This year has seen significant changes in the way that the Worshipful Company of Constructors is run. There has been a considerable amount of navel gazing over the year, and the Journal may well be reflective of that. It is, after all, a record of what we, as a Company, have done during the year and should also reflect the thoughts of our Members. However,

and despite that, this year's Journal is intended to give all our members, and the wider Livery audience, a snapshot of what we, as a livery company, have been doing over the year, and how we are thinking about preparing ourselves for the future.

Roger Lilley - Editor

A Message from the Master

The newly elected Master, Sir Vivian Ramsey, gives his thoughts on the year ahead



"Dear Fellow Constructors

I am delighted to have been elected and to be able to serve as Master for the coming year. I very much hope that you will find time to participate in some of the diverse events which I and the Mistress, Barbara, have arranged, as well as many of the other activities during the year.

In addition to the regular lunches at the Ironmongers' Hall, I am arranging a number of informal events during the year with a legal theme, including visits to the Inns of Court and Court buildings.

I shall be continuing with the international theme. Participants in the UK construction industry and, in particular, the consultancy professions, have an enviable reputation overseas. They will increasingly need to use existing markets and find new ones for their services outside the UK. As well as traditional markets in Commonwealth countries, there are opportunities throughout Asia, the Middle East and the Americas.

In the Far East, Singapore has been a model in developing external influence and I will be organising a Master's Weekend in Singapore from 3 to 5 April. It is a vibrant city state which I first visited over 30 years ago. Barbara lived there for three years in the 1950s when her father was in the Army. I have worked there on many occasions and continue to do so, particularly now as an International Judge in the Singapore International Commercial Court. Besides being an enjoyable weekend, I intend to make sure that we are able to foster commercial links during our visit.

The Atlantic Coast of France will be the venue for a second Master's Weekend from 29 to 31 May. We have been visiting the area for family holidays for over 30 years and now have a house in Mimizan. During the Belle Époque and the 1920s and 1930s the Duke of Westminster maintained a hunting lodge there and it was visited by a number of famous people, including Winston Churchill who produced many paintings of various local scenes. It is close to Bordeaux and the weekend will include an opportunity to see something of the local history, taste local food and wine and relax.

We also thought that it would be good to organise a Sunday afternoon event at our house in Kent and will be holding a Garden Party there on 21 June. It will be open to all constructors, family and friends, including children. July will then see the final Master's Weekend which will be held in Durham, staying on the Bailey, close by the Cathedral. There will be a visit to Auckland Castle, the ancient home of the Bishops of Durham, and an evening historical pageant which has been highly rated in the national press.

For this year I have chosen as my charity REDR, formally known as the Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief. Its mission is to rebuild lives in times of disaster by training, supporting and supplying aid workers to relief programmes across the world. It provides the necessary expertise so that people locally can deal with the challenges which occur in times of disaster in order to maintain essential infrastructure. I shall be working with this Company's Charitable Trust to raise funds, in particular to further the aims of this worthwhile organisation as well as the existing charitable endeavours.

I am taking over the Company at a time when, thanks in particular to the Immediate Past Master, Mike Parrett, it is in a strong and re-invigorated position. I very much hope that during this year, through the formal dinners, regular lunches, informal events, and Master's Weekends, I shall be able to engage with many of those in the Company, to ensure that they value their connection with this modern, thriving and forward thinking Livery Company.

With very best wishes for the coming year -

Sir Vivian Ramsey - Master

Reflections on a 'Year to Remember' from the Immediate Past Master



The year has been remarkable for its attention to what the Company does and the way it does it. My aim has been to ensure that the Company is on a sure footing going forward and can be fit to grow from that sure footing both in financial terms and as a Company. My look back over the year is therefore somewhat more objective rather than subjective – so I hope you will not find this piece overly tedious.

My year as Master has focused on Privileges within the Company, Efficiency and Organisation (streamlining our Ordinances and Standing Orders), Events, Fundraising, Leadership (improving our commitment to diversity and to becoming a premier networking organisation for the built environment and to the recognition of women in construction).

We are a people's (members) organisation like no other City of London Livery Company. We are unique in our make-up of professionals from every sector of the built environment – an eclectic mix of construction related professionals.

But, throughout the year, my key theme was one of International Relations.

We began by hosting a lunch at Innholders' Hall for a governmental delegation from Rugao City, Jiangsu Province. Rugao is close to the Provincial Capital of Nanjing and also to Shanghai. It is a leading centre for the use of hydrogen green energy technologies, and it is fast becoming an important industrial hub for the whole region. Not only does it have superb rail, road and air links, but it also has one of China's largest deep-water harbours off its northern seaboard. Our guest speaker at the lunch was Alderman Michael Mainelli, a Past Master World Trader, and now the Aldermanic Sheriff, who has vast experience of developing trade links with China.

The Mistress and I have been honoured to be invited by the mayoralty and People's Congress to make an official visit to Rugao, which we hope to undertake sometime in spring 2020.

We broke with tradition this year in that we held two Master's Weekends. One was in Hong Kong and was attended by 36 people who enjoyed back to back formal dinners at the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Hong Kong Club. I was very pleased that our principal guests – Ms Frances Moffett-Kouadio, the Hong Kong Trade Commissioner and Mr S H lam, the Permanent Secretary for Development, Hong Kong, SAR both accepted our invitation to become Honorary Members of the Company. The other Master's Weekend was much closer to home, in Cambridge. Whilst attendances at the organised events varied from 36 to 45 the weekend was enjoyed by all and we were blessed by good weather

I was particularly pleased that the Taylor family were our guests at this year's Companions' Lunch. Captain Ron Taylor was our Master in 1985-86 and it was a great honour for me to have the trust of his family and also to represent the Company when we unveiled a specially commissioned plaque, near to where Ron had lived in Brighton, that recorded his exploits with SOE during the second world. Ron was a bridge designer extraordinaire, so it was perversely natural that he was assigned the task of blowing up bridges behind enemy lines with the Italian partisans, who titled him "Captain Plastico" because of his skill with plastic explosives. The unveiling of the plaque was a proud and memorable day in my year as Master.

During my year as Master we have also awarded Emeritus status to Past Masters John Robson, John Trussler and David Hattersley MBE. We also awarded Emeritus status to Liveryman David Rundle. Their hard work and dedication have helped develop this great company and I'm honoured to be able to recognise their part in the development of the Company and their ongoing commitment to the standards set by their predecessors. Gentlemen, we are indebted to you, and I, on behalf of the Company, wish to thank you for your loyalty and ongoing devotion to the Company. May your wise counsel be at our disposal for many more years to come.

Finances are always a key issue for a Livery Company. I am pleased that our finances are now on a sound footing and we now have a strong finance team. Our Ordinances and Standing Orders have been around for several years now, and are perhaps no longer ideal, so we have spent some time over the past year bringing them up to date and ensuring that the Ordinances enable the Standing Orders in such a way that we can move forward without having to change our Ordinances at every turn, something which needs approval from the City.

We have also reviewed the roles of a various executive and other committees. We have compiled Terms of Reference for each committee and we hope that these will serve as both useful guidance going forward and maintain each committee with a clear set of directions and activities to be maintained. The development of these terms of reference will also link in with a new mentoring objective which will be overseen by PM Graeme Monteith and HCA Bob Heathfield who expect to introduce an induction programme for all new members joining the Company and to prepare members for Livery, Court membership, Wardenship and eventual Mastership. By so doing we will be able to ensure that each member will have a clear understanding of the working of the Company and what is expected of the various roles within it.

The Master's Year

One of the first tasks that I initiated was to arrange for two away-days to take place at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. These were professionally facilitated by Renter Warden David Sheehan, assisted by Court Assistant Jane Wright and were attended by a cross-section of members from Yeoman through to Past Master and members of the Charitable Trust, the main theme being to build a strong Company and a strong Charity. The sessions addressed almost every aspect of the workings of the Company, and what emerged from them was a comprehensive set of top goals and ambitions enshrined in 7 key achievable targets.

One of our stalwarts over many years has been Honorary Court Assistant Bob Heathfield, who has chaired the Scholarship and Awards Committee for some 15 years and has personally mentored over 50 scholars. This has taken a tremendous amount of dedicated and sustained effort and it was therefore with great personal pleasure that I was able to present Bob with the Master's Certificate at the recent Common Hall. His work and dedication has been unparalleled and exemplifies what a noble and honourable Liveryman should be – a doer! Bob was most deserving of this award. His place as Chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee has now been taken by Court Assistant Dr Deborah Pullen MBE, who is the Chair of the BRE Trust. I wish Deborah well in steering the important work of the Committee and I have no doubt that we have in her a worthy and excellent replacement for Bob.

It has been an enormous privilege to have been your 42nd Master. We have managed to contribute £20,000 already to charity – at the Sir Christopher Wren Banquet I was extremely pleased to be able to give £10,000 cheques to each of the Clic Sargent childhood cancer charity and to the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund. In line with our Charitable mandate the money will be used in both cases to fund construction centric initiatives – Clic Sargent will use it for its "Home away from Home" programme and the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund will use the money to rehabilitate offenders into construction skills and apprenticeship training. I shall endeavour to continue in a supporting role from the "Purple" side of the Court for as long as the Good Lord spares me, which at the beginning of my year looked as though it was going to be surprisingly short.

I was delighted that my friend and guest speaker Keith Exford CBE accepted honorary membership of the Company. Keith will be a great asset and ambassador for this Company with his reputation and influence within the Built Environment. Michèle Burrell has also been granted Honorary Membership to reflect the work she does as our Almoner.

My son Jonathon moved from Yeoman to take Freedom of the Company and my eldest son Gavin was also admitted as a Freeman in my first Court as Master, when I also took on two Master's Apprentices – Alexander Watson (the son of our late Freeman, Martin Watson) and Bradley Yeung. Alexander is studying civil engineering at University and Bradley is about to commence his A Level studies. Both are hopeful of pursuing fruitful careers in the construction world.

