



Worshipful Company of Constructors

Quarterly Newsletter — January 2020

ISSUE 10

The Newsletter

This issue of the Newsletter is the tenth in our quarterly series of Newsletters, and is focused on our desire to be a vibrant and meaningful part of the City of London and our membership. As a Company we wish to be relevant in the 21st Century whilst remaining true to the roots of the livery. The challenge of so doing will not be easy, but we must persevere if we are to be successful and relevant going forward.

The Worshipful Company of Constructors represents all facets of the construction industry and we are mindful that our industry has many practitioners who are either of ethnic minority descent and/or young, and it will only be by attracting such people to our membership that we will continue to be a leading element within the Livery.

Company News

Using the Website ...

The Company website (www.constructorscompany.org.uk) is updated regularly with new information about our many events. At the bottom of each detailed page about an event there is a button marked "+ I-Cal Export". Click on this button and then "save" to download the details of the event to your computer. This will add the event to a new calendar in Outlook, and you will need to copy the appointment to your Calendar and delete the newly created calendar to maintain a single calendar. Other email clients may import the event into your calendar directly.

Keith Wilson ARIBA



Keith Wilson, an Honorary Court Assistant Emeritus, was born in June 1929 and died on 16th December 2019 at the age of 90. Keith joined the Company in March 1978, taking Livery in February 1992. Whilst he had been unwell for some time, he will be remembered by many members of the Company as our Archivist, a post he took over from PM Anthony Appleton. He spent his working life as an Architect in Maidenhead, and, until illness prevented it, he was seen regularly at Company events.

Membership – Flying high and making a difference

Court Assistant Michael Rigden, the Chair of our Membership committee writes ... "Thank you to everyone who has attended an event and an even bigger thank you to those that have given their time to give something back to the Constructors in helping to organise our committee and our two sub committee of Diversity and Youth. My particular thanks to John Rowsell and Diana Chrouch who have headed up these two sub committee and which have made a huge impact since their inception a little less than a year ago. The events they have organised have been superb (Women take over event and the trip to the Tower of London) but more importantly they have introduced a new wave of young, female and ethnically diverse members to our ranks. We set some ambitious targets at the start of the year and already they are well on the way to achieving those goals. If we achieve them then I believe our Livery can make a real difference in supporting existing constructors and attracting a new generation of constructors to the industry and help fill the skills shortage that construction industry suffers from.

While the Youth and Diversity committees are much more outward looking in their approach Membership looks to support and encourage existing members to attend more events, network and bring guests who in turn might be interested in joining. This is historically how we have grown as a Livery and we believe if we can maximise your enjoyment and give you more of what you want we can not only grow our numbers but strengthen our ties with those that are already members. To do that we have a number of initiatives for the new year to do just that which will involve us actively getting in touch with some of membership that attend events less frequently to see what we can do to both support them and attract them to more events. However please do not wait to be contacted, if you have a good idea or are simply not sure about something please get in touch with me. I am only too happy to help and our committee would very much welcome your ideas and input. After all, that is the only way we give you more of what you want.

Overall our membership is continuing to do extremely well with 323 members in total and 6 new potential new members booked in to meet with the election committee on 22nd January 2020 and more in March. Things are going very well and I expect 2020 to be another exciting year for us all.

Michael Rigden

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:

LIVERY & AWARDS DINNER 12 Feb 2020

This year's Livery & Awards Dinner will be held in Drapers' Hall. There will be a three-course meal with musical accompaniment and the presentations to our Scholars and members of our affiliated Armed Forces Units. The Guest of Honour is Lord Mair CBE FREng FICE FRS NAE, Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of Research Department of Engineering, Cambridge University and former President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. It is a formal occasion and the dress is black tie with orders, decorations and Livery badges and medals. The Master's receiving line opens at 1815, and dinner will be called at 1845. All members and their guests are very welcome. Tickets are £105pp, please contact the Clerk in accordance with the flyer.

United Guilds Service St Pauls' Friday 27 March 2019

The United Guilds Service will take place in St Paul's Cathedral on 27 March 2020. Tickets are limited, The Master, Wardens & Clark will attend gowned, the dress for other Members of the Company is business attire. Tickets should be requested from

the Clerk. Following the Service there will be a lunch at Painters' Hall (£64pp). Places at the lunch are limited, but guests may be brought, and Members are requested to inform the Clerk as soon as possible if they wish to attend.

Master's Weekend in Singapore 3-5 April 2020

With Sir Vivian's link to the International Commercial Court in Singapore a visit has been arranged from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 April 2020.

