



The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers

www.plaistererslivery.co.uk

YEARBOOK 2018-2019





YEARBOOK 2018-2019



PRINCE'S FOUNDATION GRADUATION CEREMONY, DUMFRIES HOUSE SEPTEMBER 2018

A Company with a proud history and a hopeful future

Not many had a good word for King John. For the London Plasterers he was very good news because in 1212 he ordered that the walls of all shops, bakers and brewers adjacent to the Thames and London Bridge should be plastered and whitewashed inside and out to protect against fire.

This year, some 807 years later, the Master has encouraged us to take a closer look at the trade in its current form and its decorative zenith in the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries. We are particularly pleased to have begun an initial 3-year association with the Prince's Foundation supporting heritage skills, particularly plastering (see page 48).

This will be my last Yearbook before I retire as Clerk in July 2020. My successor will find the Company with a strong commitment to its historic trade and a firm desire to develop new relationships in the years ahead.

I wish them and the Company well and hope that they will find the role as fulfilling as I have.

Nigel Bamping
Clerk



THE MOMENT THE MASTER CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIS MISTRESS

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The Master's Year

Timothy Cooke 2018-2019

I am writing this piece in our garden high up in the Chilterns with glass in hand just days away from the 2019 Robing Ceremony when my year as Master Plaisterer will come to an end.

It's a time of mixed emotions, of reflecting on a unique year which has been so much fun and so full of stimulation that is now moving to a close at its pre-ordained hour, and yet in my case still with an appetite for more. For those reading this who have still to experience being Master my firm view is that you have a real treat in store.

That said, for me an opportunity like this brings with it responsibilities and I began my year by writing to every member of the Company and setting out what I hoped to achieve during the ensuing 12 months.

MY OBJECTIVES WERE THREEFOLD:

1

Working with my chosen charity, Shaw Trust, and supporting it financially

2

Deepening our relationship with all our military affiliations

And, above all,

3

Engaging with the trade of heritage plastering from which the Company descends.

Other responsibilities come with being Master and are certainly as significant but represent constants year-on-year, in particular representing the Company during the annual calendar of City events and fulfilling the effective governance of the Company, including chairing Court meetings.

I also went on the stump at our annual dinner for Masters & Clerks by encouraging everyone in a leadership role to recognise that like any organisation we are vulnerable to third parties making their own judgements on what we do and how we fulfil our purpose.

Collectively the livery companies have great virtues and strengths but when we find ourselves in the court of public opinion or in the cross hairs of the media we shall be judged on issues of their choosing, not ours, and as such we should be prepared to be more self critical and ready to accept those elements which we should seek gradually to change.

My committee chairmen have all advanced their agendas over the last 12 months and I am grateful to them all.

Their achievements are contained within the reports on pages 14 to 39 but I would call out with particular pleasure that the Membership Committee under PM Michael Jones has successfully built a pipeline of new members and I anticipate admitting a large number at the Robing Ceremony, a number that is unprecedented in living memory.

And what of my own stated objectives? Shaw Trust

Shaw Trust, my Master's charity, works with ex offenders, the learning disabled and others who find accessing work difficult and helps them to gain appropriate and meaningful employment. A group of Liverymen, together with Apprentices and cadets from our affiliated unit, 282 (East Ham) Air Cadets, spent a day working alongside the service users at Shaw Trust's garden project in Rayners Lane. And thanks to the generosity of



MASTER AT IRONBRIDGE



PLAISTERERS' ROBING CEREMONY 2019



many members of the Company, I was able to present cheques during my year to the charity's chairman, Sir Ken Olisa, and to the newly appointed CEO, Air Vice Marshal Chris Luck.

I hope that Shaw Trust will soon be able to use our Hall for a major fund raising event.

Military Affiliations

Our military affiliations are in fine fettle and my year has included over a dozen visits to their home bases, including the Royal Marines, Special Reconnaissance Regiment (SRR), HMS Dragon and 282.

Such proximity to our affiliates has helped me to appreciate that whilst we revere their role in safeguarding our society and democracy, the relationship between us works both ways: it has become clear to me that the support and recognition which we offer can be a valuable component in sustaining unit morale and its sense of purpose.

Heritage Plastering

The third objective has also happily occupied a lot of my time and I have benefited from the support of many within the Company, particularly those with established connections to our trade.

As an ancient Company we are unusual in having a trade that still thrives and my aim has been to ensure all members of the Company develop an ongoing understanding of the skill set of a master plasterer and how to appreciate their achievements, both historic and contemporary.

The litmus test for me of deepening our relationship with the trade is that we all instinctively look up at the ceiling



MASTER WITH AIR VICE MARSHAL LUCK,
CEO, SHAW TRUST

whenever we enter a heritage space or an iconic modern building.

The year-long campaign began with a visit to St Gobain's vast gypsum quarries in the Trent Valley. The scale of the operation to extract, sort, cleanse and produce gypsum was far greater than any of us anticipated with the principal quarry resembling the Grand Canyon, and all of this unknown to me and yet just a few miles from my childhood home.

A highpoint of our year followed in short order with a hands-on workshop at the heritage plasterers, Locker & Riley. During a full day we tried our hands at creating a mould, shaping a cornice and using slip to produce a boss in the shape of a Tudor Rose. Modesty forbids me from disclosing the winner of the best plaster



ABOVE LEFT: ROYAL MARINES LANDING CRAFT PRESENTATIONS APRIL 2019
ABOVE RIGHT: PLASTERERS' VISITING THE GYPSUM MINE IN NEWARK



A LIVELY WORKSHOP AT LOCKER & RILEY



rose competition but it has pride of place alongside my other practical triumph in raffia work produced when I was six!

Jon Riley, our host at the workshop, also supplied moulds for the Mistress' lunch which was themed on the use of sugar as a decorative foodstuff. The meal comprised dishes from milestone years in our Company's history - 1501, 1666 and 1972. Using the moulds our executive chef, Elaine, produced marzipan sweetmeats from the time of the Great Fire in the form of plaster ceiling roses.

The occasion was enjoyed by over 125 guests from many companies together with a good contingent of Plasterer consorts, most of whom were on a marzipan sugar rush by the end of the afternoon. And a good sum was raised for Shaw Trust.

During my years as a liveryman I have developed an appreciation of our rich history as a Company and the City walk organised by Dr Clare Gapper introduced us to a number of historic and iconic buildings in the City associated with past Masters. Visiting the glorious St Mary Aldermary and St Mary le Strand helped to underscore that our long succession of Masters includes several important figures who had an enormous influence on the development of decorative plasterwork.

So too did the visit to Wentworth Woodhouse, the behemoth property in Yorkshire which has recently been rescued and is now being saved for the nation. We visited on a day when the house was closed to the public and so had the run of it to ourselves. The house contains an unusually large number of principal rooms, most as empty as a mausoleum but adorned



FIRST PLACE - BEST PLASTER ROSE

with extraordinary plasterwork, the achievement of Joseph Rose senior, and others. It was a fitting climax to the year.

I'm often asked if I could have fulfilled the duties as Master whilst working full time. My answer is an emphatic no, unless you have an extremely flexible and understanding employer, particularly if you want to advance the Company. It's a year of such personal fulfilment and great fun that it's best savoured to the full.

I could not have undertaken it without the support of Sara as Mistress, consort, companion and muse who has built her own profile within the Company and the City beyond.

To her, to Nigel our learned and distinguished Clerk and to his assistant, Ali, I offer my thanks; and I raise my glass to them all.



MASTER & MISTRESS 2018



WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE MASTER'S VISIT, APRIL 2019

Committee Reports

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Industry Committee

CHAIRMAN John Telling

The construction industry in general and plastering in particular are going through a period of significant challenge and change.

Not only are projects being delayed, deferred or cancelled due to political uncertainty, cyclical and a lack of willingness to invest in major construction and infrastructure projects, but at the same time there are significant changes being introduced to training and education.

The government has put in place three initiatives that will all impact from now to 2023. The first is the introduction of the Apprenticeship levy, a tax on companies with a payroll over £3m. The concept was that larger companies would subsidise training for smaller companies.

The reality is that the Treasury has taken the levy monies in but the system to obtain training subsidies for smaller companies is so complex and long-winded that most don't bother. The result – a reduction in apprentice numbers of nearly 25%.

The second is to introduce a brand-new system of defining, managing, funding and accrediting apprenticeships. This has created a free-for-all of accrediting bodies getting in on the act and the government adopting a "whoever gets to us first can accredit for the industry" approach. This has led to some apprenticeships being run by what are arguably the wrong institutions. The funding regimes have also been set in stone until 2022 with some trades, notably plastering, being in the position where the funding level

set will not be enough for many training providers to run the courses. The third is the introduction of T-levels in 2020. Technically based vocational equivalents to A-levels, a good idea but will inevitably take a while to settle in.

With all these changes it is not a surprise that the numbers of students training in plastering has been affected, down 10% in the past two years and 37% below the 2012 peak.

These impacts have caused the Industry Committee to take a step back to reflect on what the Livery should be doing in relation to its engagement with the plastering industry and how can we use our resources to best effect.

We have decided that we need to continue to recognise and celebrate excellence in training via the Training Awards but they need to be modified to reflect the new environment. We will also continue to engage with relevant industry bodies, support heritage plastering training financially and encourage more industry professionals to become involved with the Livery.



2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN TELLING



2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN TELLING

Alison Gowman
Margaret Coates
Nigel Bamping
Ray Deeks
Bill Welch

Matthew Morgan
Elizabeth Kitson
Stuart Brown
Tony Mitchell
Jon Riley

David Serra
Invited to attend
Stephen Gilbert
FIS Representative



2018 Annual Training Awards

The awards were, once again, held in Plasterers Hall and attended by the Lord Mayor Alderman Peter Estlin. The 2018 Awards celebrated the success of training organisations in developing the plasterers of tomorrow and the inspirational achievements of leading apprentices and students.



We are especially grateful for the support of our sponsors, British Gypsum, Saint-Gobain Formula and the Hadley Group who have once again shown their commitment to plastering training. We also recognise the contribution of the Livery Company Charitable Trustees and their involvement in the industry.

We must also thank Past Master Terry Wright, our chief judge, the other judges and Avril Blanchot, the manager of the awards programme, for all of their hard work during the year.

We would like to commend everyone who entered the awards for their commitment to the future of the plastering industry and for the time that they have spent inspiring the next generation of craftsmen.

Engagement with industry bodies

During the year the committee has engaged with the Livery Companies Skills Council which helps to share best practice on how Livery Companies can engage with their respective trades and the National Association of Plastering Lecturers on how to support training colleges in these challenging times.

There has also been dialogue with our sponsors of the training awards to ensure that we are keeping the awards relevant to the industry and helping to ensure a supply of qualified plasterers for the coming years.

One of our committee members, Jon Riley, kindly hosted a Master's visit to his company, Locker & Riley, for a

day of demonstrations and hands on ornamental plastering.

Heritage Plastering Training

This was the first year of our support to The Prince's Foundation for a plastering apprentice in their building crafts programme.

Our student Esme Walker had an excellent year covering a wide variety of heritage and conservation skills including decorative plasterwork. We were delighted to award Esme the Freedom of the Company at the end of her course and wish her well as she progresses in the industry.

Esme Walker was also awarded the Best Apprentice of the Year award by The Georgian Society who also recognised Kevin Ackland from Locker & Riley as a Master in the craft.

Our next student in this programme is Julianne (Jue) Sota who has a background in fine arts and experience working in clay, lime and straw bale plastering.

Involvement of industry professionals in the Livery

The past year has seen the introduction of both the Master Plasterer scheme and the Industry Freeman initiative.

It has been pleasing to see the levels of interest in both areas with several people now progressing to becoming Master Plasterers and some already becoming Freemen. We look forward to further progress next year.



AWARDS COMPERE, ALAN DEDICAT (THE VOICE OF THE BALLS!)



Winners of the 2018 Awards

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO TRAINING AWARD DAVID HALL

David has been working in plastering for well over 25 years. He has worked tirelessly to put in place and support the training, qualifications and competitions to ensure that the next generation of plasterers and dry-liners have the skills that the industry will need in the coming decades.

David has helped support the training colleges with the materials they need to provide practical learning for over 3,000 students annually. He has been heavily involved in the development of the plastering competitions at Skillbuild and World Skills.

He has been involved in the development of the new trailblazer qualifications for plastering and drylining and created a suite of online learning, development tools and forums. Currently he is the National Technical Academy Manager at British Gypsum responsible for five training academies across the UK.



STUDENT OF THE YEAR STUART SMITH

Formerly a bus driver, difficulties in Stuart's life, including alcohol and drug dependency along with a short period in prison, have not deterred him from seeking to redirect his life in a positive and meaningful way.

A college open day motivated him to embark on a new career. Although initially a little daunted by the challenges, the college helped him to grow his self-belief and confidence, resulting in him representing the college in the Junior Skillbuild competition.

The college were so impressed that they offered Stuart an apprenticeship and technician job in the department and he has gone from strength to strength.



His tutor says, "with his commitment to hard work and 'can do' attitude, Stuart is a real asset to the smooth running of the department and in the support he gives to other students, encouraging them to have a sense of pride in the work they produce."

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR JOSEPH ROSS

Joseph has been working for his employer for three years and, in addition to contributing to a number of key projects requiring a wide variety of skills, he has performed well in Skillbuild competitions, being runner-up in the 2017 finals.

His nominator, David Pratt says, "Joe has a great attitude and a meticulous work ethic."





Winners of the 2018 Awards



HARMER TROPHY

SIR JOHN PIRIE
CUP

COLLINO TROPHY



SNELLING CUP

BRITISH GYPSUM
TROPHYJOHN G. ROBINSON
TROPHYLIFETIME CONTRIBUTION
AWARDSIR THOMAS
KELLY CUP

COLLEGE AWARDS

Harmer Trophy

For Colleges with over 13 students at Level 3

Winner: Coleg Menai

Runner up: NPTC Group

Sir Thomas Kelly Cup

For Colleges with less than 13 students at Level 3

Winner: Coleg Sir Gâr

Runner up:
College of North West London

Collino Trophy

For Colleges with over 30 students at Level 2

Winner: Bournemouth & Poole College

Runner up: South Lanarkshire College

Sir John Pirie Cup

For Colleges with less than 30 students at Level 2

Winner: Lincoln College

Runner up: Edinburgh College

The John G Robinson Trophy

Presented to the best overall performing college from the regions.

Winner: Coleg Menai

PLASTERING COMPETENCE AWARDS for Independent Training Providers

Snelling Cup

Awarded to the Winning Training Provider of Plastering

Winner: B Cunningham & Sons Plaster Moulding

British Gypsum Trophy

Awarded to the Winning Training Provider of Drylining

Winner: Now Get Qualified Ltd

REGIONAL CERTIFICATES

The Regional Certificates awarded to the best College in each region based on the percentage number of students achieving NVQ/SVQ Levels 2 and 3/ ACA/ICA/Diploma combined.

London and Home Counties:

College of North West London

South and South West:

Bournemouth & Poole College

Midlands including East Anglia:

Lincoln College

North:

Wigan & Leigh College

Scotland:

Edinburgh College

Wales:

Coleg Menai

2019 Training Awards: Monday 25th November



Finance Committee

CHAIRMAN **Gary Morley**

The Finance Committee supports and assists the Court and Clerk in managing the finances of the Company.

The financial year more or less coincides with the Master's year. As we go to print, we don't have the results for the year ending 31st July 2019 but we expect to have produced, as in previous years, a small surplus.

This surplus is before any investment gains or losses, but after considerable financial support from Plaisterers Hall Ltd and £75,000 of investment income.

This year has been the fourth (out of five) years of the Quarterage annual escalator. The fund, which currently stands at over £30,000, is "ring-fenced" in a separate reserve to help towards safeguarding the future of the Company. The fund will grow substantially in the years ahead.

On the recommendation of the Committee, the Court has agreed that the charge for dining be increased to meet the actual cost.



**GARY
MORLEY**

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GARY MORLEY

**JON
RANDALL**



**DAVID
JARMAN**



2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GARY MORLEY

**Alison Gowman
Margaret Coates
Nigel Bamping**

**Jon Randall
David Jarman
Richard Walker**

**Invited to attend
Stephen Gilbert**



Marketing & Communications Committee

CHAIRMAN **De Bradshaw**

It has been a lively and busy year again for the Committee with our focus remaining on improving communication within the Company, in particular to deliver the new website (see next page) and widen our profile generally across the Livery Movement.

