

The Constructor

The Journal of the Worshipful Company of Constructors



There was not an issue of The Constructor last year, primarily due to the impact of Covid-19, which very much curtailed the real life activities of the Company, but also due to the illness of the Editor, who became a guest of the National Health Service at around the time that the Journal would normally have been assembled.

However, this year we are back, and although our programme has been somewhat sparse, we have kept going with on-line events, and, in the latter part of the year, a return to real life events. Also, because of the impact of Covid-19 we (like many other City institutions) decided to ask our Master to hold the post for two years rather than one, so Arthur Seymour has had a longer tenure than usual, steering us forward in impeccable style.

But we cannot forget the impact of Covid-19 on the City – it was empty! This view of London Bridge during lockdown in early 2021 only emphasises just how big the impact really was.



ID 210686243@Vshots | Dreamstime.com

London Bridge and the City in Lockdown early in 2021.

However, out of the adversity that surrounded Covid-19, came some good. The Worshipful Company of Constructors' Charitable Trust recognised that many deserving causes were responding to the challenges of Covid-19, and by establishing a Covid-19 Fund provided financial support to deserving causes specifically related to the pandemic, and the Company supported the City and the wider UK to respond to the challenges that accompanied the extraordinary situation.



The **Worshipful Company of Constructors** is a modern City of London Livery Company for professionals working in the construction industry. The Company was granted Livery by The Court of Aldermen in 1990, followed by a Royal Charter of Incorporation by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in 2010.

Many of our Liverymen are chartered members of their respective professional institutions – some in leading positions. They come from all sectors of the construction trade, including architects, surveyors, engineers, builders, lawyers and accountants. This rich diversity gives huge social and professional benefit to our members.

Fellowship is an important part of company life, and each year there are three formal dinners. These are held in the City's splendid halls and are an excellent opportunity to entertain clients, colleagues, friends and family.

We also hold informal activities in or around London. These include a golf day, a sailing day, scholars' presentations, a Master's weekend away, and other social events of historic and topical interest which often end in a pub supper or similar.

These events offer a unique experience of a way of life that is not accessible to most people, and many members use them to entertain clients and colleagues.

The Journal of the Worshipful Company of Constructors

Editor: Roger Lilley

Contact: thejournal@virginmedia.com

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 inroled 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.

constructorsclerk@constructorscompany.co.uk

The Constructor

Autumn 2022

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*The Master 2022-23
David Sheehan*



The Master and Mistress



EDITORIAL

There was little to report on through 2020-2021 and indeed 2021-2022 took some time to move from on-line to in-real-life functions.

Our challenge going forward is now to persuade our members to get back to in-real-life events, breaking the Covid-19 habit and travelling to London. Hopefully this will improve as we get back into the swing of things, although the historic practice of

passing the Loving Cup, although threatened, has survived, with the wine replaced by chocolate or other sweetmeats.

Since the last issue of the Journal the Company has adopted a "Style Guide", so the typeface and colour palette of the Journal has been adjusted to follow the new guidelines.

Roger Lilley - Editor

A Message from the Master

Dear Fellow Constructors,



I am honoured to have taken on the role of Master for the year ahead. I follow a distinguished line of Masters who have given me so much support and guidance, I would like to express my thanks to them all.

I would like to thank the Immediate Past Master, Arthur Seymour, for successfully navigating the Company through the difficult circumstances presented by the pandemic and for Mistress Tina for her support and her continuing work as Honorary Treasurer.

Looking to the year ahead, I am proud of the new procedures the Company has recently introduced, in particular, the work of our committees that has put the Company in a very strong position to ensure that we maintain the important traditions of Livery while embracing the future as a modern Livery Company. The next year will see the Company embed these new procedures and improve even further the experience of our existing and new members.

Growing our membership continues to be important to our continued success. Our committees have combined and innovative plans to attract new members utilising our new marketing and social media platforms. In addition, I would like to encourage fellow Constructors to be proactive in searching out and recommending new members and encouraging them to apply.

As City life has now returned to a "new normal", I look forward to our re-engagement both internally and with the construction industry at large. As fellowship is such an important and enjoyable part of Livery life, our Events Committee has exciting plans to deliver a full schedule for our year. This is also a great opportunity to further connect with the City of London and all its activities which was very difficult during Covid times. We have plans in place to achieve this.

Our formal events are also all in place with the Livery and Awards Dinner in February and the Sir Christopher Wren Banquet in June (which is the 300th year since his passing). The Mistress and I are looking forward to welcoming as many of you that can attend the Master's Weekend in Portsmouth at the end of June.

Looking towards the City of London we are very proactive in strengthening our ties to the Corporation and to the wider Livery movement. We have created the new role of City of London Liaison Officer to support us in this area. We have also made internal Warden reporting changes. As a result, going forward, the Senior Warden will lead the Company on the Pan Livery activities which both increases our representation and also helps prepare the individual for their Master's year.

The Charitable Trust has continued to increase the level of giving to our many good causes, including the support of our continued scholarships and awards programmes. The Charitable Trust has doubled our level of giving in the last two years. Increased funds have also come from the kind voluntary donations of our members which is very much appreciated. We look forward to working together in the year ahead.

I would like to extend my best wishes to you all and thank you for your faith in me for the year ahead and I look forward to seeing you all in person at our formal and informal events throughout the year!

With best wishes

David Sheehan
Master Constructor

The Master's Year

Reflections from the Immediate Past Master

Dear Fellow Constructors



In March 2020 we went into Covid lockdown, this was about halfway through Sir Vivian Ramsey's year. All face-to-face communication in the Company stopped, but business continued over Zoom and other online methods. After a couple of months I was asked if I were prepared to step down for a year to give Sir Vivian a chance to have a proper year as Master, I agreed, of course, as did all the Wardens. When this was put to Vivian however, he said that his plans didn't allow him time to do another year, so I was happy to agree to continue as planned. Vivian did re-join the ladder as Court Assistant 4 which means he will become Master again in 2029 all being well.

The Installation in October 2020 duly arrived but, contrary to my expectations, Covid didn't go away! We were allowed 30 people in St Lawrence Jewry for my installation and Kim found a hall, Watermans', and a caterer, Cook and Butler, who would allow 5 tables of 6 provided we kept separate and the tables did not interact. We were happy to abide by these rules, bending them slightly when our Vicar, David Parrott, said grace in a loud voice without standing and we all heard him. I was extremely happy to become Master with the full expectation that 'it would all be over by Christmas', a phrase both myself and some of our older members may remember being reported at the start of the Second World War.

As you will all remember the rules did not relax for almost a year. But, during this time the work of the Company had to continue; committee meetings, Court meetings, GP meeting etc still had to go ahead, all online to conform with the regulations. After months of this I said to the Mistress that I had all the work but none of the fun. There was some fun however, I really enjoyed our fortnightly Virtual Informal Network Meetings (VINE), ably controlled by Stewart Owen, I also attended online events at other companies, the most memorable of which was a formal dinner at the Information Technologists, they delivered food to our address and we had an online dinner with each course in a separate breakout room, great fun.

Halfway through my year the General Purposes Committee agreed to grant me a second year in office as Master. I am incredibly grateful to the Wardens for agreeing to stand back for a year to enable me to enjoy a nearly normal year.

And enjoy it I have, going to other Companies' events and meeting other Masters, many of whom have become friends. The highlights of the years have been many and varied, the camaraderie shown by not only our own Company but the whole of the livery during the Covid lockdown, the Master's weekend in Tunbridge Wells, the Sir Christopher Wren banquet to which I had all of my children and other relations and friends as well as 16 members of my choir who provided the musical interlude.