We are also very proud of our relationship with our military affiliates and I have moved to appoint special liaison officers within the Company to maintain and strengthen the close and special links that we have with the military. The Clerk will continue to liaise with HMS Lancaster, whose refit is now almost complete, and we will hopefully be invited aboard when she visits her hometown of Liverpool early in 2020. Court Assistant Henry Lamb, once a Royal Anglian Regiment soldier, will continue the close relationship we have with the re-formed 101 Regiment (City of London) and former RAF officer, PM David Hattersley has agreed to maintain the link with 5001 squadron, along with Liveryman (and former RAF officer) Mike Alden.

No Master's year can be complete without the support of the Mistress. My wife, Jessica, has fully supported this year and has been actively involved with the City Consort Group. Indeed, if I am not mistaken, she has attended more lunches than I have. She also arranged a marvellous Chinese cookery class and lunch at the Dutch Church, which was extremely popular amongst all those members, mistresses and consorts that attended including, amongst many others, the Aldermanic Sheriff's wife, Amanda Keaveny, along with the Mistress Grocer amongst many other Mistresses and Consorts. The event raised money towards my overall fund-raising target of £50,000.

During my year as Master I have been very pleased to have received almost £30,00 in sponsorship from those that I have worked with in the industry and during the Charity Banquet at Lord's I was delighted to announce that we had reached the total target of £50,000.

It goes without saying that I am grateful for the tremendous support of the Wardens and Executive Committee members. I am pleased to say that Company membership is growing. We are managing to attract applications and recruit new younger and well qualified members from a range of people and professions and especially from people who represent those most under-represented in the Company.

As a result of our initiatives over the year we are more diverse in our make-up, we are a strong Company in terms of our financial standing and our influence has grown both amongst the City and also across the wider construction industry. We have also reached out and recruited members from way beyond our shores. We need to let our achievements speak up for the people we truly are and be rightly proud of the Worshipful Company of Constructors.

Michael Parrett - Immediate Past Master

The Mistress gives her recollection of a “Year to Remember”



In the weeks leading up to Mike becoming Master, after all the pre planning had been undertaken, it suddenly became a reality as the day of his Installation as Master approached.

Nothing though quite prepares you for the year long journey that is about to unfold. I had to ensure that I had the right wardrobe and enough variety to ensure that I could be someone that not only my husband could be proud of, but the company too!

The magnificent year began with the marvellous Installation ceremony at St. Lawrence Jewry. Many of our former colleagues and close friends from around the world had made the Journey from as far away as Chicago and Malaysia just so that they could be there in support of Mike and I, so you find yourself drawn between concentrating on support for your husband and ensuring that all of our friends and colleagues were warmly welcomed and taken care of.

With the Installation dinner at the fabulous Drapers' Hall and with our favourite acapella choristers from Kings College Cambridge the stage was set for a memorable evening and one that I and all of our family and guests still talk about. Could a formal dinner get any better? Well in my humble opinion it did as the year progressed, culminating in a wonderful evening at our Sir Christopher Wren Banquet at Fishmongers' Hall.

Throughout the year there were several highlights, not the least of which was that as part of the Master's theme of International relations, we hosted a Chinese governmental delegation for a superb lunch provided by the Michelin star chef Herbert Berger at Innholders Hall.

Our overseas weekend to the place of my birth Hong Kong meant a great deal of preparatory work by all of us in the family and through our church in arranging a special boat journey out to the tiny island of Ap Chau. It was a challenge arranging for all the ground transportation, formal dinners, right down to the menu cards and table decorations. All of the hard work behind the scenes was worth it to feel the joy and fellowship we shared amongst all of us that attended.

Not long after returning from Hong Kong preparations were being made to prepare for a special Chinese cookery class and lunch, prepared for us by our friend and Chef Andrew Chu. We held this at the Dutch church in the heart of the City of London. It was very well attended by our members and many of the Mistresses and consorts from other Companies. It was also time for my maiden speech as Mistress.

We had the most wonderful day at Buckingham Palace in glorious sunshine, preceded by a lunch at the Rubens hotel close by, which was attended by a number of other Masters and Mistresses that Mike and I had got to know very well during the course of the year to date.

The Charity Gala Banquet held in the Long room at Lords was of particular importance in this year for fundraising, which managed to take us to the target of £50,000 that Mike had set out to raise. Our joy in reaching this milestone is a big part of the reason for our involvement in City Livery life.

The creation of the City Consorts Group has in my opinion been one of the City's greatest creations in recent times. Through regular attendance at many events and lunches, I have got to know and formed close friendships with a great many other mistresses and consorts. Without doubt, this has helped enormously through the year, as wherever I went I knew someone and was made to feel extremely welcome.

These friendships will continue through the formation of our Mistress and Consort group, Gemini which was launched at Ironbridge, an event which immediately followed the summer banquet.

Ironbridge was a marvellously organised weekend and the Master and I were warmly greeted by the Lord Mayor Peter Estlin and former Lord Mayor Sir Andrew Parmley with a thank you for the money that the company donated to the Sheriffs' and Recorder's fund towards the rehabilitation of offenders.

Soon after Ironbridge it was time to put all the finishing touches to our second Master's weekend to be held in Cambridge. There was all the usual arrangements and behind the scenes work to be put in and just like Hong Kong, we had the help of our two sons and daughter-in-law who have been tremendously supportive throughout the year.

I remain very grateful too for the support of the wives of all of our wardens; Lady Barbara, Tina, Lindsey and Alison - you have all become such good friends and have always been there when I needed the help - thank you so very much.

What has given me the most pleasure is to have been able to help my husband over these past years to give much priority to his work in this esteemed company and for him to fulfil his ambition to serve as your 42nd Master.

May I send every good wish to Lady Barbara and offer all the support I can muster in her year as Mistress and also to Sir Vivian who will no doubt take this company to even greater heights. May God bless them both with good health.

Jessica Parrett- Mistress Constructor

The Master's Weekend in Hong Kong



The Master's weekend in Hong Kong was attended by many members of the Company including the Senior Warden, Sir Vivian Ramsey, who wrote:

"When the Master first suggested a weekend in Hong Kong it was thought that a few intrepid travellers might join him and the Mistress in this far flung part of the former Empire. In fact they were overwhelmed when all the Wardens and their partners accepted and, as the numbers swelled to 27, the capacity of the venues was reached.

The weekend started on the Thursday evening (11 April) when a reception was held in the International Commerce Centre (ICC) which dominates the West Kowloon skyline. With 118 floors, it is the tallest building in Hong Kong and the 11th tallest building in the World. CA Deborah Pullen and the Building Research Establishment Trust assisted the Company in presenting interesting topics from the Built Environment professions working in Hong Kong – including the importance of Feng Shui in the design of buildings. After the event many of the group decided that the night was still young and tried out the other attractions of Hong Kong. Some retreated to recover from jet lag!



The assembled company at the Hong Kong Jockey Club



The Master & Wardens at the black tie dinner in the Hong Kong Club

The next morning, as smooth as clockwork, a coach arrived to take the group to prison. Not a result of the previous evening but a visit to the Tai Kwun Heritage buildings which were formerly a prison and police station (which the Senior Warden remembers – don't ask!) but now house a new centre for the arts and museum, after the Hong Kong Jockey Club refurbished it for HK\$3.8 billion. Friday was completed by a formal dinner in the splendid surroundings of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Happy Valley where we were honoured to have Mr S Lam, Permanent Secretary for Works and Mr Robin Lee, Chief Asst. Secretary at the Hong Kong, SAR Government who provided an interesting insight into the state of the Hong Kong Construction Industry and its health and safety record. We also welcomed guests from Ap Chau Island at the dinner.

Saturday morning saw another early start. Some decided to take a day to explore parts of Hong Kong, whilst others joined a tour to Lantau Island. After crossing three bridges which are feats of British Engineering we arrived at a crowded cable car station. We were whisked past the crowds and embarked on the cable car ride to the peak to see the Buddhist Monastery and giant Buddha. The deluxe cars obligingly had glass floors for the faint hearted and the ride was made more exciting by startling sideways movements as the cable cars swayed in gale force winds. After gaining land legs, people identified statues to match their years of birth (pig, rabbit, tiger etc) and ascended to the Buddha. Then a charabanc took us to the Tai O fishing village, a quaint fishing village with dried fish, narrow streets and many street sellers. We embarked upon a speedboat for a trip round the houses on stilts before heading out to sea at great speed and a lively soaking of sea spray, seeing the islands on the Hong Kong to Macau causeway and a police station converted to a hotel – perhaps the Hong Kongers are very law abiding.

That evening we had a very memorable black tie dinner at the Hong Kong Club in Central – saved by the Master from having the basement squash courts turned into swimming pools by water ingress! We were graced by the presence of Frances Moffett – Kouadio, Trade Commissioner at the British Consulate and her husband. Conversations went on long into the night!

Early the next morning the charabancs were ready to take us to the port where we embarked on a 90 minute trip with members of the Master's Church community to Ap Chau (Duck Island) passing through a geological and UNESCO heritage area. At Ap Chau the Company was welcomed by a traditional dragon boat dance and then refreshments before we sat down for an event to celebrate the restoration of Ap Chau after the devastation of a recent cyclone.

Many speeches were in Chinese but one of the church community, now living in Hong Kong, provided a masterful translation with his perfect Scottish lilt. The event ended with the Master presenting a plaque to mark the visit and then the Master gave a speech which was loudly applauded as he broke into song in Chinese to be joined by the audience – to be repeated at the next dinner? We then had a traditional lunch before visiting the story room to see the history of the island since it was populated in the early 1900s by seafaring Chinese. After exploring the island and taking part in a dragon boat dance, including percussion from the Wardens, we embarked again for the return journey.

More was to follow. In a room off a crowded restaurant in East Kowloon the Mistress' family helped to organise a sumptuous seafood banquet with Alaska crab and as many courses as the guests could remember. The evening was rounded off by a demonstration of fish footwear by CA Deborah Pullen.