The Master's Blog

This continued to entertain and inform us of the Master's most memorable visits throughout the year including those with military affiliates and successful fund raising events for Shaw Trust.

City Articles

Written during the year by the Upper Warden, Alderman Alison Gowman, these have now been published in a book which is available to purchase for £10 with the proceeds going to the new Master's Charity, The Museum of London. Contact themaster@plaistererslivery.co.uk or the Clerk's Office to order a copy.

Spotlight On You

If you would like to have a Spotlight On You article published this coming year please contact committee member Liveryman Chris Mackey who will be delighted to speak with you.

Lord Mayor's Show

A sub-committee was also set up during the year to organise a Company Float in the Lord Mayor's Show in November 2020. Subject to election one of the Sheriffs will be Alderman Alison Gowman. The theme, members participation and

sponsorship opportunities will be finalised and circulated in the near future.

2019 Annual Sheep Drive and Livery Fair

During the year we have also been busy planning our Company's participation in the 2019 Annual Sheep Drive and Livery Fair on September 29th, including a Plaisterers' Company stall, to promote what we are and what we do to support the industry.

City of London White Book

This year the Company has a splendid double page entry in the City of London White Book 2019 a very useful directory for City, including details of the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, the City of London Corporation, City Wards, Livery Companies and Halls, Past Masters Associations, Suppliers and other associated organisations. We aim to promote our Hall in the next publication.

My thanks again go to all the committee members for their support and contributions as we plan events for the future and improve our communication, promotion and marketing of the Company.



DE
BRADSHAW



CHRIS
MACKEY



SIMON
HINKS



ARCHIN
TALPADE

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DE BRADSHAW

ADRIAN
MARSH



SUE
SPURLING



RICHARD
LEPPER



MIKE
HANNIBAL



2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DE BRADSHAW

Alison Gowman
Margaret Coates
Nigel Bamping
Simon Hinks
Sue Spurling

Mike Hannibal
Adrian Marsh
Archin Talpade
Chris Mackey

Invited to attend
Stephen Gilbert



New website unveiled

During the Summer of 2019 a new Plaisterers' website was launched. This followed a detailed development programme, led by the Marketing and Communications Committee, and is the third site for the Company.

Contemporary and responsive design

The new design means our website now works clearly on all types of devices including desktop computers, tablets and smartphones.

An innovative feature of the new site is that members are able to book to attend Plaisterers' events online. There are also details about our social media activity giving up-to-date news about the Master, our partners and life in the City of London. Some features are restricted to the Members only area where we can share information not available to the public.

Reflecting digital technology

There is no denying that today we live in a digital world. It's a world where computers and mobile phones are now common. Nearly 90 per cent of UK households have a computer and they have become a necessity in modern life. They are used to communicate, they are used for entertainment, for shopping, for working, and much more.

According to Ofcom's latest market report, smartphones have become the most popular internet-connected device (78 per cent of UK adults use one) but the ownership of tablets (58 per cent of UK households) and games consoles (44 per cent of UK adults) has plateaued in the last three years

However, the benefits of the last ten years of increasing connectivity have not been distributed equally. Lower-income households and over-54s are less likely to have smartphones, laptops and tablets, but are as likely to have a TV. So perhaps Plaisterers TV should be our next objective...!

Mobile phones and TVs are the only communications devices with near-universal reach in the UK (96 per cent and 95 per cent of households), so the fact that Plaisterers can now look at news and book an event from their smartphone means we are ready to face a new era.

By redeveloping the Plaisterers' website we have been able to feature a more coherent architecture, with simplified navigation that makes use of application techniques (apps) and allows content to be more accessible, which will improve engagement with Company members and a wider cross section of stakeholders. This move will help the Company to deliver on its objectives.

Constantly evolving

The creation of a new website is not going to stop and we plan to incorporate additional functionality to support the administration of membership communication, encourage more attendance at events and create greater engagement with all of our stakeholders.

We also hope that this will be a welcoming and informative site for the general public to visit and to learn more about who we are and what we do.

www.plaistererslivery.co.uk

"We hope that all our Members will take advantage of the new website and use it regularly. It's a very useful way to keep up-to-date with the Livery and abreast of our achievements and successes. If you have any suggestions about how we might improve the new website, or ideas for content, please let us know.

The upgrade will enable our engagement with other social media platforms and we actively encourage the use of Twitter and #thePlaisterers.

We will continue to progress the Court's strategic plan to have all communication by electronic means and to complete the creation of the photographic database of all members with the new website in place."

De Bradshaw
Marketing & Communications Committee Chairman





Membership Committee

CHAIRMAN Michael Jones

The principal challenges faced by the Membership Committee are to increase recruitment whilst maintaining quality and calibre of individuals and to support the Company's need to fully engage with the current membership in line with the current Strategic Plan.

The need to increase recruitment and how this is to be achieved

In common with most livery companies we have an ageing membership profile and if we are to increase overall membership numbers by our target 20%, we need to substantially raise annual recruitment rate to c. 15 new members.

The way we hope to do this, without prejudicing quality of candidate, is by making it easier for present liverymen to sponsor new members.

The importance of and opportunity presented by our evenings for potential members

These informal gatherings for potential new members will continue with vigour.

Held twice yearly as early evening events, usually in January and early September, each evening is a relaxed opportunity for liverymen to bring along any guest/guests who might be interested in learning more about the Plasterers and how they might become involved as either a Freeman or Liveryman.

As well as the Master, Wardens and other Court members, representatives from the Membership Committee are on hand to engage with guests, explaining our history, present day activities and relevance in the 21st century and how membership can be of value.

Do please bring guests along as these evenings have proven to be an excellent medium for the introduction of new members. Even if you do not have a potential member to bring, perhaps consider attending and being available to engage and inform those who are new to the Company and want to know more.

Each event is free to liverymen and their guests and wine/soft drinks and food are provided.

This year's record intake of new members shows the value of these evenings as the vast majority have attended one of these recent events.

Plasterers' Apprentices'

This route into the Company continues to represent a vibrant pipeline of future Freeman and potential Liverymen. There are now fourteen in total, and, as well as reducing our age profile, represents a welcome widening of gender diversity. All are on course to gain their Freedom of the City on completion of their apprenticeships.

A key benefit for each Apprentice is the ability to network, via their personal mentor, with members of the Company representing a range of senior professionals over a wide range of career choices.



MICHAEL JONES



RICHARD GROVE



PHILLIP FOSTER

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL JONES

HEATHER MORLEY



ROSS ASHWORTH



DAVID HILL-KELLY



ROHIT NATHANIEL



2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL JONES

Alison Gowman

Timothy Cooke

Margaret Coates

Nigel Bamping

Sqdn Ldr Phillip Foster

David Hill-Kelly

David Jarman

Richard Grove

Heather Morley

Ross Ashworth

Luke Sehmer

Megan Manzi

Invited to attend

Stephen Gilbert



ALMONER 2018/19

RICHARD GROVE

The role of the Almoner is to communicate with Liverymen and Freemen and their wives, husbands, partners and families, plus Companions of the Company, when sickness, operations or other needs may arise.

3 The Limes, Oakley Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 8HH

Email richardgrove@btconnect.com

Telephone 020 8462 8810



2019 LIVERYMEN, FREEMEN & APPRENTICE

2019 LIVERYMEN



2019 APPRENTICE



2019 FREEMEN



Investment Committee

CHAIRMAN James Minett

In the past year we have conducted a review of the aims and objectives of each of the investment portfolios for the Livery, Charity and PHL and then used this information to ensure that the investment strategies are appropriate.

As a result of this review it was agreed by the Committee and those more directly responsible for each portfolio, to slightly reduce the strategic equity weightings but also to have a better balance between UK and overseas equities. At the same time, it was agreed that the portfolios should be managed on a total return basis.

Income historically has been much less volatile than capital values, but in order to meet the annual drawdown requirements for each portfolio it was felt better to invest for total return, but with income still providing the very large majority of each portfolio's requirement.

This enabled the managers Rathbones, to seek to obtain the best overall returns for each portfolio and allowed for a small drawdown of capital to cover any shortfall if required, thereby avoiding the need to unduly seek higher yielding investments which could have added additional risk.

Over the past year the portfolios have performed marginally ahead of benchmarks and met their objectives, a period when the benchmarks have been adjusted slightly and the portfolios have needed to be repositioned. Given the uncertainties of Brexit and the imposition (or not) of China - US trade tariffs, Rathbones were given the opportunity to make the necessary changes over a period of time. By the time of the June Investment Committee meeting about half the changes had been completed.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Timothy Cooke, for his careful stewardship of the Investment Committee.

In addition, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their involvement in the review process, which I hope has enabled a clarification of what the portfolios are trying to achieve and the process that has been set out by which, hopefully, over time they will be achieved. But also, it enables the Committee to constructively review the process in future.



JAMES
MINETT



PETER
BAKER



TERRY
WRIGHT

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JAMES MINETT



STEPHEN
GILBERT



KEVIN
HOPWOOD



GARY
MORLEY

2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JAMES MINETT

Alison Gowman
Margaret Coates
Nigel Bamping
Gary Morley

Peter Baker
Kevin Hopwood
Rohit Nathaniel
Richard Atkins

Timothy Cooke

Invited to attend
Stephen Gilbert



Master & Wardens' Committee

CHAIRMAN **Timothy Cooke**

This Committee comprises the Master, Deputy Master and the Wardens, together with their partners and the Clerk.

The role of the Committee

Its role will be to develop a rolling programme of initiatives and social events both for the Company and for the Charitable Trust. These will reflect the varied make-up of our Membership and the different organisations with which the Company is connected.

How members can help

Members are invited to send the Clerk any ideas they have for events and activities for consideration by the Committee.



**TIMOTHY
COOKE**



**RICHARD
HANNEY**

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN **TIMOTHY COOKE**

**ALISON
GOWMAN**



**MARGARET
COATES**



2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN **ALISON GOWMAN**

Timothy Cooke
Margaret Coates

Stephen Gilbert
Nigel Bamping

**Plus the Wives/Consorts of
the Master, Deputy Master,
Upper and Renter Wardens
by invitation**



Nominations Panel

CHAIRMAN Richard Hanney

The Panel comprises the Deputy Master (Richard Hanney) together with the Master (Timothy Cooke) and Past Masters Mike Jones, Robert Dalrymple and Peter Baker, and the Learned Clerk, Nigel Bamping. It met regularly during the year.

Chairing the Nominations Panel has been a pleasure during 2018-2019. The Panel's key function is to look forward to consider the Company's long term best interests.

The Panels Terms of Reference are:

- To take the lead in preparing each 5-year Strategic Plan and to monitor the actions necessary to implement each Plan
- To identify Liverymen willing to serve on committees and to establish those who have the aspiration and potential to progress to the Court and ultimately to hold office
- To identify future Stewards and to recommend a Chief Steward, when required
- To identify potential Officers for each of the 3 succeeding years and to plan for the Officers for the next 5-7 years
- To confirm the support of the Panel for the election of the Renter Warden to Upper Warden and of the Upper Warden to the office of Master
- To advise the Past Masters' Committee of the proposed nominations for the Offices of Upper Warden, Renter Warden and Stewards for the ensuing year

- With the assistance of Past Masters, particularly those recently past the Chair, to consult with Liverymen who have aspirations to become Court Members, with a view to advising as to what would be required of them and the desirability of their first serving on a Committee

- To consider any other matters relating to the work of the Nominations Panel, or the governance of the Company, when necessary or as directed by the Court.

During the year the Panel has considered the Rules and Procedures of the Company to bring them up to date. The Panel has also talked to a significant number of liverymen about their willingness to serve the Company in the future.

My successor is the new Deputy Master, Timothy Cooke. I wish him well and thank Past Master Peter Baker, Past Master Mike Jones and Past Master Robert Dalrymple for their work this year.

I invite any liveryman who wishes to explore serving the Company to contact the Clerk, who also attends meetings of the Nominations Panel. I thank him too. I believe that the Plasterers Company will be in safe and reliable hands going forward.



RICHARD
HANNEY



TIMOTHY
COOKE



NIGEL
BAMPING

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RICHARD HANNEY



MICHAEL
JONES



PETER
BAKER



ROBERT
DALRYMPLE

2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMOTHY COOKE

Alison Gowman
Nigel Bamping

Michael Jones
Peter Baker

Robert Dalrymple



Charitable Trust

CHARITY STEWARD **Peter Baker**

The Managing Trustees continue to evolve and operate the Charitable Trust in accordance with the Trust Deed, dated 1 July 1980, and the Company's 5-year Strategic Plan, approved by the Court of Assistants, for the period from 2016 to 2021.

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

- **To increase the value of the Fund whilst at the same time increasing charitable giving**
- **To increase contributions by members of the Livery, including the provision of 'Time and Talents'**
- **To make best use of our available resources by focusing our charitable giving on the traditional areas of:**
 - Education and training in plastering (including donations and bursaries to support heritage skills);
 - Choral bursaries;
 - Support for our Military Affiliates;
 - Education and training, particularly via music in impoverished areas of London;
 - Support for the Lord Mayor's Appeal;
 - Support for the Master's charity of the year;
 - Support for any other worthy charitable cause;
- **To continuously monitor our objectives and modus operandi**
- **To monitor and review our strategy on an on-going basis.**

Finances

The total value of the Charity's designated, restricted and unrestricted funds at our financial year end (5 April 2019) amounted to just over £2.115m and charitable giving increased from £56,000 to over £67,000 during the last financial year.

The Charity's investments continue to be managed by Rathbones Investment Managers.

Our Trade

We continue to provide support for education and training in the art or craft of plastering by utilising both the designated and restricted training funds and other unrestricted funds by:

- **Providing prizes and support for The Plaisterers' Annual Training Awards;**
- **One-off grants to plasterers** to assist with expenses incurred whilst attending at specialist craft colleges (grants are usually made in conjunction with advice from the Industry Committee);
- **Support and maintenance for the delivery of training**, particularly in the quality and diversity of plastering and dry lining skills in the UK via the John N Robinson Bursary; and

- **A bursary, under an initial 3-year partnership arrangement with The Prince's Foundation**, to support a student on their Building Crafts Programme in heritage plastering skills. This is partly funded by the Spurling Bursary Fund and the legacy of the late Past Master Emeritus Paddy Wettern, with the balance being made up from the Charity's unrestricted funds.

Esme Walker, the 27-year old first recipient of The Prince's Foundation Bursary, completed her 1-year course at the end of June 2019, during which period she also received a craft apprentice prize award from The Georgian Group, at a ceremony at Goldsmiths' Hall in May 2019, for the quality of her heritage plastering skills, as well as the Chairman's overall prize for the best overall apprentice.

The second recipient of the Bursary will be 30-year old Julianne (Jue) Sota, an American who has practical experience in clay, lime and straw bale plastering, who commenced her heritage skills course in July 2019.

Our Bursary Recipients

We continue to fund support for a chorister at each of Peterborough and St Paul's Cathedrals via the designated Henry Mott Fund and the 500th Anniversary Fund respectively.

Also, via the designated Harry Humber Fund, we support Voces Cantabiles Music based at the Gresham Centre at St Anne and St Agnes Church in our parish, with The Plaisterers' Schools Singing Bursary in support of the initiative to develop and teach young people to learn to sing, in primary schools in impoverished

areas of London where no such music facilities exist.

Further we support Tom Daggett, the Organ Outreach Fellow at St Paul's Cathedral, with two initiatives. Firstly, with The Plaisterers' Choir Bursary for the after-school 'Choir Church' at St Paul's Church of England Primary School, in the Parish of St George-in-the-East, Whitechapel, whose pupils are mainly from ethnic backgrounds.

Second, in conjunction with the Royal College of Organists' 'Inspiring Organists' scheme, with The Plaisterers' Organ Bursary, at two secondary schools in Hackney, namely Urswick School and Mossbourne Academy. You will read about this in a separate report on the Scheme on page 50.

Further, in July 2019 the Master presented The Plaisterers' Junior Technology Prize at Waringham Park School in Chelsham, Surrey which was originally founded in the mid-19th Century by Alderman Thomas Kelly, a former Lord Mayor of London and Master Plaisterer from 1831 to 1832.

Our Military Affiliates

We continue to support our Military Affiliates: HMS Dragon (one of six Type 45 Destroyers); the Royal Marines, including the Royal Marines (City of London) Reserve; the Special Reconnaissance Regiment; and 282 (East Ham) Squadron Royal Air Force Cadets.

