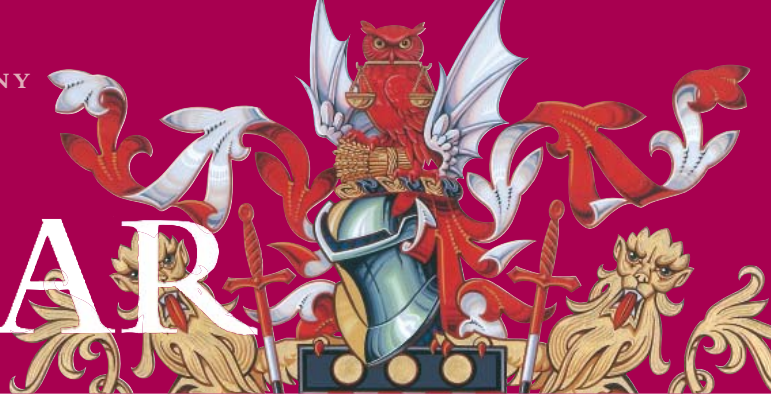


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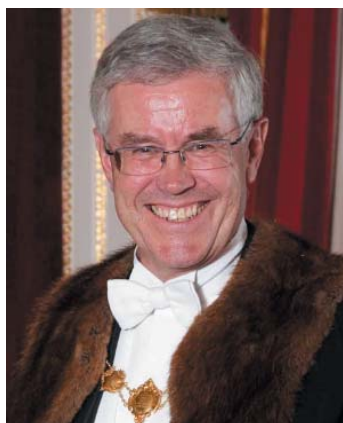
THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' COMPANY

October 2009



THE MASTER'S REPORT

"Have I enjoyed myself?"



Simon Kolesar, Master

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How many times have I been asked "Are you enjoying your year as Master?" and "What has been the highlight of your year so far?" As my year comes to a close I will endeavour to tell you.

My year got off to a great start with the launch of our new business plan and I am pleased to say that twelve months on I can report good progress on most fronts. We have an extremely vibrant and active Company which has been demonstrated by the level of support for our events throughout the year. Our links with the City could not be better, having had two Liverymen as Sheriffs in the last two years and all going well Court Assistant Michael Bear will be elected Lord Mayor in 2011. Our links with the RICS could be better and there is more work to do in that area. Hopefully better progress will be made next year, particularly as we are fortunate to have Liveryman Max Crofts as President, which I think makes it three in a row!

I am extremely pleased to report that our numbers have grown considerably during the year due to your help and the sterling work done by the Elections Committee under the guidance of Senior Warden, Laurence Johnstone. He has kept our noses to the grindstone and it has really paid off. As I write this end of term report we have 29 more Liverymen than at the start of the year and there are more in the pipeline.

At the start of the year we set ourselves a target of growing our charitable funds by £100,000 per year for the next three years. During the year we were approached by The Bigwood Trust and asked to take over the management of their funds. The paperwork is currently with the Charities Commission and I am ever hopeful that by the time you read this report, they will have given their consent to the transfer. The target for our first year will have been met.

The other key objective of the business plan was to support our education initiatives via our sponsored schools, our bursary scheme and the Chartered Surveyors Training Trust. The Livery Liaisons, established last year by Past Master David Larkin, have significantly improved the interface with our four chosen schools and we are currently sponsoring 9 students at university through our Bursary scheme. It is extremely difficult for the CSTT to find employers to take on their students, but progress is being made. My thanks, in particular, to Court Assistant Roger Southam for his continuing drive and determination in leading the CSTT.

It has been an immense privilege to be Master at the

same time as one of our Liverymen has been a Sheriff. Past Master George Gillon has had an exemplary year as Sheriff and has been so beautifully supported by his escort, Past Master Delva Patman. George has really helped to raise the Company's profile in the City and has been so welcoming and inclusive of Yvonne and me at many City functions. Through George's good office I have been invited to the Lighting Up Dinner (when we trial the arrangements for the Lord Mayor's Banquet) and to the Silent ceremony (at which the Lord Mayor is appointed). The Company was invited to take an open landau in the Lord Mayor's Show (despite the fact that it rained all day!) and Yvonne and I went to the Lord Mayor's Banquet itself when we met Lord Mandelson!! Then that most memorable of lunches at the Old Bailey, with George in his official capacity entertaining the High Court Judges. My congratulations to George and Delva on what I know has been a hugely successful and rewarding year.

During my year I have been pleased to introduce our new Chaplain, Rev. John Kronenberg. John trained as a Building Surveyor and so has a built in knowledge of our profession. Some of you will have met John at The Mansion House in June, but if not there will be an opportunity to say hello at the Carol Service in December when John will be leading the festive celebrations.

The Livery is all about fellowship and I hope you will have enjoyed the wide range of social and sporting events during the year. For the first time we held a go-karting event (to be repeated next year) and rang the changes at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama by staging a percussion competition. Our first fund raising event at Christchurch, in conjunction with LandAid, raised over £20,000 for our Bursary Fund and the CSTT. The visit to Salisbury gave a great opportunity to go behind the scenes of Sir Edward Heath's House and at the same time learn a little more about his imposing neighbour, Salisbury Cathedral.

Probably the most humbling part of my year was the Friends and Families Banquet at The Mansion House. The level of support given by Liverymen to fill The Mansion House was quite simply overwhelming. The Lord Mayor commented on this during his speech and congratulated us on the number of young people we had encouraged to come along. As he said "they are the future of the Livery movement".

In every Master's year there is bound to be a mishap - not disclosed to the Livery at large. For me this is an

opportunity to come clean! There is no doubt that the worst afternoon of my year was when I left my gown, chain and badge of office on a train! Only one thing to do and that was to race the train to the end of the line some 20 miles away and hope that no one had pinched it en route. I arrived one minute before the train and you have no idea how pleased I was to see the guard carrying my gown case down the platform!

The most rewarding aspect of my year has been to see the look of pleasure on the faces of the people we help. Sergeant Lee Turner from 135 Independent Geographic Squadron when he received the Company's Endeavour Award; Billie Griffin from St. Saviour's and St. Olave's School when she received a bursary, the first of her family to go to university; the Year 10 students at Robert Clack School when I presented their work experience certificates and the CSTT trainees to whom I presented diplomas. These are but some of the people we have helped in my year and until you witness it, you have no idea how much our support is really appreciated.

And so my year comes to and end. None of it would have been possible without the support of those of you who sit on Committees and the Court of Assistants. The Wardens have been unstinting in their hard work and the Clerk has, as ever, organised us extremely well. It has been a pleasure working with you all and I cannot thank you enough for your support and commitment in the last twelve months.

It has been the most fantastic year and a real privilege to be Master of the Company. Thank you for the honour you bestowed on me twelve months ago and for allowing me the opportunity of gathering so many happy memories of a truly wonderful year.

Simon Kolesar, Master

THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

This committee looks after the Company's finances, administration and anything else which falls outside the remit of the other committees!

The stewardship of the Company's funds is a large part of the work and this responsibility has been very sharply in focus given the turbulence in world stock markets. Inevitably the Company's investments have not escaped the resultant volatility and it is disappointing to have to report that our funds have declined in value and the income derived therefrom, which is an important part of funding the Company's activities, has also sharply fallen.