Those who attended were provided with a weekend not to be forgotten and we cannot thank the Master and Mistress and their family enough for the care, time and attention which went into organising a superb event. Did I mention that there was mist and rain – we did not notice it in the warmth and sunshine of the people that weekend."

Senior Warden - Sir Vivian Ramsey

The Master's Weekend in Cambridge

Conscious that some members were perhaps unable or disinclined to venture to the far eastern extremities of our former empire, the Master and Mistress also organised a weekend closer to home, in Cambridge, the Master's alma mater.

So, over the weekend of 12th to 14th July, the Master held his UK weekend in Cambridge, the City where he had been a post-graduate scholar at Wolfson College. In this, his "Back to School" weekend, the Master had arranged for all of us to stay in the splendid Halls of Residence of Downing College.



The weekend was attended by some 40 Constructors and their wives/partners and started with a reception in the tranquil Betty Wu Lee garden in his old College. The pictures above show the Ladies (left) and the Gentlemen (right) in the sunshine in the Betty Wu Lee Garden. The sun shone, the wine flowed and the canapés were eaten amongst the usual friendly banter of a Master's Weekend.

Afterwards, we had an enjoyable informal Friday evening dinner in Downing College, where the obligatory group photograph was taken as we met in the quadrangle for pre-prandial drinks, as the picture on page 10 shows. We then progressed to the Maitland room where we were wine and dined in true fashion.

On the Saturday morning we split into two parties to enjoy a guided walking tour of Cambridge and relax in chauffeured punts on the river Cam. One party did the walk first and the punting later, whilst the others punted first and walked after.

Whilst the weather wasn't quite as good as it was on the Friday, the rain held off and an enjoyable time was had by all, with those of a strong constitution joining up for a lunchtime drink in the Anchor pub, overlooking the river.

The Master's Year



The "compulsory" group photograph taken in the quadrangle before the informal dinner in Downing College

Saturday afternoon was spent as free time – some rested, some shopped and others went to museums, walked around Cambridge or did whatever they fancied doing until it was time to prepare for the traditional black tie dinner, which this year was held in the splendid medieval banqueting hall of Queens' College.



The early arrivals for the banquet can be seen on the left, ably assembled for a group photograph by the Clerk, on the "mathematical" bridge across the river Cam, which is the way in to the medieval part of Queens' College from the modernist buildings on the other side of the river.

Following the champagne reception in the quadrangle and old kitchen we sat down to a magnificent three-course banquet in the splendid and historic setting of the medieval Old Hall. The Master's Guests of Honour were Dr Brian Cox and his wife Dr Margaret Cox and he welcomed them in his speech, which went on to say:

"The Mistress and I would like to thank you all for joining us for this dinner and weekend.

This without doubt is my favourite hall out of all the halls in the 31 colleges that make up the University of Cambridge. When I read Interdisciplinary Design (founded by Ove Arup) here at Cambridge, part of our studies involved coming here to Queens, where we had dinner and held a combined lecture with the cohorts from the Construction Engineering Management Master's degree course – founded by Ray O'Rourke. There is therefore a strong construction connection between this college and my own college of Wolfson. As soon as I set foot in this wonderful place, it left me with what I hope is the same impression you all have this evening, the wow factor! I am sure you will agree that it is truly a wonderful venue in the heart of this historic college, which dates from 1448. Jessica and I hope you enjoy the food and wines this evening."

Following the meal we were entertained by an acapella group from the choristers of St John's College Chapel, who, departing from their normal ecclesiastical repertoire, sang more modern close harmony settings of popular songs of yesteryear, to the great enjoyment and appreciation of all present.

Then it was time for the Master to say a few more words. He started his speech by thanking the choristers for such a wonderful performance and then went on to express his grateful thanks to the President at Queens, Lord John Eatwell of Stratton St Margaret for his kind permission for the Company to dine in the College and to the wonderful catering staff from the college.



The St John's Singers

He went on to say: "This year, the University of Cambridge is 810 years old, it was founded in 1209 and therefore shares a similar timeline of history with the establishment of the Guilds in London. The Weavers Company is the oldest known Livery Company in the City of London, having received its charter in 1155, when Henry II (the first Plantagenet King) was crowned only the previous year upon the death of King Stephen. However, in 1209 the first London Bridge was completed near its present site (there having been earlier medieval bridges, and this lasted until 1831 when it was rebuilt – only to be sold to an American (who, I am told, believed that he was purchasing Tower Bridge).

King John (1199-1216), one year before he died of dysentery, thankfully signed the Bill of rights with the Barons, that not only respected the rights of Citizens, but established the Lord Mayor as only one of two guarantors charged with ensuring that the Crown kept its side of the bargain. Meanwhile, across the channel, the King of France, Phillippe Augustus (Phillip II), gave another important right to its citizens, that became enshrined in French Law – a right of passage for Merchants going to Champagne Fairs, guaranteeing them safety of travel from anyone trying to impede their passage. For anyone found to harm or obstruct the merchant's right to go to and from the champagne fairs, then they would be guilty of Lèse-Majesté (doing wrong to majesty – and therefore an offense against the dignity of the reigning Monarch.) I am therefore pleased to inform you that our wines for this evening found safe unimpeded passage up the M11 from Le Majestic Chislehurst!

Meanwhile (and back to the plot!) – There was a wobble with the “Magna Carta Liberatum” – or as better known the “Great Charter of Liberties”, for it was annulled by John's arch nemesis Pope Innocent III, who had excommunicated John from the Church, for being “sinfully lustful and lacking in piety”, fuelled no doubt by regularly exercising his right of passage to Champagne fairs! By so doing so he revoked the Magna Carta.

Thankfully John's son Henry III re-issued the Great Charter immediately following his accession in 1216. If this had not taken place then I doubt we would be here celebrating a Master's weekend from a City Livery Company or attending the election of Sheriffs or the Lord Mayor. More importantly we would not have a bill of rights to protect all of us as citizens.

Therefore we should be thankful to King John and more especially to his heir and successor, Henry III ... and to all of you for being here to support this weekend and for making it a very special evening for Jessica, my family and I. We shall add this to our treasure trove of wonderful memories. May we wish you all a wonderful summer and see you in September and especially for our Charity Gala dinner on 19th September at Lords!”

Formal Events

As usual, there were three Formal Evening Events during the year plus the Annual Carol Service.

The first was the all-important **Installation Dinner** on 10th October 2018, which followed the Installation Service where the new Master, Mike Parrett was duly installed at a Church Service that was conducted by our Honorary Chaplain, Revd Canon David Parrott, who was not afraid of underlining the similarity of their two surnames!

Mike was first clothed as Master by the outgoing Master, who sought affirmation from him that he would undertake the Office with due reverence and commitment. Having been clothed Mike then installed Tony Ward as the Immediate Past Master, clothing him in his purple gown and he then charged his Wardens with the importance of their high office.

- Sir Vivian Ramsey was installed as the Senior Warden
- Arthur Seymour was installed as the Middle Warden
- David Sheehan was installed as Renter Warden.

Mike then installed the newest Warden (CA Terry Withers) as Junior Warden.

The Church Service underlined the importance of this annual occasion in the Constructors' year and was attended by many Court Assistants and members of the Company, as well as some of the Company Guests and personal guests of the Master.

The service was splendidly accompanied by Catherine Ennis, the organist of St Lawrence Jewry and the singing was led by the St Lawrence Jewry Choir. On completion of the church service the Master, Wardens and congregation made their way to Drapers' Hall for the Installation Dinner.



The Installation Dinner in Drapers' Hall



The Kings Men

The Master's Year

180 people sat down to an excellent three course meal accompanied by wine and port, and all shared in the ancient Loving Cup ceremony. The Guests were welcomed by CA Henry Lamb. We were joined by several Masters of other Livery Companies and Keith Exford CBE, the Master's Guest of Honour proposed the toast "The Worshipful Company of Constructors: May it flourish root and branch forever" twinned with the name of the Master. The Master then responded with his toast to the Guests.

Musical entertainment was provided by Edward Dye (piano) and the Kings Men – 7 Choral Scholars from King's College Cambridge, who cast off their routine ecclesiastical trappings to entertain us with their impressive modern close harmony repertoire.

In December 2019, the Company held its **Annual Carol Service** at St Lawrence Jewry. We again joined up with the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects and the Guild of Entrepreneurs, so the Church was pretty much full to capacity. The congregation sang several Christmas Carols lustily and listened to some magnificent carols and other Christmas music splendidly sung and played by Catherine Ennis and the choir of St Lawrence Jewry. The address was given by Revd Canon David Parrott, the Guild Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry.

A collection was taken during the service and, as usual, our share of the collection was given to CRASH, the construction industry charity that supports hospices, the homeless and other disadvantaged people. The collection raised £658.00 which, with gift aid claims increased to £797.50 for CRASH and we were very pleased to receive an email of thanks from their Fundraising Executive, Lucie Gillard.

The next formal occasion was the **Livery and Awards Dinner** in February 2019. This is the formal occasion when we award the recipients of our many scholarships and awards and our Military Affiliates with their prizes and certificates. The Livery & Awards Dinner was held at the splendid and modern Haberdashers' Hall on 13 February 2019. It was attended by 126 members and their personal guests together with 23 official guests.

This year we adopted a slightly different format for the evening. There was no traditional introductory speech, but the guests and new members were invited to take wine with the Master during the course of the meal, thereby allowing a little more time for the post prandial stirrup cup.

As well as being very pleased to welcome our Livery guests we were also delighted to welcome our military and academic award winners.

This year, like last year, our Royal Navy Affiliate, HMS Lancaster, was undergoing a full refit, so the prize was instead donated to RN and RM Charities and received by Captain Darren Houston RN, the Captain, Surface Ships, Portsmouth.

The Winner of the Shafting and Shoring Cup (101 Regiment) was Corporal Aaron Tullet, a Team Commander within 3 Troop, 217 Field Squadron based in Southend, Essex



Daniel Kilford won the Constructors' Prize having graduated from the University of Westminster in June 2018 with a First Class Honours Degree in Quantity Surveying & Commercial Management.