HMS Dragon has had a busy year and you can read about it on page 62.

In addition to providing financial support and the provision of facilities to all of our Military Affiliates at Plaisterers'



Hall, the Charity provides 'Time and Talents' by mentoring sessions to assist the Air Cadets with careers and other professional advice. The Company also provides a member on the Squadron's Civilian Committee, which oversees their operations at local level.

Recently Liveryman James Minett has succeeded Past Master Bill Mahony in this capacity, which is much appreciated by the Squadron's Commanding Officer, Liveryman Squadron Leader Chris Booty.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal

Again this year we have supported the 3-year strategy of the Lord Mayor's Appeal from 2018 to 2021, which is promoted by the former Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Charles Bowman, the current Lord Mayor, Alderman Peter Estlin, and the Senior Alderman Below the Chair, Alderman William Russell. Working with three partner charities: Place2Be; Onside Youth Zones; and Samaritans, the Appeal's aim is to help one million people living and working in London, to thrive and create 'A Better City for All'.

The Charity's donation was presented to the Lord Mayor, Alderman Peter Estlin, when he visited Plaisterers' Hall earlier this year.

The Master's Charity

The Master, Timothy Cooke OBE's, chosen charity during the past year has been the Shaw Trust, a registered charity helping to transform the lives of young people and adults across the UK and internationally with specialist services to help them gain an education, enter work, develop their career, improve their wellbeing or rebuild their lives.

The Charity has supported the Master and Mistress in various fund-raising events during the year for the Shaw Trust including: Walking the Livery Halls in the City; and the Mistress' Lunch.

The new Master, Alderman Alison Gowman, has announced that her charity for the forthcoming year will be the Museum of London, an award-winning charity that tells the story of London.

Over a million people visit the Museum each year of which there are about 1,600 young people with special educational needs who need more assistance than others in order to be able to engage with the experience. The Museum's aim is 'to reach every London child', which requires extra effort and funding for them to achieve this aim.

Conclusion

The Charity has further consolidated its position during the past year and is well positioned to continue its charitable giving and support for its various beneficiaries during the forthcoming year.

Finally, I would particularly like to express my thanks to Liveryman Richard Walker, who has completed his period of service on the Charity Trustees' Committee and is poised to move to other areas of support for the Company's activities. At the same time, I would like to welcome Liveryman Adam Edwards as Trustee.

PM Peter Baker
Charity Steward



**PETER
BAKER**



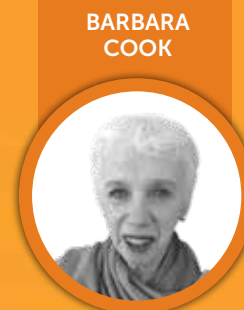
**RICHARD
HANNEY**



**RICHARD
WALKER**

2018-19 COMMITTEE

CHARITY STEWARD PETER BAKER



**BARBARA
COOK**



**TIMOTHY
COOKE**



**BILL
MAHONY**

2019-20 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PETER BAKER

Alison Gowman
Timothy Cooke
Nigel Bamping

Bill Mahony
Barbara Cook
Adam Edwards

Co-Opted Members
Paul Infield



Master's Charity

“Shaw Trust is a charity helping to transform the lives of young people and adults across the UK”

Across our country disabled people are underrepresented in the workforce. For the past decade, the employment rate for disabled people in the UK has remained below 50%.

Shaw Trust believes everyone should have a chance to be independent, and the charity's specialist services help people gain an education, enter work, develop their career, improve their wellbeing and/or rebuild their lives.



Shaw Trust has been delighted to be the Master's Charity this year and is very grateful for the support of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers.

During this time the organisation has been working towards its goal of transforming a million lives a year by joining up with like-minded organisations and growing the depth and breadth of services it offers.

The Shaw Trust family now supports people during every stage of life, from pre-schoolers to those preparing to retire. While disability and employability remain key areas for the charity, education, learning and skills, children and young people's services, justice and wellbeing projects are also supporting and promoting independence for a wide range of beneficiaries across the UK.

In the last year the charity has, with the help of supporters, volunteers and partner organisations:

- Supported 75,000 people across Shaw Trust programmes, 12,000 of whom were disadvantaged and disabled people starting their journey to find work and nearly 13,000 offenders and ex-offenders getting ready for and adjusting to life after prison.

- Improved the wellbeing of 85% of clients supported by the charity's community health and wellbeing programmes.
- Helped more than 5,000 pupils across 17 special and mainstream schools through Shaw Education Trust.
- Launched an app to support young people's resilience, an emerging theme in Shaw Trust's work.
- Helped 300 boys in Feltham Young Offenders Institute collectively achieve more than 2,000 accredited qualifications.
- Processed one million transactions across our 50 charity shops.
- Been awarded small-medium enterprise Laundry of the Year for St Jude's Laundry, which provides job opportunities for people with disabilities in Edinburgh.

Livery support for Newton Farm

Thanks to the generous support of members of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers this year, Shaw Trust has been able to invest in a new site for a horticulture enterprise supporting learning disabled adults in London.

With the current site closing in September, and alternative locations lacking in suitable facilities to accommodate the number of clients who come to the project each week to gain essential life skills and build confidence, there was a risk that Shaw Trust would be unable to continue to support these individuals after September.

Newton Farm, a lovely three acre garden near Rayners Lane is currently used as a green classroom to learn about food and growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. However, it has limited indoor space.

The promise of a new clubhouse, appropriately complete with a green roof, means the charity can expand the service as well as continue delivering support to the current group of adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities in the coming months. It will also create a valuable community space for local voluntary groups. The project is extremely grateful for the generous donations that have enabled this.

Digging in

On a damp and blustery April day, the Master and fellow Liveryman, Squadron Leader Phillip Foster, volunteered at Newton Farm in Harrow along with

young people from 282 East Ham Air Cadets and two livery apprentices for a day of working alongside clients of the service.

Given various tasks including potting flowers, fertilising fruit canes and digging out a wide border along a bramble and tree lined fence, the group attacked each with gusto.

Sheila Clements, Project Manager, says the following:

"The day was one of great enthusiasm from the young people and their mentors. It was so heart-warming to have the volunteers join us for the day and make such a difference with some back-breaking digging efforts. It was joyful to speak to the young people, some of whom had travelled a great distance to attend. They had such vision and clarity in their own plans, which was uplifting. A lovely group who I am sure will go on to great things."

Our Shaw Trust clients really enjoyed speaking to everyone and all together we made a big difference in just one day! I'd like to extend a special thank you to liverymen mentors who led the tasks with organisation and muscle power."

www.shaw-trust.org.uk





Esme Walker

The Plaisterers' Bursary Student on The Prince's Foundation Building Craft Programme 2018-2019

For some time, the Plaisterers' Company, and particularly the Plaisterers' Charity, have been seeking appropriate ways to support the best in plastering skills training.

HRH The Prince of Wales has, for decades, been championing the cause of skills education and warning that many of the traditional craft skills were in danger of dying out. Occasional disasters such as the fire at Uppark in 1989 and the Windsor Castle fire in 1992 showed that there was a real need for such skills, including plastering. Whilst others talked, the Prince did something about it and, under his guidance, the Building Craft Programme has enabled many students from diverse backgrounds to achieve new skills not only in their chosen trade.

Having committed to supporting the programme for three years from the summer of 2018, the Plaisterers' Charity was delighted to have Esme Walker as their first Bursary Student.

27-year old Esme, from Skelmersdale in Lancashire with a Masters in Town and Country Planning, already had some plastering experience. She threw herself into all the Programme had to offer.



The drawing school, lectures, workshops, exercises and trips combined with 'hands on' experience at the 'Live Build' element at Dumfries House Estate during the summer of 2018 proved an excellent grounding for Esme's placements in the autumn and winter. She worked on developing a timber frame for a new building but also acquired new plastering skills. As she said, *"the days spent with lime tutors were also favourites....I learnt completely new things from my tutor. I created a fine finish for the first time, ran mouldings in situ and sculpted hares with a spatula."*

It was particularly appropriate that one of her placements was with Lee Richards, a Freeman of the Company, and she found the experience helpful in problem-solving and working with new materials, tools and techniques.

"Crafts can bring one closer to nature: They are part of the human story of transmission of living tradition" HRH The Prince of Wales



It was a pleasure to welcome Esme to our Training Awards Lunch in November 2018 when she was able to meet members of the Company and then for her to participate in the Master's Day with Locker & Riley, led by Liveryman Jon Riley. Not surprisingly, Esme won the prize for the best sculpted ribbon. It was no surprise to learn that all of the businesses with whom she worked were keen to encourage her to work with them again in the future.

As she finished the Course, Esme said, *"In five years' time I would like to be restoring Jacobean ceilings. I feel these ceilings use all of the skills I have learnt on this Course. Although the Course*

was intense it has set me up with everything, and more, that I hoped for when I applied."

It was entirely appropriate that in April 2019, Esme was admitted as a Freeman of the Company. It was also not surprising that her abilities were recognised with two awards from the Georgian Group in May 2019. We wish her well in the future as she develops her career and we are pleased and proud to have been able to help her on the way.





#InspiringOrganists

New approaches to teaching the organ

TOM DAGGETT ORGAN OUTREACH FELLOW, ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The organ is a musically and mechanically fascinating instrument which dates back to the time of the Ancient Greeks. To this day, organ music is enjoyed across the world and is used to lead worship in cathedrals and churches. Organs have also been a mainstay of theatre and cinema music, and can be found in concert halls, sports arenas and civic spaces too.

Recent years have seen some highly imaginative work develop in sharing this wonderful instrument with a broader audience. Children and young people have been engaging with the organ perhaps more than ever through workshops in schools, concert halls, churches, and cathedrals. However, a radical approach is required if the next generation of organists is to grow and diversify.

Our conversation around #InspiringOrganists began in the early phases of St Paul's Cathedral's Organ Outreach work, which takes digital organs into schools for assemblies and workshops. The enormous value of this goes without saying – children from all backgrounds have seen, heard, and played the instrument for the first time. But this leaves the question of 'what to do if a child actually wants to learn?'

#InspiringOrganists addresses this question in practical ways. In partnership with schools in Hackney and Islington, #InspiringOrganists identifies pupils with musical potential who are already keyboardists with a decent level of

competency (Grade 4+), who have the drive to succeed on the organ.

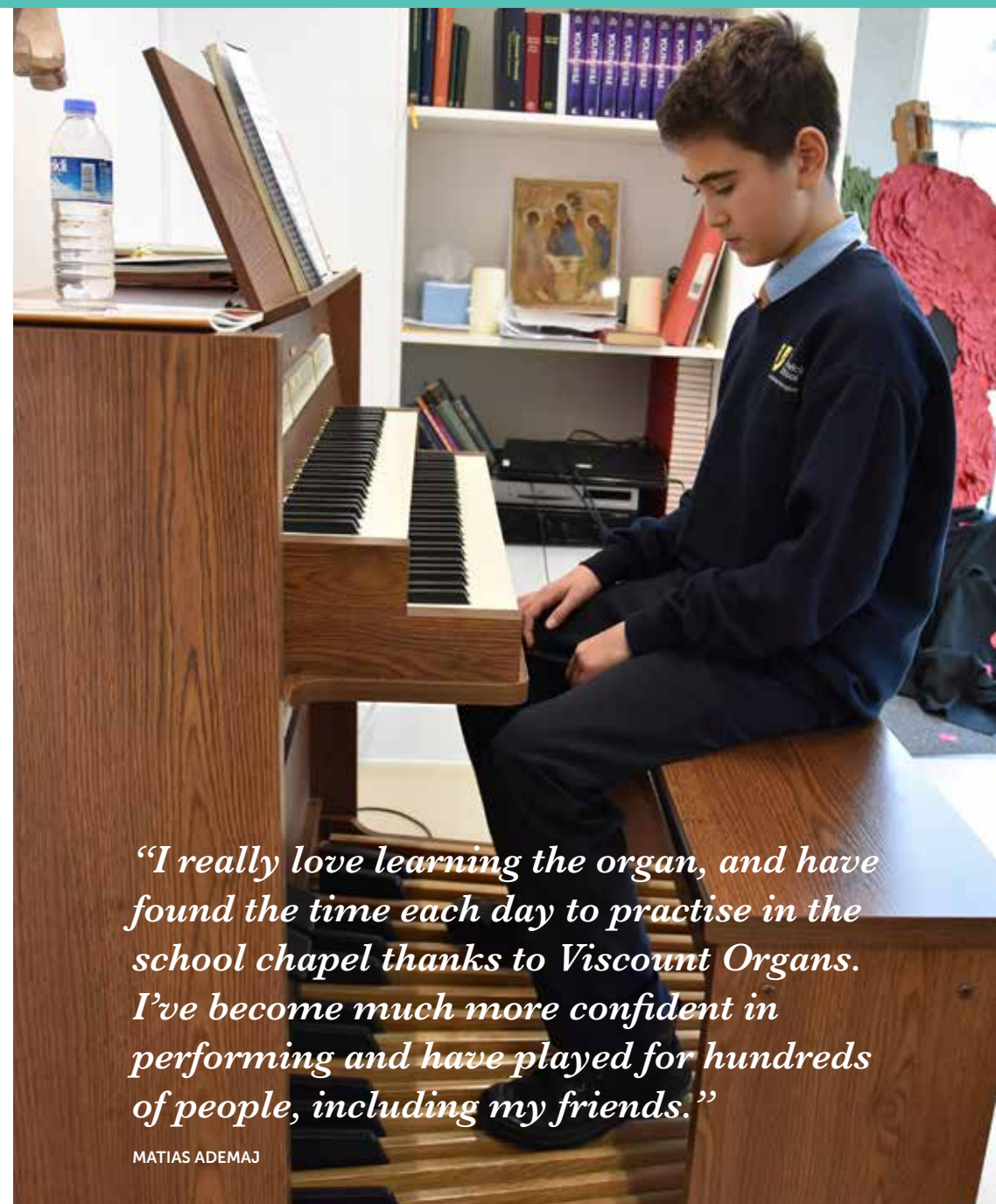
We have had eight pupils across three schools take up the organ, and the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers have supported five pupils in two schools: Urswick School and Mossbourne Community Academy.

Lessons have been sponsored and have secured a commitment by Viscount Classical Organs to install five instruments in East and South London on a gratis long-term permanent loan, to encourage and nurture a lifelong love of organ music.

Without this part of the puzzle, we would face the common problems of church diary access, instruments which cannot be relied upon, and burdens on a family's limited time and resources.

Teaching Pupils

#InspiringOrganists targets pupils who otherwise would likely never have the chance to learn, and it is giving them access to excellent teaching. Lessons are offered by professional teachers in partnership with the Royal College of



"I really love learning the organ, and have found the time each day to practise in the school chapel thanks to Viscount Organs. I've become much more confident in performing and have played for hundreds of people, including my friends."

MATIAS ADEMAJ



Organists – and our hope is that, in time, more and more teachers across the country will want to enter into similar partnerships with local schools. One of our principal tutors is Jeremiah Stephenson (All Saints, Margaret Street), who is teaching with real verve, imagination and flare.

We want our pupils to see the organ in context. So, we identify enrichment activities (e.g. trips to observe the organists at churches and cathedrals) and performance opportunities (in school worship and elsewhere) to enhance our pupils' learning. Student recitals are a part of this, too. Our pupils have performed at the Bloomsbury Organ Day.

Our intention is to scale this project up, both in the schools in which we work, and further afield across London and, ultimately, the UK. #InspiringOrganists marks a step change in cultural attitudes in equipping the next generation by offering holistic solutions to learning, and it would not have been possible without the partnership, encouragement and support of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers.

Tom Daggett Organ Outreach Fellow St Paul's Cathedral

"#InspiringOrganists engenders a cultural shift in the approach to teaching the organ. This way, our pupils will be able to steal 15-20 minutes of practice during break and lunchtimes each day – and very importantly having the facility to become familiar with the pedals."

PROGRAMME PRINCIPLES

- **ACCESSIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION**
We want people from all backgrounds to take part
- **EDUCATION TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD**
We will teach with professionalism and excellence
- **WORKING WITH OTHERS**
We will collaborate with Learning Trusts to deliver the programme

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- Enrichment of school curricula
- Inspiration of young minds
- Deeper understanding of the organ and its context

Richard Brown Headteacher Urswick School

"I never expected that school occasions would feature organ music played by one of our own students. Thanks to the support of the Plasterers' our organ scholar, Matias, has played at many school services and other events. As he moves on he has inspired other potential school organists to follow his example."



