



Worshipful Company of Constructors

Quarterly Newsletter — January 2018

The Newsletter

Welcome to the first of our new quarterly Newsletters, which are designed to keep everyone regularly informed and up to date with the Company's activities; it will supplement the Annual Journal, and the about to be launched restyled website.

We will publish them in the Winter, Spring and Summer, with the Journal in the Autumn to coincide with the culmination of the Masters year ... and the beginning of the next.

The restyled website will give wider information, and maintain the history of the Constructors, a valuable archive of our now forty two year establishment!

A New Year for the Company - The Installation Dinner



The Master, Tony Ward, the Mistress, Jan Ward, the Wardens and our Principal Guests at the 2017 Installation Dinner



On the 4th of October we celebrated the Master's Installation at a Dinner in Merchant Taylors' Hall where we were 'wined and dined' in some style!

Our Honorary Chaplain David Parrott said grace in his own inimitable style, Freeman Paul Hodgkinson welcomed the guests, and the Masters Principal guest and speaker for the evening was James Bates CBE, a well known and respected Construction Champion.

We were entertained by the London Banqueting Ensemble, whose musical prowess was crowned with their fabulous rendition of the 'Post Horn Gallop'.

Some 70 Members and their guests totalling nearly two hundred souls dined in style, shared the 'Loving Cup', and concluded a memorable evening with a 'Stirrup Cup' on completion of dinner.

The Gallant Clerk and the Beadle ensured that the evening 'went like clockwork' ensuring that as always, we entertained with style, grandeur and precision, unique to these Formal occasions in our calendar.

Message from the Clerk



Our Gallant Clerk is Kim Tyrell, and it is he who manages the majority of our workings, administration of the Court, payment of our dues and all our communications with Members. Whilst this newsletter will replace Clerk's Notes the Clerk will still provide information to members as needed and it is hoped that it will provide another way in which the Company communicates with its members.

Members, particularly new Liverymen and Freemen, are reminded of the **City Briefings**. Partners are also welcome. Court Assistants and Liverymen of longer standing who have not previously been to a briefing are also encouraged to attend. The Briefings give a short introduction to the work of the Corporation of the City of London, especially the relationship with the livery companies and are given by an Assistant Town Clerk and a member of the Livery Committee. Our own Past Master Vicky Russell is the Deputy Chair of the Livery Committee. There is an opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a light finger buffet, which provides a chance to mix with other Liverymen and Freemen. There is a non-refundable charge of £20 per person for the course, which is held at the Livery Hall, 71 Basinghall Street, Guildhall, London EC2V 5DH. There are 3 briefings per year and those for 2018 are on Wednesday 7 February; Monday 8 October and Tuesday 20 November. They start at 5.00pm with closing remarks at 6.40pm. This is followed by the Drinks Reception, which closes at 7.30pm. Attendance can be deferred providing 10 days notice is given. To change the date of the briefing you wish to attend you should contact the [Course Administrator](mailto:livery.courses@cityoflondon.gov.uk) at livery.courses@cityoflondon.gov.uk stating your and your guest's name, your livery company, the date of the course you were originally booked on and the new date of the course you wish to attend.

Members may be interested to learn that we now have a **new Freedom & Livery Certificate** format. These are framed and are similar in form to the Certificate that is given to those who obtain Freedom of the City of London, but the Livery Certificate is slightly deeper to accommodate the extra words in the citation. Both certificates are available to existing Freemen and Liverymen at a cost of £28 each, with delivery extra as

arranged between the member and the Clerk.

Members are also encouraged to join the new **Livery Schools Link Volunteering** platform which replaces our previous mentoring arrangements. By joining this platform members can assist schools and young people by "giving something back" to the industry that had supported their careers. Clearly this initiative cannot be further developed without financial support from the Livery, and the Worshipful Company of Constructors has made a suitable donation to this effort. Anyone who would like to support this initiative with their time and expertise should sign up on the [Livery Schools Link website](http://www.liveryschoolslink.org.uk) (www.liveryschoolslink.org.uk) or seek further advice from HAC John Sayers.

