



Worshipful Company of Constructors

Quarterly Newsletter — July 2018

ISSUE 3

The Newsletter

This is the third issue of our Quarterly Newsletter and it remains at 4 pages. As the editor I am most grateful for the supportive comments that have been made and I am pleased that Members of the Company have found the Newsletter to be informative and helpful. The next issue will be in October, at about the same time as the Journal and Yearbook. Whilst the simultaneous issue of both the Newsletter and the Journal may surprise some members it is important to recognise that the Newsletter is far more inward facing than the annual Journal, which is distributed widely throughout the City.

Company News

The Honorary Chaplain



Our Honorary Chaplain, Revd Canon David Parrott, has just returned safely from his Study Leave during which he planned to research Livery links in other places including Florida, Virginia, Toronto, Auckland, Wellington, Hobart, Cairns, Singapore and Dubai!

Our Chaplain never does anything by halves and he has promised us an article on his travels for the next Newsletter, so watch this space!

Summer and the Company

Over recent months we have been blessed with fine weather, and we hope that this will continue through August, when many of us take a break from the normal routine to recharge our batteries for the coming year. The Worshipful Company of Constructors is no different to many of us - it takes a break over the month of August, so that it can emerge again refreshed to meet the challenges of a new Master's year. By taking a break, the Company allows its ever attentive Clerk, Kim Tyrell, to take a well earned rest as well, and this year he is aiming to drive the Transfargarian Highway in Romania with his wife - that is after organising and attending his daughter's wedding.

This year we are also seeing out the "old year" in style, with Tony Ward, our current Master, rising to the challenge of taking part in a tandem sky dive with the Red Devils (the Army's crack Parachute team) on 19th September. Tony will be jumping out of an aircraft at some 13,000 feet to raise a serious amount of money (£39,000) for Lord Mayor Treloar's College to enable them to trial a state of the art robotic arm (the "jaco" robotic arm) which will improve the lives of their seriously disabled students no end. The college hopes that a successful trial will mean that local authorities will fund the arm for suitable cases.

The Livery is known for its generosity to charitable causes, so if you wish to donate to this very worthy cause, Tony has set up a crowdfunding page on Just Giving, the link for which is <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wcctreloar>.

The Company Website

We have, at long last, migrated to our new website, which can be found at www.constructorscompany.co.uk and we are working on maintaining the archival link with the old website. Although this has proved to be rather more difficult than we had anticipated we have now found a solution which has been implemented on the website and provides members with the ability to refer to a version of the previous website that is a snapshot of its content at the date of transfer to the new website.

New Webmaster

Now that we have a new website we are still looking for a new webmaster. Whilst the job is not too onerous it will require about 2 hours or so a week to make sure that the site is updated, and a significant input in October each year to update it with new information regarding the new Master's year.

Going forward we want to be able to rely on the website as a means of communication with our membership, so the post of webmaster will become increasingly important in that it will be managing a key part of our communications strategy.

It is perhaps important to stress that the role of webmaster is one more of publishing and editing rather than writing. The writing of the website articles will be the duty of various nominated members of our committees and the organisers of each event. So, as webmaster, you are not required to originate data, only publish it in an appropriate manner on the website.

Whilst we have already received offers from some members as a result of an enquiry we made a year or so ago, we are still searching for a member that can undertake this vital task. If you feel that you could help in this way, and have sufficient spare time to be our webmaster, do please contact the Master or the Clerk as soon as possible. In particular we wonder if any of our younger members would be willing to support the Company in this way.

Message from the Clerk



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

"As we move towards a Summer break in Livery activities it is a good time to look ahead at what the new Livery Season brings, there will be some old favourites and some revamped events.

The New Season kicks off with Common Hall, which will be held at Salter's Hall. Common Hall has traditionally been poorly attended, which is a pity for as with a Commercial AGM it's the one time when Members are able to ask questions of the Master, Wardens and Chairs of Committees.

This year as an attempt to encourage more Members to attend, Common Hall will be part of a series of events on the late afternoon and evening of 20 Sept 2018:

Common Hall – 1700, where the Liverymen, (Freemen may attend but may not vote), will be asked to Elect the New Master and approve the Privileges Committees recommendations for the Livery year 2018/19, receive briefs from the Executive Committee Chairs & the Chair of the Charitable trust and the hear from the Master Elect about his vision for his year.

Common Hall Reception – 1810, All those attending Common Hall are invited by the Master & Wardens to stay for a reception this is only for Company members who have attended Common Hall.

Livery Dinner – 1900, Those Liverymen (and Honorary Members) who have attended Common Hall would be most welcome to attend the Company's first purely Livery Dinner in recent years. This will be a business suit event with no set seating plan (except for Master & Clerk).

Please note all the above events are free to those members of the Company attending Common Hall, but only Liverymen may attend the Livery Dinner.