MATIAS ADEMAJ WITH PETER BAKER, CHARITY STEWARD



ORGANISTS AT ST MARY LE BOW CHURCH PRIOR TO A LUNCHTIME RECITAL



Plasterers' Hall Limited

CHAIRMAN **Robert Dalrymple**

The Board of Plasterers Hall Limited (PHL) have continued to take good care of the Hall during the past year to ensure that it can continue to host events for the Livery and also achieve a secure income which is so important for the Plasterers' Company now and in the future.

Catering contract

Create Food Ltd became part of CH&Co in 2018. We were pleased that the key staff at Plasterers' Hall have remained with us. This coincided with the Board beginning a review of the catering contract. Having sought the assistance of a specialist consultant, 14 companies were identified as possible tenderers. After careful scrutiny and a number of detailed discussions it became clear that it was in the best interest of PHL to renew the relationship with CH&Co and I am delighted to report that a new five-year contract started on 1 January 2019.

The new contract is serving us well in the current challenging event climate in the City, due to the uncertainties related to Brexit. There are, however, encouraging signs for the last quarter of the year and Christmas.

The Hall to the rescue

There were some unfortunate events at Mansion House in June 2019 one of which unfolded on the news during the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech at the end of the month.

It was not a good time for Mansion House because a week earlier a fuse box fire in the kitchen area caused the event that was scheduled to start some

90 minutes later to be cancelled. The Hall did not have an event that night and a phone call in the nick of time meant the food, equipment and guests were relocated to Plasterers' Hall and the team here took on the Save the Children Dinner in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at literally the 11th hour.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were delighted with the response and outcome using phrases such as 'outstanding' and 'simply amazed', praising the dedication of the team and the speed of the customer service and saying everyone involved was a credit to the City.

The Teach First charity dinner the following night, again in the presence of the Lord Mayor, was also transferred to the Hall and it was a great success. The events were a good and timely opportunity for us to review, as we do regularly, our own robust security systems. I would like to record my congratulations to the team.....well done.

Security and maintenance

A CCTV system now operates within the Hall that is not only vital for security but it is discrete and became fully functional at the end of May 2019. It complies with GDPR and an acceptable use policy has

been written and copies of it are available in the business centre area outside the hall management office.

We continue to maintain our plant and machinery with the retention of critical spares where items are no longer readily available. The failure of three items in a short period this year has proved the value of this policy. We will need to be aware of the possible need to replace a number of major pieces of machinery over the next couple of years.

We have fully updated our Health & Safety documentation and CH&Co now have greater responsibility for these matters.

Although the downturn in the stock markets affected the value of the Company investments at the end of 2018, the year-end accounts were in line with Board expectations.

The Board has been particularly pleased with the appointment of Josh Bailey to the PHL staff, where he is proving to be an asset to the venue team and its smooth operation. Welcome Josh.

The two colonies of calm bees bought in from Surrey are still thriving in the southern end of our wild garden that runs parallel with Noble Street and they still attract great interest from passers-by who are still enjoying the plaque installed on the balustrade by PHL.

There is still no honey harvest as yet for us to produce Livery Mead! I am getting impatient!

The Clerk

Along with The Master, Upper Warden, Renter Warden and with the much appreciated pro bono support of LM David Goldstone, I sit on the 'tough act to follow' Panel tasked by the Court with finding a replacement for the Learned Clerk and PHL Company Secretary upon his retirement in July 2020.

PHL will employ the successful candidate and I can merely report that we are ahead of schedule, are well on track and confident that we will have a fine and suitable replacement in situ in good time for Nigel's departure.





ENTRANCE HALL ENHANCEMENT

The Entrance Hall Enhancement subcommittee, under the leadership of Past Master Terry Wright, is progressing well and the PHL Board is excited with the plans and delighted with the progress.

PM Wright reiterated at Common Hall in July 2019 the Company's indebtedness to Liveryman Derek Stubbs for ensuring Liveryman John Robinson's wishes for the Entrance Hall would come to fruition. PM Wright reported that the proposal from Locker & Riley was accepted and an order placed for them to develop the design and cost plan to deliver the project.

The coffered ceiling will be replaced by a dome with bold classical mouldings applied to the segments.

The space will need to be square on plan, the chandelier will be maintained and false walls built out to supply symmetry. In keeping with many 18th Century designs the concept is not a mirror of the designs in the Great Hall but a bolder statement that will prepare the visitor for what is to come.

Mouldings on the walls will also enhance the Entrance Hall providing frames for a variety of paint finishes.

The quadrants around the dome will provide surfaces for new decorative elements reflecting the work and tools of the Plasterer. Individual elements will have sufficient scale to read from floor level.

I would like to thank Terry for all his work on this project as I would also like to thank the Hall Management team, the Clerk's office and my fellow PHL Directors for the support and help I have been given over the last year.

I look forward to another year operating PHL with its task of promoting, preserving, protecting and progressing our asset, the Hall, for the long term benefit of The Livery.



ROBERT
DALRYMPLE



TIM
STOKES

PLASTERERS' HALL LIMITED CHAIRMAN ROBERT DALRYMPLE

TIMOTHY
COOKE



TERRY
WRIGHT



DIRECTORS

Robert Dalrymple
(Chairman)
Terry Wright

Timothy Cooke
Tim Stokes

In attendance
Nigel Bamping
(Company Secretary)



The Court 2019-2020



ALISON GOWMAN



MARGARET COATES



STEPHEN GILBERT



TIMOTHY COOKE

The Court

Master

Alderman Alison Gowman

Deputy Master

Timothy Cooke OBE

Upper Warden

Margaret Coates

Renter Warden

Stephen Gilbert

Clerk

Nigel Bamping

Honorary Chaplain

The Very Revd
Charles Taylor

Assistant Clerk

Ali Mackey

Beadle

Jamie Wallis

Assistants

Nicholas Carr*

Robert Dalrymple*

J Hubert Lacey*

Peter Baker*

Gary Morley*

De Bradshaw*

Michael Jones*

Bill Mahony*

Terence Wright*

Richard Hanney*

Timothy Cooke OBE*

Tim Stokes

James Minett

John Telling

David Botley

Anthony Mitchell

David Hill-Kelly

Jon Randall

Rohit Nathaniel

Timothy Butcher

Past Masters Emeritus

Derek Robinson*

Ronald Jordan*

Julian Dalrymple*

George Grover*

Hugh Kersey*

Ernest Pilgrim*

Bryan Lincoln*

Robert Faulkner*

Christopher Towlson*

Peter Cook*

Reginald Denby*

Alan Turner*

Robin Doran*

Michael Lepper*

Michael Hall*

*denotes Past Master

Assistants Emeritus

Graham Withers

Anthony Graham

John Mills

Christopher Money

Andrew Popat

Alan Clark

Phillip Holliday

Clerk Emeritus

Hilary Machtus

Chief Steward 2016-2019

David Jarman

Stewards 2017-2020

Mike Hannibal

David Peachell

Stewards 2018-2021

Timothy Scott

Archin Talpade

Stewards 2019-2022

Richard Walker

Bill Welch

Andrew York

Almoner

Richard Grove

Plasterers Hall Limited

Directors

Robert Dalrymple
(Chairman)

Tim Stokes

Timothy Cooke OBE

Terence Wright

Nigel Bamping
(Secretary)

Royal Liveryman

HRH The Duchess
of Cornwall GCVO

Honorary Liverymen

Sir Francis McWilliams,
GBE

Former Alderman of the
Ward of Aldersgate,
Sheriff of London
1988-89, Lord Mayor
of London 1992-93

Nicholas Anstee

Alderman of the Ward
of Aldersgate, Sheriff of
London 2003-04, Lord
Mayor of London 2009-10



Military Affiliations

By The Clerk



HMS DRAGON ON DEPLOYMENT



Royal Navy

It is particularly appropriate to start this review of our military affiliates with the 'Senior Service', the Royal Navy and the Plaisterers' Ship, HMS DRAGON. After a lengthy period of refit and trials in 2017 and early 2018, DRAGON sailed for the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean in the autumn of 2018.

We have been very fortunate that our Liaison Officers, Lt John Richardson and Lt Commander David Ruscoe, have provided us with regular reports on the ship's activities including a major exercise with the Omani Navy and then counter-smuggling operations in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean.

The 'drug-busting' activities were so successful, thanks to the swift small boat skills of the Royal Marine detachment on board, that a number of hauls featured on the national news. A major exercise ensued with the Pakistani Navy and then further drug seizures in the Arabian Sea. Visits to Kuwait and Bahrain ensued and then, surprise, surprise, further encounters with attempted drug runners.

Then it was time to head for home via the Suez Canal with various training

activities taking place and an 'on-board' charity auction which raised £4,000.

Rough seas in the Mediterranean and the Bay of Biscay did not quench the desire of all on board to be back alongside in Pompey, where over 1000 people were waiting to greet DRAGON's return home.

A very successful deployment not least from the fact that the total drug haul of 16 tonnes, worth over £200 million, exceeded the entire UK Police and Border Force seizures in 2018. Well done DRAGON!

Many on board contributed to the success of the deployment but the Company was delighted to recognise the contribution of SC Charlotte Rudd who received the RN Cup at the Banquet in May 2019.

The citation read:

"Charlotte Rudd has been a member of HMS DRAGON's Ship's Company since October 2017.

As an Able Seaman Supply Chain she has been part of the team responsible for ordering, receiving and looking after all of HMS DRAGON's stores, from bullets and bed linen, to helicopter engines and rotor blades. She joined the ship at a period of exceedingly depleted manpower, operating as part of the Royal Navy's Adaptive Force.

Joining virtually fresh from training, she immediately became a core part of the Supply Chain team, re-building the ship's engineering, maintenance and domestic stores to ensure that the ship sailed with everything onboard that might be needed for DRAGON's training period and subsequent deployment.

During the recent deployment SC Rudd has become the true shining light of both the Logistics Department and the Ship.

As one of the most junior members of the department she has raised every

stores demand for seven months including critical medical supplies and essential items to rectify Operational Deficiencies. She has skilfully hastened overdue, often critical items with MOD civil servants, suppliers and contractors, a role usually given to someone far more senior in both experience and rank.

Intelligent, pragmatic and always smiling, she has become the backbone of our Stores Office. She has worked long hours in order to ensure other departments get what they need to support their requirements; she has also ensured that the Ship's Command Team had the information they needed to make critical operational decisions.

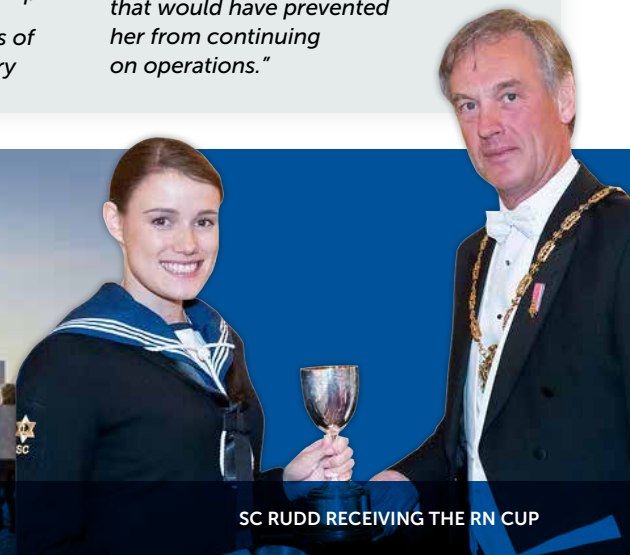
The work of a logistician can often go unnoticed, but without SC Rudd's tireless, unfaltering efforts, it is very probable that HMS DRAGON's recent successes on operations could have suffered critical stores shortages that would have prevented her from continuing on operations."



DRAGON DRUG HAUL



DRAGON DEPARTS PORTSMOUTH



SC RUDD RECEIVING THE RN CUP



Royal Marines

The arrival of a new Secretary of State for Defence in the latter part of 2018 resulted in a more appreciative attitude to the Corps with a desire to make better use of the skills which go alongside the 'commando mindset'.



It is perhaps no surprise that the small boat capability has been put to good use in the Indian Ocean (see HMS DRAGON article), in the Mediterranean with the seizure of a sanction breaking oil tanker and the deployment of an RM task force to the Persian Gulf in the summer of 2019 in the face of growing risks and political uncertainty.

We were delighted to welcome the Commandant General Royal Marines, Major General Charlie Stickland OBE to the Banquet in May 2019 and to admit his predecessor, Major General Rob Magowan CBE as a Liveryman at the Robing Ceremony in July 2019.

We enjoy a good relationship with the Royal Marines reserve in London and their new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Jason Durup was also able to attend the Banquet in May 2019.

The Master and the other members made an interesting and informative visit to the Barracks in Wandsworth in March 2019. We are very grateful to the RMR London for their agreement to

support the Company's participation in the Lord Mayor's Show in 2020.

The output from all of the Landing Craft Training courses at RM TAMAR in Devonport continues to impress and it has been a pleasure for the Master and Clerk to attend the three Pass Out Ceremonies during this year and to dine with the new CO, Colonel Christopher Haw MC.

The Signallers Training at Lympstone is now in the capable hands of Major Pat Patterson, himself a former S1 Plaisters' Bowl Prize Winner and the Master and Mistress were delighted to attend the Pass Out in December 2018. They also enjoyed their attendance at the King's Badge Pass Out in February 2019.

We are always pleased to enable our military affiliates to make use of the Hall for appropriate events and we look forward to being able to help the Royal Marines on several occasions in the next 18 months.



Special Reconnaissance Regiment

The Company continues to enjoy a close and effective relationship with the Regiment and with the Regimental charity, providing support to members of the Regiment and their families. We can all be grateful for the dedication and professionalism shown by the Regiment in the many demands made upon it.



MAJOR GENERAL CHARLIE STICKLAND OBE



RMR VISIT



282 (East Ham) Air Cadets

By James Minett

Our links with 282 get stronger and stronger.

We were delighted to robe Squadron Leader Chris Booty as a Liveryman and admit three former cadets (all of whom are still involved with 282) Zoe Boys, Ricardo Pena and Michael Shirley as Freemen at the Robing Ceremony in July 2019.

Making Music

It has been a particular pleasure this year to note the success of 282's Band.

Eight years ago the Plaisterers' Charity provided musical instruments for a band and from that 282 have become the best Air Cadet band in the country, winning the national competition in November 2018. The choreography was said to be even more imaginative than professional bands.

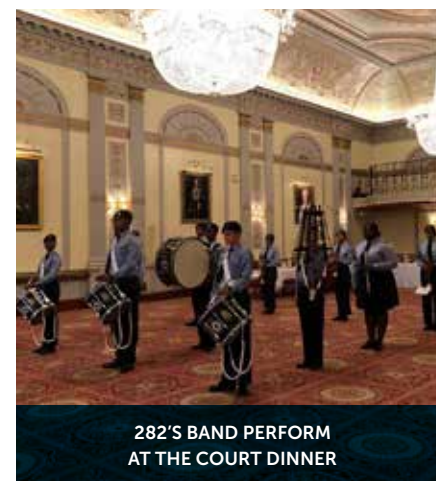
Members of 282 also took part in the second Lord Mayor of London's annual Cadet Music competition, under glorious sunshine in Guildhall, in September last year. The London RAF Cadets and London Army Cadets performed against each other before a distinguished judging panel including Alderman Sir Charles Bowman (The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of the City of London) and Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley (past Lord Mayor).

Two individual bugle pieces "Last Post" and "Reveille" were played by Cadet Sgt Connie Willis and Cadet Flight Sgt Daniel Hill and Cadet Corporal Nicolas

Amakye and Cadet Corporal Phoebe Kato (winner of the Plaisterers Prize for Music in June 2018), were also part of the band. The winners were the London and South East RAF Air Cadets, beating the Army by a narrow margin.

At the Wing Band Competition in September, as well as walking away with four 1st place finishes, there were three winners in the Full Band, Percussion and Solo Drummer categories.

The Court Dinner in July 2019 provided the band with a special opportunity to perform, which was thoroughly appreciated by everyone present. A short film was shown at Common Hall in July 2019 'showcasing' the activities of 282 over the past year, which elicited the response from one member *"I had no idea they did so much"*.