We are also working to establish a 'new look' website which will act as our front door to the City and the Industry. The new website will also recognise that technology has expanded since our current website was launched and that we, as a Company, want to be proud of our 'shop window'. We also want to make it a much more interactive experience for our members, and one that they will use as their primary source of information about the Company including perhaps booking for our many informal events, although for the time being booking for our formal events will remain with the Clerk. It is hoped that the new website will 'go-live' in the coming quarter, but the sub-committee that is working on the deployment is committed to it being something that we can be proud of, and the Master is liaising with CA Tim Fitch on this initiative along with members of the Publicity and Events Committee.

The Worshipful Company of Constructors has 4 Executive Committees; the Scholarship and Awards Committee, chaired by HCA Bob Heathfield, the Publicity and Events Committee, chaired by CA Andrew Hornby, the Fundraising Committee, chaired by CA Roger Southam and the Membership Committee, chaired by CA Michael Rigden. In addition, the Privileges Committee, the Election Committee, the General Purposes Committee and the Charity Committee, are all chaired by the Master.

Our **Charitable Trust** is a key element in our commitment to charitable giving. It is through the Charitable Trust that we undertake our commitments both to individuals and in the provision of Scholarships and Awards and this is explained in greater detail on Page 3.

Company News

Since the new Master was elected at Common Hall in September and installed in October 2017 there has been one session of the Court at which several new members were introduced as Freemen (Chris Tomlin, Joel Lewis and Christopher Browes), Tim Smith was advanced from Yeoman to Freeman, and Edward Hornby was bound as an Apprentice. At the same session of the Court Chris Turner, already being a Freeman of the City of London and Yeoman of the Company, was granted Livery status as was Alan Munson.

Terry Withers and Garry Thomas were each installed as Court Assistants. Norman Brown, the Treasurer of the Charitable Trust, was also installed as an Honorary Court Assistant.

Among other matters that were considered by Court were the

recent Membership Survey, progress on the provision of a new Company tie and our intention to hold a Livery only dinner following the next Common Hall—a new venture, but one that has received considerable support from Liverymen. Court was also given the results of feedback surveys from recent events. Sadly, we also have to report that two of our members passed away in Autumn 2017.

Sir Michael Latham died on 2 November 2017. He was a much respected member of the Company, progressing to Senior Warden before standing down from Court due to ill health, thus sadly he was unable to progress to Master. In 1994 he was the author of "Constructing the Team", otherwise known as the "Latham Report". His funeral was held at his local parish church

in Greeton, Northamptonshire . It was attended by the Master and several Past Masters, Liverymen and Freemen. It may be that, subject to the wishes of Sir Michael's sons, there will be a Memorial Service in due course, and any such arrangements will be promulgated by the Clerk.

Liveryman Alan Chorlton, died on 25 October 2017. He was an early member of the Company, having been admitted in February 1995 and being granted Livery in September of the same year.

Over the past few weeks you may have received a number of invoices relating to events that you attended during last year.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, invoices for events and Quarterage have been delayed for some time. As a result, and with some additional assistance to the Treasury Department, provided by Tina Seymour, the position is now up to date, and will be maintained.

Court was also appraised of the progress of the 'Pan-Livery'

project, which is reported in greater detail on page 7.

There are a number of people who work unstintingly behind the scenes to make your experience of being a member of the Company as good as it can be. Not the least of these are the Stewards who 'meet and greet' you at our various functions. They, like other Officers of the Company, are proposed and elected at Common Hall, and this year's stewards are Fabrizio Mattilana, Terry O'Neill, Jason Farnell, Cheryl Moreton and Paul Singh. Acting as a Steward is just one of the ways that members can demonstrate their commitment to the Company and thereby start on their progression through the Company.

There are others who do much for the Company, not the least being Renter Warden Arthur Seymour, who edits and arranges the annual publication of the yearbook. HCA David Fawlk. our Honorary Treasurer is assisted by Tina Seymour, our Sales Ledger Assistant, who is responsible for ensuring that your invoices for attending our functions are raised in a timely fashion.