Finally I must thank the chairs of the committees and the Wardens for their support through what, at times, have been a difficult two years and an especial thanks to our Clerk, Kim, and our beadle, Ted, who have been with me throughout it all; advising, reminding, sometimes cajoling but always supporting and making the last two years a period I will never forget or cease to be grateful for.

My sincerest thanks to all our members, I know that the new team will take the Company to new heights, and I very much look forward to supporting them in any way I can.

Arthur Seymour - Immediate Past Master

The Mistress reflects on two unusual years



Wow, what a two years!

It came in with a whimper in the middle of the Covid pandemic. There was a very subdued installation in St Lawrence Jewry for a select few in person and the rest of the company via Zoom followed by dinner in Watermen and Lightermen's Hall on segregated tables of six but at least there WAS an installation dinner. I have to confess that there were very few events in person during that first year although quite a few Zoom events and we are now definitely Zoom aficionados. The "dinner experience"

was delivered ready to pop in the oven and we dressed in all our finery to eat dinner at home while listening to Zoom speeches and moving to break-out rooms for conversation with fellow diners. Are we just a sad old couple for getting excited at this glimpse of normality?

We didn't actually attend any events in person until September 21, just a month before Arthur's reinstallation. This was a far grander affair and who would want to miss David Parrott conducting one of his last services in St Lawrence Jewry in hard hat and hi-vis jacket.

I was finally starting to attend consort events, lunches and dinners escorted by Arthur.

High point of the last year? Some of the magnificent dinners at Mansion House and elsewhere sitting on the top table next to stellar company, the Masters' Weekend away in Sheffield and of course our own Sir Christopher Wren banquet with all the family in attendance.

We had hoped to crown the year with our gala dinner in the magnificent library of the Reform Club but alas a different crown prevented this from happening when our dear Queen died just two days before the event.

We may have come in with a whimper but we went out with a bang at the installation ceremony on 12th October, bringing an eventful two years to a close.

Tina Seymour - Mistress Constructor

Terry Withers - Senior Warden

Terry is our Senior Warden and, as such, is our Company representative on the Pan-Livery Steering Group. He writes as follows:



"Part of my role as Senior Warden is to be the Company representative on the Pan-Livery Steering Group.

This panel is chaired by ex-Lord Mayor of London, Sir Charles Bowman, and it has recently produced an Impact Report entitled "Shared Philanthropic Endeavour". The point of this report is to capture the status of Pan-Livery activity and presents the findings from the recent survey of Philanthropic Giving whilst describing how the Livery has developed initiatives that demonstrate the value and success of Pan-Livery collaboration. It should be noted that the combined annual giving by livery companies is in excess of £75m.

If you would like to see a copy of this very interesting report please go to www.liverycommittee.org."

Roger Lilley reflects on his time as Senior Steward

It is now some 10 years since I was asked to be Senior Steward by the then Master, Stephen Rigden, and I have enjoyed that time immensely. I have been extremely proud to represent the Company at many events, including the Annual Pancake Race in Guildhall Yard and many informal lunches at Ironmongers' Hall. I have also been pleased to assist the Clerk at many functions and to have been invited to attend Court as an Honorary Court Assistant. Unfortunately, the advent of Covid-19 seriously impacted our normal activities and not long after that I was hospitalised, thus restricting my ability to perform the function of Senior Steward to such an extent that it was decided that I should relinquish my duties at Common Hall 2022. Although it may well take me some time to get back to my normal level of fitness I am determined so to do, but I am pleased that a new Senior Steward has been appointed, and I wish him well with the role.

The Master's Year

The Master's Weekend

With there being no Master's Weekend in 2021 it was a delight that the Master managed to organise one in Tunbridge Wells in 2022. The weekend was held on the last weekend of May, just a week before HM Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 70th Anniversary of her accession to the throne. It was well attended and was enjoyed by all.

Sadly, the Clerk was unable to attend, so he deputed his duties to Honorary Freeman Tim Nicholson, his predecessor, who executed his duties with meticulous attention to detail throughout the weekend. Our thanks as ever must go to Tim for making sure we were always where we should be, despite the tendency of a few of us seeking to do our own thing.

Those attending arrived at the appointed hotel on the Friday afternoon in preparation for a walking tour round the Pantiles led by the Mistress prior to an informal dinner in the hotel, with the usual hardy stalwarts retiring to the hotel bar on completion.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear. Following a splendid buffet style breakfast the company assembled in the foyer for a guided tour round the adjacent King Charles the Martyr Church, and then a coach trip to Sissinghurst Castle. It was a glorious ride through the Kent countryside to these marvellous



National Trust gardens which we wandered through at leisure, some of us taking the opportunity to eat lunch in the restaurant before exploring the Gardens further, or taking a walk to the lake.



After lunch we re-joined the coach for the return journey to the hotel and did our own thing for the afternoon - some taking a rest and others taking the opportunity for some retail therapy in Tunbridge Wells.

In the evening we again took the coach, but this time to Bewl Water where we enjoyed a splendid blacktie dinner with wines in the Boat House. Suitably refreshed we boarded the coach for the return journey to the hotel, where the hardy annuals amongst us partook of a stirrup cup.

On Sunday we attended morning service in King Charles the Martyr Church which was built in 1676, when Tunbridge Wells had few permanent structures. At that time it was a chapel of ease and served the parishes of Frant, Speldhurst and Tonbridge. The church had no resident vicar until 1709. As Tunbridge Wells expanded, so did the church and after new parishes were created for the expanding town, the position of the chapel became an anomaly and it eventually became a parish church with an unusually small parochial area in 1889. The Master and Wardens of the Company were pleased to make a donation to the Church's fabric fund.

The Master's weekend has now become a tradition within the Company, and many members commented on the missing year. It is a marvellous occasion, allowing members and, if they choose, their wives/husbands/partners to meet up and join in the camaraderie that is key to a livery company. Whilst many members take part in the Master's Weekend each year it is by no means an exclusive party, but it does afford all the opportunity to visit a different location each year, joining in both the "organised events" and having some time to themselves.

New members and those who have not attended before are always welcome to attend and can be assured of a warm welcome.

Social and Official Events

Our normally busy calendar of social events has taken some time to re-establish itself since the pandemic, but we have held several official events, the first being the re-installation of the Master.

The Master's re-installation service took place on 7 October 2021 and was one of the last events to be held at the Guild Church of St Lawrence Jewry prior to the building works getting up to full speed. The Master was re-installed with the usual words, and then went on to re-install his Wardens.

It was followed by the formal Installation Dinner at Carpenters' Hall where the Guest of Honour was our Honorary Chaplain, who gave an amusing speech about the nicknames that he had invented for all the Past Masters, including Arthur.

Arthur responded in his own inimitable style.

Being conscious of his speechmaking responsibilities, Arthur had decided to forgo his wine, and had lined it up for later, but when he sat down, he was ready to make up for his patience, only to be told by the Beadle that, following the completion of the formalities he had to leave. However, being first at the Stirrup Cup, Arthur was not shy in coming forward to rectify the wine deficiency.



The Livery and Awards Dinner was held in the magnificent surroundings of Haberdashers' Hall. Members and their guests (including the award winners and the other Company guests) sat down to a three course meal with wine and, following dinner many partook of the Stirrup Cup. The Company was extremely pleased to be able to entertain our various prizewinners and their guests. Each award was accompanied by a short citation giving the background to the award and these are reproduced below, with a photograph of each award winner being presented with his/her award by the Master, Arthur Seymour.