The programme will be:

- Thu 2 April: Arrival during the day
Evening: informal drinks and Dinner
- Fri 3 April: Morning: Visit to Construction Project
Afternoon: Seminar at High Commissioner's Residence
Evening: Reception at High Commissioner's Residence
Dinner at Marina Bay Sands Rooftop
- Sat 4 April: Morning: Tour Battlebox, Fort Canning, National Museum
Afternoon: City Landmark Bus Tour/Free Time
Evening: Reception and Formal Dinner (Singapore Cricket Club or other venue)
- Sun 5 April: Morning: Service at St Andrew's Cathedral at 11:15am
Afternoon: Free time/Visits in Singapore
Evening: Informal Drinks and Dinner on East Coast Beach
- Mon 6 April: Departure during the day

Full details will be published on 21 January and the closing date for applications to join the weekend is 7 February 2020.

The Master Writes ...

Dear Fellow Constructors



At the New Year there is much to look forward to as we enter the third decade of this millennium.

I am conscious of the importance of maintaining the relevance of the Company to our members. In this age of connectivity, it is essential for the Company to have an outward facing image and to use the best of modern technology to promote the interests of our members. One aspect that I have become aware of is the lack of knowledge of the work and leisure activities of each member. Whilst, on joining, we obtain a certain amount of information, for all of us it quickly becomes outdated. I am therefore looking to increase the information available of and for our members. If you have a particular interest in IT and would like to be involved in a small working party to take this forward, please let me know.

The other aspect which has impressed me since I became Master is the high regard for this Company within other City Livery Companies. Our Past Masters, in particular, have created an enviable reputation which I am trying hard to maintain.

Whilst a full calendar of events has been published and will be updated, I and the Mistress, Barbara, are looking forward to seeing many of you at one of the Master's Weekends. We have already reached good numbers for these events and will need to finalise numbers soon, so if you are thinking of attending, please let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

The first weekend is in Singapore from 3 to 5 April 2020. The programme for this weekend will be finalised in January but will give members a chance to make work contacts as well as to socialise and see the historic and modern sights of the incredible city state of Singapore. The second weekend is in Mimizan, on the West coast of France between Bordeaux and Biarritz between 29 and 31 May 2020. This will give people an opportunity to visit an area of France renowned for its links with the English from the Hundred Years' War to the early 20th Century when English aristocrats visited for recreation. We have a house there, strangely named Château Woolsack, and the weekend events will be based there. There will, of course, be an opportunity to taste the cuisine and wines for which the region is famous.

We are also holding a Garden Party at our house in Kent (close to Junction 3 of the M25!) on Sunday 21 June 2020, open to all members, friends and family. The final Master's Weekend will then take place in Durham from 17 to 19 July when we will be visiting this historic city and its Cathedral, as well as visiting the ancient seat of the Prince Bishops at Auckland Castle. This weekend is very close to being sold out already.

In addition to the Livery and Awards Dinner on 12 February 2020 at Drapers' Hall and the Sir Christopher Wren Banquet on 4 June 2020, there will be a series of informal events, some with a legal flavour. Could I also encourage you to attend the informal bi-monthly lunches at Ironmongers' Hall as well as the new informal networking evenings at the Barrowboy and Banker?

With the exit from the EU in January, it is hoped that the most important and, as yet, little considered decision on the future trading relationship of the UK and the EU countries, will soon be resolved. All of us depend, to some extent, for our livelihood on factors external to the UK. I hope that the contact with Singapore during the Master's Weekend will help show how these factors can be used to the benefit of all of us in the UK. This year will certainly be exciting.

All that remains is for the Mistress and me to wish you all a very prosperous, healthy and happy New Year.

Sir Vivian Ramsey - Master

Festive Lunch 2019

The Worshipful Company of Constructors 2019 annual Festive Lunch was held in the splendid surroundings of Ironmongers' Hall on 2 December 2019.



In total, 44 members and their guests sat down to lunch, with many opting for the festive favourite of Turkey and all the trimmings. The Master and Mistress were in attendance, as was the Immediate Past Master and his wife, and amongst the company were several Past Masters and members of the Merchandise and Events Committee.

Crackers were pulled, paper hats worn, silly jokes swapped, and the festive spirit pervaded throughout. For most who attended it was their first, and probably not the last, foray into the Turkey and Trimmings in advance of Christmas Day. The general consensus was that, yet again, Ironmongers' Hall had produced an excellent Festive meal, with options for all, including those for whom it was too early to tackle the Turkey, which this year was served from the Carvery.