The Charitable Trust

The Charitable Trust is the Company's key financial driver for the many varied donations made each year.

Through several major philanthropic bequests over the last decade, fund raising events and donations from the minority of members, the Trustees have accumulated an invested fund of over £800,000. The interest from this fund plus regular giving from members provides the Trust with funds that enable it to donate over £30,000 per annum to the well deserving causes in accordance with the Trust's and the Charity Commission's rules. This past year the Trust made 13% of its awards to the expected City of London gifting, 44% to Scholarships and the remaining 43% to Youth and Training.

The Trust has no overheads or running costs with the Trustees voluntarily providing their services and costs, and their policy that donations are generally to organisations which also have minimum costs.

Donations are assessed annually by the Charity Committee under the Chairmanship of the Master of that year and the guidance of the Trustees of the Charitable Trust. One such example has been the financial assistance made to the then Apprentice Stonemason at Salisbury Cathedral, Christian Sullivan. Christian has now graduated and is a fully fledged 'Journeyman' in the Salisbury Stonemasons Team, and will be the recipient of the Masters' Certificate Scheme, a first for the Company and presented annually by the Lord Mayor of London to Apprentices and Journeymen nominated by the Livery Companies. The Master recently visited Salisbury to assess for himself the fantastic craftsmanship undertaken by Christian and the team. This is separately reported on page 5.

The various beneficiaries of grants from the Trust over the last year were:

- Lord Mayor's Appeal
- Lord Mayor's Mansion House Scholarship Fund
- Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund
- St Lawrence Jewry Church
- City and Guilds London Institute
- Ironbridge Trust
- Treloar's School
- Stonemason Apprentices at Salisbury & Hereford Cathedral
- Barnardo's Hub Construction Skills Centre in Stepney
- RAF 5001 Squadron
- HMS Lancaster
- Royal Engineers TA Regiment
- West London Army Cadet Force
- Mill Chase Academy Building Department
- Teambuild
- Sir Ian Dixon Scholarships
- Sustainability Scholarships
- University of Westminster Constructors' Prize
- London South Bank University 'David Tong' Cup and Prize
- Faculty of Architects' and Surveyors' Scholarship
- Livery Link Volunteering Platform
- 'Little Acorns' pre-school construction zone

Whilst donations from the Charitable Trust are clearly disbursed to a wide range of deserving causes, the Trustees are always keen to receive suggestions from members as to other causes that might comply with the rules of the Trust, basically training and the needy associated with the construction industry. These suggestions will always receive consideration and should be sent to the Chairman of the Trust, [Ken Kent](#).

To continue and expand the existing and new donations, the Charitable Trust needs regular donations from the Company members. Unfortunately, under 50% of Liverymen and only 10% of Freemen make contributions to the Trust, although every member pledged to contribute when joining the Company. A regular payment of say £10 per month from each member would help. One off payments and/or legacies are also well received. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are included in the membership packs or can be obtained from the Company Website.

Finally, if your company makes regular charity donations, why not recommend our Charitable Trust as its Charity of the Year?

The Trustees of the Charitable Trust are: HCA Ken Kent (Chairman); HCA Norman Brown (Hon Treasurer); Liveryman Tom Daly (Hon Secretary); Liveryman Paul Shepherd; PM Doug Barrat and PM Alan Longhurst.

The Master writes ...



The first quarter since the memorable Installation Dinner has been a hectic schedule of visits and representation of the Company, and a real privilege for the Mistress and I.

Nearly 40 events to date, and most involving food and alcohol ...

Our new year's resolutions will be in tatters soon, no doubt!

Some highlights include a visit to Edinburgh, as guests of the Merchant Company, (and in the exclusive company of many members of the Great Twelve), and we were all royally entertained over two days by this thriving Guild. This relationship started in PM Graeme's year, and is a most worthwhile link with our Scottish contemporaries.

I have also visited York as the guest of the York Guild of Building, which relationship commenced in PM Steven's year. Another excellent regional relationship.