The awards commenced with the academic awards:

The Constructors Prize



Mariella Springford graduated from the University of Westminster in June 2020 with a First-Class Honours Degree in Quantity Surveying & Commercial Management. With an average final year mark of 82% she was top of her year group.

Needless to say, she worked extremely hard to achieve this whilst also working as an Assistant QS for Bowmer and Kirkland who sponsored her 5-year course. She is now working as part of a team to deliver a £50m commercial development in Bristol.

Mariella's commitment and attitude to learning was inspirational.

As a prime example of a rising star within the industry, she is a worthy recipient of the Constructor's Prize.

David Tong Cup



Lauren Webster was awarded a 1st Class BSc (Hons) in Architectural Technology in 2021, despite having to juggle working part-time to support herself during her final year.

In 2019, she was a South East region Women in Property award winner. This award celebrated the talent, skill and ambition of the region's female property and construction undergraduates. Lauren also led her University team to first place in the CIOB Bright Future Challenge two years in a row.

She is now working in the construction industry and also continues to mentor current students in her capacity as the CIOB Ambassador and is an extremely dedicated professional and a role model to others so is a well deserved winner of the David Tong Cup.

The Master's Year

We then turned to the awards for our Military Affiliates.

HMS Lancaster Award



The first award was the HMS Lancaster Award, which was awarded to Leading Engineering Technician Kieran Hartley. Kieran's Commanding Officer wrote "LET Hartley is a passionate and dependable communications engineer who is at the very top of his game. Demonstrating the highest professional standards over the course of his assignment on HMS LANCASTER he has routinely stepped up into Senior Rate positions. Always making time to bring on his team he has undoubtedly shaped the future career of our current rating cadre. Regularly receiving praise for his work ethos, a recent example included a short term loan to HMS PORTLAND to

assist them in completing an extremely challenging Operational Sea Training period. Furthermore, during the conclusion of an intense fleet time support period he demonstrated unprecedented adaptability by utilising his skillsets to enable critical communication system trials to succeed; LET Hartley is leader of exceptional calibre who is undoubtedly a lynch pin of the Ship, his commitment and equipment knowledge has supported the CIS Group through a very challenging period to maintain Operational Capability. As a result of this hard work he has now been selected for promotion to Petty Officer and he should be extremely proud of his achievements on frontline operations.

101 (City of London) Regiment RE Award



The second award was the 101 (City of London) Regiment RE Award. This was awarded to Corporal Cooper, 2 Troop, Redhill - 579 Field Squadron (EOD & Search).

His Commanding Officer wrote: "Corporal Cooper has excelled and displayed the highest standards as a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer throughout this training year. His commitment to Exercise PHOENIX WARRIOR was notable, where he delivered an infantry training package to a total of 22 Sappers & Junior Non-Commissioned Officers from his squadron. Throughout the planning phase he added value and scoped a package that was very well received by everyone that attended.

A natural instructor, he has also delivered recruit training outside of his unit for the Army Training Regiment in Pirbright. A talented physical training instructor he has always been well respected within his squadron, but is now considered to be the best instructor across the wider regiment for the delivery of annual fitness testing. As the lead for this element of the upcoming Exercise BLACK CAT HAWKER, Corporal Cooper will deliver fitness assessments for approximately 120 members of 101 Engineer Regiment - an impressive feat for a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer. Corporal Cooper is a mature & confident Section Commander who prides himself in the development of his soldiers, regularly going above and beyond the expectations of his rank. He is a true force multiplier within both his squadron and the wider regiment. An individual undoubtedly worthy of recognition.

Air Commodore Dow Trophy



The third award, the Air Commodore Dow Trophy, was awarded to Corporal Daniel Cooper RAF.

His Commanding Officer wrote: "Cpl Cooper is a member of 5001 Sqn Expeditionary Airfield Facilities Flight (EAFF), where he fulfils the role of Deputy Team Leader for Facilities Installation Team 2.

In preparation for NATO Baltic Air policing duties, he led the construction of a prototype modified armament storage shelter in the UK. Cooper was relied upon to interpret technical document sets and implement method statement instructions before training and leading his team.

With the Flight stretched due to concurrent and protracted periods of quarantine bought about by COVID-19 isolation requirements, Cooper was again selected to lead a team in support of Op KIPION. Responsible for all engineering practices as well as team administration, welfare and discipline. Leading from the front, he ensured the safe and speedy dismantle of the asset prior to arranging

its return to the UK, ultimately increasing available resources for future operations.

In summary, throughout 2021, Cpl Cooper has been a credit to 5001 Sqn and a shining example of engineering excellence in the RAF, demonstrating to colleagues, line managers and senior management alike that he is an engineer and leader of the highest calibre. A future SNCO in the making, he is more than worthy of the honour of receiving the prestigious Dow Trophy Award. As Cpl Cooper was deployed at the time of the Livery and Awards Dinner the Air Commodore Dow Trophy was collected on his behalf by Flt Sgt Jenkins, whose picture is included in this citation.

Royal Charter Award for Excellence

The biennial Royal Charter Award for Excellence was awarded to Suzannah Nichol MBE.



As Chief Executive of Build UK, Suzanna Nichol was awarded the Royal Charter award for Excellence in construction in recognition of the significant leadership role that Build UK played in producing and implementing the construction sector Safety Operations Procedures to ensure compliance with Government restrictions imposed following the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020.

These procedures were instrumental in establishing a productive way forward for the Industry to continue operating whilst ensuring that all operatives were protected against the impact of the pandemic.

Regimental Parade



On 12 July Arthur Seymour (Master) and David Sheehan (Senior Warden) were pleased to be invited to attend a Parade and Reception hosted by 101 Regiment (RE), one of our Military Affiliates. It was a splendid occasion as befitting an Army company so inextricably linked with the Livery. The eagle eyed amongst our readers will, no doubt, recognise Jools



Holland, who is Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

The annual Sir Christopher Wren Banquet was held on 8 June in the grand surroundings of Drapers' Hall. It



was, as always, the highlight of our formal occasions and was enjoyed by all. The eponymous Sir Christopher Wren was responsible for the reconstruction of 52 churches following the Great Fire of London, including his finest work, St Paul's Cathedral, and has arguably had a greater impact on the City's urban landscape than any other figure.

The Constructors honour these achievements at an annual Banquet named in his honour.

This year's guest speaker was Murray Craig, the recently retired Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court who is well known to Liverymen and delivered a memorable speech.

The musical entertainment was provided by members of the Choir that the Master and Mistress sing with.

The Worshipful Company of Constructors usually holds a Gala Charity Banquet in alternate years. The Banquet was due to be held at the Reform Club in September 2022, but it was unfortunately cancelled as it was due to take place in the official mourning period following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

The Company

The Charitable Trust

The Trustees of the Constructors' Charitable Trust developed the 'Constructing our Future' initiative during 2021 - 2022. This initiative introduces students in the age range 9 - 14 to construction by arranging visits to major construction projects. The site programmes are explained in detail and members of the site team explain their wide range of roles on the project to the students. It is hoped that this will develop an early interest in construction.



Paul Shepherd, Chairman of the Charitable Trust welcoming students from the UCL Academy when they visited the Thames Tideway Project. This was the inaugural visit of the 'Constructing our Future' programme.