As at 30th June 2009 the Company portfolio was valued at £277,815 and in the twelve months to this date had produced a total return of -12.9%, albeit outperforming the benchmark by 3.3%. As at 1st July 2008 the portfolio was valued at £340,555 so the scale of the reduction of 18.4% can be readily appreciated. During the year the Company received an income of £6,000 from the portfolio.

Given the performance against the benchmark it is fair to say that our Investment Managers, Schroders, (now in their

second year of appointment) have achieved a reasonably credible outcome which has largely been the result of their asset allocation with only 54% being invested in equities and a strong cash position of 13%. Going forward this subject remains under close review and this Committee will continue to work closely with the Charitable Board and the Managers as the forecast is for further difficulties in global financial markets and we are very mindful of the need for caution and the avoidance of risk.

The day to day management of the Company's finances has been greatly assisted by the wise counsel of James Harman, our auditor and accountant who works closely with The Clerk and our Bookkeeper. His wide experience with other Livery Companies is of great value which together with the input from Committee members has resulted in some meaningful cost savings and improved efficiencies.

Achieving all this would not be possible without the hard work of the Committee members. My thanks are due to you all for your help and support over the last twelve months.

David Larkin, Past Master

CHARITABLE GIVING

Not the best of years for our charitable funds but solid progress was made to ensure that we finished the year with our investment funds intact in the sum of £1m. This result is almost entirely due the advice received from our investment manager Schroders and specifically Kate Rogers – thank you.

Our financial year runs from the end of September to the beginning of October and each year our donations are in the order of £65,000 to £70,000.

Our giving remains focused on -

- Support of the Chartered Surveyors Training Trust
- Support for our adopted schools to include the provision of bursaries
- Support for the Christchurch Gardens Youth Centre

Regrettably, I have to report that the Youth Centre at Christchurch Gardens will be closing due to the withdrawal of LA funding and the retirement of its leader Derek Cox. The Charitable Board is reviewing replacement options and the livery will be further advised in the spring edition of the Charity Newsletter.

Our Bursary Fund has continued to grow towards its target of £250,000 and currently stands at £130,000 with major contributions received through the year from the Master and Senior Wardens parachute jump and the Celebration of Music Event.

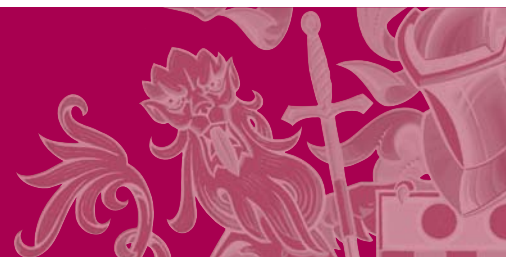
Of particular note this year and a major boost for our charitable funds will be the proposed merger with The Guy Bigwood Award which will add in the order of £100,000 to our capital. The Guy Bigwood Award was established in 1962 by the partners of Messrs. Edward



The Victor Ludorum presented to Spada and Taylor Wessing by the Master



Below. The Master, Wardens, Immediate Past Master and Clerk presenting Sheriff George Gillon with a leather bound visitors book engraved with the Company's Coat of Arms at the Presentation of Addresses Ceremony held in the Old Library, Guildhall on Saturday 8 November 2008





Son & Bigwood, 'to encourage and promote educational activities in and concerning the profession of Chartered Surveying and Land Management'.

These objectives are closely aligned with those of the Livery and the Bigwood Trustees concluded that there were particular synergies in merging the funds.

The newly created Fundraising Committee is exploring whether or not there are similar Funds where a merger may be beneficial to both parties.

Although the market and general economy will continue to be challenging I remain convinced that the Livery can and will continue to make a difference with its chosen charities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rob Bould, Junior Warden

PROPERTY MARKETING AWARDS 2009

With a subdued property market and a difficult year behind us it was a welcome relief to see so many faces at the 2009 Property Marketing Awards.

Now in its 5th year in association with Estates Gazette the level of entries to the 17 categories remained pleasingly high, with even Investment receiving some! This year's panel of judges was again chaired by Liz Peace, Chief Executive of the British Property Federation who together with fellow Liveryman, were joined by professional marketer and President of the Marketing Society, Andrew Marsden.

The Awards ceremony was once again held at the Marriott on Grosvenor Square with over 400 people welcomed by Geoff Hadwick of Estates Gazette and myself on behalf of the company, introducing a short video about the work of the Charitable Trust. Sadly this year with budget constraints there was no celebrity warm up act but from the atmosphere during the presentations Geoff and I obviously did not dampen spirits.

The Company's Victor Ludorum was this year presented to Spada and Taylor Wessing for their 'Behind the Green Façade' a thought provoking look at climate change on property.

The unstinting financial and administrative support of Estates Gazette was crucial this year and we hope we will continue to work with them in the coming years. Many thanks to all the Liverymen who helped in the judging process and all those who supported the awards through their entries and attendance.

Ken Morgan, Assistant

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We have had a busy and enjoyable year looking after the schools and incorporating a number of new initiatives. We continue to offer Bursaries to those students who are embarking upon Degree Courses linked to the property profession and were able to offer four this year to students from Archbishop Tenison, Robert Clack and St

Saviours. In addition to the Lionheart Awards, we have donated back-packs to Robert Clack for use on their school trips, St John Ambulance uniforms to St Saviours and laptop computers to Archbishop Tenison.

Activities continue to be varied and include the Schools Seminar, in-school workshops, visits to the Old Bailey, Middle Temple, Canary Wharf as well as Ironbridge and the Weald and Downland Museum.

Sir Paul Grant, Headmaster of Robert Clack kindly spoke about our help in his school's prizegiving this July: "They (the WCCS) open doors and take children to exciting and significant venues in London and beyond. In the past when we have needed financial support for special events and initiatives, they have always been helpful"

I am pleased to report that we have an ever growing body of Liverymen who are keen to assist. The one area that requires assistance is the provision of work placements. We also require more mentors for a couple of the schools. This is where liverymen can help to make a difference to those students who do not have the adult support at home that they need.

Liz Edwards, Assistant

THE LADIES' ROYAL OPERA HOUSE VISIT AND LUNCH

On 10th February 2009 we gathered for a guided tour of the vast Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, followed by a delicious lunch at the end of the visit.

We had a brief introduction to the history of the building, and the personalities connected, such as Smirke and Barry. We heard how several fires affected the Covent Garden site and how the Dixon Jones rebuild of 1999 opened up more space, particularly Floral Hall (now Paul Hamlyn Hall). The guide explained how the architects wanted to show some of Barry's original designs and provide much better back stage facilities for both the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet.

Taking us through the impressive entrance, our guide vividly described what the Crush Bar must have been like with gas lamps, top hats and swirling crinolines. Tiptoeing into the famous horse-shoe-shaped auditorium, the scale of the building became clear. The staging rehearsal that was taking place for The Flying Dutchman was intriguing – there were people standing around with clipboards making technical notes and coils of giant ropes everywhere. The stage had been transformed by vast curved grey riveted metal sheets, similar to those in the Titanic film, that swept up at such an angle you could hardly imagine anyone standing on them let alone singing!