Subsequent events are:

Election of the Lord Mayor 1 October 2018 – This will take place in Guildhall followed at 1300 by lunch at Painters Hall at an expected cost of £62pp. These lunches are proving increasingly attractive not only to the Company but the other Companies attending and allocations run out quickly. Whilst only Liverymen clothed by Dec 2017 may vote (Guildhall only updates the voting list annually), any Company Member may attend the lunch with a Guest. Please let the Clerk know soonest if you wish to Vote and/or attend the lunch.

Installation of New Master, On 10 Oct 2018 Senior Warden Mike Parrett (If spared and subject to Election at Common Hall) will be installed as our New Master in St Lawrence Jewry (1730) followed by the **Installation Dinner** at Drapers' Hall. A flyer with full details will be distributed in mid August.

GPDR

The Clerk would like to thank over 85% of the Company who have returned their "permissions" forms and asks those Members who have yet to do so if they would be so good as to return them soonest so that the Company is compliant with GPDR.

The Master's Weekend



The Master's Weekend 2018 was held in the beautiful City of Bath. The Master, Tony Ward, together with the Mistress, Jan Ward, organised a most splendid and varied programme of events, many of which were held in parallel to accommodate the differing demands of the guests, and for ease of reference these were titled the Mens' programme – hosted by Tony, and the Ladies' programme, which was hosted by Jan, although there was no gender compulsion involved and several men enjoyed the "Ladies" events as well as several ladies enjoying the "Mens" events. This was a new innovation and certainly seemed to go down well with the 37 guests that had joined the Master and Mistress on their weekend.

We all made our way to Bath to arrive in time for Friday afternoon and the "Men" joined with Tony visiting Bath Abbey – where the adventurous (and fit) amongst the party took the tower tour (lots of winding steps to the ringing room and then on to the roof of the Abbey) – the others took a ground floor guided tour. Jan took her party to visit the Holburne Museum. We then joined up at 5pm for the civic reception, by the Mayor of Bath – Councillor Ian Gilchrist, in the Mayor's Parlour at the Guildhall. The Master presented the Mayor with the Company Plaque and we were told about the City of Bath and were then shown the Council Chamber. Following the reception we returned to the hotel to ready ourselves for the inevitable food and drink onslaught, which started at the Martini Italian Restaurant, who did us proud. We then walked slowly back to the Francis Hotel – And so to bed!

On Saturday morning, following the hotel breakfast, we again split into two groups. The "Men" visited the Museum of the Bath Architecture Group, where they were treated to a most informative and knowledgeable lecture on the architectural origins of the City of Bath by Dr Amy Frost, a professor at Bath University and the Chair of the Architecture Group and on completion were taken on a walking tour of the City by two of the Mayor's volunteer guides. They were shown not only the ordered Georgian front aspect of the Royal Crescent but also the less well ordered rear aspects, including the "hanging loos" which were added to the structures in Victorian times when plumbing



became both desired and available. The “Ladies” went to the Fashion Museum and then walked to the Royal Crescent Hotel for Coffee and Cakes – and sumptuous they were too!

The two groups eventually joined up and then people went their separate ways for the afternoon – some continuing to explore Bath, some did some retail therapy and others went to a nearby hostelry to partake of some local ale and/or lunch before eventually making their way back to the Francis Hotel to prepare for the Evening’s Black Tie Dinner.



The Master had managed to arrange for the Black Tie Dinner to be held in the Roman Baths, and the assembled company was treated not only to some superb canapes at the champagne reception but also to a most interesting guided tour of the Baths prior to moving on to the long gallery overlooking the Roman Bath where we were served a delicious meal of hot smoked salmon salad, Canon of Royal Wootton Bassett lamb, Tuile basket with pineapple and coconut ice cream, all washed down with Red and White Italian wines and followed by cheese and biscuits, coffee and port. Both during the reception and the meal we were splendidly entertained by Jemima Phillips – a brilliant harpist who had previously played for the Royal Family. On conclusion we made our way back to the Hotel – And so to bed!

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny and several of the Company made their way to Bath Abbey for Sung Eucharist. We were specially fortunate to be present at one of the last services in the Abbey before the East end was handed over to restoration contractors for some two or so years, and the Acting Rector (the Revd Stephen Girling) welcomed us by commenting on the appropriateness of our visit given the forthcoming construction works. The choir and organ were magnificent and the service was sung to the “Little Organ Mass” by F J Haydn – a truly memorable occasion for those who rarely have the chance to hear such grand music.

The Master writes ...

Fellow Constructors

The period since my last notes has seen us go from deep winter and spring, to what seems like an everlasting summer!

Alas, the Master’s Year is not everlasting, and gallops on at a pace!

The Mistress and I have been incredibly busy representing the Company on the ‘Circuit’, which has seen one or both of us at a vast number of events, too numerous to mention here. I will, however, select a few highlights for your information....