Students from St Peter's Church of England Primary School in Hammersmith visiting the Holland Gate Development Project.



The Trust was pleased to report that the Donations target for year 2 of their 3-year strategic plan had been achieved. This plan was agreed at the February 2021 Court, and envisaged a growth from £25k in 2020 to at least £30k in 2021, at least £40k in 2022 and at least £50k in 2023. The donations made by the Charitable Trust on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Constructors over the year 2021-22 was £46,750.

This significant increase has been possible for two reasons. Firstly, following the increased number of Constructors who have donated to the Charitable Trust. Following the request for a 'voluntary donation' to be added to the annual quarterage 59% of members now donate to the Trust, although some 126 members have still to make their contribution. Secondly, there has been a more pro-active and planned approach to 'giving' (within the rules of the Trust) together with increased interaction with the beneficiaries. Whilst the processes are still being refined the increased interaction with the beneficiaries will help the Company to determine the effectiveness of the donations and the Trustees look forward to working closely with the Master and his team to develop and achieve the Charitable objectives of the Company and the Trust.

Between November 2021 and May 2022 there were three site visits (22 pupils plus three teachers on each occasion) and one Zoom presentation. The sites were the Thames Tideway Project, Holland Gate Development and the Hammersmith Town Hall Renovation (Zoom). The two Schools were The UCL Academy Trust and St Peter's Primary School Hammersmith. It had been hoped to arrange other visits to the BRE and a Building Heroes Training Establishment, but ongoing Covid restrictions have unfortunately prevented this.

It had always been planned that events for this academic year would be organised by the CT Trustees as a pilot project to test the scheme viability and logistics required.

The project will now be handed over to the Company to take forward as decided by the Officers. The idea works well but has proved very time consuming to arrange. It is anticipated that there will be progressive hand-over meetings so the CT can pass on to the Company the experience they have gained to date. The Trust stands ready to render all assistance the Company may need and will provide the necessary funding.

The Trustees were disappointed that only one donation was made under the Members' Proposal Scheme and hope that more suggestions will be forthcoming in the future.

There have been no Fund Raising activities during the year, mostly due to the continuing impact of Covid-19.

However, the Charitable Trust has made the following donations during the year ending 30th September 2022.

City of London

City and Guilds	£250
Constructors Prize	£750
Ironbridge Gorge Museum	£1,500
Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund	£1,000
Mansion House Scholarship Scheme	£1,000

Education and Training/Scholarships

2021 Sir Ian Dixon Scholarships	£3,000
2022 Sir Ian Dixon Scholarships	£3,000
Sustainability Scholarships	£3,000
Building Heroes	£10,000

* Member's Suggestions

Building Department (Oaklands College)	£500
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Armed Forces

David Tong Cup	£750
Shafting and Shoring Cup	£750
Air Commodore Dow Trophy	£750
HMS Lancaster Prize	£750

Constructing our Future

UCL Academy Scholarship	£1,000
St Peter's Primary School, Hammersmith	£1,000

Relief of Hardship/Other

ICE Teambuild Prize	£5,000
REDR	£5,000
Ukraine Appeal	£5,000
Law Awards Art Competition	£2,250
Member's Suggestions *	£500

The Grand Total of donations by the Charitable Trust in the year ending 30 September 2022 is thus £47,250

Worshipful Company of Constructors Charitable Trust

The Charitable Trust is a vital part of the Worshipful Company of Constructors. The Trust is managed by Trustees and in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commissioners.

The Trustees are :

Dr Paul Shepherd (Chair)
Dr Deborah Pullen
Victoria Russell
Robert Heathfield
Michael Ankers (Secretary)
Douglas Barrat

The Charitable objects of the Trust are:

To advance education, training and research in the construction industry, in particular by awarding certificates, diplomas and other distinctions and establishing and maintaining scholarships, grants and awards to individuals

The relief of persons in need, hardship or distress who are members of the Company or their dependents

For other charitable purposes as the trustees may from time to time decide.

The Charity Commission describes the Charitable Trust as follows:

What the Charity does:	Education/training
Who the Charity helps:	Children/young People Other Charities or Voluntary Bodies
How the Charity helps:	Makes Grants to Individuals Makes Grants to Organisations Sponsors or undertakes research
Where the Charity operates:	Throughout England and Wales

The Company are extremely proud of their Charitable Trust and are keen to ensure that it supports our industry now and in the future.

To make a donation to the Trust the details of the Charitable Trust's bank account are:

Bank: Barclays Bank PLC of Exeter Business Centre, 3 Bedford Street, Exeter EX1 1LX
Account: Worshipful Company of Constructors Charitable Trust
Sort Code: 20 34 47
Account No: 40990108

Please email or send the completed Gift Aid form to: charity@constructorscompany.org.uk or by post to:

Dr Deborah Pullen MBE, Charitable Trust Treasurer, 44 Lomond Way, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 6BT

Aeternum Vale

We have lost several of our long-standing members since the last Journal was published and we will miss their fellowship, wise counsel and presence in the future. We remember them and our thoughts are with their friends and families.

Mary Everett was one of our much respected and long-serving Companions even though she did not attend many functions lately as she lived in Hull. She died on 1 June 2021.

George McDonic was a Barrister at Law, Past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Past President of the Faculty of Building and a Liveryman of the Company (admitted February 1990, Livery September 1990). He died on 14 February 2021 at the age of 94 and had not attended many functions recently.

David Burgess was the Guild Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry before David Parrott, and was an Honorary Freeman of the Company (admitted September 2008). He died on 14 March 2022.

The Company

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 Freemen and that with the purple ribbon can only be worn by Liverymen. When Freemen 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 cost 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 Freemen, 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.



Committee Reports

There are 7 committees within the Company operating under the auspices of the GP Committee and they each report their progress through the year. There is also an intent to form an eighth committee that will look at the how effectively the Company reflects the diverse nature of the construction industry and seek to ensure that the Company is really inclusive to all. The reports of the various committees are:

1 Finance Committee

Tina Seymour is not only our immediate Past Mistress, but is also our Honorary Treasurer, and has provided this brief report for the Journal. She writes:

“Despite the pandemic we have managed to survive the last two years. The 20-21 accounts have now been finalised and show a surplus for the year of £51,457.

This includes a revaluation of the investments of £39,220 as at 30th September 2021. Of course the value of investments goes up as well as down and investment values have gone down globally over the last 12 months. Until our investments are realised any increase is illusory.

We have also taken this opportunity to tidy up the accounts. This exercise resulted in an increase of £7,821 which is included in the surplus shown. The operating surplus for the year was therefore £4,416 as detailed below:

Gross Surplus (as reported by the Accountant)	£51,457
Less: Revaluation of Investments	£39,220
Adjustments following “tidying up”	£7,821
Nett Surplus:	£4,416

We expect to make a loss for the 21-22 year and we have had to dip into our reserves. This was expected and budgeted for although we did not raise as much as we had expected from our quarterage and have lost some members. However we are now in a good place with increased expenditure on IT and bookkeeping help. We have budgeted to make a small loss for the coming year and hope to be back to a break even footing the year after.”

2 Climate Action Committee

Court Assistant Martin Gettings, the Chair of the Committee writes:

“At no time in History was the service of the Constructor more in need.

With buildings, and their associated construction and supply chain, being responsible for 40% of the worlds carbon emissions, it is abundantly clear that the built environment and its Constructors, can not only be a part of the solution to addressing climate change, but could be a significant driver in mobilising the people the resources and importantly the positive change to not only participate, but to help lead this compelling agenda.