282'S BAND PERFORM
AT THE COURT DINNER



Providing guidance

PM Bill Mahony arranged two mentoring evenings for between 50 and 60 air cadets. On the first evening, East Ham's MP, Stephen Timms, very kindly told the cadets about his own career.

Liveryman Charlotte Crozier described her varied career, including studying the Russian Language at University, getting a job in customer support and service delivery, then working in derivatives in the City before training to become a teacher. Rose Mahony described her progressive career working with disadvantaged children, becoming a Head Teacher and then a School Governor.

On the second evening Past Master of the Engineers, Isobel Pollock-Hulf OBE, gave a presentation which encompassed her own career in engineering and an insight into the different areas and aspects that she had really enjoyed. The Chairman of the Nelson Society, Chris Brett, then gave a talk about the life of Lord Nelson. He told how Horatio Nelson was one of 11 children, his mother had died when he was just eight and how

he had joined the Navy at the age of 12, younger than any of the cadets present. He explained how despite these disadvantages, and subsequently losing an eye and an arm, he was immensely successful in battle, but also gained the trust and respect of his men and the authorities. A relevant role model still today.

Following the evenings at 282, PM Bill Mahony received the following message from Stephen Timms (MP): *'Bill— many thanks to you, and to the Plaisterers' Company, for the support and inspiration you are giving to young people in my constituency!'*

Enjoying the Successes of 282

Many Liverymen attended a very fine Annual Dinner at the RAF Club in Piccadilly on the first Saturday in December 2018. Stephen Timms MP, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, the Mayor of Newham and Representative Lieutenant John Barker DL were also present to see 282 give speeches, award prizes and show a video of their trip to Ghana.

In July 2019 a number of Liverymen attended and took part in 282's Annual Awards evening at Kingsford Community School. Liveryman Squadron Leader Phillip (Fozzie) Foster took the salute and inspected the Cadets. Master, Timothy Cooke, presented the Plaisterers' Shield and a new trumpet to Cadet Corporal Nicole Mosquero.

In the past 12 months the achievements of the 130 Cadets currently on the roll have included 23 Duke of Edinburgh awards, 2 flying/navigation scholarships, 6 BTEC awards, 28 sporting medals, 8 competition trophies, 11 band badges, 46 radio communication badges, 3 shooting awards as well as ATC National Band Champions, and the Shackleton Trophy for best overseas expedition.

Former Plaisterers' Cadet Sebastian Stewart attained the age of 20, the upper age limit for a cadet. He has successfully passed his Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Board, and so we wish the now Sergeant Sebastian Stewart RAFAC good luck as he takes his next step! Seb is not saying 'goodbye' though

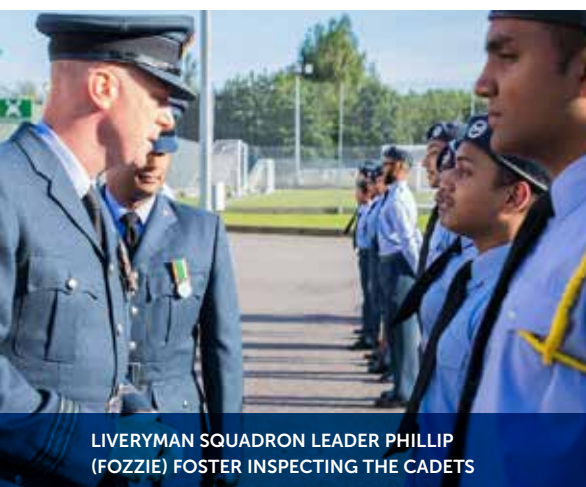
as he has also become a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer.

Providing opportunities

At the Masters' and Clerks' Dinner in January 2019 we were pleased to welcome representatives from our Air Cadets from East Ham who provided a Carpet Guard and also provided a display showcasing their recent success winning the National Band Championship.

In April 2019, three company apprentices, Saxon and Casey Foster and Poppy MacNeil, together with five members of 282 Air Cadets and Liveryman Fozzie Foster and the Master, Timothy Cooke visited the Shaw Trust Centre in Harrow.

Our Air Cadets in East Ham are fine examples of what young people can achieve given opportunity, guidance and encouragement. Everything we have seen in the past years has shown us that 282 Air Cadets have determination and an interest in achieving the best. The Plaisterers' Company is proud to be affiliated with them.



LIVERYMAN SQUADRON LEADER PHILLIP (FOZZIE) FOSTER INSPECTING THE CADETS



THE MASTER WITH THE PLAISTERERS' SHIELD WINNER, NICOLE MOSQUERO





THE PLAISTERERS AND POLITICS

By The Clerk

Servants of the Crown, the Commonwealth and the City in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

How it all began

By the time you reach this article, I hope you will have appreciated that a key theme of the Mastership of Timothy Cooke OBE has been a better understanding of our historic trade.

When the Master began to plan his tour of buildings in the City of London associated with Past Masters of the Company there was one obvious person to engage with, Dr Claire Gapper.

In recent years, Dr Gapper has worked on one of the most interesting and informative websites focusing on decorative plasterwork and its development and place in building construction from the early 1500s to the mid-1600s. What follows is largely drawn from www.clairegapper.info. I am indebted to her for this hugely valuable work and for making the Master's tour, which she led, such an enjoyable and worthwhile day.

Buildings, and their contents, can often be interesting in themselves. But from the earliest permanent homes which

human beings made in caves they can make a statement about their inhabitants and the times in which they were living.

Setting the scene

This second decade of the 21st Century has seen a significant move to make our buildings more environmentally friendly and 'carbon neutral'. The use of natural and renewable materials have become more common and there has been a conscious turning away from the brutalism of the second half of the 20th Century.

The 16th and 17th Centuries were the zenith of the power and prestige of the Plaisterers' Guild in the City of London, as we shall shortly explore. It is, however, worth reflecting in these uncertain political times that it was also a period of great change.

The Tudor dynasty that emerged from the final battle of the War of the Roses in 1485 was politically insecure, Henry VIII and his three children saw the then three separate entities – England & Wales, Scotland and Ireland – racked

with the disputations of the Reformation in its very political 'British' form. The arrival of the Stuarts raised hopes which were soon dashed by the folly of a King leading to a trial period of Presidential rather than parliamentary government under Cromwell. Only with the Glorious Revolution of 1688 did things begin to settle down.

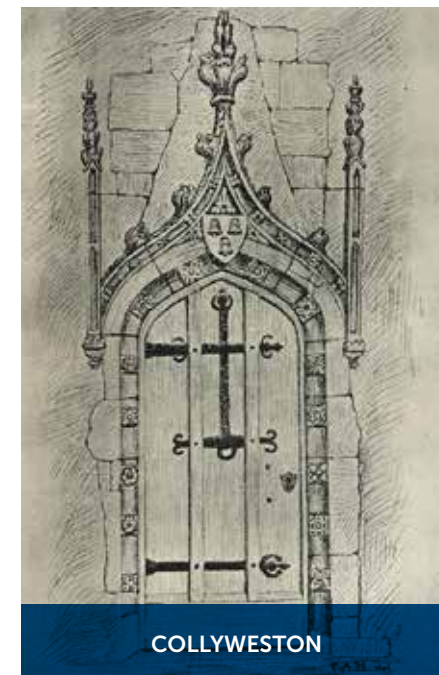
The fervent Brexiteers may take comfort from the fact that despite all of this, Great Britain began to emerge as a great trading nation. What is beyond doubt is that this was a hugely important period for the appearance of great buildings, sadly very few of them have survived.

No great buildings of this period were complete without plasterwork and the Plaisterers' Company (the idiosyncratic spelling coming from the Charter of Elizabeth I) played a key role in the development of the craft during this period.

No records of the Company have survived prior to the 1570s. The records for the early 1600s show membership peaking in the 1620s at just under 290 (mostly Freeman). Between 1597 and 1662, over 180 Apprentices were bound to 'Master Plasterers' (Liverymen of the Company). Most came from London and the Home Counties with also a significant number from the Midlands. The building trades were a respectable and secure form of employment with better prospects for many than subsistence farming or the insecurities of rural tenancies.

Plasterers in the Royal Works

The Tudors loved bureaucracy and there are excellent lists of those working on 'Royal' projects in the period. Dr Gapper has found evidence to show that 50%



of the members of the Company in the early 1520s were employed in the 'Royal Works'. 15 of the 27 plasterers working at Hampton Court in 1537 were members of the London Company. Employment was not only available in and around London. A little known Royal residence of Queen Elizabeth I was situated at Collyweston in Northamptonshire (demolished in 1780).

William Elder, who gave the Company its first Hall in 1556, had worked at Royal sites in the 1530s. A London plasterer, John Laycocke (also spelt Laycock) [Master 1585-86], was working at Collyweston in 1566 and he and Richard Briggs are recorded as working at nearby Fotheringay Castle (birthplace of Richard III and prison for Mary Queen of Scots in the 1580s).



The title of 'Master Plasterer in the Royal Works' appears to date from 1555 with the first holder being Patrick Kellie. It was a bureaucratic role but also 'hands on' and we know he was paid two shillings a day during the time he was overseeing the work at Fotheringay in 1566. Laycocke and Briggs were paid 11d a day.

Patrick Kellie was succeeded by Thomas Kellie in 1567; their connection is unclear but it is very likely that they were related. Thomas served as Master of the Company four times before his death in 1589. Shortly prior to his death he had been working at Eltham Palace. He died a wealthy man and in his will left 20 shillings to the 'Master and Wardens of the Company of Plaisterers of London – for recreation to be spent amonge them at the tyme of my buriall'. Past Masters, please note!

With the appointment of Richard Dungan [Dongan] in 1597, we have the first 'Royal Plasterer' whose work still survived, as we shall see. Dungan is an interesting character because it is likely that he worked as a plasterer in Ireland before

coming to London. He wisely realised that his opportunities for advancement would be improved by membership of the London Company. They, however, required him to serve an apprenticeship which he completed in 1588. The fact that he was a rising star was recognised when the Company admitted him to the Livery only six years later (it would normally take about 14 years) and in 1597 he became Renter Warden.

How Dungan had the right 'connections' we shall never know; what we do know is that, as his work at Knole for the Sackville family shows, he was a very talented plasterer. He is known to have worked with Inigo Jones at the Banqueting House in Whitehall, St James' Palace and at Eltham for the new King James I and VI and his wife Queen Anne.

His work at Hatfield House for Robert Cecil was cut short by his death in 1609. He died wealthy; (We know his widow's estate in 1615 included over £500 in major legacies) and a 'gentleman' in that he was buried 'with armes in escotheons, on his coffin'. A grant of arms to a craftsman was extremely rare and he

may well be the first plasterer to cross the divide between 'trade' and gentry.

The Royal Plasterer in office between Thomas Kellie and Richard Dungan was John Symonds who, probably due to the influence of Lord Burghley, was appointed jointly with Thomas Kellie. He was not a member of the London Company. On Kellie's death, one John Allen was appointed alongside Symonds. At the time, Allen was a member of the Joiners' Company but he subsequently saw the error of his ways and joined the Plaisterers, and served as Master three times between 1619 and 1631. John Allen was appointed 'Plasterer of the City of London' in 1617, a role we will investigate further in due course.

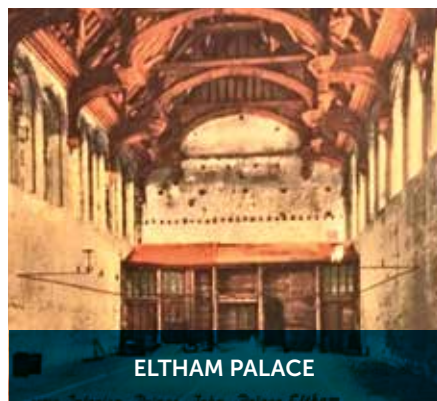
Joseph Kinsman (Master 1655-56) was undoubtedly one of the leading plasterers of his time but never had the 'top job' in the Royal Works. He is probably the best documented plasterer of the period. He was almost certainly the first documented plasterer to produce a Venetian deep-beamed ceiling in plaster rather than timber and fine examples of his work survive at Ham House in Surrey.

The example set by these men was followed in the second half of the 17th Century by the Bount/Blunt and Toogood/Doogood/Doegood families. There is not space to talk about them here save to note that Henry Doegood (Master 1700-01) was responsible for the plaster ceiling in the Painted Hall at Greenwich which the Company plans to visit in 2020.

'Plasterer of the City of London'

It has already been mentioned that John Allen assumed this role in 1619. It is no surprise that the City of London, which in any event sought to keep the Crown at arm's length, thought it appropriate to have their own senior appointees. There were also a Bridgehouse Plasterer and a City Bricklayer.

John Allen stood down in 1627 and the role passed to the accomplished London plasterer Edward Stanyan (Stanyon). On his death the role passed to his son, Abraham Stanyan who held the position of City Plasterer for 38 years and that of Bridgehouse Plasterer for 24 years both of which he surrendered in 1668 when he was 57 years old. Abraham served in



ELTHAM PALACE



KNOLE



HATFIELD HOUSE



HAM HOUSE



ABRAHAM STANYAN (SENIOR)

the Civil War and the Restoration, latterly as a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Red Regiment of the Trained Band of the City of London.

Abraham was succeeded by two of his former apprentices, Henry Hodsdon (Hodgson) [Master 1681-82] and Thomas Dalling (Dalwen) as Bridgehouse Plasterer. Between them all they controlled these posts for more than 34 years.

Abraham Stanyan, despite his ability and wealth, was unable to achieve the position of Royal Plasterer. Even though his son, Lawrence, married into the noble Cobham family, Abraham's City and parliamentary connections were probably too much for the restored Monarchy to countenance.

The Stanyan family are, however, the epitome of the 'new age'. Edward Stanyan had been born the son of a tailor in the village of Nassington in



ABRAHAM STANYAN (JUNIOR)

Northamptonshire and came to London in 1598. He completed his apprenticeship in 1608 and thereafter took on a number of young men from the same village to train them. We have seen how his son, Abraham, achieved notable success and was able to educate and endow his son, Lawrence sufficiently to enable him to 'break out' of trade and acquire land at Monkton Hadley in Middlesex.

This gave him the status and connections to marry into the Cobham family. The 'golden' chickens came home to roost in the next generation when Lawrence's sons Abraham and Temple moved up another level. Abraham was an MP and subsequently Ambassador to Austria and then the Ottoman Empire. Temple, having been a Queen's Scholar at Westminster School, went up to Christ Church Oxford and then joined the Civil Service.

Both Abraham and Temple served as Clerk to the Privy Council. Whether either could use a hawk or trowel is not recorded.

Interestingly, Temple Stanyan is buried in the church of St Peter and St Paul, Checkendon, Oxfordshire next to the home of Liveryman Derek Stubbs.

A changing world

The Reformation in England swept away the monasteries and their schools which were the only places where poor boys could obtain an education which might lead them into government and power. Although Wolsey and Cromwell discovered things did not always turn out well.

Henry VI founded Eton and Elizabeth I re-established the school at Westminster Abbey. It was at this point that the Livery stepped forward and the Skinners, Merchant Taylors and Haberdashers amongst others established schools for which they are now well-known. Here it was that the growing middle-class exemplified by the Stanyan family would send their sons. The grip of a few noble families and the Royal House on the nation's affairs was slipping away.

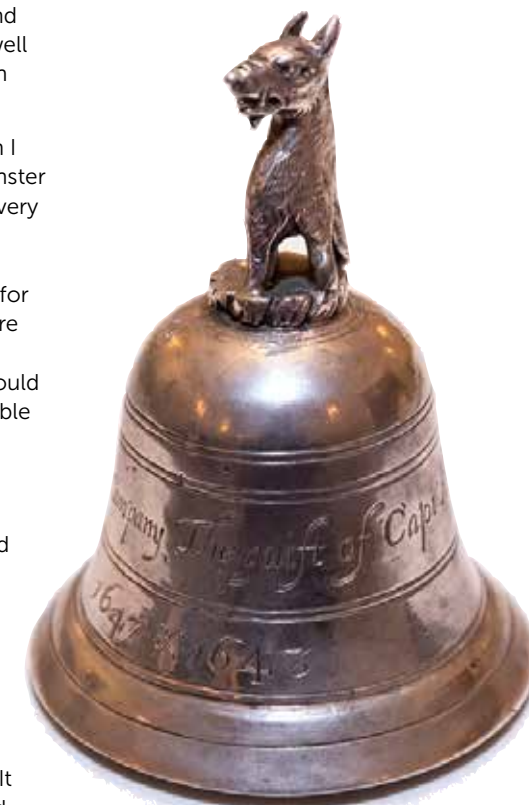
The sons of plasterers, whether by choice or parental will, no longer had to follow their fathers into the trade and whilst there was still work and willing apprentices, by the early 1700s London was growing and tradesmen moved, no longer subject to the rule of the City Companies. So began the transition from trade guilds to the 'club' livery. It was only in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century that the Livery re-established the broad and rich pattern of

philanthropy and fraternity that we see today. Long may it continue.