The Master concluded the meal by thanking all present for attending and looking forward to the Company's Annual Carol Service, which was to be held in St Lawrence Jewry on 12 December – a date that was set well before the General Election was announced.

Lord Mayor's Show 2019



As usual, the Worshipful Company of Constructors were not only represented in the parade of the Lord Mayor's Show, but several of our number met outside St Mary le Bow Church to witness the parade pass by.

For once, the weather in the morning of 9 November was fine and dry, although the rain clouds moved in quite energetically during the afternoon, happily after those who were parading had fully discharged their duties. The Master (Sir Vivian Ramsey), the Senior Warden (Arthur Seymour) and Apprentice Ed Hornby (who was carrying the banner) are seen in the picture on the left walking with the other Modern Livery Company representatives as they passed the Company's viewing contingent outside St Mary Le Bow.

This year, as the Little Ship Club was again closed, we ventured to another of our haunts, Ironmongers' Hall, where we had an excellent buffet lunch, which seemed to be enjoyed by all members and their guests. The Mistress was due to join us (the Master being on parade duties), but at the last minute she was requested to join the Master to form part of the Guard of Honour at the Mansion House, and that clearly took precedence. We were however joined by Arthur Seymour, the Senior Warden when he finished his walking duties.

Several members brought guests, some of which were family members, and again it seems that the children were equally happy with their lunch. The feedback from the event was very positive and it is very likely that we will use Ironmongers' Hall again next year.

Carol Service 2019

The Worshipful Company of Constructors held their annual Christmas Carol Service at our Guild Church of St Lawrence Jewry on 12 December 2019. It was held in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects and the Guild of Entrepreneurs and resulted in a full congregation, who sang several Christmas Carols lustily and listened to some magnificent carols and other Christmas music splendidly sung and played by Catherine Ennis and the choir of St Lawrence Jewry. The address was given by Revd Canon David Parrott, the Guild Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry.



A collection was taken during the service and, as usual, our share of the collection was given to CRASH, the construction industry charity that supports hospices, the homeless and other disadvantaged people.

After the Service, Lucie Gillard, the CRASH Fundraising Executive wrote to the Gallant Clerk – "Thank you for inviting CRASH to the annual carol service for The Worshipful Company of Constructors. Becky and I enjoyed the evening and we are delighted you chose to support us again this year. Following the final count, I am pleased to confirm that you raised £415.20 through the charity collection. Thank you. I hope you have a wonderful festive season and a happy 2020!"

After the Carol Service we adjourned to the splendid surroundings of the Guildhall Club, where we enjoyed a sit-down buffet with wine.

101 (City of London) Regiment (EOD&S)



101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Search) is one of our service affiliates and regularly contributes to our Annual Journal. However, it has undergone momentous change since it last wrote something for the Journal, and not only missed the Journal in 2018, but also the latest Journal. However, their appreciation for the relationship with the Worshipful Company of Constructors as an affiliate remains strong and Captain Ruth Breslin, the Adjutant, has recently sent the following to the Company:-

“101 Engineer Regiment (EOD&S) traces its history back to inception in 1860, with deployments to Egypt in 1882, South Africa in 1900, WW1, WW2, and more recent deployments to Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Whilst we have always been Royal Engineers, our balance of regular and reservists has changed over the decades and our current role as EOD&S traces its genesis to 1966 with our first Bomb Disposal Squadron. On the 1st August 2018 our Regiment transitioned from a hybrid model to become an Army Reserve unit; composed of four squadrons spread across multiple locations in the UK from Nottinghamshire to Greater London to Kent.

Since becoming an Army Reserve unit, we have continued to commit personnel to deployments in Iraq in support of the fight against Daesh at the request of the Iraqi government. Our soldiers and officers have been training Iraqi forces in lifesaving British EOD&S practices. We have also committed individuals in support of training and diplomatic efforts across the globe to places such as Kenya and Pakistan.

We ensure that our own training and understanding is of the highest standard, and this year we undertook a training camp in Cyprus. The training included topics across our capabilities as soldiers, combat engineers, and artisan trades.

The basis of our success is a strong team; therefore, we have also been competing at the highest levels within Army sports such as football, boxing, sailing, angling, duathlon and rowing. This year has also seen several of our personnel develop their diving ability in places such as Gibraltar and Egypt.

101 Engineer Regiment (EOD&S) looks forward to a long and successful relationship with the Worshipful Company of Constructors. “



The photo on the left depicts a 101 Regiment contingent on active service

We, too, have recently changed the way we work with our Military Affiliates, and our point of contact with 101 Engineer Regiment (EOD&S) is now Court Assistant Henry Lamb, who will seek to ensure that we maintain and develop our relationship with the Regiment.