On a sadder note, I, with several others including PM's, Liverymen, Lady Valerie Dixon and the Clerk attended the funeral of the late Sir Michael Latham in his home village of Gretton in Northamptonshire.

It was a fitting lovely Autumn day, and a village Church overflowing with mourners paying respects to this outstanding human being, a champion of both our politics and our industry. It was a privilege to have had his wise council as a member of our Court for many years.

Christmas saw a goodly festive lunch at Ironmongers Hall, and a week later, my first Court, Annual joint Carol Service with the Worshipful Company of Architects, and Supper afterwards at Wax Chandlers Hall.

I look forward to this New Year with its many forthcoming functions and Company administration to undertake, and to your continued support for my aim of raising funds for Treloar's College, and the Charitable Trust (CT).

Treloar's provides Education for students afflicted with cerebral palsy, and the CT's aim is to get to the magic £1m invested for the future legacy that we eventually leave for the next generation of Constructors.

My target of £30,000 is now well under way, with almost £6,000 donated to date ... and some new events to unfold during the spring and summer.

If any of you are able to undertake fundraising for my cause, by running a marathon, or climbing a mountain, do let me know. All donations will be well received!

This endeavour keeps Charity at the very heart of what we stand for, and it is a huge opportunity to 'make a difference' to the lives of those who most need it.

Teambuild® Weekend ... 17 - 19 November 2017



One of the privileges of the Master is to attend this event, inaugurated as the brainchild of Past Master Richard Rooley some 25 years ago in his Masters year. Richard is STILL involved in this tremendous event, where up to 48 young professionals gather for a weekend of arduous working in collaboration, with mixed teams of six competing in the various design stages of a construction project. This reflects the 'real life' work of designers, and was inaugurated to engender team working into professional life.

The Master acted as judge, with several others including PM Patricia Newton, who is a trustee of the now established 'Team Build' organisation that it has grown into.

The event concluded with the presentation of some substantial cash prizes funded by our own Livery, the Worshipful Company of Architects' and others.

Teams for next November are wanted, so if anyone has nominations, [Richard Rooley](#) would like to hear from you!

Apprenticeships - Salisbury Cathedral



The Worshipful Company of Constructors recognises the importance of Apprenticeships in developing the artisanal experts of the future. We were particularly pleased to have supported Christian Sullivan, now a Journeyman Stonemason at Salisbury Cathedral, through both his Apprenticeship and his Foundation Degree course in Personal and Professional Development (Stonemasonry) with what the cathedral have described as “a generous grant of £4,300 towards Christian Sullivan’s stonemasonry degree in 2016 in addition to funding for his apprenticeship between 2012 and 2015”.



Recently the Master visited Christian at Salisbury Cathedral to more fully understand his role as a fully qualified Mason and part of the 11 strong team of full-time Stonemasons in the Cathedral’s Works Yard and the pictures above show the Master Constructor at Salisbury Cathedral.

Christian undertook his Apprenticeship and Degree course as part of the Cathedral Works Fellowship (CWF). This was set up in 2009 by Salisbury, Winchester, York, Exeter, Lincoln, Gloucester, Durham, Worcester and Canterbury cathedrals, all of which have in-house masonry workshops. The aims of the Fellowship are to standardise the training of apprentices in English Cathedrals and provide an accredited training of stonemasons to degree level.

As part of his degree Christian completed a variety of modules and coursework and has been on a series of secondments to broaden his range of experience as a stonemason. All the participants from the Cathedrals visited Winchester as part of their course and were tasked with assessing part of the building to determine when it was made. They then highlighted any parts that had been damaged and made a plan for conservation that involved minimal intervention.

The end of year project was Christian’s biggest challenge. This formed part of the work on the Major Repair Programme at Salisbury Cathedral. Christian has played an active part in the Cathedral’s progress with this programme of essential maintenance and repair work throughout his apprenticeship, including carving the “topping out” piece of the east facing Gablet. His end of year project involved creating the plan for all the conservation and replacement work required on St Stephen’s gable on the east face. Christian set out and created moulds for all of the stones in need of replacement in this area, and developed a plan as to how the team of masons would complete the work. The CWF course has also given Christian lots of opportunities to meet masons from other Cathedrals and see how the maintenance work and requirements differ in each place.