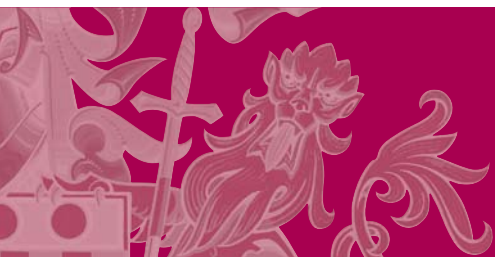
We then went backstage where we saw the Scenery area and the racks of dancers' costumes close up – they all looked so flimsy and yet had to be so hard wearing.

I would like to thank Yvonne Kolesar for arranging both the visit and the delicious lunch afterwards.

Ruth Briant, Liveryman



Above: The 'Big Event' - A Celebration of Music at Christ Church, Spitalfields, on Wednesday 25th April 2009.



KNIGHTHOOD FOR PAUL GRANT

Paul Grant, Headmaster of Robert Clack School in Dagenham one of the four schools that we support through our Education Initiative, was Knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June. Sir Paul took over the school 12 years ago, when it faced a gang culture and disruption from pupils who swore at teachers, refused to attend lessons and even started a serious fire.

Sir Paul admits to have been very worried by the situation when, unexpected, a letter arrived from our then Master, Delva Patman, who had heard about the school's difficulties.

Delva offered Paul the unconditional support of our Company and instigated what is now our Education Initiative as a channel for our practical and moral support. Sir Paul was able to use our Company's support to change perceptions of his strategy. It worked - last year Robert Clack School got the best state school A-level results in the capital.

Sir Paul comes from a large working-class family in Liverpool and said he learned his values from his parents. Initially, he thought that the letter telling him of the honour was a wind-up from one of his brothers.

"I thought this was all an elaborate hoax. This honour really is saying to children growing up in challenging circumstances that incredible things can happen if you get the opportunity and work very hard." All Liverymen should be proud of the small but significant role that the Company has played in this remarkable success story.

Daniel Carter, Assistant

THE WCCS KART GRAND PRIX ENDURANCE CHALLENGE 2009

Ascari, Nuvolari, Fangio, Moss, Clark, Brabham, Mansell, Hill, Schumaker.world motor racing champions all, BUT none of them ever drove the circuit known as "Streatham Kart Raceway"!

On 26th February 2009 this challenging and sometimes treacherous indoor track (600 metres of former bus garage) was the venue for one of the most keenly contested Kart endurance races the WCCS has ever witnessed.yes, it was the first one we've done.

Driving skill varied widely across the broad tapestry of racing, from the fine silken threads of Chainbow Management to the erratically coarse weave of Bin Lamden's Bandits.

Teams from Chainbow and Watts fought for the lead in the early stages until 40 minutes into the race when Chestergate took the lead with 80 laps completed. Some innovative, but morally dubious, tactics by their "silver fox" strategist, Tony Collins, meant that they led the field from that point until the finish with a total of 242 laps completed in 2 hours. Some say he drove only 8 laps as a token gesture. some say he didn't drive at all.all we know is that Chestergate triumphed

over their nearest rival, Watts, by 4 clear laps, followed gallantly by Kolesar's Karters 1 further lap behind in third place.

The remaining positions, in order of finishing, were in 4th place, Chainbow Management (237 laps plus 8.6 seconds), 5th – Zip Factor (235 laps), 6th – Tuffin Ferraby Taylor (234 laps, 1 broken kart and 1 bruised ego), 7th – Daniel Connal Partnership (233 laps), 8th – FOM LLP (233 laps plus 1.01 seconds), 9th – Bin Lamden's Bandits (228 laps), 10th – Savills (219 laps) and Wacky Racers (219 laps plus 2.8 seconds).

Fastest lap of the race was by Watts at 25.945 seconds; fastest food was from a nearby pizza shop and fastest exit was by Tony Collins when it looked like he might have to buy us all a drink!

David Tuffin, Liveryman

BRUGE WEEKEND

You may think the tremendous weekend we had in Bruges will be remembered for the somewhat extraordinary experience of sitting in a restaurant in what must be one of Europe's gastronomic epicentres and not being served any food.

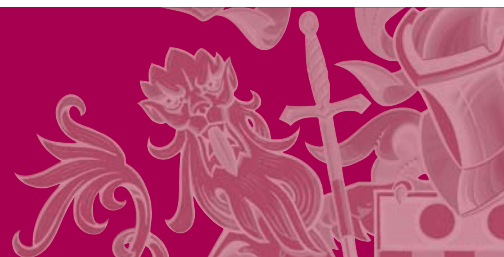
Well, that is not the case because we had a wonderful weekend with Simon Kolesar demonstrating that not only is he Master of the Company but, ably assisted by Yvonne, a master tour operator. We had ample instructions to get there and plenty of suggestions as to what to do once ensconced in an excellent hotel right in the city centre. There was a very warm welcome for everybody over a glass or two of Champagne on the first evening and nothing was too much trouble for Simon. He made sure everybody knew what was going on and he even served me Champagne at breakfast!

Bruges was an inspired choice, just 75 minutes from the Channel Tunnel or just as easy by train and it was a good time of year to get away for 48 hours with everything organized for you. We had an excellent dinner on Friday evening and on Saturday it was interesting to see how people spent the day. Some strode out over the 5km walk around this beautiful city, the Venice of the North; others enjoyed shopping with the streets enlivened by the Christmas markets, ice rinks and lights and a few braved a cold boat trip on the canals. The art museums of Bruges were superb but an Ice Sculpture Exhibition was also good fun to see. The chocolate shops were visited, after the obligatory moules, chips and beer for lunch. By late afternoon most people had retired for a Saturday afternoon 'zizz' and to watch the rugby on television.

As to the restaurant and dinner, I suppose they did serve us some food - some 8 very peppery winkles complete with picker, but not much else. As I am sure you would expect of your fellow Liverymen however, we kept calm, kept chatting and kept drinking, and were still drinking back in the hotel until 1.30 in morning - with Roger Southam appropriating the bar and a rather bemused night-watchman serving up bacon sarnies. The resulting ample portion of fun and laughter that we all



Above. Two sides of the Bruge weekend - from in front of the bar - and from behind the bar!





had was really far better than the missed helping of 'deer calves', something mit vegetables, or whatever it was.

Robert Stiles, Liveryman

THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC PERCUSSION COMPETITION

Did you know that the definition of a Percussion instrument is any object which produces a sound by being hit with an implement, shaken, rubbed, scraped, or by any other action which sets the object into vibration? Those of you who were present in the Music Hall at the Guildhall School on the evening of 11 May will know what I mean. Those of you who were not there - well, you missed a real treat!