We look forward to their continued affiliation with the Company and receiving their next update, which hopefully will be included in the next issue of the Journal, which is more widely distributed than this Newsletter.

Service Affiliates

We are very proud of our various service affiliations and we would very much wish that our relationship with them is two-way. We have therefore decided that we will establish focal points within the Company for each of our Affiliates. As mentioned above, our liaison officer with 101 Engineer Regiment will be Court Assistant Henry Lamb. This is very apposite as Henry was for some time a soldier in the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Our liaison officer with 5001 Regiment (RAF) will be Liveryman and Squadron Leader Mike Alden, who has just retired from the Royal Air Force.

Our liaison officer with HMS Lancaster will be the Gallant Clerk, whose distinguished service career was with the Royal Marines.

We are still in the process of appointing our liaison officer with our Cadet Unit, and we will, hopefully, be able to update members on this in the next newsletter.

As many members of the Company will be aware, we sponsor awards for each of our Military Affiliates, and these awards are presented at our annual Livery and Awards Dinner, which this year will be held on 12 February 2020 in the august surroundings of Drapers' Hall when we will welcome the award winners and their senior officers to dine with us to celebrate the achievements of their staff.

Drapers' Hall is spacious and we need to fill it to salute both our military and civilian prize winners, so, if you can spare the time, do please book in for the Livery and Awards Dinner by emailing the Gallant Clerk.

The Culture Mile



Many of our members may not yet have heard of the initiative to develop “the Culture Mile” in the City. This short article seeks to rectify that omission for those that weren’t able to attend the recent presentation by the Lord Mayor as his Annual Gresham College Lecture.

There has been considerable concern of late that the City of London is not well known for its support of culture, and in 2017 the City of London Corporation, together with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and Museum of London, announced plans for a major destination for culture and creativity in the Square Mile, to be known as “the Culture Mile. Key to this initiative is the move of the Museum of London from its present location in Aldersgate (not far from the Barbican) to a redeveloped site in West Smithfield, part of the old Smithfield Meat Market. When this is completed next year there are plans (subject to funding and other issues) to redevelop the Aldersgate Street site to become a new Arts Centre, thereby emphasising the importance of the corridor from the new footbridge over the Thames to the Barbican. Key to this will be the improved public transport provisions afforded by the (much delayed) opening of the Elizabeth Line, with its stations at Moorgate and Farringdon.

With the creation of the Culture Mile it is hoped that the square mile will lose its reputation of being not only dead after hours and highly priced, but also totally unwelcoming to the younger generation and will become a vibrant area, representative of a City that is one of the leading financial sectors of the World, and wants to be recognised as a world-wide key player.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman William Bowater Russell’s lecture, which addressed “The Cost of Cutting Culture: Can a Creative Education Close the Business Skills Gap?”, addressed the relationship between business and transferable skills, saying - ‘From communication and critical analysis, to resilience and creativity, these skills - known as “fusion” skills due to their cross-sector nature - are gaining new recognition in the work place’. He went on to say that ‘whereas “fusion” skills were once considered to be good “add-ons” to a strong academic background, today, employers are prioritising this new skill set as equal to or above technical abilities’. Twenty years ago the largest companies were from the oil and energy sector. Today, they have been superseded by the tech giants of the 21st century, who are demanding the new skills and threatening traditional roles with automation and 40% of all professions now face a significant risk of change. The most resilient to this will be those who have high levels of the “fusion” skills. Thinking “out of the box” will become essential, as will creative “fusion” skills.

We need to change the priorities of our education system to return to the times when creativity and the Arts are prioritised. The City relies on people with financial skills, but it will, in the future, also rely on creative skills. We need to recognise that the “Arts” are important and attract people with creative skills to our financial institutions.

The “Culture Mile” initiative will redefine the City as a major destination for culture and learning, with a particular ambition to support the development of creativity and “fusion” skills, and by so doing will unlock the diverse creative talent among our visitors, workers and residents - bringing commerce and culture together to meet the 21stC needs of business and the City.

Ironmongers’ Hall



Many of you may have attended one of our regular informal lunches that have been organised at Ironmongers’ Hall over the last few years. Whilst there may be some who would like us to try other venues for our organised informal lunches, the vast majority of members who have attended one or more of these lunches are keen that we should stay with Ironmongers’ Hall.