The winner of the Air Commodore Dow Trophy (5001 Squadron) was SAC Richard Wilson who is a member of 5001 Squadron Operations Flight and has been deployed numerous times overseas to multiple Operational Theatres in support of the Royal Air Force.

Rosalie Hollands was the top surveying student of the Year at London South Bank University and was awarded the David Tong Cup.





Alastair Marsh, a PhD student at the University of Bath was awarded the Royal Charter Research Award for his pioneering work on the use of sustainable earth blocks in construction.

Our final formal event of the year was the **Sir Christopher Wren Banquet**, which was held in the august surroundings of Fishmongers' Hall on 6 June 2019. The Banquet is the culmination of the Company Year, and this year's banquet was no exception.



The guests at the banquet were welcomed by the Senior Warden – Sir Vivian Ramsey, who managed to make even a list sound interesting.



The Master used the occasion of the banquet to present a cheque for £10,000 to the CLIC Sargent Cancer Charity for their “Home away from Home” initiative, and we were pleased to invite Mr Keith Exford CBE, a Trustee of the Charity, and Rachel Kirby-Ryder the Charity's Director of Income and Engagement to join us at the banquet.

The Master's Year

We were very pleased grant Mr Exford, who has spent many years in housing and construction and was our Guest of Honour at our recent Installation Dinner, Honorary Membership of the Company and present him with his framed certificate of membership.



We were also very honoured to welcome Sherriff Vincent Keaveny and his wife Amanda to the Banquet, and to give him another cheque for £10,000 towards the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund for the rehabilitation of offenders, particularly into learning trade skills and taking up apprenticeships in construction.

6 June was also the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and Liveryman and RAF Officer Squadron Leader Mike Alden gave a brief summary of the role of the Royal Air Force in that important phase of World War II.

The Concert Band of the Royal Marines Association played both during the reception and the dinner, after which we were entertained by the stunning young violinist, Freya Goldmark.

Then, on 17 September 2019, 34 members of the Company attended Common Hall (our AGM), which was held at Wax Chandlers' Hall, at which the Chairs of the various committees presented their reports, and the Gallant Clerk proposed the Master, Wardens and Officers for 2019-20. Common Hall approved the proposals unanimously as they did the Gallant Clerk's request that the revised ordinances of the Company be endorsed to the Court of Aldermen.

Thus another formal year for the Worshipful Company of Constructors drew to a close.

Worshipful Company of Constructors' Charitable Trust

The Worshipful Company of Constructors' Charitable Trust is registered as a charity in England and Wales (No 274573). It was formed in October 1988 as a requirement of the City for the Company of Constructors (then known as the Company of Builders) to gain Livery status. A minimum capital of £100,000 was required before Livery status could be granted. The charity is unincorporated and governed by a Charity Commission Scheme dated 31st July 2002 which replaced the former trusts of the charity.

The charity's objects, as set out in the Trust scheme, are:

1. to advance education, training and research in the construction industry (which shall include in particular, but not exclusively, building, civil engineering, architecture, surveying, engineering services and facilities management and procurement) in particular by awarding certificates, diplomas and other distinctions and establishing and maintaining scholarships, grants and awards to individuals;
2. the relief of persons in need, hardship or distress who are members of the Company or their dependants. The Trustees may relieve persons in need by making grants of money to them or providing or paying for goods, services or facilities for them or making grants of money to other persons or bodies who provide goods, services or facilities to those in need.
3. for other charitable purposes as the trustees may from time to time decide.

Under the revised Trust Deed all income is required to be disbursed or held in restricted funds for disbursement

Scholarships are ongoing and the Trustees, in conjunction with the Charity Committee and the Scholarship and Awards Committee of the Company, are working on an expansion of these into other disciplines, albeit within the Trust's objectives. Likewise Prizes and Awards to educational bodies range from Universities to Craft Colleges and the giving to appropriate City of London and Construction Charities is fully maintained.

In 2018 the Charitable Trust disbursed a total of £55,820 as follows:

A £3,000 Provision for Sir Ian Dixon CIOB Scholarship and £30,000 was given to Treloar's School from the "No Strings Attached" appeal from restricted funds.

From designated funds disbursements were made as follows:

- £4,320 University of Westminster Property & Construction Department
- £3,000 Hereford Cathedral Stonemason apprentice
- £2,500 Building Research Establishment [for the Royal Charter Research Award]
- £2,500 Chartered Institute of Building, Faculty of Architects and Surveyors Scholars
- £2,000 Team Build Association
- £2,000 Barnardo's "The Hub" Construction Skills Centre
- £1,500 Treloar's School
- £1,000 Ironbridge Development Trust
- £1,000 St Lawrence Jewry Church Preservation Fund
- £750 Mansion House Scholarship Scheme
- £350 Royal Navy and Marines
- £350 RAF Wittering 5001 Squadron Prize
- £350 Shafting and Shoring Prize
- £350 Southbank University Constructors Prize
- £350 Tong Cup
- £250 Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund
- £250 City and Guild of London Institute

Since 1990 the capital sum for the Trust has been enhanced by capital donations (from members and corporate sponsors of the Company) and by particular appeals such as the events at the Tower of London and HMS Belfast, and the Millennium Appeal, which was fully expended.

It is the financial policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and future distributions made.

From the outset, the policy of charitable giving has been in line with the constitution of the Trust and since 1990 the Company has appointed a Scholarships and Awards Committee which has targeted, in particular, educational and training scholarships and awards in the construction industry and allied professions. This is an ongoing commitment for the future and the original scholarships and awards are now being enhanced by further awards to cover the breadth of the disciplines within the ambit of constructors. The Trustees therefore ensure that the income from capital is sufficient to meet these commitments now, and in the future, and to increase them where appropriate in monetary terms and also with appropriate new awards in the future. To meet these aims the Trust's policy on distribution of income is to distribute donations of an income nature. All specific (or restricted) funds raised by appeals at dinners, or otherwise, are disbursed in full.

Members are urged to consider both regular donations and bequests to the Charitable Trust and details of how this can be done are available from the Honorary Treasurer of the Charitable Trust - Honorary Court Assistant Norman Brown.

Charitable Giving

One of the key aims of any Livery Company is to support those in need, and each year the City livery companies give some £67m to charitable causes and provide 75,000 pro bono hours of support from their members. We in the Worshipful Company of Constructors provide for charity through our Charitable Trust. This year the Master, Michael Parrett, set out at the beginning of his year to raise £50,000 for charity, and with the help of his ex-colleagues, members of the Company, and commercial sponsorship, he managed to do just that. His fund-raising extravaganza enabled the Company to present cheques for £10,000 to each of Clic-Sargent, the children's cancer charity, and the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund. In both cases the monies were ring-fenced to support their construction centric activities. In the case of Clic-Sargent the money went towards their "Home from Home" initiative, which seeks to provide family homes in which seriously ill children can be with their siblings and parents at such a critical time in their young lives. The donation to the Sheriffs' and Recorder's fund will be used to further their work to provide training and apprenticeships for young offenders to enter a career in the construction industry.

The Master's Year

The Master's year drew to a close with a magnificent Charity Gala Banquet in the Long Room at Lord's Cricket Ground.



The Master and Mistress in the Long Room at Lord's



The Master with Guest of Honour, Mark Ramprakash

Our Guest of Honour was Mark Ramprakash, legendary cricketer and erstwhile “Strictly Come Dancing” champion.

With a little bit of encouragement, ably provided by our Beadle, Ted Prior, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, and the Master, the sum raised during the Master's year reached his aspirational total of £50,000.

Since the Master first took over chairing fundraising for the Company we have raised almost £250,000, including the £50,000 raised this year – a not inconsiderable sum.

The event at Lord's was originally conceived by the Master, supported by Past Master and MCC member, Martin Wade.

The Master is now in discussion with the Charitable Trust on how the monies raised could be most appropriately employed in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Company.

Informal Events

The Worshipful Company of Constructors has, as usual, run a very successful programme of informal events for our members this year.

We started the year with an informal lunch at Ironmongers' Hall on 29 October 2018. This was attended by 16 people (including 3 guests) and by all accounts was enjoyed by all. Then, on 10 November 2018 several members of the Company, some with their families, assembled, as is the tradition, outside St Mary-le-Bow Church in Cheapside to witness the Lord Mayor's Show – the longest and best parade on earth (or at least so we are told). The Company was represented by the Master and Senior Warden together with our banner carrier, Yeoman member Anjali Pindoria, in the “Modern Livery Companies” section of the parade. Following the parade we adjourned to a reasonably nearby hostelry since our normal venue, the Little Ship Club, had decided at a late stage that they would not be open. Whilst the late change meant a number of people did not attend, those that did enjoyed the day, and, being joined by the Master and others who were either in the parade, or watching in the “posh seats” at Mansion House, the festivities went on well into the evening.

Our next informal event was on 12 December 2019, when 40 people (including 17 guests) attended our informal festive lunch at Ironmongers' Hall. The festive spirit was consumed, and diners enjoyed a ‘Christmas’ lunch prepared by the staff at Ironmongers' Hall. Then, on 4 February 2019 we again met at Ironmongers' Hall for one of our, by now, regular lunches.

Shrove Tuesday (5 March 2019) saw the Constructors' team of pancake-tossers assembled for the annual Inter-Livery pancake races in Guildhall Yard. We have taken part for several years now, but this year it was different – we WON the ladies race, so the name of the Company will be for ever engraved on the ceremonial frying pan. Well done to Anjali Pindoria, who flew down the course, thus bringing us our victory. Quite how we explain why a frying pan is in the vault with all the Company silver is for the reader to decide. We will now compete next year, when we hope to repeat our success.