The Company has long sponsored a music competition at the Guildhall School but for the first time, it was a Percussion Competition. What a wonderful evening it was! The sheer variety and diversity of the instruments played - from Marimbas and Vibraphones to drums of every kind and even the use of the human voice and unconventional objects which still produced a rhythmic sound. The four groups who participated astounded us all with their vitality and skill, not to mention the level of sound produced! The Helix Duo (Louise Morgan and Catherine Ring) won both the People's Vote and the Company's prize. Their rendition (without the benefit of music) of Toccata by Anders Koppel, on Marimba and Zylophone, was quite outstanding.

The Company is very proud of its connection with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama which it supports annually by the music competition (cash prize for the winners) and a bursary of £3,000 per annum to an outstanding student nominated by the School. Long may the Company continue to demonstrate its support.

Amanda Jackson, Clerk

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

Our inaugural Musical Evening held jointly with LandAid was a great success. The event was held in the splendid setting of Christ Church Spitalfields with nearly 260 people enjoying a performance by students from the Guildhall School of Music.

The Company's relationship with the school dates back many years and the quality of the performers can only be described as outstanding. The intention is for the event to be repeated which will provide an opportunity for more of the students to take part - an occasion not to be missed.

The involvement of LandAid, the property industry's charity, has helped to lift the profile of the Company and it was particularly satisfying that they selected the Chartered Surveyors Training Trust as the beneficiary of the funds raised on the night.

Liveryman Peter Goodacre, the President of the RICS was in attendance, together with a number of other Worshipful Companies including the Actuaries, Arbitrators, Armourers & Braziers, Blacksmiths,

Clothworkers, Feltmakers, Fruiterers, Mercers, Paviers, Plumbers and Tinplate Workers.

Total funds raised on the night were just over £20,000 with the Company's share going towards the Schools Bursary Fund

Last but my no means least, many thanks must go to Jane Preston, who designed and co-ordinated the souvenir brochure, our Clerk, Amanda Jackson, and Annette Sanders of LandAid, for all their hard work and to those of you who supported the evening.

Rob Bould, Junior Warden

CAROL SERVICE

The Company met once again on 11th December 2008 at St Lawrence Jewry, for the annual carol service, this time with the Revd Jeremy Crossley standing in for the Company Chaplain. Over 300 Liverymen and their friends attended what has become a regular fixture in the Company calendar, which as many commented afterwards, marks their start of the Christmas festivities.

This year, our service followed the traditional format of carols and readings, with Peter Goodacre, President of RICS reading the first lesson, and with two students from Archbishop Tenisons School (one of the schools we support through our Education Support programme), also reading, together with the Master, both Wardens and Clerk.

The RICS Singers were in fine voice, leading the singing, but that is not to say that those present who are not known for our tuneful singing voices did not make themselves thoroughly heard. Together the service made a worthy celebration of the Christmas story, as we sang so many famous Christmas carols, in between the Testament readings.

After the Carol Service, as with previous years, there was an informal Christmas Gathering in the entrance hall to St Lawrence's, with wine and canapés and good festive conversation!

In 2009, our Carol Service will be lead by the newly appointed Company Chaplain Revd John Kronenberg, himself a former Chartered Surveyor.

Mark Larard, Liveryman

THE LIVERY WEBSITE

The Livery Website has been redesigned and updated and my thanks go to Andrew Lang for his professionalism, efficiency and producing a first class result. I would urge members to visit the website and in particular log on to the members' page where detailed contacts and other information is available.

The website is a live beast and therefore I would encourage Liverymen to advise me of any changes which are necessary, or where they feel information is out of date.

The website address is: www.surveyorslivery.org.uk.
Graham Chase, Assistant



Below. The Master presenting a Bursary cheque to Billie Griffin from St. Saviour's & St. Olave's School



BUSINESS LUNCH AT THE WATERMAN'S HALL

Close by the burnished Monument to the Great Fire of 1666 stands ancient Watermen's Hall, home to the Guild of Watermen and Lightermen, wearers of The Dogget Coat and Badge, founded in 1555 and for centuries responsible for the transport of London.

In the first floor, Robert Adam, panelled and plastered Chamber of Watermen's Hall, lit by the winter sunshine, the Court of our Company met on 29th January to carry on its business and at the end of their meeting to admit to the Company Richard Moxon, Louise Brooke-Smith, Helen Smith, Jane Ballantyne, Duncan Moss, Christopher Smith, Leonard Eppel, Nigel Waring and myself.

The Business Lunch was oversubscribed, no surprise to this new member. Great wines and an exceptional, timely appraisal of where we all might be going from Francis Salway, Chief Executive of Land Securities, made this a memorable occasion.

Francis set the scene for today and convincingly analysed the prospects for tomorrow. Property is a resilient and enduring asset class with potential to generate sustained income. He encouraged us to continue meticulous preparation to exploit development opportunities and create new assets and value when the upturn comes.

The Watermen's Hall, distinguished not only by its age and elegance but also for excellent food and wine, enjoyed in the warmth of its panelled rooms, was loath to release us. Liverymen and guests lingered on the winding stairs long into the afternoon.

Simon Camamile, Liveryman

PETROL HEADS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

As a regular to the Goodwood Revival meeting, an invitation to see the collection of classic racing cars amassed by Nick Mason (to the younger members of the Livery he was the drummer of the Pink Floyd pop group) was too good to miss.

We were instructed to rendezvous in the car park of a pub outside Cirencester for coffee, prior to moving off in convoy to a secret destination. I just knew it would be a good day when I arrived to find an Alvis Silver Eagle parked alongside a Lagonda, Austin Healey 3000, E-Type Jag, Aston Martin and various MGB's.

A short drive took us to an ex RFC airfield, the hangers of which, when the doors were drawn back, revealed a collection of jaw dropping vehicles.

We were confronted by virtually every type of Bugatti, any number of Ferraris, Porsches, Alfa Romeos, Frazer Nashs and the star a 250 GTO Ferrari one of 39 built and valued in the 1980's at circa £10m. However to me the black label 1930 4.5 litre Bentley stole the show. We were accompanied by Mike Hallowes, part of the team who prepares the cars for classic car races around the world.

The workshops and offices were a treasure trove of

motoring paraphernalia and Mike was able to give us an unique insight into each car and bearing in mind that many had been driven in F1 and Le Mans, who had driven them.

To finish our tour we each received a copy of Nick's book *'Into The Red'* - a fascinating review of his cars and how they drive on the track. For instance the Ferrari F40 - 0 to 60mph in 3.9 sec "it makes nipping down to the shop for a pint of milk a lot more fun", together with the priceless remark made by his mother when having in the 1980's completed the 24 hr Le Mans race he phoned home to be implored by his mum "to make sure he drove carefully on the way home".

Our thanks for such a magical day goes to Liveryman Duncan White for arranging the day. If there is another chance of seeing this collection again I would like my name at the top of the list!

Richard Kent, Liveryman

CHARTERED SURVEYORS 'BRING HOME' THE HENDERSON TROPHY - AGAIN!

The Inter-Livery Sailing Day, organized by the Framework Knitters at Rutland Water, was held on 23rd May. This was the fifth time the event had been held and the second time that we had been involved. It was an interesting and very enjoyable day, with perfect weather. There were representatives from the Framework Knitters, the Farriers, the Lorriners, the Saddlers and ourselves. Daniel Carter joined me for the competition, trailing his own Laser up from Tunbridge Wells. I took along my son-in-law, Rik Lewis, as crew in my own Laser 2000.