The present Ironmongers’ Hall building in Aldersgate Street, despite its Tudor appearance, was only opened in 1925, its predecessor, in Fenchurch Street, having been destroyed in a World War 1 air raid, not as one might imagine by a Zeppelin, but by a long-range Gotha bomber. The Architect was Sydney Tatchel, and the date of the building is proudly displayed on one of the rainwater hoppers on the front of the building.

The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers is one of the “Great Twelve” and was incorporated under a Royal Charter in 1463, over 500 years before the Company received its Royal Charter. It was originally known as the Ferroners, but the Company’s association with iron merchants has somewhat lessened over the years, and the Ironmongers’

Company today is primarily a charitable institution. Its motto is “God Is Our Strength” and lizards are prominent in its crest although the Company insists that they are salamanders, which were originally chosen because they survived fire.

We are very lucky to be able to dine at Ironmongers’ Hall, and we are very grateful to their staff, who look after us so well. However, what many members may not realise is that Ironmongers’ Hall holds an open Livery Lunch Club every Monday, and that club lunch is open to all members of the Worshipful Company of Constructors, their families and any colleagues that they would like to bring. It is an ideal way to celebrate anniversaries or birthdays, and, if our experience over the years is anything to go by - the lunches are splendid and the welcome both warm and gracious.

If you would like to book into any of their weekly lunches (which do not take place on Bank Holidays or during the month of August) and it is **not** one of the days that we, as a Company, lunch with the Ironmongers, then do please make contact with them to book your lunch. Bookings can be made by email to info@ironmongers.org or by telephone to 0207 776 2302. More details of the Ironmongers’ Monday Lunch Club can also be found [here](#), where a booking form is also available. You will need to pay on the day (card, cash or cheques made payable to Ferroners’ PLC).

If you would like to join one of our organised informal lunches then please keep your eye on our [website](#) and book in as requested in the flyer for the event.

City Briefings

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

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

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

There are several Briefings a year and the next Briefings will be held on Tuesday 11 February, Wednesday 20 May, Tuesday 15 September and Monday 9 November. Once you have selected and applied for one of the Briefings, you will be able to change the date and carry your payment forward, providing 10 days notice is given. To change the date of the Briefing you wish to attend you should contact the [Course Administrator](mailto:liverycourses@cityoflondon.gov.uk) at (liverycourses@cityoflondon.gov.uk) stating your and your guest's (if applicable) name, your livery company, the date of the course you were originally booked on and the new date of the course you wish to attend. Please also note that bookings can only be made up to 10 days before each course and that bookings will close when the maximum number of attendees (120) has been reached.

Programme and timings:

- 5.00pm **Registration**, tea/coffee served
- 5.30pm **Welcome:** Vicky Russell, Chairman of the Livery Committee
- 5.40pm **Livery companies, their membership, and activities:** Vicky Russell, Paul Jagger, The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists
- 6.00pm **The role of the City of London Corporation:** Simon Murrells, Town Clerk's Department
- 6.15pm **The Freedom of the City of London:** Murray Craig, Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court
- 6.35pm **On being an Alderman, Sheriff and Lord Mayor:** Alderman Sir David Wooton
- 6.45pm **Panel discussion with Q and A**
- 7.00pm **Closing remarks:** Chairman of the Livery Committee
- 7.05pm **Drinks Reception**
- 8.00pm End

Membership News

As an organisation for members, we value greatly our membership, and at Court on 12 December 2019 the following changes were made to our membership:

- Liveryman John Rowsell was appointed an Honorary Court Assistant
- Kevin Hydes was clothed as Liverymen
- Martin Arlett, Stuart Cobbold, Matthew Daniels, Jonathon Hosie, Trevor McClymont, Rachel Rickets, Madhukar Vykuntam and Paul Whitnell were inducted as Freemen
- Yeoman Craig Harding was advanced from Yeoman to Freeman

We welcome all to their new positions within the Company and look forward to their ongoing participation in our business.

The current average age of the Company is now around 55, with well over 60% of our members being over 50 years of age, so we have a long way to go to meet the aspirations of the Membership Committee. 14% of our members are over 70 years of age.

Forthcoming Events

28 January	Whisky Tasting	5 March	Informal Networking
3 February	Informal Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall	16 March	"Treason Trial and Error" at the Old Bailey *
6 February	Informal Networking	27 March	United Guilds Service
12 February	Livery and Awards Dinner	27 March	UGS Lunch at Painters' Hall

Where the above details are in **BLUE** a Flyer or other notification has already been issued, and bookings should be made in accordance with the instructions contained in the Flyer. (* for this event, some tickets may still be available after 12 January, but contact Iain Meek (iain@meek.demon.co.uk) as soon as possible.

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

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