In May we were privileged to have a visit with Sir Terry Morgan to view the Crossrail project, and saw the Tottenham Court Road Station in progress, shortly following the visit of Her Majesty the Queen a few days earlier. The ‘Elizabeth Line’ as it will be known is coming on stream in December, on programme and, as you will observe, it is nearing completion, with the ‘power on’ date coming soon.....

The photographs show the Master and Mistress, together with Sir Terry Morgan and other guests at Tottenham Court Road Station, where the new “Royal Purple” livery of the Elizabeth Line is in evidence.



In fine weather we attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the last day of May, then it was the Sir Christopher Wren Banquet at the Mansion House, closely followed by the Livery Masters’ Weekend at Ironbridge.

I also attended a fundraising Dinner held in the Nave of York Minster where 1000 people were present at a spectacular evening, in the presence of Archbishop Sentamu, and I also attended the Brigantes Lunch at Leeds a few weeks earlier.....paying homage to my native Yorkshire (twice!)



Jan and I, along with several Liverymen participated in the Election of Sheriffs in June, and enjoyed lunch at the Painter-Stainers afterwards, along with my namesake, Anthony Ward, the Master Painter-Stainer! The Master is shown (left) congratulating the new non-aldermanic Sheriff Elect, The Hon Liz Green

More recent events have included the Annual Golf day and the ‘Beating of the Retreat’ at 101 Regiment, Wimbish Barracks,



My ‘No Strings’ Sky Dive is set for the 19th of September at Old Sarum Airfield near Salisbury, and I will be Sky Diving with the Red Devil’s crack team.....watch this space! My fundraising continues, and I’ve reached the £26k mark, with £15k to go to reach my revised (upwards) target, so plenty of opportunity for those of you not yet persuaded to Donate, to do just that!

Tony Ward - Master

Recent Events

Over the last three months we have held several functions, ranging from the Magnificent Sir Christopher Wren Banquet to various informal events including a “chance in a lifetime” to see the painted ceiling of the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich whilst it was undergoing conservation. Whilst the feedback from these events is very positive, we are in some instances noticing a decline in numbers attending. Your Events Committee endeavours to provide a varied programme, both in the evenings and also sometimes during the day, but this will only be successful if you, the Members, support it. And we take a lack of attendance as suggesting that we need to think up other places to visit. We are particularly conscious of price constraints and always seek to provide value for money, but as we know, costs are continually rising, and that is something we all have to accept. Simply put, you only get what you pay for and perhaps we expect more than we can reasonably demand as “value for money” Please write to the Events Committee c/o the Newsletter, or the Clerk if you have any comments on our programme, or have any suggestions for visits that might be included in the future. There have been a number of suggestions such as Henley, Wimbledon and Royal Ascot, but these are without doubt expensive and may not attract a wide range of our Members, so whilst understandable suggestions they may not meet our aim to provide an events programme that is attractive to all members, including those of limited financial means.

Sir Christopher Wren Banquet — 7 June 2018



By courtesy of the Lord Mayor we were able to hold the Sir Christopher Wren Banquet, our premier formal event of the Year in the Egyptian Room of the Mansion House. 202 people, including 22 Official guests sat down to a splendid 4 course banquet during which they were entertained by both the London Banqueting Ensemble, and our very own scholar, Anna Koukoullis, who had trained as an operatic soprano before moving to the construction industry. The London Banqueting Ensemble's rendition of the Post Horn Gallop was also appreciated by all present.

The wine flowed freely and a good time was had by all, the evening being rounded off by the customary stirrup cup before we all left to wend our various ways home.

The Painted Hall, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

On a splendid summer's evening on 14 June 2018 a small, but select, band of Constructors and their guests took a river boat from Westminster Pier to Greenwich, where they were treated to the “once in a life-time” experience of being “up-close” to the magnificent painted ceiling in the Painted Hall. For your editor it was like going back home, although much nearer to the ceiling than he was when he was at the Royal Naval College in the mid-1960's. The magnificence and scale of the artwork was breath-taking, and it was explained in detail by one of the conservators, who explained that whilst it had been **restored** before, this was the first time that it had been **conserved**, which involved not only cleaning the ceiling and touching up areas that had suffered the ravages of time, but also ensuring that the environment in the Painted Hall was conducive to the ceilings longevity, bearing in mind that it is the largest painted ceiling in the world outside the Vatican.



Forthcoming Events

3 Sept Constructors' Lunch Ironmonger's Hall
11 Sept Networking Event Ironmongers' Hall
13 Sept Committees
19 Sept Master's Sky Dive
20 Sept Election Court
20 Sept Common Hall & Reception

20 Sept Livery Dinner
1 Oct Election of Lord Mayor
1 Oct Lunch at Painters' Hall
10 Oct Installation Service St Lawrence Jewry
10 Oct Installation Dinner Drapers' Hall

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:andrewjhornby@gmail.com) (andrewjhornby@gmail.com) or [Iain Meek](mailto:iaintsmeek@gmail.com) (iaintsmeek@gmail.com)