A mystery

The Company's oldest surviving piece of silver is a small bell recorded as being donated by Abraham Stanyan (senior), commemorating his two year tenure of the Mastership of the Company.

Why does the inscription on the bell say 1647-1649 and the Company records show his dates as being 1657-1659? Maybe we will never know.





A History of Plastering and the Plaisterers





The Armorial Bearings

A HISTORY OF PLASTERING AND THE PLAISTERERS

The original patent, which in part is worn and difficult to decipher, is now framed and hung in the foyer of the Hall, together with the blazon inscribed by the late Mrs Margaret Wettren, and reads as follows:

"Azure on a chevron engrailed argent a rose gules budded or, stalked and leaved vert, between two fleurs de lys azure; in chief a trowel fessewise between two plasterer's hammers palewise all argent handled or, in case a plasterer's brush, of four knots tied argent handled or."

Crest

On a wreath argent and azure an arm vested bendy of four gules and or, holding in the hand proper a plasterer's hammer as in the arms.

Mantling

Gules doubled argent.

Supporters

On either side an opinicus vert winged, membered and eyed gules, the throat and belly purfled or.

(Granted by Thomas Hawley Clarenceux - 20th January, 1545/6.)

Motto

Let Brotherly Love Continue.

Glossary of Heraldic Terms

Argent: Silver.

Azure: Blue. Any shade of blue.

In the Company's Arms, as can be seen from the original Grant hanging in the foyer, it is dark blue.

Gules: Red.

Or: Gold.

Vert: Green.

Opinicus: An heraldic beast having the head, neck and wings of an eagle, except that the head has prominent ears, and the body and legs of a lion, but with a bear's tail. The modern version of an opinicus varies in certain respects from that of 1546, which is described in the Armorial Bearings.

There is also hanging in the Hall a beautiful banner worked by Mrs Wettren, depicting on the one side the Arms as in the original patent, and on the reverse a copy of the Arms as sometimes used.



The Company Prior to 1940



A Brief History of Plastering

Pre 12th Century

Although plaster was often used by the Romans, Anglo Saxons and even by early cave-dwellers, there is little recorded history of the Craft until the 12th century. Middle Ages

Nowadays, the term 'pargetting' refers to specialist tasks such as plaster decoration in relief on exterior walls, or flue-lining. In the Middle Ages, however, all plasterers were pargettors, and their main function was to protect outside surfaces from the weather and to prepare interior surfaces for painting.

1189

Already, in 12th century London there were so many cook-shop fires that Henry Fitz Alwyn, the first Mayor of London, ordered all such places to be plastered and limewashed for protection.

1212

The order must have had some success, because in 1212, King John endorsed the edict further, allowing shop-owners

on the Thames and London Bridge just eight days to whitewash and plaster, inside and out, any house covered with reed or rush, at pain of having their property demolished.

1254

In fact, it was rare for plastering to be used for ornamental purposes in Britain until 1254, when Henry III, on a visit to France, was so taken with the fine, white qualities of Plaster of Paris that he introduced it here.

Yet the first references in writing to our Craft record the fire-proofing, rather than decorative qualities of plaster and limewash. Ironically the first two Company of Plaisterers' Halls would later be destroyed by fire, the first of them in the Great Fire of 1666.

The 76 Crafts Practised in London

An entry in the Brewers' records, documenting the 76 crafts practised in London from the 12th century lists 'Plasterers' at number 20. At the time of this listing there is no record of how the order was agreed, but it is interesting to

note that, of the first 13 names on this list, ten remain in the Great Twelve City Livery Companies to this day, the first five in exactly the same order.

Mercers

Armourers

Saddlers

Drapers

Weavers (linen)

Girdlers

Goldsmiths

Dyers

Haberdashers

Skinners

Tailors

Grocers

Weavers (wool)

Ironmongers

Fishmongers

Fullers

Cordwainers

Vintners

Plasterers

Cutlers

Much later, in 1515, the Court of Aldermen of the City of London would agree an order of precedence for Livery Companies based on their economic or political standing.

Typical Work in the Early Days

An indication of a typical plasterer's work can be seen in an entry in the City archives for 1317.

This records an agreement by Adam le Plaster, citizen of London, to 'supply Plaster of Paris and to repair therewith the walls, within and without, and also the flues, of the Earl of Richmond's hall in the neighbourhood of St. Paul's Cathedral, in eight weeks on security of all his goods'.





The Mystery of Gipsars

Despite its existence as a recognised craft as early as the 12th century, it was not until 10 March 1501 that the Company of Plaisterers received its first Charter, granted by Henry VII. The Charter gave privileges to the Company of Plaisterers but also duties and obligations. These included:

“Authority for ever to search and try, and on making and exercising the search both in, on and of any stocks touching and concerning the art or mystery of Gipsars within the City of London, commonly called Plasterers, and in, on and of all workers and men working in the same art or mystery, so that their works in this way may be just faithful and legal without any deception and fraud.

And to duly correct the defaults and deceptions which in this manner they shall have found and to duly punish all persons in this manner offending according to their demerits and faults, or to cause them to be punished by the survey of the Mayor of the said City of London for the time being”.



The Charter

The Charter of 1501 hangs in the foyer of the Plaisterers' Hall, along with a transcription of the translation from the original Latin by Mrs Margaret Wettern, the late wife of Past Master Patrick Wettern, who died in July 2017.

It refers to Mary as the Company's Patron Saint, and describes the Company as: 'The Master of the Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Pargettors, commonly called Plaisterers, of the City of London'.

It bears the following legend: 'Sigill: Artis Miste: de Daubers nunc nuncupat: Plaisterers Civitatis London'. This translates as: 'The Seal of the Art or Mystery of Daubers, now called Plaisterers, of the City of London'.

'By the Discreyson of the Wardeyns'

Although the first Charter was granted in 1501, and there is a record of donations to the Crown to arm men for the French War of 1513, the earliest proof that a petition for Livery had been accepted by the Court of Aldermen of the City of London was in 1538.

On 9 April 1538 the Wardens of the Company of Plaisterers asked the Court of Aldermen to establish the following articles of the Company:

“they that have bene on the lyverey and hath not bene wardeyn to have but one apprentice” and “they that bene owt of the lyvery yf the wardeyns thynke that he be hable [able] and of habilitie [ability] to kepe hym by the dicresyon of the wardeyns shall have one apprentice”.

The Company was granted its Armorial Bearings in 1545/46. In 1560, when the Court of Aldermen decreed that no further companies should assume a Livery without its consent, the

Plaisterers stood at number 46 in order of precedence, just as it is today.

Early Livery Halls and Accommodation

In 1556 William Elder, Citizen and Plaisterer, died and bequeathed to the Company its first known Hall. It may have previously been the Hall of the defunct Pinners' Company.

It was destroyed, like so much of the City, in the Great Fire of 1666. The second Hall, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was built in 1669. It contained a Great Room, called the Common Hall of the Company, and some 15 other rooms including kitchen, buttery, cellars, parlours and chambers.

The first Plaisterers' Hall was situated at the corner of Addle Street and Philip Lane (close to London Wall), neither of which have survived into the 21st Century. This property too was destroyed by fire, in 1882.

The next building erected on this site was destroyed by enemy action in December 1940. In 1956, exactly 400 years after William Elder bequeathed our first known Hall, the site was compulsorily acquired by the Corporation of the City of London.



Conflict with Other Livery Companies

While our Motto is 'Let Brotherly Love Continue', there have been, during the course of our long history, occasional disputes with other companies and fraternities.

For example, after many years of dispute, the Company of Painter-Stainers resorted to an appeal to Parliament to restrain plasterers from using oil colours on enriched work.

In 1603, Parliament found in favour of the Painter-Stainers and an Act was passed forbidding plasterers from using colours on enriched plasterwork in London or its suburbs, though they were permitted to distemper and use blacking, whitening and ochres provided the mixed colours had no oil content.

The Act of Parliament did not prevent George Fewkes and Humphrey Willmott, both of whom would later rise to the position of Master within the Plasterers' Company, completing the elaborate moulded plasterwork decorations and enriched plaster ceilings of the Mansion House when it was built between 1739 and 1752.

Discipline within the Livery

These entries from the Work Quest Book don't just illustrate the zeal with which the Company carried out its duty to preserve high standards of workmanship, they are also evidence that female plasterers were not uncommon in the 18th century.

Search Day

24 May 1726

Randolf Stanley for very bad workmanship in lathing and setting greene and bore and bad gurcks. Fined 10 shillings.

24 May 1726

Mary Smith for bad lathing not being lapped and not being nayled and or ends cut off. Fined 5 shillings.

20 August 1742

Thomas Parks for bad workmanship in washing stopping and whitening at His Majestys palace of Saint James. Fined 40 shillings.

20 August 1742

Hamerton widow of Thomas Hamerton for bad workmanship and repairing of plasterers work and washing and stopping and colouring of the outside of six houses in the strand. Fined £1.10.0.

31 July 1753

Wooldridge Plasterer of Carters Rents for bad whitewashing at the Merchant Taylors Hall. Fined 40 shillings.

7 August 1760

Francis Edwin, a Master Plasterer and Liveryman of the Plasterers' Company having made use of bad materials and having mixed and used hay & straw with haire. Fined 40/-

5 August 1761

Humphrey a Master Plasterer and Liveryman of the Company for bad and imperfect workmanship in the cleansing and whitening of Plasterers' work by him done. Fined 42 shillings.

The Founding of The City and Guilds of London Institute

By 1860 the Company of Plasterers comprised just 46 Liverymen and the Company's income was a mere £120.

The last Apprentice Charles George Ive was 'bound' on 21 January 1840 to Joseph Staynes (Master 1852) yet in 1877, Past Master S.M. Hubert represented the Company at two meetings of those Livery Companies which had promised to contribute to the proposed scheme for a national system of technical education.

In November 1877 the Plasterers were one of the original eight Companies that formed an association for the purpose of united action in the promotion of technical education by means of a City Guilds University. This became the City and Guilds of London Institute.

By the time the Institute was finally incorporated under the Company Acts in 1880, a further eight Livery Companies had joined as founder members.

The Plasterers have contributed to the City & Guilds of London Institute every year since helping to found it in 1877, with the exception of a few years following the destruction of its property in 1940 and the consequential loss of its income.

Donations to the Armed Forces Prior to 1940

By 1884, the Company's income had increased by some £340, primarily due to increases in rent on our Addle Street premises.

In 1900 we were able to respond to the Lord Mayor's appeal with a donation of 50 guineas to the 'Transvaal War Fund' for the Boer War.

The money was to be applied in such a way as the Lord Mayor in his discretion might think most advisable for the relief of distress arising from the War. The Company made a further donation of 50 guineas to the City of London Imperial Volunteer Fund.

In the foyer of our Hall there is a letter from the Under Secretary of State, War Office, thanking the Company and enclosing a medal with clasps to signify those earned by City of London Volunteers during the War.



CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE, 1881



The Company from 1940

The Plaisterers' Company during World War II

During the Second World War the Court continued to meet in spite of the difficulties.

At the beginning of 1940, the then Master, John Bellman died during his year of office. No one was available to take his place during hostilities other than Past Masters. Past Master Percy Mott was elected Master and held office until Henry Mott returned from active service overseas in time to be elected Master in July 1945.

Before the War, the Company's premises in Addle Street were let and Court Meetings were held in the Cordwainers' Hall. After its destruction by enemy action, the Court met in the Master's office for all its proscribed Meetings. On only four occasions did the number attending fall below nine, the number previously required for a quorum.

The Company suffered considerably during the War. The Clerk's office was badly damaged by bombing on two



occasions, but luckily none of the Company's records was lost, although the Master's chair was destroyed. The Carpenters' Hall, where the Company's safe was housed, was also destroyed. The safe remained underground until recovered by the Clerk in 1949, fortunately the contents were undamaged.

The most disastrous blow came when the Company's property was destroyed on the night of the 29 December 1940.

The tenants, Foster, Porter & Company, disclaimed the lease and no rent was thereafter received. This required the Company to sell a total of £1,200 of its 2% Consols to keep the Company running for the rest of the War and until the War Damage money was paid. Therefore in the years immediately following the War the Company's annual income after tax was only £13.14.6d. (£13.72), and the number of the Livery had fallen to 28.

Post War Compensation and Compulsory Purchase

When the War Damage was paid in December 1947, the bulk was invested in replacing the Consols, various Bonds and a few smaller stocks.

Despite food rationing, that started at the beginning of the War and continued for some years afterwards, a dinner for 12 was held on 19 October 1948.

A presentation was made to Alfred Mott on his retiring from the Clerkship. He and his father, Henry Mott, who had been appointed Clerk in 1848, completed 100 years in that Office.

At about the same time, the Common Council of the City of London applied for an Order that the Company's freehold land should be subject to compulsory purchase. The acquisition of the freehold site the Company had owned for 400 years took place in 1956.

In 1948 membership level dropped to 29 but in January that year the resurgence of the company began with the admission of freeman Doris Mary Oates.

The Building of the Plaisterers' Hall

At the Court Meeting on the 7 April 1959, the then Master, Harry Humber started the most momentous and far reaching event in the history of the Company by suggesting that the Company should acquire a site in the City to erect an office block and a Hall.

To safeguard the Company against any loss which might arise through the building of a new Hall, Plaisterers Hall Limited was incorporated on the 21 January 1960. In March 1961 the Clerk gave the City Planning Officer the Company's requirements for a Hall and ancillary rooms and offices, etc. as 10,000 feet super with headroom of at least 20 feet, that being the minimum required for a hall to seat 300 persons.

At a meeting on 17 March 1961 the Planning Officer stated there was a site available on the south side of the corner of London Wall and Aldersgate Street. To get the outline planning permission from the City, Messrs Ronald Ward & Partners were appointed architects, and by April 1964 permission was obtained.

Past Master Derek Robinson was a member of the firm and was closely involved in developing the design. Past Master Ernie Pilgrim, an engineer, was also involved.

Harry Humber, as a builder and a qualified plasterer, made many helpful amendments to the plans in order to get the greatest amount of lettable space out of the office block and the best layout for the Livery accommodation. It was also he who insisted that the decor in the accommodation should be in the Adam style.

The final plans were eventually agreed by the City on the 19 March 1970, and tenders for the work invited.

The tender of G.E. Wallis & Sons Limited for a fixed price contract of £923,797 being accepted, and work commenced on the 8 June 1970.



Plasterers' Hall Takes Shape

The foundation stone was laid on the 27 May 1971 by the Lord Mayor, Sir Peter Studd. During the entire building work Harry Humber attended at the Hall frequently to check the progress and to ensure that the work on the Livery accommodation was carried out to the high standard Adam demanded.

Harry Humber masterminded the decor throughout the Hall, oversaw the design of the purpose made chandeliers, tables and chairs, chose the pattern for the carpet from one designed by Robert Adam, and supervised the purchase of all the other fittings and equipment. In recognition of Harry Humber's huge contribution, the Court commissioned a portrait of him from J. Hughes Hallett to be hung in the Hall.

In 2005 the old Court Room was renamed the Humber Room in honour of Past Master Humber's outstanding contribution to the Company and the portrait was re-hung there.

By now the number of the Livery had increased to 159. When the Hall was nearing completion, a fund was set up to purchase chairs or silver and over 90 Liverymen contributed.

The Clerk approached the City Corporation to see if they would loan the Company paintings to hang in the Hall.

At first they showed reluctance, but on seeing the Hall they not only loaned the portraits of four former Lord Mayors, two of whom were Past Masters of the Company, and the Four Virtues painted by Thornhill, but even arranged for their hanging. Now all was ready for the opening on the 29 November 1972 by the Lord Mayor, Lord Mais.

The Interior of Plasterers' Hall

The accommodation in the Hall consists of the Great Hall – the largest Livery Hall in the City, the Livery Hall, the Humber Room, the Mott Room, the Ambulatory and reception areas and a large kitchen.

The decor of the principal rooms is of the neo classic style created by Robert Adam in the 18th Century. His various designs have been faithfully reproduced in great detail both in plaster and wood.