As Constructors we see this as an opportunity, driving positive change is in our blood, it’s why many of us got into construction and its related professions in the first place! It is certainly one of the reasons we joined, not only the industry, but also The Worshipful Company of Constructors. That’s why in 2021 we formed a Climate Action Committee (CAC) and in 2022 we saw the group expand and grow in numbers, placing Constructors in a number of significant Livery and industry leading initiatives and Task groups. In 2022 we:

- Launched our [Constructors Climate Action Webpages](#) and published our agreed [Aims and Objectives](#). We leveraged social media to communicate our plans and generally raise awareness of our CAC. We presented our experiences to encourage other Livery Companies, and as a result the Furniture Makers have now established their own CAC and many others have now joined Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG).
- Sponsored, supported, and helped deliver the inaugural LCAG Conference. We partnered with Supply Chain Sustainability School and our own Scholarships Committee to deliver Climate Action Scholarships. We produced a number of guides for publication on the LCAG and Constructors websites. We produced the first Livery Net Zero Action Plan and researched various carbon offset options and strategies.
- Introduced 12 new members to the Company who joined us after seeing the way we have taken Climate Action. Many of these new members have become active members of our Climate Action Committee. Studies have indicated that young people want to be involved with companies and sectors that are helping to solve the global challenges: Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, Social Equity. Perhaps there is a huge opportunity here to use our commitment to drive positive change in our sector and our Company, which could be leveraged to help address the skills shortage we face within our industry? We are currently exploring initiatives in this area and will present our proposals to Court in due course.

The Company

Skills for a Sustainable Skyline

We are currently engaged in a significant City of London led Initiative called Skills for a Sustainable Skyline. This 3 year Taskforce is set to research, report and recommend the changes needed to enable the workforce of the future, with the skills, and capability required for a reimagined, restorative, repurposed, rejuvenated and importantly deep green and net zero built environment. It will also help address the wider understanding of financing, planning, designing, delivering and maintaining our cities of the future, and make recommendations for social equity in the built environment sector. This Taskforce is in its early stages, but Constructors are already embedded and influencing significant parts of the initiative.

In summary 2022 has been a very good year for this relatively new committee, which is set to go from strength to strength. If this sounds like something you want to be involved in, please register your interest by dropping us a line at climateaction@constructorscompany.co.uk We are always seeking active participants to join our journey.

3 Merchandise and Events Committee

Court Assistant Stewart Owen, the Chair of the Merchandise and Events Committee writes:

“Over the last year the informal events, such as VINE, which originated during the pandemic, kept the company in touch with its remote members. Now, the reanimated (W)INE IRL gatherings, and the Constructor’s Lunches at Ironmongers’ Hall, afford the opportunity to meet, at modest cost in relaxed and convivial circumstances, and still in impressive surroundings (or at least a decent pub). The committee is committed to continuing to arrange and provide a variety of these informal events.

Court Assistant Craig Harding, a member of the Committee, continues to arrange thought provoking on-line talks and seminars, and it is intended that these will continue, attracting considerable interest from members, in particular those who find journeying to London just too much.

When guests attend our events, they are impressed, a little intrigued by the tradition and generally keen to learn more – often to think of how they might become part of it by becoming a New Member. Impressive increased social media activity, notably around LinkedIn but also Twitter etc. has generated a lot of external interest in the company and we are arranging a Showcase event, currently tabled for 29th March 2023, and keenly supported by the new Master and Court, at which we aim to attract and, we hope, convert mild, idle interest and curiosity into application for membership.

Over the years we have built up stocks of various items (umbrellas, ties, cufflinks etc) that promote the Company Brand. Court Assistant Henry Lamb has also facilitated a Company Badge/Brooch. We have plans for other items. There are pictures of these items in this Journal, but do check out the website for detail on how to purchase them – we may be able to help with logistics if that is a problem.

In addition to the excellent work of our Gallant Clerk on formal events the M&E Committee intends to complement that with informal events of equal standard... but that means members and their guests have to be there of course!”

4 Scholarship and Awards Committee

Court Assistant Dr Deborah Pullen, the Chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee writes:

“This year has once again been very productive and the scholarships programme saw three young professionals from the 2021 cohort successfully complete their chosen research projects. This extends their knowledge and skills in completing research as well and benefits their employers and the wider construction industry through dissemination and application of their findings.

Topics studied were:

- Increasing the value of green spaces, Megan Haslam, Sir Robert McAlpine
- Reusing engineering timber products, Dr Martha Godina, Elliott Wood
- Novel technologies to detect underground cabling and pipework in site excavation, Jamie Tong, Sir Robert McAlpine

The online presentations and output reports for each project are now available on the Company website. We will continue to review the ongoing impacts created for the scholars and their employers and also industry interest and engagement over the next 3 years.

The 2022 Sir Ian Dixon Scholarships began in May, with the following topics being studied:

- The use of radar and geophysics techniques to improve the assessment of historic Motte and Bailey castles, Philip Windsor, LK Group.
- The use of synthetic fibres and EFC (Earth Friendly Concrete) in post-tensioned slabs, Oscar Cerecedo, Keltbray Group.
- A detailed study of the current status of training provision for female ex-offenders to gain skills relevant to the construction sector, Sasha Simmons, O’Neill Brennan.

As always, we are indebted to Lady Valerie Dixon for her ongoing support of the programme in memory of her late husband. We would also like to extend our thanks for the continued support of Dr Renuka Thakore of the University of Estates Management who will be delivering a number of learning tutorials to extend the research skills of the scholars.

5 Membership Committee

Honorary Court Assistant John Rowsell, the current Chair of the Membership Committee was appointed during the year and writes:

Over the year Diversion and Inclusion, previously a sub-committee, has been raised to full committee status under the leadership of Freeman Diana Chrouch OBE.

Over the year we have worked tirelessly to achieve our membership targets and will continue to do this next year. To achieve this we must focus on developing the benefits of direct membership-applications secured through our increasing social media profile, as well as the traditional "proposer" route, which has served us since our foundation.

Additionally, we have introduced measures to improve the engagement of new members, to both reduce potential departures and encourage more young applicants. These are (1) the introduction of mentoring at the interview stage and (2) the establishment of a NewGen Group, which is an initiative to provide opportunities for newly joined members to connect with other new Constructors and experienced members in an informal setting. NewGen will run a calendar of events throughout the year approximately once per quarter. Establishing relationships with veteran Constructors at these events will help new members settle in and familiarise themselves with the Company and its processes as well as understand the commitment required if members aspire to progress through Court. The NewGen events combined with the mentoring programme will provide a springboard for new members to become active in Company life.

Carlo Maddedu has now taken over as Chair of the Young Members Group and, in conjunction with the Merchandise and Events Committee, will draft a schedule of events to attract our younger members.

6 IT and Media Committee

Renter Warden Tim Fitch, the Chair of the IT and Media Committee writes:

"In the past year the committee has continued to implement the marketing strategy devised during lockdown in 2020. The look and feel of the website has been refreshed and in particular includes a new structure to bring the work of the Climate Action Group to the fore. The charitable work of the Company and the Charitable Trust has also been accentuated. The yearbook is now also available online within the members area.

The team has also implemented a low cost CRM system which will make tracking members contact details and communication (especially via email) much more effective and will reduce cost and administration.