This has opened up other opportunities outside the CWF course for Christian to further develop his craft. For example, he has taken place in carving festivals in both Lincoln and Winchester.

Christian has said of his time on the degree course- “The course has been really useful in developing my stonemasonry skills. I have particularly enjoyed honing my carving skills as my work at the Cathedral has to this point been largely masonry carving which requires a different skills set. Going to other cathedrals and seeing how they work has also been an invaluable experience. It has been really interesting to see how each Cathedral differs in its working practices. For example, at Worcester Cathedral they use sandstone so very different techniques are needed. Giving presentations have been a brilliant opportunity to build my confidence in public speaking too. I am very grateful for this experience which I feel has definitely made me a better stonemason.”

The General Data Protection Act 2018

Like all organisations, the Worshipful Company of Constructors must comply with all legal requirements, and one such requirement is due to change on 25 May 2018. All members will no doubt be familiar with the current rules regarding Data Protection, which have been with us since 1998, but these will change when the new act comes into force. We currently hold members’ details, which have been included on their application forms when they joined the Company. These details are used for a number of purposes—quarterage and communication being the principal ones, and they are shared to a limited extent with the Corporation of the City of London for the Liveryman’s’ Voting List. We rely on your consent to hold and use this information and the new General Data Protection Act requires us not only to meet certain criteria,, but also be able to prove conclusively that we have done so. It is for this reason that the Clerk has recently sent a form to all members for them to complete, sign and return to him in the stamped addressed envelope provided. Unless each member does that they will have to be excluded from the email circulation list that is held by the Company.

Currently some two-thirds of the Company have completed the form and returned it to the Clerk. Those of you still to do so were emailed by the Clerk on 22 December 2017 and requested to complete and return the form. So do please take a few moments of your time to complete and return the form. If you wish to send the [Clerk](#) a scanned copy of the signed form he has indicated that such a copy would also be acceptable. Around a third of you have yet to complete the form, so your assistance in reducing that number would be greatly appreciated.

Recent Events

The Lord Mayor's Show 2017



The Lord Mayor's Show took place on 11 November 2017 and the Company took part as usual, with the Master, Tony Ward; the Renter Warden, Arthur Seymour and our youngest apprentice, Jack Holmes, carrying our banner and walking in the procession alongside the other Modern Livery Companies. They are pictured both before they started off and as they walked along Cheapside, past our viewing contingent outside St Mary Le Bow.



For once, the weather was relatively kind and the promised rain held off for the parade, although our new Company umbrellas were in evidence, as can be seen in the picture!

On 6th November the Master also attended the annual service in the Garden of Remembrance at St Pauls Cathedral, where, in the company of the other Masters, he placed a Poppy Cross on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Constructors.



Festive Lunch—Ironmongers' Hall 2017



Our latest Ironmongers' Lunch, our Festive Lunch, was held on 11th December 2017. Despite being held up on their train journey into London the Master and Mistress oversaw the proceedings, which were attended by a sell-out attendance from 45 members and their guests, all in the Christmas spirit, and who had braved the wintry elements to travel to the Lunch.

Many members also partook of the wine that was on the table, so the festive spirit was soon in full swing, as can be seen from the picture. Crackers were pulled, jokes and stories told, and many of us enjoyed the traditional fare of roast turkey. Those who chose an alternative main course were equally impressed with the Cod Loin and the Guinea Fowl.