The Great Hall

The decorations and plasterwork are at their grandest in Great Hall. The magnificence of the work is rarely attempted in this age, and provides a superb setting for the traditional banquets that the City of London is renowned for. Pairs of pilasters with capitals in early Corinthian style as first used on the Tower of the Winds in

ancient Athens, arcade the walls, with sunken panels between them terminating in 'three centred Plasterers ovals'.

A full entablature, richly ornamented and subtly picked out in colour, conceals lighting which illuminates a grand coved ceiling rising to a clear height of over 27 feet.

The three chandeliers are purpose made, each being approximately twelve feet high and eight feet in diameter.

The Livery Hall

The Livery Hall is quite different in style and design from Great Hall. The ceiling consists of ornamental fibrous plaster coffers illuminated by ten basket type chandeliers and the walls are panelled in rich mahogany with an ornamental plaster frieze. This Hall will seat 80. The names of Past Masters were inscribed on the wall panels in 2017.

The Humber Room

Adjoining the Livery Hall is the Humber Room, named in memory of Past Master Harry Humber, whose energy and enthusiasm ensured the realisation of a new Plasterers' Hall.

It is an elegant room decorated in dove grey with the plaster enrichment picked out in gold. Portraits of Past Master Harry Humber and Past Master Peter Cook (Sheriff 2009-2010) hang in this room.

The Mott Room

Facing the Livery Hall and adjoining Great Hall is the Mott Room, named as a tribute to the Mott family. Three generations were Clerks to the Company for 147 years – portraits of them hang there. The delicate enrichments of the plaster ceiling and frieze have been picked out in the traditional pastel shades of the Adam period.

The portraits now hanging on the south west wall of Great Hall, reading from the windows, are those of:

Lord Mais

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1972/73

Alderman Nicholas Anstee

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 2009-2010

Sir John Pirie

Master of the Company 1828/29 and Lord Mayor 1841/42

Sir Thomas Kelly

Master of the Company 1831/32 and Lord Mayor 1836/37

Sir Peter Gadsden

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1979/80

Sir Francis McWilliams

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1992/93





Number One London Wall

The office block of 11 storeys and 50,000 square feet of lettable space, was finally completed on the 14 February 1973, and the Lease from the City to the Plaisterers Hall Limited was completed, signed and exchanged on the 23 March 1973.

The creation of Plaisterers Hall Limited meant the Plaisterers' Company was protected if anything went wrong, but benefited if Plaisterers Hall Limited was a success.

Shortly before the Hall was opened the Beadle, H.G. Herbert, resigned after having served in that office for 52 years. H.G. Herbert had followed four other members of the Herbert family, who had been Beadles continuously since 1825.

The Mott and Herbert families, who served the Company as Clerk (1848-1995) and Beadle (1825-1972) respectively, both achieved 147 years of unbroken service. Without doubt this must be a record in the Livery Companies.



Jubilee Garden

In 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Plaisterers Hall Limited obtained a licence from the City to create a formal garden in stone at the east end of the Great Hall, with two fountains and steps leading up to a balustrade over the old Roman Wall.

This was supervised by the Chairman of Plaisterers Hall Limited, Harry Humber and architect, Godfrey Gilbert.

Many challenges arose as consents had to be obtained from not only the City Surveyor, the City Architect and Planning officer, the City Engineer and the Comptroller and City Solicitor, but also from the Consultant to the City Corporation on Ancient Monuments, the Department of the Environment, the Museum of London, the City of London Museum, and the Trees, Gardens and City Open Spaces Committee!

Three years later the City agreed to extend the licence to the strip of land between the Jubilee Garden and Noble Street running to the old watchtower further along.

The garden is now a lawn and wild flower garden and the annual licence fee of one Jubilee Crown is presented by the Master to a representative of the City of London Corporation at a suitable event during the year.

A beehive, in the care of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers, was installed in the garden in 2016.

Social Activities

The only social activity before World War II was one dinner a year for the members of the Livery and their ladies. The last dinner, in October 1938, was attended by 18 members and 55 guests. There were no dinners during the War.

Since the War the number of functions has increased greatly. The first Annual Banquet, took place in February 1950, during the Mastership of Ashe Lincoln. It was attended by 18 members of the Court and Livery and 61 guests.

The Charitable Trust

In 1980 the Company started its Charitable Trust. While the Company had never had such a Trust before, it regularly supported the City & Guilds and other education projects out of its meagre corporate income. It also paid pensions to a number of widows and Freemen, amounting in some years to over £100, a not inconsiderable amount in the middle of the 19th century.

In the 21st century the Trust focuses on needs outside of the Company.



THE GREAT HALL PROVIDES A STUNNING ATMOSPHERE FOR SPECIAL PARTIES AS WELL AS FORMAL DINNERS.



Quincentenary Celebrations

The 500th Anniversary celebrations of the Company in 2001 started with a special Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral followed by a Reception in Great Hall on 9 March. On that day in excess of 1,000 people were present in St Paul's including the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Dean and Chapters and choirs of both St Paul's and Peterborough Cathedrals, Royal Marines trumpeters and the Masters and Clerks of 63 other Livery Companies.

Christopher Gower, the Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral at the time, wrote a special Anthem for the occasion and has since become a Liveryman of the Company.

At the following champagne reception, nearly 800 people gathered to witness a brilliant moment of theatre. With a fanfare of trumpets from the Royal Marines, King Henry VII swept in with his

entourage to re-present our Charter and make clear the duties and responsibilities of the Company. The Master, Peter Cook responded on behalf of the Worshipful Company, who once again undertook all the directives placed upon it in 1501.

On 28 June 2001, a Gala Banquet took place in Guildhall in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and some 60 Masters of fellow Livery Companies. The glittering evening was rounded off with the Royal Marines Beating Retreat in Guildhall Yard.

To complete a very exciting year for the Worshipful Company, in November the Livery sponsored a horse-drawn Landau in the Lord Mayor's Procession. The Landau carried the then Master, Alan Turner, accompanied by the Clerk, Ralph Vickers, the Upper and Renter Wardens and the Beadle, Michael Coyle, on a most enjoyable journey around the City.

Redevelopment

Only fifteen years after the opening of the Hall, concerns were raised about the office block at Number One London Wall and redevelopment was suggested.

Thirteen years after that in late 2000, Heads of Terms were agreed between Plaisterers Hall Limited and the developer, a partnership between Kajima, a Japanese Bank, and Hammersons Limited.

The redevelopment agreement required the sale of our Head Lease from the City Corporation, to the Developers and a new lease from the Developers to Plaisterers Hall Limited allowing occupation of our Livery accommodation and offices for 150 years at a peppercorn rent. The effect of this agreement was that the Company would no longer be supported by income from the office development, as it had been since 1972.

During this time Livery functions were held in different Livery Halls around the City. Liverymen were very fortunate in being able to visit many Halls during this period including the Mansion House, which was used for the Annual Banquets.

The Livery returned to Number One London Wall on 15 March 2004. The Annual Banquet in May of that year was held in the Great Hall amid much celebration.

Bursaries from the Charitable Trust

Harry Humber Bursary

Following the death of Harry Humber in 1993, a Bursary was set up at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, in recognition of his love of music and his

enormous contribution to the Livery over more than forty years. In 1994, the first bursary for £1,000 was given to Julian Milford, a post graduate student on an advanced Solo Studies Course. Since then many young musicians have greatly benefited from the Humber Bursary.

Since 2016, the Humber Bursary supports the work of Voces Cantabiles Music.

Henry Mott Bursary

The death of Henry Mott in 1999, only four years after his retirement from the Clerk's duties at the age of 91, allowed the Company to fund a further Bursary.

The Mott Bursary commenced in 2000 and sponsors a chorister at Peterborough Cathedral. The award of a Bursary to Peterborough Cathedral reflected the great pleasure provided by the Peterborough Choir at their annual visit to the Livery Carol Service.

500th Anniversary Bursary

In 2001, as a result of a special request to all members of the Livery, on behalf of the Charitable Trust, the 500th Anniversary Bursary was set up.

The Bursary sponsors the education of a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral who is presented with a ribbon and special medallion carrying the Company Crest.

Spurling Bursary

To mark the Spurling family's 200 year involvement with the Company, Liveryman Andrew Spurling endowed a new Bursary. It will, initially, be used to support The Prince's Foundation Bursary Student.



THE MASTER (2000-2001), PETER COOK, PROUDLY HOLDS THE RE-PRESENTED CHARTER BY KING HENRY VII, SOME 500 YEARS AFTER THE ORIGINAL VERSION WAS GRANTED.



The Company in the Third Millennium

Female Liverymen

Past Master Ralph Vickers took over the mantle of Clerk in July 1995. During his tenure perhaps one of the most radical moves was in April 1999, to allow women to become Liverymen in their own right for the first time since the 18th Century.

The first women to be elected to the Livery were robed in July 2002 and by July 2018 the number of female Liverymen has risen to nineteen, with eight female Freemen.

Industry Committee

In 1997 the Court approved the setting up of an Industry Committee with the aim of promoting effective support of the plastering industry. In the first year of the Committee's existence, the Chairman, Past Master Paddy Wettern, discussed with colleges specialising in plastering courses how the Company might encourage expertise with prizes to students and colleges.

Register of Associates

In 1997, Past Master Peter Cook, as part of the Industry Committee, directed the Company in setting up a new register of Master Plasterers. A register of Certified Plasterers had been set up by the Company in 1929 but became defunct.

The idea was well received in the Industry and the first Register of Associates containing sixty members

who had been elected Associates of the Company was available in 1999.

In November 2000 the first printed Register of Associates was issued to some 6,000 Architects, Developers, Contractors and Specifiers and contained almost 100 names. The Company is currently examining further ways in which this initiative can be developed.

Awards for Student Achievement

October 1999 also saw the first presentation to colleges of awards for student achievement in plastering qualifications, with the reintroduction of the Harmer, Crombie and Clanrye Trophies and the Regency Vase.

The ceremony now encompasses awards to commercial training providers and to the top ACA students in the country for both solid and fibrous plastering. A Lifetime Contribution to Training is recognised with a silver salver given by Past Master David Holliday. The Sword of Excellence, presented by Past Master Michael Hall, is awarded to the plastering Company showing most commitment to training. In 2017 an 'Apprentice of the Year' Award was introduced.

Website

Near the end of 2000, the Company's website went online.

www.plastererslivery.co.uk

The Livery really was in the 21st Century and just about to celebrate its Quincentenary.

Governance of the Livery 1501

In 1501 the Company received its first Royal Charter from Henry VII, allowing the creation of a Guild with legal status, governed by the Master and Wardens, to manage the trade and includes an interesting reference to '**the Master and Wardens and brethren and sisters of the Guild**'.

1765

The Company's current Rules, Orders, Constitutions and Ordinances (ROCOs) were approved by the Chancellor and two Chief Justices.

There are some 13,750 words of rather old fashioned English in the ROCOs and significant parts have become outdated but they remain a fascinating historical document.

2001

A Strategic Plan was presented to the Court which suggested that the Company should embark upon governance by objectives.

A Committee structure was drawn up to address and report on matters which affected the progress of the Livery towards achievement of its objectives. This was approved by the Court and resulted in Committees being set up to concentrate on Public Relations, Membership and Functions to work alongside existing Committees of Industry, Investment and Finance and the Company's Charitable Trust.

2003

The Company re-introduced Common Hall calling all members together to discuss matters of interest to the Livery. Arising from the original medieval Guild assemblies, the Plasterers' Common Hall is now an annual event held prior to the Robing Ceremony in July.

The Company has five Royal Charters of which the second and fourth have been lost.

The first allowing the creation of a Guild with legal status to manage the trade.

The third, granted by Elizabeth I requires that the Rules and Ordinances shall be approved by the 'Chancellor and two Chief Justices'.

The fifth Charter, granted by Charles II restates the previous authorities, distinguishes various trades and extends the jurisdiction of the Company.



2004

The Court agreed to the re-introduction of Quarterage, starting from 1 January 2004. Quarterage had been charged to all Liverymen until January 1865 when the minutes of the Court Meeting stated that the Court will 'remit charges until further notice'.

The Court agreed that the minimum age for election to the Livery be reduced from 30 to 25, and the minimum age for admission to the Freedom was set at 21.

2006

The Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Court for the five year period 2006-2011 and has the following Mission Statement:

- To ensure the positive development of the ancient values of the Company in a modern environment and create a vibrant, sustainable future for the Livery and its membership.
- To make a difference in our support of the industry we represent, the charities we assist, our affiliations, the Lord Mayor and the City of London.

2008

Following the Court's decision that the ROCOs should be reviewed new Rules and Procedures (RaPs) have been written. At 2,680 words The RaPs are rather shorter than the ROCOs, largely because the new document is deliberately more general. There is very little new in the RaPs – they simply reflect the operation of the Livery in 2008 and provide an understandable set of Rules and Procedures.

2011

The Court embarked on the preparation of a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2011-

2016. The Clerk sent a Questionnaire to all Members in February 2011 and the responses were used to identify relevant membership and other issues needing to be addressed in the Plan.

The Master Plasterer Certificate was introduced for the first time.

De Bradshaw was elected Renter Warden, the first recorded Lady Liveryman to hold the post.

2012

A new 5-year Strategic Plan was adopted in October 2011 and important issues relating to membership, finance and the growth of the Charity were addressed.

The Company held its first 'Open Day' in June 2012 as part of the "Celebrate the City" weekend linked to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympic Games.

2013

The Company's first Lady Master, Ms De Bradshaw, took office on 16th July 2013.

2014

First Apprentice "Bound" since 1840.

2015

Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Cornwall, Honorary Liveryman, visits Plaisterers' Hall for the first time.

2016

A new 5-year Strategic Plan was approved by the Court in October 2016. After the flood on Good Friday 2016 the Hall reopens in November 2016.

2019

Alderman Alison Gowman becomes the first sitting Alderman to serve as Master since Thomas Kelly in 1831.

The Clerk and the Beadle

1996

The retirement of Henry Mott, ending the family's 147 years of dedicated and unbroken service to the office of Clerk made way for Past Master Ralph Vickers to become Clerk. Holding office till 2002 Ralph's term of office included the reintroduction of female members and ended with the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the first Charter.

2002

Hilary Machtus was elected to office as Clerk having served as Assistant to both the previous Clerks. Her Clerkship saw the Company 'itinerant' during the reconstruction of the offices above the Hall and the substantial review of the governance of the Livery.

2003

Michael Coyle our Beadle retired in July 2003. Michael joined the Livery staff as Hall Keeper and Beadle in 1972 when the Hall opened, retiring from Hall Manager's duties in 1995. During this time he served 31 Masters and three Clerks.

Following his retirement Michael was invited to become a Liveryman of the Company and was subsequently robed in July 2004. The Beadle's duties were taken over by Jamie Wallis who has acted as Toastmaster for a number of years.

2010

Hilary Machtus retired as Clerk and was appointed Clerk Emeritus. The new Clerk, Nigel Bamping, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors of the City of London took office at the Robing Ceremony on 20 July 2010.

How did the 'i' get in?

The original Charter of 1501 is written in Latin. However, the Charter granted by Elizabeth I about 1596 is in English, and the Company's name is spelled 'Plaisterers' and the word 'maister' is spelt with an 'i'. Then in the Charter granted by Charles II in 1667, the Company is referred to as the 'Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Plaisterers London', and the word 'master' is spelled without the 'i'.

The next reference appears in the engraving on the Loving Cup presented to the Company by Past Master Thomas Kelly on his election to the office of Lord Mayor in 1836, here the name is spelled without the 'i'. The letter written by the Under Secretary of State, War Office, dated 30 August 1901, thanking the Company for their contributions towards the campaign against the Boers, spells it without the 'i'. It would seem, therefore, that from at least 1667 the pronouncing of the name has been a reflection of the origins of the Company – Plaisterers.

The Clerks since 1848 have used that pronunciation when admitting Freeman to the Company. However, in the 1950s more members were themselves plasterers or closely involved in the industry and preferred to distinguish themselves from other members of the trade by saying they were members of the Plaisterers' Company that is, pronounced with the 'i'.

In 1960, the Court resolved that the pronunciation would be left to each member to decide which he/she preferred.



The City of London

Local Government

The Constitution of the City of London Corporation differs from that of other municipalities in a number of ways. The voting rights of the Liverymen of the City Companies is perhaps the most striking example.