The WCC Pancake Race Team

On 22 March 7 people joined in a visit to Skanska's K1 construction site in Knightsbridge. We discovered just how compact a site like this is in London, and just how difficult it was to perform major construction activities alongside and above an Underground station. The visit was an informative experience for all who attended and it was considered that our informal programme should contain more of these site visits in future (note that there are two more included later in the year).



25 March saw another of our informal lunches at Ironmongers' Hall. This was attended by 14 people, including one guest, and again, seemed to have been considered an enjoyable occasion by all who attended.



Whilst not really an "informal event", mention must be made here of the Mistresses' event on 28 March. Several members of the Company assembled with other Mistresses (including the wife of Aldermanic Sheriff Vincent Keaveny and the Mistress Grocer) in the hall of the Dutch Church in Austin Friars and were treated to both a demonstration of Chinese Cookery and an excellent Chinese Buffet by Master Chef Andy Chu. This was undoubtedly a landmark event as it brought a pan-livery flavour to the Master's year and furthered his avowed intent to improve diversity in the Company and to foster international relations. The tricks of the trade and advice given by Andy were to be remembered by all who practice the art of cookery.

Looking back, April seems to have been somewhat fallow, probably because of the Master's Weekend in Hong Kong, but things picked up again in May, when on the 16th we took part in the annual Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot and on the 20th we held another of our informal lunches at Ironmongers' Hall. We were only allowed to field 4 guns for the Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot, and our team of Matthew James, James Sizer, Simon Parker and Stuart Alexander did us proud, even though they didn't win. The informal lunch was attended by 15 people including 5 guests, and again reports were that it was considered to be a very enjoyable event.

At the end of the week, on Friday 24 May, 15 people took an evening boat ride on the River Thames. The journey started and ended at Tower Pier, but we went both upstream and downstream, viewing the sights of London and passing under Tower Bridge whilst being entertained by drinks and canapés. The weather just managed to hold until we made our way to the Sherlock Holmes pub where we took further refreshment. The event was considered successful by all, even though we were only a small party on what was a public evening cruise.



There were no informal events during June, but on 2 July we had a most interesting private tour of the World War 1 Galleries at the Imperial War Museum. The guide could not have been more knowledgeable and it was most enjoyable to have a glass of wine in the Museum before we went on to a nearby hostelry for further refreshments. The visit to the museum was attended by 15 people (the limit imposed by the IWM), of which 4 were guests, and received very positive feedback.

Then, on 10th July, we visited another construction related project, albeit one that had been completed, and was now occupied. The Bloomberg Building won a Stirling Prize and we were very lucky to have been able to organise a visit (through one of our members) to a well known City institution which does not normally allow visits. All who attended found the visit most interesting and recognised the knowledge and skill of the guides from the building services team. After the visit, some of the party took refreshment in a nearby hostelry and then visited Mithraeum, the Roman temple that has just been splendidly relocated to the basement of the Bloomberg Building. So in one visit we were able to see not only one of the newest buildings in the City but also one of the oldest!



The 18th July saw the golfers amongst us descend on Croham Hurst Golf Club for the Annual Company Golf Day. The day was expertly organised by Past Master Alan Longhurst, and the weather held good. After the golf the players were joined by others who enjoyed a splendid three course meal with wine prior to the prizes being announced by Alan and presented by the Master.

The winner of the Company competition (the Ken Brown Trophy) was, believe it or not, PM Alan Longhurst, and the winner of the Guests competition (the AET Rose Bowl) was Richard Oakes (who won it last year).



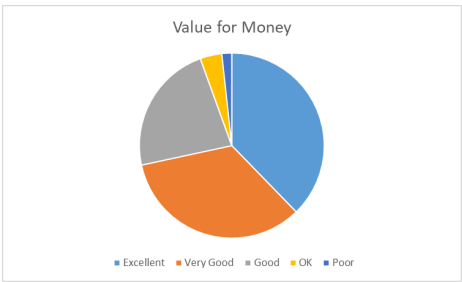
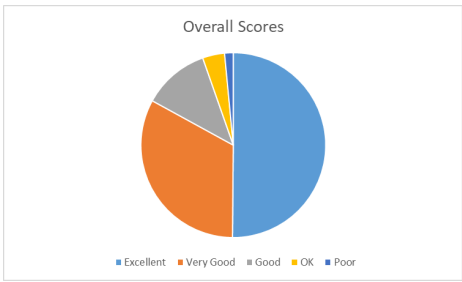
The Master's Year

August is usually a fairly quiet month in the City and we do not usually organise events during August, but this year, whilst we had planned to visit another construction site at the end of April, construction was not complete, so the visit was deferred to 27 August 2019. Unfortunately, a number of people had to cry off at the last minute, so the attendance was less than we had hoped. The developer of the site, Izaki Group International, has however offered to repeat the visit and we are looking at the practicalities of doing this in the next few months.

Our last informal event of the year was another lunch at Ironmongers' Hall on 2 September. 34 people were present, including 15 guests, meaning that this was probably our highest attendance at a normal lunch ever. Feedback suggests that the event was enjoyable, but that we were probably the victim of our own success in that there may not have been enough waiting staff for our numbers. Nonetheless, the lunch was a fitting conclusion to our programme of informal events, and we are planning an even more varied and hopefully attractive programme for 2019/2020.

Event Feedback

As those of you who attend our various events will already know, we always seek your opinion on how well the function meets your requirements and wishes. Yet again, nearly all our surveys this year have resulted in "Very Good" and/or "Excellent" average markings. Looking back over the last year (previous year's figures in brackets) 83% (85%) of responses marked events overall as "Very Good" or "Excellent" and value for money was marked as "Very Good" or "Excellent" in 72% (68%) of the responses. When the figures for "Good" are included these become 95% (96%) and 94% (91%), so there is clearly a view that value for money is improving, and has got back to previous levels. However, these figures would suggest that, whilst our events over the past year have continued to meet the requirements of our members, and, whilst the value for money score has recovered, cost may still remain an issue and this may be why attendance has at some times been somewhat lower than we might have wished. The survey process itself has not been without its challenges this year, so, going forward we are likely to use a different process and survey software.



The Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund



Lady Brewer is the Chair of the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund which this year received a donation of £10k from the Company, writes:

"It was in 1808 that the Sheriffs' fund was started to alleviate the poverty and horrendous conditions of Newgate prison. It was later merged with the Recorder's fund and since then has been committed mostly to individual grants for prisoners on release.

As is well known a prisoner receives just £46 on release. No surprise then that the door revolves, and they are back inside in no time at all. Without accommodation and jobs their future is bleak on release. Small grants for clothing, training, tools etc can be of enormous help at this critical time.

In 2016 the fund received a legacy of £200,000 from an unknown lady who had worked in the probation service all her life. She left £ 7.2 million in her will, can you believe it, but had very specific ideas as to where the money should go. We were amazed... So we decided that we would start a new initiative, now called out for good, to see prisoners into jobs prior to release and supported by mentoring through the gate. To date we have succeeded in helping 87 people back into a life outside.

The pan-livery philanthropic initiative has improved upon the fund's out for good by providing jobs from within the livery and, importantly, putting accommodation alongside this programme.

It should be transformative.

Reoffending costs the taxpayer £18 billion a year. More importantly it deprives people of a second chance if there isn't the appropriate support to enable a change. I often say to myself 'there for the grace of God go I'.

I hope that the Constructors' Company is proud of their association with the fund and feel that their generous contributions to our work are worthwhile. We could not survive without you and the other livery companies who have been so faithful. On behalf of the fund we thank you."

Company Members ...



Diana Chrouch, a Freeman of the Company, has recently joined the Membership Committee and is leading its sub-committee on Diversity and Inclusion. She, along with the Master and the Company as a whole, is determined to recruit as members those who are currently under-represented in the Company, the wider City livery and the construction industry as a whole.

She writes:

“The Worshipful Company of Constructors has a pivotal role as a leading beacon of good practice and has traditionally been widely accepted in its position as a representative of the construction industry.

However, women, ethnic minorities, LGBT, disabled and younger people have historically been under represented, not just in the Worshipful Company of Constructors, but across the livery movement as a whole. Absolute figures on the underrepresentation of these groups are difficult to report due to a lack of systemised monitoring. However, a recent survey of the number of females in the Worshipful Company of Constructors showed that there are only 12 % women.

The Constructors have historically recruited new members by word of mouth among their peers and these recruits have tended to hail from a similar ethnic, social and economic background as the recruiter. As a consequence, the membership is largely made up of white-collar workers at more senior levels in their careers with a demographic profile of predominantly white, male and over 50.

Moving forward into the 21st century, maintaining a lack of inclusion would undoubtedly be a high-risk strategy in the face of an increasingly diverse construction sector that is struggling to attract talent to the industry. This is especially the case when the Company depends on maintaining a thriving membership base that has traditionally been attracted by the Company’s prominence and relevant position in the sector. Without a doubt, a modern and diverse industry will expect to see an organisation in such an important position that is in step and representative of the people in the sector.

Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee

In recognition of the need for change it was agreed at a planning meeting last year that it was time to take action to increase diversity levels amongst the membership through the creation of a dedicated Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee.

The sub-committee is being led by marketing and diversity specialist Diana Chrouch who has written a proactive strategy for the recruitment of under-represented groups by adopting the following two-pronged approach:

Firstly - an outreach programme to raise awareness of the benefits of membership of the Company to under-represented groups via organisations that already engage with them. Planned outreach activities including collaborative events and marketing campaigns will target women, younger people and people from BAME backgrounds that work in the sector. There are also plans to develop a related outreach strategy for disabled and LGBT people.

Secondly - a New Member Welcome Ambassador programme to encourage existing members to volunteer to invite and support people from under-represented groups.

This planned roll out of an informal soft skills approach to recruiting people from under-represented groups, adopts a common sense way of removing barriers to entry. It also aims to provide potential new members with the encouragement and tailored support that they may need to apply for membership.

Once joined, the plan is to encourage existing members to provide additional informal mentoring to new members. Mentoring support will include personally inviting new members to accompany them to events, or flagging up and recommending taking part in committees and charitable activities during their first year to ensure that they feel properly welcomed, engaged and included in the life of the Company

Build On Do What Constructors Do Well

The objective of the New Member Welcome Ambassador approach is to build on do what Constructors do well.