Forthcoming Events

17 Jan 18	Sir Ian Dixon Scholarship Presentations	12-14 Mar	Yet More "Trial & Error" Old Bailey*
29 Jan	Constructors' Lunch Ironmongers' Hall	16 Mar	United Guilds' Service – Lunch at Painters Hall
6 Feb	Constructor's Site Visit. London Wall Place with Supper	21 Mar	Sustainability Scholarship Presentations
13 Feb	Inter-Livery Pancake races (Full Constructors Team) - Guildhall Yard	11 Apr	Lord Mayor's "Big Curry Lunch"
14 Feb	Livery & Awards Dinner – Drapers' Hall	12 Apr	All Day BRE visit – Watford
8 Mar	Wine Tasting	30 Apr	Constructors' Lunch Ironmongers' Hall
		16 May	Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting – Northwood
		18-20 May	Master's Weekend in Bath

Where the above details are in **BLUE** a Flyer has already been issued, and bookings should be made in accordance with the instructions contained in the Flyer. We are always looking for people to arrange our technical visits and informal events. If you are able to assist in this way, please contact [Andrew Hornby](mailto:andrewhornby@gmail.com) (andrewhornby@gmail.com).

The Pan Livery Initiative

The **Pan-Livery Project** is being spearheaded by the Mercers' Company. It is designed to co-ordinate the common efforts of the Livery as a whole and has the support of more than 77 Livery Companies together with several key individuals from the City Corporation. The most recent meeting was held on 22 November 2017, at which it was agreed that:

- Internally focused initiatives (Communications, Clearing House and a Common Investment Fund) should be separated from the more externally focused initiatives (Heritage Crafts & Modern Skills, Employability for young people and Helping Prisoners become 'Job Ready').
- Philanthropic ideas should be united under the single umbrella of 'Employability'.
- A project structure, costings and associated time-lines should be established for both the 'internal' and 'external' strands

Alderman William Russell has agreed to Chair the Pan Livery Steering Group, which it is proposed will also include the Chairs of the various Working Parties. The Working Parties are:

- Communications (external and internal)
- Philanthropy (focused on employability)

In conclusion, it was thought that a lot of work had taken place since the inception of the project, and this had now been distilled into two work streams, with clear and substantive issues to address and objectives to achieve.

More details are available in the report from the project which has previously been circulated by the Clerk. If you need a copy of the report the Clerk will be able to send you one by email.

Membership Survey

The Membership Committee recently conducted a survey of our members. Many of you contributed to the survey, and to those of you who did - the Membership Committee extend their most grateful thanks.

The committee invited 289 people to respond and received 63 responses, which was enough to be statistically significant. One of the suggestions in the survey responses was that we needed to communicate more often with our membership, particularly about the way the Company is organised and the work of the Charitable Trust. It was also suggested that we should publish regular newsletters between the annual editions of the Journal. We hope that this Newsletter will do this, and it is our intention to provide yet more information about the Company and the Charitable Trust in future Newsletters.

In greater detail:

1. The **top 4 reasons for joining** were stated to be Networking/Business; To give something back to the industry; To get more involved in City life and Supporting Charitable causes.
2. The **top reasons that would encourage people to come to more events** were Events held at different times of the year; reduced cost and different types of Events.
3. Members also indicated that they felt that we could better inform our members about the Company if a quarterly Newsletter was published to aid communication and also demystify the Company.
4. As far as **members' understanding of our fundraising activities and the Charitable Trust** was concerned there was a significant disparity between the views of Freeman and Liverymen. 52% of Livery men who completed the survey considered that they did know enough about the workings of the Charitable Trust whereas 20% of the Freeman who completed the survey felt that they were sufficiently informed. 14% of respondents said that their employer had a "Charity of the year" and were willing to promote the Worshipful Company of Constructors' Charitable Trust as a potential "Charity of the Year".
5. 50% of respondents also said that they would be willing to serve on one or more of the Company's Executive Committees.

The Membership Committee has submitted a formal report to Court on the survey and made recommendations on the way forward, which are being considered, but in the meantime it was agreed that we should produce a quarterly Newsletter, and this is its first edition. The Membership Committee has also recommended that we should encourage our younger members to contribute to the running of the Company, and Court is considering how this could be best achieved.

This is the end of this, the first edition of our Newsletter, which has been edited by [HCA Roger Lilley](#), the Editor of our Annual Journal, who would always be pleased to receive contributions from any of our members (thejournal@virginmedia.com).