The morning consisted of training and familiarization with a range of Laser boats, run by the resident Sailing School, which is also a Laser Training Centre - this was an essential element of the day, as there was a wide diversity of experience amongst the 15 sailors, including two young children. In contrast to last year, the conditions were just right - although one or two boats still managed to capsize One of them being the catamaran!

A short triangular course was set up - and there were four races, each consisting of just one lap. As many participants were not familiar with the racing rules, these were abandoned - and it was left to good sportsmanship to ensure fair competition! Rather surprisingly, in view of the event being run by the experts from the Sailing School, the starting procedure was not very well organised, resulting in the tactical positioning being down to luck, rather than good judgement!

The first race was won by yours truly, with Daniel Carter coming second - and the remaining races were all won by Daniel - hence he took home the trophy.

There were 40+ at the evening Reception and Buffet Supper (which was excellent), including the Master of the Framework Knitters, Jeremy Beachell, the Immediate Past Master, Anthony Turner, and a number of other past masters, who live locally.

John Townsend, Liveryman



Daniel Carter receives the Henderson Trophy from Mrs Elizabeth Mills, the High Sheriff of Rutland



Below: The Band of The Royal Engineers Beating the Retreat at the Remembrance Sunday Parade at Ewell





TABLE TENNIS GATHERS MOMENTUM AT CENTRAL FOUNDATION GIRLS' SCHOOL

Central Foundation Girls' School in Bow, where Liveryman Clive Arding is a Governor, is another of the four schools that we support through our Education Initiative. The school has constrained grounds and no playing fields, so opportunities for sport and exercise are limited.

To assist, in 2006, our Company gave the school two top of the range Table Tennis tables to kick start the development of Table Tennis within the school. The sport has taken such root in the school that five girls competed in this year's Essex Open Junior Championship, attended by a number of England ranked players from around the country.

The school's Abisola Alausa (year 9) faced her team-mate Rubi Ma (year 9) in the final and won the Championship. Kelly Davis (year 10) was third overall, demonstrating how the school has advanced in Table Tennis and the value of our Company's role in supporting sports development and camaraderie at Central foundation.

Daniel Carter, Assistant

VISIT TO SALISBURY

On August 3rd a party of approximately 30 from the Livery Company had an interesting day out in Salisbury.

Our first visit was to the renowned Cathedral with its spire of 404 ft. We had the benefit of two tour guides and spent over an hour listening to the history of the construction and the highlights over the years since the foundation stone was laid in 1220.

Two of the outstanding points of interest were the world's oldest working clock first documented in 1386 and the finest of the only four surviving original (1215) Magna Carta.

Following a brief reserved lunch in the Cathedral Café we visited Arundells the home of the former Prime Minister, Sir Edward Heath, which is sited within the Cathedral Close.

Arundells was originally a medieval canonry in the 13th Century and has developed into one of the finest houses inside the Cathedral Close, surrounded by a beautiful two acre garden running down to the river.

We were privileged to see Sir Edward's collection of sailing and musical memorabilia together with paintings, photographs, original political cartoons and unique Chinese wallpaper in situ on the landing.

Sadly the future of the house is in some doubt as funds need to be raised by the Trustees to comply with Sir Edward's wishes to provide substantial bursaries for young musicians.

Neil Cleverton, Assistant

THE MANSION HOUSE DINNER

My Father-in-law, an octogenarian with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the City, was a commodities trader who spent the great majority of his working life in the City of London. He had, however, never been to the Mansion House.

The Family and Friends invitation to the Mansion House dinner prompted me to consider how much he would enjoy such an occasion; he was not disappointed. Neither were my parents, my wife and my two sons who also accompanied me; my daughter, having an exam at university the next day was unable to come and was most put out that she couldn't attend. Thus three generations of my family joined some 300 other liverymen and their guests in what transpired to be a truly excellent evening and what can only be described as a magnificent and splendid affair.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress arrived in their splendid mayoral motorcar, resplendent in their official regalia. They were accompanied by Mr Alderman and Mr Sheriff and, with members of the Court, were equally resplendent; it made for a truly impressive top table.

The dinner itself was held in the Great Egyptian Hall, a magnificent room based on designs by the classical Roman architect Vitruvius. The giant columns and marble statues are breathtaking and which, when taken with the gilding, combine to produce a really splendid civic interior.

In addition to a very good dinner, we were treated to music from the band of the Honourable Artillery Company who are based nearby: their music was first class and very much added to the celebration.

Indeed, the evening was a celebration of fellowship.

Despite the scale and civic impressiveness of our surroundings, the evening managed to exude an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship. With a diverse attendance, including many family members and close friends of fellow liverymen, there was a relaxed and easy manner to the entire occasion. The Mansion House, built in 1739, provided wonderful and timeless surroundings in which to enjoy that fellowship, a highlight being the inclusiveness of the entire room enjoying the opportunity to experience the Loving Cup; my eldest son found the notion of being protected whilst he drank somewhat similar to his rugby tours at UCL!

Speeches by the Master, the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff were enlightening, witty and interesting and, whilst topical, in an ever changing economic landscape, were also a reminder that whilst there is always change, such institutions and their offices endure.

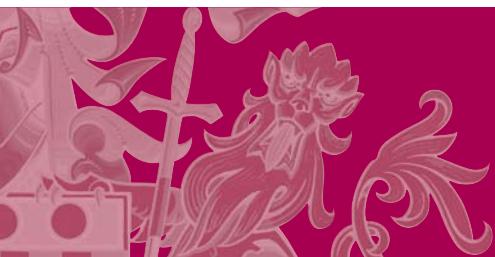
Finally, this rather amateur account would be incomplete without mentioning the extraordinary administrative achievement of Amanda in organising the whole event, particularly the marked up seating plan which was first class.

Despite dark times we must count our blessings!

Duncan Moss, Liveryman



Sheriff and Past Master of The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors, George Gillon and with him his escort, Past Master, Delva Patman



COMMON HALL AND INSTALLATION DINNER

On Monday 13 October Liverymen and their guests gathered in the splendour of the Vintners' Hall for the Installation of the new Master, Simon Henry Kolesar.

Sir John Harman, former Chairman of the Environment Agency (EA), gave an insightful talk about the work of the EA. Before doing so however, he shared with us the remarkable story of how he and our new Master had first met, a story far too lengthy to recount here.

Sir John told us something of his previous job as Chairman of the EA whose remit seemed to be extremely broad....from dispensing angling licenses to the regulation of Sellafield nuclear power station.

We were told that the job was made so much harder because there was no such thing as 'just enough' water, only either too much or too little!

After thanking Sir John for his words and for letting his best kept secret out of the bag, the Master paid tribute to the Vintners' Company, being one of the 'Great Twelve' Companies, and the splendid Hall in which we were privileged to be dining.

The new Master paid tribute to Past Master David Larkin to whom the Company were deeply indebted following his very successful year in office. Warm thanks were expressed to Jackie Larkin for her support and for having organised such successful events as the Goodwood Picnic and the visit to the Geffrye Museum.