The social media activity of the Company has continued to develop satisfactorily and our LinkedIn posts are increasingly popular. The team encourages the sharing of photos and videos of Livery/Freeman activities via the WhatsApp group. This will help Honorary Freeman Ashlynn Harvey create more social media content. This is really important as the committee, along with membership and events team, has a joint initiative to help increase applications for membership to the Company. This Membership Boost Group has devised a method of reaching out to appropriate people who have followed the Company's LinkedIn page. The trial has proven very successful with applications up at least 100% over the last few months. We will build on this now proven process and hope to greatly increase membership applications further this year.

A final part of the strategy review was the development of a partner outreach programme. The idea was to link up with other like minded organisations connected to the construction industry. We have made very good progress with The Federation for the Built Environment, who hosted the Master at their annual luncheon, and we are progressing our discussions with them about how we could collaborate together as we go forward. We have also collaborated with Women in Property and National Association of Women in Construction to raise awareness of the Company among historically underrepresented groups. Finally I would like to acknowledge the help and support of my committee over the past year, in particular Andy Hastie and Ashlynn Harvey who have been instrumental in delivering this activity."

7 Fundraising Committee

Past Master Professor Mike Parrett, the Chair of the Fundraising Committee writes:

"Over the last year the Fundraising Committee has, as always, sought to raise considerable sums for charity, and in particular, for our own charities and the Charitable Trust. Regrettably, however, the planned biennial Charity Gala Event at the Reform Club had to be cancelled as it fell within the mourning period for HM Queen Elizabeth II. There will however be a Fundraising Gala Dinner on Thursday 11 May 2023 aboard HMS Belfast, when we aim to raise £30,000. In addition to this we hope to attract sponsors to support our Bursaries, Scholarships, Climate Action and our Charitable Trust. We also hope that our varied events programme will attract corporate interest.

We are always looking for more fundraising ideas and areas that are currently needing attention include the development of advertising space for the Journal, member benefits and building the Master and Wardens' Fund."

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Whilst Freeman Diana Chrouch OBE has been nominated as the chair of the yet to be formally established Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the formal activities of this committee have yet to commence. As such she cannot yet write anything about what her committee has done during the year, but the Company recognizes its duty to be both inclusive and diverse in its membership and looks forward to the benefit that the committee will bring to the Company.

The Work of the Committees

If the Worshipful Company of Constructors is the Flagship, its committees are without doubt the Engine Room.

The Company depends to a large extent on the work of our committees, all of which operate under the auspices of the General Purposes Committee (GP) and whose reports are above. Much of this work is now done remotely using electronic internet based software, so there is little or no need for any face-to-face meetings. Whilst this was a necessity during the pandemic it has continued to be used even now that face-to-face meetings are possible because experience has shown that, at least as far as our committees are concerned, remote working works! It also cuts down travel to London and increases engagement from busy construction professionals.

There are several remote working software packages, Zoom and Microsoft Teams being but two, and the Company uses both.

We currently have seven committees, and it is perhaps debatable which of them is most important to the Company. All seven committees are concerned with various aspects of the operation of the Company, but one deals with the management of the Company finances. Without a viable financial baseline no business can survive. As well as being a livery company, the Worshipful Company of Constructors is a business, and it must control its finances to at least break even, and not jeopardise its charitable endeavours.

The work of the Finance Committee must look at not only where the Company is now, but produce budgets for Court against which our financial progress can be measured. It must therefore not only manage our finances in the short term but also deliver a long term overview of the financial viability of the Company.

The other committees also play a vital role in the way that the Company is run, because they often impact on the way that the business is run. There is always an inevitable “churn” rate and the Membership Committee is developing ways to address that. Clearly, the Membership Committee plays a vital role in the success of the Company as more members equates to greater income.

As a livery company the Worshipful Company of Constructors is determined to further increase its charitable giving, both as a Company and a Charitable Trust, and that is no more evident than in the various scholarships and awards that are managed by the Scholarships and Awards committee.

The growing importance of climate change makes the work of the Climate Action committee ever more relevant, and, in conjunction with the City of London Climate Action Group we are playing a leading role in the Livery, with many members of the Climate Action Committee in significant roles within the wider livery climate action workstream.

Whilst rooted in tradition the Company must remain relevant in the modern era, and our IT and Media committee is there to make sure we “go with the flow” in terms of maintaining our media presence, both in written and the more modern electronic means. The committee is thus ultimately responsible for this Journal, the internal Company newsletter and our website. It also ensures that we have an increasing social media presence, which is becoming key to our drive for younger members. The committee has also recommended a “Style Guideline” to the Company Court, which has been adopted by Court and has resulted in several changes to the way this Journal “looks”.

The Merchandise and Events Committee is responsible for arranging all our informal events (the Formal Events, such as the Installation Dinner, the Livery and Awards Dinner and the Sir Christopher Wren Banquet are the province of the Gallant Clerk) and maintain an inventory of corporate branded merchandise that the Company can sell. The committee is thus important to the Company in that it is the informal events (such as the Ironmongers’ Hall Lunches) that are often the initial attraction to our new members.

The yet to be formally established Diversity and Inclusion committee will be responsible for ensuring that the Company maintains its core commitment to welcome suitably qualified members from any race, gender, creed or ethnic origin and will report to General Purposes Committee on this aspect of Company Life.

The Company

The “Clerk’s Eye View”



It is our Gallant Clerk who runs the Administration of the Company in consultation with the Master. He reflects on the last two years and looks forward to the resumption of “life as usual”. He writes:

“The return to “normal” has not been as rapid as I and a lot of people had expected. The initial, and as it turns out well founded reticence has largely passed, however the habits of lockdown have transposed themselves into the Livery’s “Long Covid”. What I mean by this is that our Membership has, just like the rest of the Livery got out of the habit of getting into a posh frock and a dinner jacket (not necessarily at the same time) and coming out to an evening event. This did improve somewhat at the Installation Dinner and I hope will actually be back to normal at Livery and Awards Dinner in February 2023.

Covid has had some lasting effects which are not all bad. Whilst Court and the Management Committees have returned to face-to-face the Executive committees have continued to largely meet on Zoom, Teams etc. This had had the advantage of better attendance and the Committees working more efficiently. The return of live Networking events and the Ironmongers’ Lunches has also continued to grow in strength.

When I wrote my Covid article two years ago we were just appointing our first 3 Junior Court Assistants. At the Court in December we will appoint the third group of Michael Rigden, Carlo Madeddu and Juna Margariti. This will make the restructuring of the Court Assistants into : Senior CA’s - Those that have a date to be Master (if elected and spared); Junior CAs - Those that will serve 3 years and may progress, go for re-election and return to the Livery, possibly to return as a Senior CA when their careers allow.

Looking to the future we are back with a full programme of both formal and informal events and the opportunity exists to enjoy as many of these as you can and I look forward to seeing as many as possible at our events in the New Year.”

Richard (Kim) Tyrell

Membership

The membership of the Worshipful Company of Constructors is an essential component of the success of the Company. There is inevitably an element of “churn” especially in hard economic times and we have gained 25 members and lost 28 members in the last year, with 4 Freemen having been clothed as Liverymen.

At the end of November 2022 we had 312 members of which 139 were Freemen and 128 were Liverymen.

The average age of our members was 56.8 years in November 2022 compared with 57.2 years in November 2021.

Sadly, 3 of our members have died since the last issue of the journal.