That is to use their well-established word of mouth influence to reach beyond their peer networks to engage women and minorities in the construction sector. This approach has already been tried and tested by the Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee and, so far, it has successfully led to an increased spike in membership applications amongst women and minorities with many more in the pipeline.

Continued on next page...

The Company

This is excellent progress and shines a spotlight on the ability of the Worshipful Company of Constructors to build a diverse and inclusive membership, not just for the benefit of our Company but in order to lead this exciting change across the construction sector and the wider City of London.”

The Worshipful Company of Constructors desires to reflect the diversity of our industry within and throughout the Company and would welcome any contributions or offers of help to the Membership Committee, particularly from younger members and those who feel they might represent a minority within the Company. If you would like to contribute to this workstream, or have something to offer as a member of the relevant sub-committee then please let the Chair of the Membership Committee know by email at michael.rigden@breakthroughuk.com.”

Robert (Bob) Heathfield



Bob Heathfield has recently handed over chairmanship of the Worshipful Company Scholarship and Awards Committee to Liveryman and Court Assistant Dr Deborah Pullen. We are deeply indebted to Bob for the many years of service he has given to the Company and the Master is now looking to Bob to play a significant role in ensuring that all members are briefed on the mission and purpose of the Livery and the Company.

Bob is a Past President of the Chartered Institute of Building and he was admitted as a Freeman of the Constructors in 2002 and became a Liveryman in 2003. He became Chairman of our Scholarships & Awards Committee in 2005, and was elected a Court Assistant in 2006, becoming an Honorary Court Assistant in 2010. In 2016 he was nominated for the City Livery Club “Root and Branch” award and was “highly commended” by the award committee.

Bob developed and refined the process by which the Company manages its scholarships’ process and has directed the whole process from start to finish, including liaising closely with employers, and various professional institutions. He has also combined his management of the Company’s programme of scholarships with chairmanship of our Scholarships & Awards Committee which, in addition to the scholarships, deals with two university prizes, our Royal Charter International Research Award, our Royal Charter Award for Excellence in Construction, and our Masters Certificate Scheme.

In recognition of Bob’s considerable contribution to our scholarships he was awarded Honorary Court Assistant in 2010 and, at Common Hall in 2019, he was awarded the Master’s Certificate, an award that was enthusiastically applauded by the audience.

Bob has devoted an enormous amount of time, energy and professional expertise to his role within the Company, and this is evidenced by the excellent results which are achieved on a consistent basis.

Bob’s close involvement and management of our programme of scholarships over the past fifteen years, has resulted in the number of young professionals benefitting from the scholarship experience each year growing from one up to eight, and during Bob’s Chairmanship of the Committee over 50 Scholars have progressed through our Scholarship programme.

The results of the scholars’ research are now routinely published by professional institutions and other interested bodies, as hard copy and electronically, and as articles and papers in a variety of journals and magazines. The scholars themselves have gained greatly on a personal level from the experience of a Worshipful Company of Constructors’ scholarship through increased confidence and improved presentational ability. Many of them also support the on-going scholarships programme, and have become involved in mentoring other scholars.

Ruth Wilkinson

Ruth was admitted as a Freeman on 4 July 2019. She writes:



“I confess that I had only a vague knowledge of livery companies and had not heard of the Constructors until I sat next to John Rowsell at the Society of Construction Law lunch in February 2019. However, I have since set about trying to put that to rights and feel tremendously honoured and privileged to have joined the Company in July 2019. I have been made very welcome indeed.

I have been a construction lawyer since 2006 working in London and now in Reading as well, at Clarkslegal LLP, advising clients on construction contracts and disputes. Both my father and husband are engineers and they encouraged me to try construction as a seat during my training contract – suffice to say I loved it and have never looked back. I find the process of building and

engineering truly fascinating and never tire of listening to those working in the sector and experts telling me about what they do. My goal is to try to help clients achieve their goals, work with them to resolve their problems and help steer their way through hurdles especially prevalent during this current period of change.

When I am not working, I am usually found running around after my two small children.

Going forward I am keen to get involved in the events and traditions of the Company and meet other members. In addition, I am very pleased to be working with Diversity and Inclusion Committee together with Diana Chrouch, John Rowsell and others. Diversity is surely a key topic for the construction industry and for the future of the Worshipful Company of Constructors. “

John Kennedy Melling FCA, FFB, FRSA, FTII, MCFA, OMAA (1927 – 2018)



As Past Master John Burrell recalls, “On 2nd November we learned that John Kennedy Melling (JKM) had died on 10th October. Being almost 92 he had been inactive for many years and it is doubtful many of our current membership knew him. However, we have all benefited from the time he devoted to the then Company of Builders in its early years.

JKM was a singular man, a self-described dilettante immediately recognisable by his monocle and velvet cloak. Not in any way one’s idea of a conventional Liveryman but John was ‘Livery’ through and through.

He was a Past Master Poulter (1980-81) and a Liveryman of the Bakers, Farriers and Constructors (admitted July 1977). He published many works on many subjects including Discovering London’s Guilds and Liveries, London and the Guilds of Europe and The Poulterers of London. He was a past editor of The Liveryman Magazine.

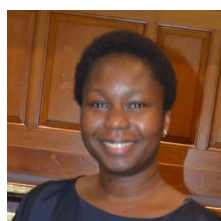
Being an acknowledged authority on the Livery caused our Founders to seek John’s advice on City and Livery ways, and that he freely gave. He subsequently wrote a history of our early days which members can find through our website. Alongside that is a potted biography detailing his many interests and achievements.

Having joined the Company of Builders in July 1977 he continued to advise and contribute organising the Masters Summer visits to Chatsworth (Master Peter Allen 1979-80) and Aberdeen (Master Ken Davis 1990-91).

I cannot overstate the importance of the contribution JKM made to our formation and first steps as a then Guild seeking Livery. Moreover I cannot forget the help he gave me personally. As Senior Warden I also sought his advice on the ways of the City and the Livery. Despite my having asked him a favour he twice invited me to the BAFTA Club (he was a long standing member) for lunch at his expense where he sought to steer me away from errors of which I avoided a few. In return I invited him to be principal guest at my Installation Dinner where he spoke on the lighter side of the City and Livery.

As I said, he was a singular person but a kind and generous man who the Builders / Constructors were lucky to have.”

Shade Abdul



Shade joined the Company as a Freeman on 4 July 2019. She writes:

“When I was asked to put some words together about why I joined the Worshipful Company of Constructors, I was struggling. I couldn’t get past mentioning Diana Chrouch, who leads the diversity and inclusion group. As great as that seemed, it felt far short of what the Editor was looking for. However, feeling inspired from the Ladies Take Over event which I attended on 23 September, I was reminded of the things that often get forgotten in the daily pursuit of career advancement.

Diversity and Inclusion

As a black woman working in the construction industry, I am pleased that issues around unconscious bias and professional barriers are being discussed by others. I say “by others” because as a young architectural student or graduate architect, I never felt that I could speak on this. I fitted in as best as I could and focused steadfastly on my ambitions. This has become a mode of operating that is so entrenched, that even now, when addressing diversity, I feel ill at ease to talk of my challenges. But if I do not feel at ease to speak, I definitely want to do so, and the opportunity to get involved in a meaningful way about a matter that is very close to home rather than sit on the side-lines was another reason for joining the Company. If the Company’s vision is to influence our industry to not only open itself up to people of ethnic backgrounds and women, but to provide pathways so that they can contribute their immense talents and become a beacon for others that need to see that it is very much possible and ordinary for them to succeed in our industry, I want to be part of that.

Continued on next page...

The Company

People

I am a sole practitioner architectural business. It has taken a while for me to approach it as a business. Business development feels slow and at many times challenging. If I had to start again, I would have teamed up with others and identified my mentors. Meeting others and building relationships with people within and beyond my profession can only be done by getting out from behind my desk. I therefore relish the opportunity to have conversations that can sometimes spark a different perspective that I wouldn't have thought of on my own, or sometimes to be challenged when my views appear to others as limited. With this in mind, the opportunity to meet experienced construction professionals that are experts in their fields cannot be easily overlooked. I call it networking, but actually as it was mentioned at the recent event, it's collaborating.

Trust

When Diana initially told me about the Company, its connection to the city of London and its history, I didn't get it. I'm a committed atheist and "Worshipful" seemed at odds with my beliefs. But I trusted her as she was fast becoming a mentor that I could turn to. I could see that the WCC entrusted Diana to guide and lead their vision of drawing new members from diverse backgrounds, and likewise, I could see that she trusted that the Company was genuine in its vision to influence a topical matter in our industry, starting first with itself.

When something is unknown, authenticity and trust can be the bridge."

A company fit for the 21st Century

At the recent away-days it was determined that we should focus on being "A Company fit for the 21st Century" and that the Company should be on a firm financial footing and have a robust Charitable Trust.

Over the year we have gone a long way to achieving the financial aims, and our new financial arrangements will ensure that we keep a firm hold on our finances, and look to not only supporting our Charitable Trust by donations but also making sure that we work with the Trustees to use the Trust Funds to benefit construction.

The other aspects of being "A Company fit for the 21st Century" are those of inclusivity and getting a core of members who have the ideals of a livery company at heart, and are willing and able to take over the reins of the company as time goes by.

It is very difficult to monitor how we are doing in terms of inclusivity without apply some form of temporal analysis, but we have now started that analysis, initially looking at the age demographic of the Company and also the number of ladies who are members. Recently similar statistics have also been collected across the livery by the Livery Committee, so we can compare our performance with the average of the livery companies throughout the City. Going forward we are looking at how to monitor other aspects of inclusivity including members' perception of their ethnic origin, although that data is not available to us from the Form A's that are submitted by potential members when they apply to join the Company. We need to find a way of doing this that does not imply selectivity or offend members' sensitivities, and the Company is urgently considering how we can best monitor inclusivity. We are quite convinced that we are open to members of all races, creeds, faiths, religions etc, but if we are asked to quantify that conviction we may well struggle.