The Master welcomed 16 new liverymen.

Peter Goodacre, who was among those present, was congratulated on his election as the 127th President of the RICS.

The Master expressed his delight that Norman Harris was able to be present. At the grand age of 92, Norman had been an inspiration to our new Master throughout his career.

The Master then introduced the Reverend Canon David Reindrop, Vicar of Chelsea Old Church. The Reverend entertained us from the outset by proclaiming that he was not only an ex Lloyds broker and former male model but had also gained the lowest ever mark in the 'new testament in Greek' while studying Theology at Cambridge.

The Reverend closed by saying how proud he was to have been invited by the Master, an old friend, to his Installation Dinner and how grateful he was for the chance of a 'free meal'.

With the new Master successfully installed, a most convivial evening concluded with the customary stirrup cup.

Mark Holden, Liveryman

GEORGE GILLON - SHERIFF 2008/09

By the time you read this article there will be two new Sheriffs in office. But how has the year gone for our own Sheriff and his escort Delva Patman? Well, early in September I visited George at his command centre in The Old Bailey to find out.

"What can I say" he said "I have done so much".

There is no doubt that being included as part of the collegiate atmosphere by the judges at The Old Bailey has meant a lot to him and reading a lesson at St. Paul's Cathedral to a full house at Christmas will be a lasting memory. Hand in hand with his office goes the pomp and ceremony for which the City of London is so renowned. George and Delva have really risen to the occasion and many of you will have seen at first hand how magnificent they looked while on official duty.

George couldn't help dropping in to the conversation the names of a few people he had met; the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister of Israel and the Royal Family. Probably the most amazing experience was being introduced to the President of Mexico - by the Queen!

But what about the overseas trips? George has been fortunate to join the Lord Mayor on overseas visits to Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and even Scotland! He showed me the itinerary for one of his trips and there is only one word that I can find to describe it - exhausting! Back to back meetings with Ambassadors, Heads of State, Ministers and local businesses, schools and charities. To say nothing of the inevitable breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners that were interspersed into the programme. How did they keep their figures looking so trim? Delva accompanied George in Kazakhstan arriving whilst he was in Baku. Not being one to waste time Delva had her own programme of meetings in Almaty with our Ambassador and even signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Kazakhstan regarding the 2011 Asian Olympics!

George was keen to point out that these "trips" did not happen by accident and always had a strategic objective, mostly linked to improving relationships between the respective countries. He was really impressed by the business delegations that accompanied the Civic team who were most definitely there to "work". His overall view of the trips was that he had gone out as "an ambassador for the United Kingdom" and had returned as "an ambassador for the country he had visited".

We could have gone on for hours but his diary did not permit, he was due to show a delegation from the Constructors' Company round The Old Bailey and then on to a dinner with Delva at the Glovers Company. I left The Old Bailey with a real sense of the dedication that George had given to his year in office. His enthusiasm, excitement and commitment in everything associated with being a Sheriff of the City of London are contagious and all of you who have met George and Delva during the year will know what I mean. We are extremely proud of all that George has achieved and wish him all the very best in whatever he takes on next!

Simon Kolesar, Master



Above. Mansion House Dinner. The Master, Lord Mayor, Sheriff, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and partners
Photograph by Michael O'Sullivan Photography





Major Oakley Turvey leading 135 Independent Geographical Squadron, Royal Engineers renewing their Freedom of Ewell after 50 years



Below. Mansion House Dinner. Louis Armstrong - CEO of the RICS, Sibley and family
Photograph by Michael O'Sullivan Photography



WCCS ARMED SERVICES AFFILIATED UNITS

The Company supports three units, all with strong links to the Survey and Geographic world, one from each of the services. The units, one regular, two reservist continue to serve in both home and foreign theatres, and we support them wherever we can.

HMS Echo

Echo is one of two Royal Navy Survey ships, both currently deployed at sea undertaking training and survey operations often in conjunction with foreign navy's. Echo deployed in April 2008 on a two year tour, and since the last Court Circular has been operating with the Navy's of Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, and on Exercise with the Royal Australian Navy on Exercise Taurus. Throughout the year she has been an average of 8,000 miles away from the United Kingdom, but continues to establish and strengthen important diplomatic and commercial ties, in an area of the world where it is difficult for the Government to maintain an active foreign policy presence.

The highlight of the year appears to have been the ship's visit to Jakarta, Indonesia, one of a number of ports she has visited during her current deployment. Following a warm welcome from local authorities and a visit from the ship's opposite numbers in the Indonesian Navy, 30 members of the Ship's Company travelled to the Pondok Pesantren Asshiddiqiyah Islamic College located on the outskirts of Jakarta to assist pupils planting trees around the school. The school welcomed the naval contingent and British Ambassador Mr Martin Hatful with a display of flags and music before accompanying them inside the college's mosque for speeches and a presentation of gifts.

Following the festivities the crew members joined the school's pupils in games of volleyball and football – the home side winning both matches. Over the following days Echo repaid the school's hospitality, inviting 18 pupils and staff onboard. Activities included a tour of the ship and an introduction to life on a Royal Navy Surveying vessel, which included dressing up a volunteer in full fire-fighting equipment.

135 Independent Geographical Squadron, Royal Engineers (Volunteers)

The Company were represented by the Master and Mrs Kolesar at the Remembrance Sunday Parade at Ewell, and after the Parade the Master presented Sgt Lee Turner with the WCCS Endeavour Award. Sgt Turner had recently returned from his second tour in Afghanistan, but had also been active in Squadron recruitment and recruit training. The Master has also represented the Company at an Officer's Dinner night in October, and at the Squadron Christmas Party in December. In May, The Squadron renewed their Freedom of Ewell, 50 years after it was first awarded. The Master represented the Company at the formal ceremony at Epsom Town Hall and afterwards back at the unit barracks, where the Band of the Royal Engineers performed a moving

Beating the Retreat ceremony for the Mayor and other dignitaries.

The Squadron continues to send members on deployment to Afghanistan, and to train for their role in providing the Military with Survey capabilities in the UK, and across the world.

7010 (VR) Squadron RAF

The squadron is based at RAF Waddington, with sub-detachments at RAF Marham and RAF Digby. It recruits and trains nationally and provides Intelligence Analysts (Imagery) to augment the RAF's reconnaissance units at home and on operations. It has not been possible to meet with the Squadron during the year, due to their heavy commitment in support of Operations, but The Officer Commanding Sqn Ldr Stuart Tarlton was able to join the Company for the Spring Dinner. Members of the Squadron have deployed over the last year to various locations in the Middle East in support of both Iraq and Afghanistan Operations, and also been mobilised for service in the UK, also undertaking Imagery Analysis.

Mark Larard, Liveryman, Services Liason Officer

A LONDON WALK

A group of 40 Livery Members including family and friends, lead by the Master, retraced the steps of thousands of years of history around Spitalfields, now part of the ever-expanding City of London.

The experience and knowledge of the two Blue Badge guides brought the place alive with the stories of French Huguenots escaping religious persecution in France and the international reputation of Brick Lane as the centre for today's Bangladeshi community with the greatest concentration of curry houses in the UK.