Outside the City of London, councillors are elected by the local government electors, whilst the Mayor, who serves for one year, and Aldermen, who serve for four years, are elected by the Council. Sheriffs are appointed by the Crown. By custom they retire at 70, the retirement age of Magistrates (Aldermen were previously all JPs).

However, in the City of London, local government is exercised by the Court of Common Council, consisting of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Councilmen. Aldermen and Common Councilmen are chosen by the electors of the twenty-five Wards of the City. This includes residents, partnerships and sole traders as well as corporate and other organisations.

Although Aldermen are appointed to hold office for life, subject to surrender or disqualification, they now offer themselves for re-election every six years. By custom they retire at the age of 70, in line with the retirement age of Magistrates (Aldermen were previously all JPs). Common Councilmen face Ward elections every four years with the next being in March 2021.

The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and certain officers, however, are chosen each year by another electoral body, consisting of the liverymen of the City's Livery Companies, known as Common Hall. There are 110 Livery Companies having some 30,000 liverymen, making this the largest gathering of citizens for any municipal purpose.

Such an assembly places the election of the Lord Mayor on a far wider basis than the usual appointment by a Council.

The custom whereby the liverymen in Common Hall select two persons for submission to the Court of Aldermen for the final choice of one of them as Lord Mayor was firmly established in 1406.

Before a citizen can attain to the office of Lord Mayor, he or she must submit him or herself to election on three occasions and finally to scrutiny by the Court of Aldermen.

Firstly

The voters of the Ward for which they are a candidate for the office of Aldermen.

Secondly

The Liverymen in Common Hall assembled, on election as Sheriff.

Thirdly

The Liverymen in Common Hall, on nomination for Lord Mayor.

Finally

The Court of Aldermen, select one of the two persons nominated by the Livery.



As many Aldermen serve their apprenticeship on the Common Council, an earlier election by Ward voters can usually be inserted at the head of this list. The Elections of both the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs require the approval of the Sovereign.

In the City, the Lord Mayor has precedence over every subject and takes his or her place immediately after the Sovereign. Traditionally, when the

Sovereign enters the City, the Lord Mayor awaits at the City boundary. On ceremonial occasions the Lord Mayor surrenders the City Sword point downwards and on receiving it back bears it erect in procession before the Sovereign. This ceremony is now only occasionally performed.

Outside the City, the Lord Mayor takes position next below Privy Councillors.

Freedom of the City of London

For centuries the Freedom was essential to every man or woman who desired to exercise a trade or handicraft within the City.

Among the privileges were immunity from toll at all markets and fairs throughout England, freedom from impressment into the armed forces, exclusive right to trade both by wholesale and retail within the City, and the right to vote at Ward and Parliamentary elections.

As long ago as 1275 Andrew Horn, a City Chamberlain, wrote,

‘It should be known that there are three methods by which a man acquires the Freedom of the City; first that he be a man born in the City lawfully from his father, secondly, that he be an apprentice with a freeman for seven years and not less, and thirdly that a man may compound the Chamberlain for his freedom before the Mayor and other Aldermen’.

These three methods, known as Patrimony, Servitude and Nomination, still apply today:

By Patrimony

For children of Freemen – provided one parent was a Freeman prior to the applicant's birth.

By Servitude

For apprentices who have served a full apprenticeship to a Freeman.

By Nomination

Persons of any nationality may apply for the Freedom by nomination of two sponsors who will be Common Councilmen of the City of London, Aldermen or members of a Livery Company.

Applicants may also be presented by a Livery Company. In addition, there is another specialised category open to those people who wish to stand for election to the Court of Common Council and who do not have ready access to the Nominators outlined (ie the Lord Mayor, Sheriff, Aldermen, Common Councilmen of the City of London or Liverymen).

In such a case an applicant can be supported by any two electors registered in the City or by two persons eligible to sign an application for a passport.

The Present Day Privileges Enjoyed by Freemen and their Dependants

Freemen of the City may take apprentices without the intervention of a livery company, according to the Custom of London, to serve a bona fide apprenticeship. Such apprentices must be bound before the Chamberlain and enrolled in his office, and at the expiration of their indentures will, on proof of faithful service, be entitled to the freedom of the City by servitude.

Freemen of the City in distressed circumstances are eligible, subject to certain conditions, for admission to one of the Corporation's Almshouses, which provide accommodation for married couples and single persons. The widow, widower or child of a deceased Freeman is, in certain circumstances, also eligible for admission.

The children of Freemen of the City are, as far as possible, given preference on a waiting list for admission to one of the Corporation's schools.

The orphan children of Freemen or Freewomen of the City are, subject to certain conditions, eligible for admission to the City of London Freemen's School, where they are maintained and educated. The small fees payable for admission to the Freedom of the City are devoted to the upkeep of this School.

Widows or widowers of Freemen of the City are eligible to receive small sums of money annually at Christmas time (on application).

There are certain charities administered by some of the Livery Companies and other trustees applicable generally to necessitous Freemen and their dependants.

The Freedom of a Company may entitle a person to privileges within that Company and confer rights in respect of its charitable funds. The Freedom both of the City and a Company is a prior requisite to the admission to the Livery of that Company.



Livery Companies of London

The Origins

Guilds were common all over Europe during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. They started as religious and social fraternities and the craft element grew almost accidentally, largely because people of the same craft tended to live in the same neighbourhood.

The first definitive mention of a London Guild was of the Weavers. Their dues to the Crown are recorded in the Exchequer Roll of 1130.

Having no meeting place, a Guild attached itself to a neighbouring church or hospital, whose patron saint it adopted. Legend has it that St. Bartholomew was adopted early in Christian history by the plasterers of Rome. His Saint's Day is 24 August.

The religious side of the fraternities influenced the character of the Guilds and in particular gave them their Liveries. These distinctive costumes were common in the higher grades of life in the Middle Ages. All great households provided their dependants with a livery.

Another aspect of the fraternities that was perpetuated in the Guilds was the encouragement of good fellowship and hospitality. Meetings of the fraternity for funerals or masses were followed by feasts that grew more elaborate until they

finally became the entertainments for which the Companies are famous today.

Survival

In 1835 the Common Council decided that membership of a Company was no longer necessary for the Freedom, or full citizenship, of the City of London causing fears that the end of these ancient corporate bodies was in sight.

These fears were groundless. Today over 30,000 people are entitled to wear the Livery of their respective companies, well over double the number in 1882 when the Royal Commission on the Livery Companies was held. However from 1842 to 1860 the number of Freemen in the Plaisterers Company fell from 140 to 67 and that the number of liverymen fell from 79 to 46.

Livery Companies have amalgamated or fallen by the wayside throughout the years, leaving 110 remaining today.

The Merchant Taylors and Skinners Companies take it in turns yearly to be sixth and seventh. The Parish Clerks, the Watermen and Lightermen's Companies are without Livery.

LIVERY COMPANIES IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

1	Mercers	41	Joiners & Ceilers	79	Solicitors
2	Grocers	42	Weavers	80	Farmers
3	Drapers	43	Woolmen	81	Air Pilots
4	Fishmongers	44	Scriveners	82	Tobacco Pipe Makers & Tobacco Blenders
5	Goldsmiths	45	Fruiterers	83	Furniture Makers
6/7	Merchant Taylors	46	Plasterers	84	Scientific Instrument Makers
7/6	Skinners	47	Stationers & Newspaper Makers	85	Chartered Surveyors
8	Haberdashers	48	Broderers	86	Chartered Accountants
9	Salters	49	Upholders	87	Chartered Secretaries
10	Ironmongers	50	Musicians	88	Builders Merchants
11	Vintners	51	Turners	89	Launderers
12	Clothworkers	52	Basketmakers	90	Marketors
13	Dyers	53	Glaziers	91	Actuaries
14	Brewers	54	Horners	92	Insurers
15	Leathersellers	55	Farriers	93	Arbitrators
16	Pewterers	56	Paviors	94	Engineers
17	Barbers	57	Loriners	95	Fuellers
18	Cutlers	58	Apothecaries	96	Lightmongers
19	Bakers	59	Shipwrights	97	Environmental Cleaners
20	Wax Chandlers	60	Spectacle Makers	98	Chartered Architects
21	Tallow Chandlers	61	Clockmakers	99	Constructors
22	Armourers & Brasiers	62	Glovers	100	Information Technologists
23	Girdlers	63	Feltmakers	101	Tin Plate Workers
24	Butchers	64	Framework Knitters	102	Water Conservators
25	Saddlers	65	Needlemakers	103	Firefighters
26	Carpenters	66	Gardeners	104	Hackney Carriage Drivers
27	Cordwainers	67	Tin Plate Workers	105	Management Consultants
28	Painter-Stainers	68	Wheelwrights	106	International Bankers
29	Curriers	69	Distillers	107	Tax Advisers
30	Masons	70	Pattenmakers	108	Security Professionals
31	Plumbers	71	Glass Sellers	109	Educators
32	Innholders	72	Coachmakers	110	Arts Scholars
33	Founders	73	Gunmakers		
34	Poulters	74	Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers		
35	Cooks	75	Makers of Playing Cards		
36	Coopers	76	Fanmakers		
37	Tylers & Bricklayers	77	Carmen		
38	Bowyers	78	Master Mariners		
39	Fletchers				
40	Blacksmiths				



Calendar & Events

2019-2021





2019	Sept	Mon 02	Charity Trustees @ 1.00pm
		Tues 03	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Weds 04	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Weds 04	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 09	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
	Oct	Tues 01	October Court and Autumn Livery Dinner
		Weds 02	Election of Lord Mayor & Informal Lunch
	Nov	Sat 09	Lord Mayor's Show & Luncheon
		Tues 12	Past Masters' Meeting & Lunch @ 11.30am (TBC)
		Tues 19	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Weds 20	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Weds 20	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 25	Training Awards Presentation Lunch
		Tues 26	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Dec	Mon 02 Carol Service & Christmas Supper
	Dec	Thurs 05	Investment Committee @ 12 noon (joint with Charity Trustees)
		Thurs 05	Charity Trustees @ 1.30pm
2020	Jan	Tues 14	January Quarterly Court & New Year Dinner for Masters & Clerks
	March	Tues 03	Charity Trustees @ 1.00pm
		Weds 04	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Thurs 05	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Tues 10	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Tues 10	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Fri 27	United Guilds Service & Lunch
	April	Tues 07	April Quarterly Court & Spring Livery Dinner
		Fri 10	Good Friday
		Mon 13	Easter Monday
	May	TBA	Annual Banquet
	June	Mon 01	Investment Committee @ 12 noon (joint with Charity Trustees)

	June	Mon 01	Charity Trustees @ 1.30pm
		Thurs 04	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Weds 10	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Thurs 11	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Thurs 11	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
	Weds 24		Election of Sheriffs & Informal Lunch
	July	Sun 05	Annual Kelly Service
		Tues 07	Quarterly Court & Court Dinner
		Tues 21	Common Hall, Robing, Service & Dinner
	Sept	Mon 07	Charity Trustees @ 1.00pm
		Tues 08	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Weds 09	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Weds 09	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 14	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Tues 29	Election of Lord Mayor & Informal Lunch (TBC)
	Oct	Tues 06	October Court & Autumn Livery Dinner
	Nov	Tues 10	Past Masters' Meeting & Lunch @ 11.30am (TBC)
		Sat 14	Lord Mayor's Show & Luncheon
		Mon 23	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Tues 24	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
	Dec	Weds 02	Carol Service & Christmas Supper
		Mon 07	Investment Committee @ 12 noon (joint with Charity Trustees)
	2021	Mon 07	Charity Trustees @ 1.30pm
		Jan	Tues 12 January Quarterly Court & New Year Dinner for Masters & Clerks
	Mar	TBA	United Guilds Service & Lunch
	April	Fri 02	Good Friday
		Mon 05	Easter Monday
		Tues 13	April Quarterly Court & Spring Livery Dinner



Inter livery sport, social and other events

There are an increasing number of annual (or sometimes occasional) inter-livery sporting contests, or other activities, exhibitions etc. They are usually organised by one Livery Company, but open to all others (though this may not always be the case).

Some examples are below.



Art Exhibitions organised by the Painter-Stainers' Company



Sheep Drive organised by the Woolmen's Company (September)



Bridge organised by the Makers of Playing Cards Company (first Monday in March)



Shooting (clays) organised by the Environmental Cleaners' Company (May)



Golf organised by the Coachmakers' Company (May, the 'Prince Arthur'). Other golf competitions are also arranged.



Shooting (rifle) organised by the Bakers' Company



Skiing organised by the Ironmongers' Company (January)



Pancake Races organised by the Poulterers' Company (Shrove Tuesday)



Tacitus Lecture organised by the World Traders' Company (fourth Thursday in February)



Pewter Live Exhibition organised by the Pewterers' Company (June)



Tennis organised by the Feltmakers' Company (September)



Sailing organised by the City Livery YC (offshore)



Wizadry in Wood Exhibition organised by the Turners' Company

The above are, more often than not, advertised in the Clerk's Newsletter. If you are interested in receiving more information about any of the events listed, please contact the Clerk's Office.

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, 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.

Location

Livery Hall
71 Basinghall Street
Guildhall
London EC2V 5DH

Cost

There is a non-refundable charge of £20 per person for the course.

Dates

Monday 21st October 2019

Tuesday 19th November 2019

Tuesday 11th February 2020

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Tuesday 15th September 2020

Monday 9th November 2020

Bookings

www.liverycommitteecourse.org/city-briefings.php

Wardens and Court Assistants City Course

Learn how the Civic and financial City works. This all day course is intended for Senior or Upper Wardens due to take the chair over the coming 12 months. Their spouses, partners and consorts are also very welcome to attend.

The course covers how the City Corporation and key office holders operate and interact, the working of the City and financial services and the role of Master. There is a special session for Consorts.

Location

Guildhall
71 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 7HH

Cost

The course costs £75.



Plasterers' Lodge

FOUNDED IN 1955

The Plasterers Lodge was founded in 1955 by several Past Masters and Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers. It celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005 with an open meeting to dedicate a new banner.

There are some fifty Liverymen who are members of the Plasterers' Lodge including twelve Past Masters of the Livery, who meet, by kind permission of the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company, in Plasterers' Hall four times each year. Some 20 or more Sister Livery Lodges meet in the City and regular inter-visiting takes place between them, especially by the Worshipful Master during his year in Office, which fosters good relations between the Sister City Livery Lodges.

Freemasonry is one of the oldest and largest secular fraternal societies. It is a society concerned with moral, social and spiritual values, and its members are taught through a series of dramas using the tools of a stonemason in a symbolical or allegorical way.

During the 18th Century, a period known as the Age of Enlightenment, a great many scientists and other notable men became Freemasons including Sir Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin, William Hogarth, George Washington and Sir John Soane. Among those of the 20th Century who were Freemasons were HM King George VI, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Ernest Shackleton, Captain Scott, Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher, Rudyard Kipling, Duke Ellington and Clive Lloyd.

Freemasonry expects from its members a respect for the law. Its principles do not in any way conflict with its members' duties as citizens. Indeed it should strengthen them in carrying out their public and private responsibilities.

Freemasons undertake to follow three grand principles in their lives, which are expressed (in 18th Century language) as:

Brotherly Love

Showing tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behaving with the same kindness and understanding towards others as they would wish to be treated themselves.

Relief

Practising charity and caring for those less fortunate than ourselves, not only our own members and families, but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary service.

Truth

Developing high moral standards of truth and honesty, which we aim to achieve in our own lives.



Freemasonry is also a lot of fun and in the Plasterers' Lodge we enjoy evenings together with the opportunity to get to know other members of the Livery and entertain masonic guests in the wonderful surroundings of the Plasterers' Hall.

For further information please contact the Lodge Secretary, Past Master Nick Carr.

The dates for meetings this year are as follows:

Monday 11th November 2019

Monday 9th March 2020

Monday 8th June 2020

Monday 14th September 2020

Monday 9th November 2020

1570-1571	Simon Bedaugh
1571-1572	Cornelys Hand
1572-1573	Raffe Bettess
1573-1574	Thomas Kelley
1574-1575	Cornelys Hand
1575-1576	Raffe Bettess
1576-1577	Thomas Kelley
1577-1578	(John Bettess

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Photographs supplied by: Phil McCarthy www.philmccarthyphotography.smugmug.com
Front cover: The Plasterers' visit to Wentworth Woodhouse
Back cover: A Tudor Rose in marzipan from the Mistress' 'Dining Through the Ages' Lunch