In terms of wishing to lower our average age, we were pleased to be able to report at Common Hall that our average age had gone down by some 8 years during Mike Parrett's time as Master. However, behind that statistic lies a mixture of passing, resignation, recruitment and some data cleansing. Whether we can expect a similar drop next year is questionable.

However, the Company is determined to move forward and the initiatives that started this year will be pursued in the years to come. We want to be a vibrant and forward thinking Company full of like minded people who are willing give of their time and talents to take the Worshipful Company of Constructors to even greater heights.

Aeternum Vale

We lost some of our long-standing members over the last year and will miss their fellowship, wise counsel and presence in the future. We remember them and our thoughts are with their friends and families.

Companion Muriel Booth died on 21 December 2018. She was 94 and had not attended Company functions for some time.

Liveryman John Kennedy Melling died on 10 October 2018, aged almost 92. He was instrumental in the development of the Company in the early days, and a fuller article about him is on page 21 and there was an obituary for him in The Times.

PM Captain Ronald (Ron) Taylor Honoured by WCC plaque



Captain Ron Taylor was our Master in 1985/6 and was the subject of an article in the 2017 issue of this Journal. His exploits in World War II have become legendary, particularly in Italy, where much of his work was located.

On a sunny Saturday in July (July 6) in Brighton, the Company joined with the Secret WWII learning network to unveil a plaque honouring the late Captain Ronald Taylor, who was born near the spot where the plaque is situated and was a sabotage agent working with the Special Operations Executive during World War II.



The special commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Master, Mike Parrett.

The ceremony was attended by several current members and Past Masters of the Worshipful Company of Constructors, who gathered in front of the plaque after the unveiling. Pictured on the right they are PM John Robson, Tricia Tyrrell, Michèle Burell, The Mistress, Jessica Parrett, MW Arthur Seymour, The Master, PM John Burrell, Mareth Robson, PM Ian Mason, PM Michael May and PM Roger Adcock.

Ron was born in Brighton in 1916, and attended Varndean Grammar School before graduating from the University of London with a degree in engineering. He was a structural engineer by profession and during the second world war he joined the Royal Engineers and was parachuted into occupied France, working as a key member of the Special Operations Executive mission.



As the Master, Michael Parrett said, "We are extremely proud of our association with Captain Ronald Taylor and are pleased to be part of this important unveiling ceremony".



Also present at the ceremony were many of Captain Taylor's surviving relatives (see the picture on the left), and his daughter Diane subsequently wrote to the Clerk as follows:

"I wanted to ask you to forward a huge thank you to the Worshipful Company of Constructors for their kind and generous input to my Dad's Plaque ceremony on Saturday, 6 July in Brighton. I was very impressed how many of your members travelled to the event, turning up and looking so smart in the heat! The family enjoyed themselves and we all had a wonderful day being blessed with glorious weather. The ceremony was just the right length of time followed by a toast to my Dad with Italian wine etc under the shade of the trees as it was so hot! I love "your" plaque, and actually prefer it to the original one! I know none of this could have happened without the Constructors' help.

Please send a special warm thank you to [the Master] for his kind words about my Dad and for his generosity. It was certainly a day for the memory books.

Once again, thank you all so much"

The Company

Teambuild 2018



The Company was once more a co-sponsor of Teambuild's "Future Leaders" Competition, which culminated in a weekend of frenetic but constructive rivalry in mid-November 2018 at the Lane End Conference Centre in leafy Buckinghamshire. Due to indisposition, the Master was unfortunately unable to be present.

The competition is a cross-disciplinary construction contest organised by the charity Teambuild UK which pits teams from tier one, two and three companies to plan, design and build a real design-and-build project via a simulated scenario. Teams face a series of challenges that replicate real life design and construction tasks, and have to develop innovative and creative solutions to a variety of realistic scenarios. Teams have also (literally) to think on their feet, as the scenarios involve presentations to demanding clients and their advisers, and handling worried stakeholders, and they need to cope with a number of unexpected but very realistic onsite eventualities.

The site and project for the 2018 competition were generously provided by St Edward Homes, a residential-led mixed-use development at Green Park Village, west of Reading.

The winning team, Consilio, were awarded a cash prize of £2000 once again sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Constructors. In the absence of Master Mike Parrett (who was indisposed), the prize was presented by Past Master Patricia Bessey, a 2018 judge and TeambuildUK trustee. The team were commended for their professional and ingenious solutions to the challenging problems set, and comprised Alice Galvin (Landscape Institute, BDP), Jon Hall (IEMA, BDP), Rodolfo Leon (ITESM, BDP), Christina McHugh (CIBSE, BDP), Gergana Popova (RIBA, BDP), and Marcel Peeperkorn (PMI, Mace).

The Procurement, Contract and Risk Prize worth £1500 was sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects and was presented by the Master, Barry Munday, to Aedifico, a team from Buro Happold Engineering and Cartwright Pickard.

An individual prize for leadership worth £500 was once again sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Commercial Education Trust and was presented by Clinton Leeks, a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Constructors, to Marcel Peeperkorn, a project manager from Mace.

The competitors' performance was evaluated by a panel of 7 senior industry figures, representing a wide range of disciplines, including Barry Munday (Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects), Patricia Bessey and Richard Rooley (both Past Masters of the Worshipful Company of Constructors and the latter founder of Teambuild), and Clinton Leeks (a company liveryman).



The winning team are pictured on the right and the picture on the left shows Mike Peeperkorn, the winner of the leadership prize being presented with his prize by Liveryman Clinton Leeks.



WCC Merchandise

The Worshipful Company of Constructors is pleased to be able to offer members of the Company several items of merchandise that not only allow members to display their membership of the Company but also support the Company's charitable causes. The items include ties, scarves and cufflinks as well as a golfing umbrella and wallshield. There are also the Company medals. That with the blue ribbon is available for Freeman and that with the purple ribbon can only be worn by Liverymen. When Freeman are clothed as Liverymen they are able to exchange the ribbon for a small fee.

We are currently supplying a new version of the cufflinks and these are in pairs rather than as depicted in the photograph below.

We are indebted to Court Assistant Henry Lamb who manages our merchandise, all of which can be obtained from the Clerk, who will advise members of the coat of postage and packing and will add it to any order. All prices include VAT at the current rate, but are subject to change as new stock is obtained..

Orders will then be invoiced to members by the Honorary Treasurer.



The blue Silk scarf (above) is £12 and carries the crest of the Company both in colour and across the whole scarf in dark blue.

The Company ties (right) are available in two types. The more formal one is a black silk and polyester mix and the less formal one is pure silk, but carries a single crest on a striped red/yellow background. Both ties are priced at £20.



The Company cuff-links (right) come in a presentation box and feature not only the Company crest, but also the crest of the City of London. They are priced at £25.



The Company medals (above right) allow members to display their status at Company functions—the blue ribbon is for Freeman, the purple ribbon is for Liverymen. They are both priced at £75.

The Company Golfing umbrella (left) continues the red/yellow theme and is priced at £25 - Why not think about giving one as a gift and thus advertise the Company more widely.



The Company Crest (right) is suitable for wall hanging and costs £38.



The Company

Ladies Take Over the City

The recent Worshipful Company of Constructors' "Ladies Take Over the City" event was a resounding success. The occasion marked a high-profile celebration of women leading the construction sector with the aim of empowering more women to aspire for leadership positions in the industry. This flagship event took place on the 23 September 2019 in Canary Wharf at their stunning Level 39 venue with its panoramic views of the city. It received keen industry interest and an impressive attendance by women and men from all areas of the industry.

The event, which was master-minded by Freeman Diana Chrouch (diana@constructorscompany.org.uk), was a collaboration between the Constructors and the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and featured a line-up of prominent women in the sector. The key note speaker, Sue Kershaw (managing director of the Major Projects Advisory and UK Head of Infrastructure Management at KPMG) gave a rousing speech. In it she charted her own journey to success and shared her personal tips for building confidence among women aiming for leadership positions.

The "Ladies Take Over the City" initiative is part of a drive to encourage more women to join the Constructors' by raising awareness about the company's important role in representing the construction industry and supporting the work of the City of London.

Mike Parrett, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Constructors, led the speakers and reiterated his support for both the promotion of more women into leadership positions and increasing diversity levels across the sector. Indeed, during his year as Master, Mike has supported several strategies to increase the diversity of the membership of the Constructors and was instrumental in the creation of the Diversity and Inclusion Group to drive this initiative.

Since its creation in 1976, the Worshipful Company of Constructors has had three female Masters. These include Past Master Victoria Russell who attended the event. She outlined the important and influential role that women can play in the sector by taking up membership of the Worshipful Company of Constructors and thereafter advancing their careers through the Company as a gateway to leadership positions in both the City of London and the Industry more widely.

This aspirational message was keenly supported by chair of NAWIC, Cristina Lanz Azcarate, who has been a long-time advocate for change. NAWIC is also behind the iconic "Images of Women in Construction" photography project to inspire women and girls to take up and advance careers in the sector. The event was kindly sponsored by leading diversity advocates, City construction law firm Mayer Brown, whose senior partner, Sally Davies, gave a passionate talk about the firm's hands-on commitment to diversity.

CLIC Sargent

Clic Sargent was awarded £10k at our recent Sir Christopher Wren Banquet towards the refurbishment of Paul's House under the Home from Home scheme. Kate Lee, the Chief Executive has now written to thank the Company for their donation:



"I want to give my sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all for your generous £10,000 donation to our Paul's House refurbishment project. Every penny will be spent on helping children and young people with cancer and their families have a place to stay together for many years to come.

When a child is diagnosed with cancer in the UK they are treated in specialist centres in cities like London, so families often have to travel hundreds of miles for many months while their child is undergoing treatment. At a time when parents should only have to focus on their child's treatment, they're worrying about the logistics and costs of travel to hospital, and where they're going to stay to be close to their child.