The walk took us from a prosperous and affluent City community into Tower Hamlets, one of the poorest London Boroughs but also one of the richest in terms of its heritage. It was fascinating to see in the context of this melting pot of the East End of London, the now rejuvenated Spitalfields' fruit and vegetable market, Roman burial grounds, the renowned Christ Church and its fame as a centre for concerts and the arts, alongside beautiful 17th Century four story Huguenot houses, one including a secret synagogue and one of the longest surviving synagogues still in use in the City today. Characters from Jack the Ripper to wealthy merchants and weavers, to the artists Gilbert & George were described in such a way that you could be forgiven if you felt they were still on the pavement behind you.

After a thoroughly enjoyable 1½ hour's walk, the group retired to the delights of the Bengal Trader curry restaurant where tired feet were rested and thirsts were quenched with Cobra beer. With thanks to Janie Strange for all her research and efforts in identifying the best curry house from literally a cast of thousands.

Graham Chase, Assistant

INTER LIVERY SHOOT - BEST EVER RESULT

On a sunny May day the Livery achieved something it had never done before...it entered three teams into the annual Inter Livery Clay Shoot. An admirable feat by Past Master Brian Lamden who normally has to coax, cajole and enter a few 'ringers' to achieve one and sometimes two teams.

In all 99 teams were entered into the event organised by the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners at Holland & Holland's ground in West London. Proceeds go to various charities supported by the Livery companies. A fantastic day was had by all, meeting many friends from the world of property and other Liveries and our teams far from disgraced themselves with a 14th, a 33rd and a 64th placing. The event was won this year by one of the more modern but perhaps quite appropriate companies, the Security Professionals.

A fine hog roast finished the day off for us all and we all left sporting a nearly full bottle of wine, a result of some poor calculations and overeager ordering by yours truly on the hottest day in May!

Ken Morgan Assistant



'The Guns!'

COMPANY FISHING DAY

Surveyors enjoy some quite extraordinary characteristics, not least being the ability to thrive in stormy waters. So it was on Friday 8 May, with typical fortitude and stoicism, that 16 liverymen and their guests spent some 6 hours fishing for trout on Chew Lake in the Mendip Hills. The forecast of 'breezy' translated into winds gusting up to 50 mph. Those intrepid fly-fishermen, tossed about in small boats, found conditions downright difficult for loch-style fishing. Not even with the expert assistance of local guides was it was easy to get a line out, yet alone catch a fish.

It was against this background that, much to the chagrin of the others, liveryman David Thompson triumphed with 2 good rainbow trout to win the coveted Baker Trophy. What is more, his guest boat partner, Richard Bright, made us all look inept with a catch of 4 fish. Their fishing guide, Martin Cottis, rightly claimed the prize for the best gillie.

David Marsh, Liveryman

COMPANY SAILING DAY

Guns to the left of us, guns to the right of us and that was before we had even left Portsmouth Harbour. On our left an Australian guided missile destroyer was being towed out by tugs for the next part of its round the world trip and on the right, (or rather "to starboard") on a naval dockyard a scene that looked straight out of "The Bill" with police armed with sub machine guns chasing a suspect – a practice drill we all hoped!

21 liverymen and guests enjoyed a day on three Sunfast 37ft sailing boats with the teams led by the Master, the Senior Warden and Liveryman Mickola Wilson, now Junior Warden Elect. The Senior Warden's boat was helmed most of the morning by the Clerk even though it was her first time sailing. Whilst the wake at the start was distinctly snake like, it was not long before she looked as if she had been steering for years.

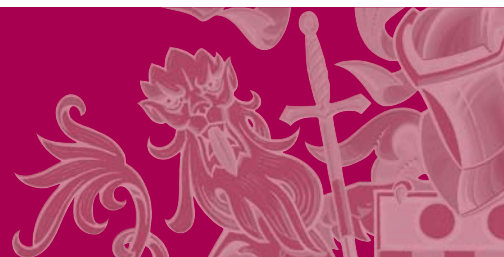
The afternoon was the important part of the day with a race between the three yachts. Those "old sea dogs", the Master, the Senior Warden and Past Master Brian Lamden (a member of Mickola Wilson's crew) were all adamant that they were going to win. All three boats were on the starting line and then the tactics began.

The race was declared ended, with the Master's boat still trying to round Gleeds having completely overshot the mark. The Senior Warden's boat was a clear winner, and three slightly sunburnt crews returned to Portsmouth Harbour Yacht Club for tea, cake and prize-giving after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Howard Woollaston, Liveryman

I should like to thank all those who contributed articles and photographs to this edition of the Court Circular. My thanks also to The Master and Master Elect for their support and understanding, to the Clerk, Amanda Jackson who ensured the information was up-to-date and to the proof readers Roger Watts and Rachel Jacques.

Graham Chase, Editor





THE COURT AND COMMITTEES 2009-2010

THE COURT

Laurence Johnstone (Master)
Rob Bould (Senior Warden)
Mickola Wilson (Junior Warden)
David Barratt
Alderman Michael Bear
James Bryer
Daniel Carter
Richard Carter
Graham Chase
Richard Cotton (Past Master)
Lady Jenna Davies
Miss Elizabeth Edwards
Digby Flower
William Hill
Terry Knight (Past Master)
Simon Kolesar (Past Master)
Brian Lamden (Past Master)
Mark Larard
David Larkin (Past Master)
David Mann
Ken Morgan
Duncan Preston
Roger Southam
Simon Waugh
John Woodman

Finance and General Purposes Committee

David Larkin (Chairman)
Laurence Johnstone (Master)
Simon Kolesar (Immediate Past Master)
Rob Bould (Senior Warden)
Mickola Wilson (Junior Warden)
Graham Chase
David Barratt
Alderman Michael Bear

Elections Committee

Rob Bould (Chairman & Senior Warden)
Laurence Johnstone (Master)
Mickola Wilson (Junior Warden)
Simon Kolesar (Immediate Past Master)
Digby Flower
Elizabeth Edwards
Ken Morgan

New Members :

Richard Moxon Louise Brooke-Smith Helen Smith Jane Ballantyne Simon Camamile Duncan Moss Julian Smith Leonard Eppel Nigel Waring Ben Coffin Kevin McGrath Ann Heywood Robert French Robert Hannington Michael Hodges John Stephen James Way Martin Coles Amanda Clack Roger Kallman Mark Annett Faraz Baber Peter Bennett Peter Mitchell Ian Milne Alun Oliver Yvonne Simpson Joanne Prior Simon Wainwright

Deaths: Sir David Haslam Jack Nardecchia

Charitable Board

Daniel Carter (Chairman)
Duncan Preston (Vice Chairman)
Laurence Johnstone (Master)
Rob Bould (Senior Warden)
Ted Hartill (Past Master)
James Bryer
John Fenner
Gerardine Davies
Andrew Martin
Simon Camamile
David Mann
Helen Smith
Nigel Waring

Seminar Committee

John Woodman (Chairman)
William Hill (Vice Chairman)
Rob Bould (Senior Warden)
Ken Morgan
Roger Southam
Michael Morris
Nicholas Swabey