Membership News

Rob Beales was admitted to the Company in May 2022. He writes:



“I have now been a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Constructors for some 6 months. I joined to be part of the historic tradition and to have an understanding of the way Livery Companies play an important role in the governance of the City of London. I wanted to support the way the City is governed, along with its corporate activities. I am therefore looking forward to gaining my Freedom of the City of London later this year and then continuing to support the Livery in their good work for the betterment of the City of London. To date I’ve visited a range of exquisite livery halls and the dinners, social

networking and diverse member groups, along with their core philanthropic work make me feel honoured to be part of an ever expanding and important Company.”

The Worshipful Company of Constructors has now supported Teambuild for many years. Teambuild is a registered charity, providing education and training in the construction industry. Teambuild aims to promote understanding and cooperation between young professionals in the construction industry and counts as 4 days CPD as well as helping competitors fulfil several of the core objectives required for chartered membership of many institutions.

Since the last issue of the Journal, Teambuild has been seriously impacted by Covid-19, and in 2020 the Teambuild Charity held their first ever virtual (on-line) competition. The event, which marked the 31st year of the competition, took place from 20 November to 14 December. Competitors took on challenges which face many construction industry professionals, particularly during the coronavirus restrictions.

Three tasks were based around a major development site by St Edward Homes Ltd called Green Park Village which is located to the west of Reading.

The winning team this year were JT2 and team members included: Team leader Thomas Cunningham and Tobias Mackrill, both of Hawkins Brown and Katherine Dauncey of BDP and Clare Timpani of Motionspot.

“It was certainly a challenging year, and we applaud those dedicated professionals who took time to undertake what were thought-provoking tasks in our online event this year,” says Teambuild UK Chair of Trustees, Patricia Bessey. “We do understand how much pressure they face and were absolutely delighted that this event went ahead and that committed new professionals have benefited from the training and expertise that Teambuild has to offer, despite the difficulties we as an industry have faced this year.”

“In many ways the challenge of preparing remote presentations without face to face engagement reflected the ongoing difficulties involved in communication within the construction industry as a result of COVID-19,” says Richard Brindley who chairs the Teambuild Working Party. “As always the challenges [were] realistic and it [made] sense this year that participants faced the additional challenges of communicating and preparing materials which can be shared through virtual channels. The event also remains a valuable way to connect and network with colleagues from different companies, disciplines and with leading figures in the industry, and that is a particularly beneficial part of our offering in these disconnected times.”

It had been hoped that a face-to-face Teambuild event would be held in 2021, but that did not happen, and this year’s event is due to take place from 18 - 20 November 2022. It will be reported in next year’s Journal.

This year, the competition will be focused on the Town Centre and how it may be adapted and reimaged to accommodate continued hybrid and remote working. The sponsors include the Chartered Institute of Building, the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers, the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects and the Worshipful Company of Constructors. As always, the competition tasks will be based on a live project. While the exact location will be revealed at the opening of the competition, the charity can confirm that key themes will include what a town centre should look like and contain in 2022 and into the future where fixed location working no longer is the standard.

Teams will be tasked with taking on the design development and construction of this complex project which will be condensed into a highly accelerated weekend of intense activity and training. New judges for this year’s competition include:

- Rosalind Thorpe, Director of Education and Standards at the CIOB
- Dr Anne McCann, FRICS, FAPM, Whitehall Campus Programme Director / Deputy Director for London (Capital Projects) at the Government Property Agency, Cabinet Office
- Jonathan Baggs, Head of Communications at LocatED, the government property company responsible for acquiring sites for new Schools and advising on the development of the education estate

At the end of the weekend event, winning teams and individuals will be presented with prizes and certificates to mark their achievements.

“We’re very excited to be back for our first face to face, in person event in two years,” adds Patricia Bessey (a Past Master of the Company). “We have a fantastic panel of judges and we’re thrilled to be able to use this live site for the competition this year. The issues it poses are highly relevant and complex. We are excited to find out what the talented and motivated professionals who are competing this year will come up with as they search for innovative and thoughtful solutions to the challenges which the competition will present.”

Our Military Affiliations

We are very proud of our military affiliations. Whilst there was not an issue of the Journal last year, military life has gone on unabated and our military affiliates have been as busy as ever, so this issue of the Journal includes reports on their activities over two years.

HMS Lancaster (The King's Frigate) is an important part of the regular Royal Navy, whereas the other two military affiliates are Reserve Units, mainly staffed by civilian volunteers. We are also proud to be affiliated with the South West London Army Cadet Force.

HMS LANCASTER



HMS Lancaster (now the King's Frigate) has finished her refit and, since August, has been deployed on active service alongside its NATO counterparts across a vast area ranging from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Irish Sea. The ship now has two crews - the "Port Crew" and the "Starboard Crew". This allows it to remain deployed away from the UK for the next 3 years whilst the two crews conduct a total swap every 4 months. The CO of the "Starboard Crew" had the honour of returning from operations to represent HMS Lancaster at the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and thereafter marched ahead of the coffin with the UK's Service Chiefs in the procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch. The various departments within the Ship have also been busy. The Weapons Engineering Department started by delivering a complex maintenance package and then trialling all the Ship's new equipment at sea before on-loading all the ammunition and missiles to make sure that the Ship was materially ready to undertake operational duties. This included controlling and tasking any allied nation's un-crewed systems from the Ship. HMS Lancaster then transited eastwards through the Mediterranean, taking part in exercises with the Italian Navy. Lastly, and by no means least, HMS Lancaster formally marked the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II by firing a 96 gun royal death salute whilst the Ship was alongside in Setubal, Portugal.



Even before leaving Portsmouth, the Logistics Department was incredibly busy making sure the Ship was well stocked and ready to deploy on operations for more than 3 years. As the deployment continued to track east the challenges only got harder - Logistic supply chains and lead times for items grow longer. Movement of stores was a major issue for items such as medical supplies and ammunition, and the logistic challenges presented by swapping two crews on a four monthly basis needs major planning from all - the plans for the crew swap in December are in place and plans for the next crew swap at Easter 2023 are well advanced.



The Executive Department has been hard at work too. They arranged a 'Families Day' on board the Ship prior to its deployment, to which the Master was invited. The 250 invitees enjoyed a ship's tour, breakfast and lunch in the marquee along with the first sight of the Gruffalo, which eventually became the ship's mascot, and was later named "Queenie".

Whilst the Ship was alongside in Gibraltar some of the crew ran up and down the Gibraltar Rock, following that with 1,000 Burpees. (For the uninitiated that is a thousand special squat press-ups and is an exercise invented in 1939 by US physiologist Royal Huddlestone Burpee Snr.) It is used as a measure of fitness by US forces and, needless to say, is very challenging.

The importance of the Marine Engineering Department cannot be overstated. Whilst there had been a successful dry docking and maintenance period and the Ship had been certified for deployment, not long after deployment started it became apparent that one or two gremlins had stowed aboard. The electrical items in the Galley were the first to misbehave and require attention. But that was not all, two of the four diesel generators required some serious attention, including the removal of several pistons and some cylinder liners and there were defects on the sea boats and the sea boat hoists, all of which required the attention of the marine engineers. The department also facilitated the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) tests which are essential to ensure that the Ship remains ready for full operational duty.



It will be interesting to follow the two-crew concept as it matures.

5001 Squadron (RAF)



5001 Squadron is based at RAF Wittering and falls under 42 Expeditionary Support Wing of the Support Force. The Squadron enables ground engineering functions to support deployed Air Operations, by providing temporary working environments such as hangars for RAF fast jets and rotary aircraft, or portable aircraft arrestor gear and environmental conditioning.