CLIC Sargent's Homes from Home are a haven for families and entirely funded by kind donations like yours. The Homes are completely free to stay and a 'slipper walk' away from specialist treatment hospitals, helping families avoid the extra financial burdens of travel, accommodation and food costs and crucially to stay together.

After ten years of continuous service to hundreds of families receiving cancer treatment at UCLH and Great Ormond Street Hospitals in London, we have to temporarily close our Home from Home Paul's House in London for vital refurbishment. This work; caused both by the age of the building and years of wear and tear, cannot be avoided and it is becoming increasingly important and time sensitive to get it back to its best. This comes as we know the demand for Paul's House will only increase with new specialist treatments like London's first Proton Beam Therapy Centre opening next year, which means more families travelling to the capital.

Families love Paul's House and often tell us they simply don't know what they would have done without it, but we know it's not perfect. Originally two houses on Huntley Street in central London the building has 16 bedrooms including 4 accessible rooms serviced by a lift, shared kitchens, bathrooms and living spaces. We need to do major work to the roof and insulation, to ensure that we can maintain the extremely high hygiene levels needed for children on cancer treatment to safely stay with the rest of their family.

But we have to fundraise for every penny of the costs of these necessary works and thanks to the donation from the Worshipful Company of Constructors, CLIC Sargent can make the most of this time and more improvements to Paul's House like redecorating bedrooms and kitchens, to support families for many years to come.

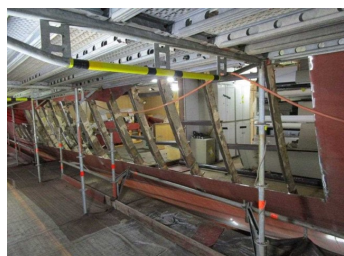
Your generosity will make such an incredible difference. I would also like to personally thank Mike Parrett, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Constructors for his kindness donating 50% of the proceeds of his upcoming book to CLIC Sargent. I look forward to welcoming members of the Worshipful Company to Paul's House in the near future. "

HMS LANCASTER

In July 2019, Lt Cdr Mike Bray, the Weapon Engineer Officer on HMS Lancaster wrote:



“HMS LANCASTER has been in refit for nearly two years with Ship Staff Move On Board (SSMOB) planned for August 2019. The intention is to then proceed to sea mid-December to attempt (if all successful) to bring her back into Portsmouth under her own power in time for Christmas. This will be the first time she has entered Portsmouth under her own power for 4 years. HMS LANCASTER’s programmed Fleet Date is then 1 May 2020 with her proceeding on sea trials later that year prior to deploying in early 2021.



The ship’s refit was extended due to the amount of structural work that was needed. Over 200 new steel inserts have been fitted to her hull to make her structurally sound. She has also been fitted with the RT997 radar and will come out with the new RT1084 navigational radar. She has had the Seawolf system removed and the new Sea Ceptor system fitted.

These are just some of the upgrades to HMS Lancaster during her refit and during the autumn period these systems will be commissioned ready to undertake Post Upkeep Sea Trials early next year.

HMS LANCASTER was under the care of Babcock and the Refit Support Group Devonport for her refit. She started to crew up from mid-April 2019. The first six crew to join were the Weapon Engineer Officer, Marine Engineer Officer, Logistics Officer, Deputy Marine Engineer Office, Deputy Logistics Officer and the Executive Warrant Officer. The crew now stands at 110 and will be circa 130 as we hit SSMOB. They are all currently being trained to take care and protection of HMS LANCASTER back from Babcock in August 2019. They are also making sure that she is safe in all respects for the crew to move on-board. This involves all aspects of duty watch training including Fire Fighting, Damage Control, Casualty response etc.”

HMS LANCASTER is keen to rebuild all the relationships from her previous affiliations and plans to host affiliates at a formal event later this year.



NEWS FROM 5001 SQUADRON (RAF)

Sgt R S Bourne, the Team Leader, writes:

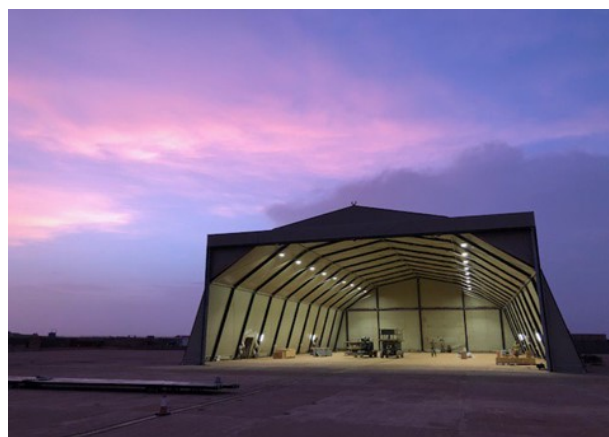


“2018 was a year of celebration as it marked the centenary of the Royal Air Force. In addition to the ceremonies, parades and aircraft displays the Squadron maintained its support to multiple concurrent Military Operations.

Over the past 12 months the Squadron has continued to provide specialist engineering support to the RAF’s Deployable Air Combat Service Support Units based at RAF Wittering. Always evolving through continuous improvement, the Squadron now operates as a Deployed Ground Engineering SPEARHEAD capability supporting emergent worldwide RAF operations.

During the summer months Operations Flight deployed to support operations in Mali, Africa to construct three 25m aircraft shelters for the Joint Helicopter Force (JHF) in support of the French Air Force. Working in conjunction with the Royal Engineers as part of a Military Construction Force this deployment proved to be both physically and technically challenging. Despite these challenges, construction was completed ahead of schedule and was regarded as a great success for the Flight and the Squadron.

The later half of the year presented further challenges as 5001 Squadron provided additional support to Joint Operations across the Broader Middle East. Again, Operations Flight deployed to construct a new Environmentally Controlled Equipment Storage Facility and carry out structural modifications to existing deployed 20.4m aircraft shelters; removing the door assemblies to convert them into aircraft sunshades.



Our Military Affiliations



Operations Flight continues to be involved in supporting Operation SHADER at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus by providing engineering support to existing aircraft shelters through maintenance and rectification activities. More recently, the Flight deployed to construct four more 20.4m aircraft shelters to support an increase in the tempo of deployed operations.

Throughout the year 5001 Squadron reached out to veterans of the RAF Airfield Construction Branch as we acknowledged the heritage and origins of the Squadron. Originally one of the largest units in the

RAF, the Branch built runways, hard standings and buildings. A new association has now been formed entitled the 5001 Sqn Airfield Construction Branch Association providing a link between current serving personnel and veterans (www.rafacb.org.uk).

5001 Squadron are immensely proud of our affiliation with the Worshipful Company of Constructors as it acknowledges our significant contributions to UK Defence through the delivery of our unique construction capabilities.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON ARMY CADET FORCE



We have an affiliation with the South-West London Cadet Force, and we were very pleased to be able to invite them to be present at our Livery and Awards Dinner in February 2019. Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Moloney represented them and writes as follows:

“On the 13th February I had the pleasure of being invited to the Livery and Awards Dinner at Haberdashers’ Hall.

As a young Army Cadet, being invited to such a high-profile event is a huge privilege – but it is also a great opportunity to promote the Army Cadet Force in South West London and to share information about the activities and training we carry out.

An event like this was a brand-new experience for me. I was fortunate to meet many important people from the livery company as well as being able to sit next to the Immediate Past Master during the meal.

This gave me the opportunity to learn a lot more about the Livery Company and what they do and I especially enjoyed the chance to participate in the ancient ceremony of the Loving Cup.

I’ve been an Army Cadet with South West London for around 4½ years now and each year I am able to participate in activities which are made possible by the generous donations provided by organisations such as the Livery Companies.

I recently obtained an NVQ qualification and am currently involved in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and also in the Duke of York’s International ‘iDEA’ programme. Both of these programmes offer Army Cadets new experiences and employability skills. They also provide industry recognised qualifications which will help us stand out from the crowd when it comes to our future education choices or careers.

In recent years, cadets from South West London are offered the opportunities to travel abroad for adventurous training or for exchanges with other cadet units in countries such as Canada, Hong Kong, Cyprus, St Lucia and Australia.

The Army Cadet Force is an inclusive organisation and makes these opportunities open to all, however they do come at a financial cost, but with support from organisations such as the Livery Company, we can guarantee that all cadets, from all backgrounds are able to participate if they wish.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity and experience you gave me when you invited me to your dinner and on behalf of the Army Cadets in South West London I thank you and your members for your generous and ongoing support.”

101 REGIMENT (City of London) RE



101 Regiment RE is a City of London Regiment that has been undergoing major changes in the last couple of years. We still wish to maintain our links with this premier unit of the British Army, but they haven’t been able to provide us with anything for this issue of the Journal in time for publication. If we receive anything in due course we will include it in our internal Newsletter.

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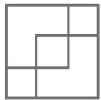
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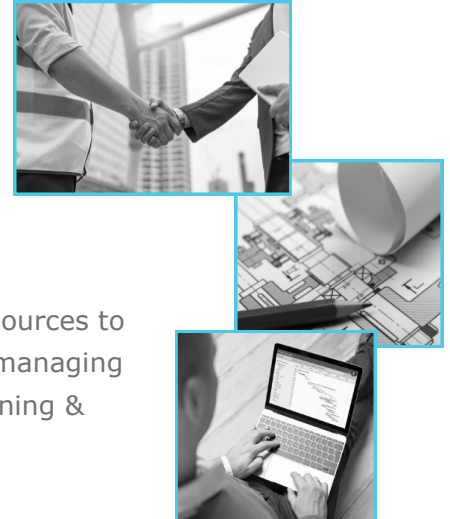
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The Master, Mistress, Wardens, Officers and Guests at the Installation Dinner held in Drapers' Hall in October 2018

Members are reminded that the views expressed by our members are those of the Author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Company

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