Membership and Communications Committee

Lady Davies (Chairman)
Graham Chase (Vice Chairman)
Laurence Johnstone (Master)
Rob Bould (Senior Warden)
Neil Cleverton
Rachel Jacques
Mark Larard
David Mann
Janie Strange
Roger Watts
Julian Smith
James Way

Education Committee

Mickola Wilson (Chairman & Junior Warden)
Richard Carter (Vice Chairman)
Laurence Johnstone (Master)
Christina Banbury
Richard Blake
Simon Jacklin
David Reynolds
Mark Williams
John Fenner
Faraz Baber
Jane Ballantyne
Mark Carrington

Property Marketing Awards

John Woodman (Chairman)
Rachel Jacques (Vice Chairman)
Michael Baker
James Bowdidge
Philip Brown
Chris Dymond
Bob Dyson
Chris Goldthorpe
Richard Kent
Richard Lanyon
Mark Larard
Colin Peacock
Sven Topel
John Williams
Mickola Wilson

Fundraising Committee

Ted Hartill (Chairman and Past Master)
Laurence Johnstone (Master)
Simon Waugh
David Mann
Robert Hannington
Richard Moxon
Louise Brooke-Smith
Duncan Moss
Helen Smith
Nigel Waring

From the Master Elect

'It is a privilege to have been chosen to serve as Master for the year ahead'



Laurence Johnstone Master Elect

Events

Some notes for your diary

Wednesday 4th November 2009

Livery Quiz Evening - East India Club, St. James's

Saturday 14th November 2009

The Lord Mayors Show

Monday 23rd November 2009

Ladies Tour of the Wallace Collection and Luncheon

Monday 14th December 2009

Carol Service - St. Lawrence Jewry

Monday 25th January 2010

Liverymen & Ladies Dinner - Apothecaries' Hall

Thursday 25th February 2010

Go-Karting Evening

4th - 8th March 2010

Livery Ski Trip - Klosters, Switzerland

Monday 15th March 2010

Inter-Livery Swimathon

Monday 19th April 2010

Spring Livery Dinner - Cutlers' Hall

Wednesday 19th May 2010

Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot

Wednesday 26th May 2010

Guildhall School of Music Competition (Singing)

Tuesday 8th June 2010

Visit and reception at the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Wednesday 9th June 2010

Livery Golf Day - Worplesdon GC

Monday 28th June 2010

Livery Sailing Day

Thursday 1st July 2010

Court Luncheon in honour of 90th Anniversary of the College of Estate Management - HQS Wellington

Tuesday 5th October 2010

Common Hall & Installation Dinner

Like many of my predecessors, my feelings on approaching the start of my term as Master of our great Livery Company are a mixture of excitement and nervous anticipation. To have been chosen to serve in this capacity is an incredible honour as well as a privilege. The position nevertheless carries considerable responsibilities that I am sure will bring unexpected challenges during the course of the year.

Despite my natural apprehension, I am thrilled to be taking over the role and look forward to it greatly.

I have often wondered how successive Masters have coped with the varied and hectic programme that has often been combined with an extremely busy "day job". I shall soon have the opportunity to discover the secret at first hand!

A characteristic that all of our Masters have had in common is a huge enthusiasm for the work of the Company and for the teamwork and fellowship that goes with this. I am proud to share this enthusiasm especially having seen how the efforts of our Liverymen can make a real difference to those less fortunate in their circumstances than many of our members. Teamwork has always been an important element in my own career but it is a bonus to find colleagues I have worked with in the Livery become firm friends. I look forward to continuing these experiences in the coming months.

This brings me to the year ahead and the goals I am keen to accomplish for the Company. A year ago our current Master, Simon Kolesar, launched a new Business Plan, defining the Company's vision with a menu of clear objectives. Great progress has been made as Simon explains elsewhere in this newsletter. There is however, much more to do to achieve our aims of raising the Company's profile in the City, building links with the RICS, recruiting new Liverymen, pursuing our educational initiatives and fund-raising to support our own charitable programme as well as the Lord Mayor's.

To ensure these targets are reached, we must build firmly on the momentum gained over the last year. My first goal therefore is "even more of the same". If this seems unimaginative it is nevertheless essential in order to get us where we have agreed we want to be!

In the year ahead I would like to foster inclusivity across the Company. By this I mean encouraging the involvement of Liverymen in our activities whether charitable, educational, fund-raising or social and sporting. To this end, my message is that however recently (or long ago) you joined the Company, if you would like to become involved in our activities, then your participation will be warmly welcomed. You only have to contact me, another member of the Court or our Clerk and I promise that we will respond to the best of our abilities.

Vital to inclusivity are effective lines of communication between the Court and the Livery. The Member Survey carried out in 2007

acknowledged the importance of the Company being connected with its members, a goal towards which the Court has since worked hard. Communication is however, a two way process. I would hence like Liverymen to be confident that ideas and feedback can be readily made, will be welcomed and carefully considered. To this end I am initiating a "suggestions and ideas box" in the Members' section of our website. This should be an invaluable tool for the Company to listen and respond to our members' ideas and views. The website has, incidentally, been improved enormously in the past year thanks to the efforts of Graham Chase and is well worth browsing.

Enjoyment and fun are an important part of what we are about. This is reflected in my programme for the year which is intended to suit a range of tastes and pockets. Events will include a Livery quiz evening; a repeat of last year's successful go-karting and a first class menu of sporting days. This year's musical evening at the Guildhall School will be a singing competition. For the ladies, Clare is organising a tour of the Wallace Collection and a lunch. Despite the difficult business climate, all of the formal dinners in the last year have been sell-outs and I have therefore arranged dinners at the Apothecaries' Hall in January and Cutlers' Hall in April which I hope will be well supported. A less formal visit to the splendid State Apartments at the Royal Hospital Chelsea is also being arranged. A Livery Ski Trip to Switzerland is planned in early March which, unlike the 2003 Ski Challenge, will be non fund-raising with an emphasis on "social" skiing but with some challenging runs for would-be Olympians! Our Carol Service will be at St Lawrence Jewry on 14th December under the direction of our new Honorary Chaplain, Reverend John Kronenberg.

My warm congratulations go to Simon and Yvonne Kolesar for the terrific job they have done in the last year. Simon has been an inspired Master setting us all an example that will be difficult to emulate. He can pass on the Master's baton knowing that due to his hard work and leadership, the Company is in even better shape than when he took on the task twelve months ago. I thank him and Yvonne for the fun we have had during the year as well as for their invaluable advice to me and Clare.

I also wish to place on record my sincere thanks to my former partners at Rogers Chapman for enabling, indeed encouraging, me over a number of years to commit time and effort to the Livery Company. Equally, I thank my fellow directors at Jones Lang LaSalle for their support in allowing me to now go forward to become Master.

I look forward to serving the Company in the year ahead. As I said earlier, I am honoured to have been chosen for the task. I will do everything I can to ensure that our goals are achieved and that the Company goes from strength to strength. Clare and I hope to meet as many as possible of you, our Liverymen, during the course of the year.

Laurence Johnstone, Master Elect