5001 Squadron also leads Trade Group 5 Spearhead capability for contingent operations; a highly responsive airfield support engineering capability across all three Services within the UK and overseas.

The squadron badge is formed from a Bezzant gold coin which alludes to the Desert where the Unit operates; while a black ant symbolises the hard industrious work the Squadron performs to erect temporary structures; and its motto is “Fit via vi” or “A way made by force”.

5001 Squadron was originally formed to build airfields, but its role has changed over the years and it has now evolved into a valuable general engineering unit. Temporary hangars, aircraft shelters, power supply, vehicle maintenance and equipment repair are all part of the Squadron’s role.

Squadron Ldr Andrew Parkin, the Commanding Officer has sent the following:

“Despite the tumultuous nature of 2021 and 2022, 5001 Squadron have continued to provide expeditionary airfield facilities and mobile engineering support for many Royal Air Force operations and exercises.

Expeditionary Airfield Facilities Flight (EAFF) has been at the forefront of deployed operational support to defence over the last few years. A highly deployable team, they have been all over the world supporting all major RAF operations, fulfilling the saying “first in, last out”. Following the drawdown of operations in Afghanistan in 2020 and as the world was struck by the COVID pandemic, EAFF maintained and even increased its operational tempo, going so far as to be recognised as one of the most deployed Squadrons in the RAF. Despite lockdowns, isolation, and a changing geopolitical picture the team was still able to deliver the successful expansion of flying detachment hangars in Mali, supporting our NATO French partners throughout 2021, and the subsequent dismantle of all equipment at short notice in late 2022. Whilst the construction tasks garner most of the attention, the team has been kept busy travelling around the world in support of operations, such as Op SHADER in Akrotiri, carrying out essential maintenance on the hangars that directly impact the airworthiness of aircraft conducting operations in the Middle East. Alongside this a team specialised in environmental conditioning have been key in the modernisation of the UK radar coverage, decommissioning old radar cooling systems in a way that helps to protect the environment whilst not impacting the vital cover provided by each radar. Finally, for their efforts in 2021 the Flight was recognised in the New Year’s Honours list with an Air Officer Commanding Number 2 Group Commendation.

Mobile Engineering Support Flight (MESF) have supported a wide range of defence tasks over the past 2 years both at home in the United Kingdom and further afield on worldwide operations. MESF are allocated one of only two specialist vehicles in the RAF used for recovery work, which has been utilised on numerous occasions to support the Joint Aircraft Recovery Team with the movement of damaged aircraft. This essential asset has proved highly beneficial and the bespoke trained team within MESF have found it a joy to operate the vehicle and work with fellow RAF units. Furthermore, it provides a critical capability for the RAF to deal with downed aircraft in an efficient manner.



MESF personnel have also been heavily tasked to support numerous exercises, ranging from relatively simple electrical installations for field kitchens used by 3 Mobile Catering Squadron at a joint exercise in Denmark, through to more complex and large scale exercises setting up a deployed Headquarters.

5001 Sqn continue to provide agile, deployed support around the world and look forward to supporting the RAF and partner nations on exercises and operations in the future.”

SOUTH WEST LONDON ARMY CADET FORCE



Major E Burtenshaw, the Officer Commanding has sent us a copy of their first-ever monthly Newsletter "In the Loop", which is designed to let the members of 14 Coy know about everything that is going on within the Company.

In her introduction to the Newsletter Major Burtenshaw referred to 14 Coy as being "the best uniformed youth organisation".

The first issue of their Company Newsletter coincided with their first ever Company Fundraising Event - Race the World for ABF, and Major Burtenshaw was delighted to announce that there would be a prize for the cadet who contributed most miles over the duration of the event. Race the World for ABF requires both cadets and staff to get active and support a worthwhile cause as they attempt to cover the distance of all 7 continents between 17th October and 5th December 2022.

She also reports that the Company are pleased to encourage cadets who are 17 years of age, or are approaching that age, to enrol for the Army Cadets BTEC Level 2 course.

Major Burtenshaw was also very pleased to report that LCpl Withers from 145 Cadet Detachment was Top Shot at the 3 Star Sector Skill At Arms Meeting in September with an impressive 100% score.



She also reported that 148 Detachment were fortunate enough to have a visit from The Coldstream Guards, who showed the cadets some of their kit, demonstrated how to pack their field kit and ran through some section battle drills, as can be seen from the pictures below.



Our Military Affiliations



101 REGIMENT (City of London) RE

The Regiment has regularly been in touch with us since the last issue of the Journal and not surprisingly, staff have moved on and there have been some changes since the last issue of the Journal.

In 2021 the regiment saw a full return to physical training with a number of military exercises being conducted to “brush off the cobwebs” after the Covid-19 lockdowns earlier in the year. They started with a weekend focusing on management development and leadership training as well as search and Driver Training. This was then followed by a Battlefield Study of the history of explosives, which included a tour of the Royal Gunpowder Mills, Black Powder Ranges, RE Minefield Clearance and EOD tasks, and was followed by Formal Dinner on HMS Belfast and a walking tour of London looking at the sites of recent terrorist attacks in the capital.

Summer 2021 saw the Annual Deployment Exercise in which service personnel from 101 Engineer Regiment received ‘Soldier First’ training from the London Regiment before deploying to Sennybridge for a challenging field exercise. This was followed by a series of cohesion events in Bicester, which included Crazy Golf and the Regimental Sports Day. A Combat Engineering weekend was held during October in Minley, Surrey where Bridging and Demolition and combat engineering skills such as battle trenches and abatis were developed.



GPMG Training with London Regiment

In addition, sub-units conducted their own training including a mountain biking exercise on the south coast and stand-up paddleboarding and sea-kayaking in Jersey.

The Regiment also had several members deployed on search operations in the UK in conjunction with 29 EOD and Search Group, not the least of which were the G7 Summit in Cornwall and the Conservative Party Conference in Liverpool.



Spr Youisif on Exercise in Sennybridge

Many internal awards were received by members of the Regiment, including Chief Royal Engineer Commendations and other service medals. Major Eb Mukhtar was awarded the MBE for his work in support of logistics for Operation RESCRIPT. Major Mukhtar was also appointed Regimental Second in Command.

In 2022, with Covid-19 firmly behind them, the Regiment resumed a robust training programme and, with a new war in Europe adding urgency to their efforts, many of the Regiment’s Army Reservists are increasingly being asked to support regular forces.

The 2022 Annual Deployment exercise was conducted in several training areas in Cornwall, with troops completing a package of standardised mandatory training, before moving on to a series of challenging Search tasks, in which searchers were challenged by novel environments including an airframe and a local mine, forcing them to adopt new techniques and hone their skills. Following this, the Regiment deployed to Tregantle Training Area, going through a programme of urban combat training that culminated in an exciting dawn assault on Scraesdon Fort, winding down with some social activities and adventurous training.

Following the postponement of the parade in 2020 due to Covid-19, in July, and as an affiliated Regiment to the City of London, the Regiment were proud to be invited to parade within Guildhall Yard to commemorate their return from de-hybridisation. Our Master, David Sheehan and PM Arthur Seymour were invited to attend and pictures of the parade are on page 10.



The Master, Wardens, Officers and Guests at the Installation Dinner held in Grocers' Hall in October 2021

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

Acknowledgements

Where not otherwise credited, the Worshipful Company of Constructors gratefully acknowledges the permission to publish photographs by the following - Gerald Sharp Photography, David Sheehan, Richard "Kim" Tyrrell, MOD.