

Smoke Signals

ISSUE 01 SUMMER 2015 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENTERS



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The Master's Year

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your Master in 2014/15 which has been a special year in the Company's history.

The day after my Installation on 5 June 2014, I drove to Ironbridge for the annual weekend for Masters of all the Livery Companies. Many of them had attended the Diamond Jubilee Master's Reception, "A Night in Havana", at Globe House in May and they took the opportunity to express how much they had enjoyed a unique evening, especially cigars on the terrace! With 78 Masters present, other City dignitaries, our liverymen and guests, it certainly raised the profile of the Tobacco Pipe Makers. Congratulations are due to Immediate Past Master John Nokes and his organising team for a night which will long be remembered.

The profile of the Company has also been greatly enhanced with the election and installation of Past Master Fiona Adler as the Non Aldermanic Sheriff for the year starting in September 2014. As her Mother Livery Company, a number of us have had the pleasure to be involved in City events which one would not usually attend, even as Master. It was amazing to be present at these significant City events,

some of which have been held annually for many centuries.

In addition to our usual attendance in the Lord Mayor's Show in November with the Modern Livery Company float, I was joined by two of the Wardens and the Clerk in a horse drawn carriage and we witnessed the new Lord Mayor swearing allegiance to The Queen before the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls and other Senior Judges. We returned to Mansion House for Luncheon with our partners. I shall never forget The Lord Mayor's Banquet in Guildhall when around 800 sat down to a wonderful dinner in the magnificent Great Hall at Guildhall. I had the privilege of receiving, on behalf of the Lord Mayor, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Welby when they arrived and escorting them to their presentation to the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress.

There have been many other memorable moments. Our own functions have been at venues where we do not often visit. At the Installation Dinner in Cutlers' Hall, Judge Richard Hone, who sits in the Old Bailey next door, gave an amusing insight into aspects of judicial life. The dinner after the Autumn Court was held on the quarterdeck of HQS Wellington, home of the Master Mariners, and the Court had the treat of being able to smoke after the Loyal Toast.





The Diamond Jubilee Banquet was at Skinners' Hall where Colonel Alastair Bruce impressively spoke without notes and covered his experiences in the Army, the Royal Household and as advisor to Downton Abbey. Trinity House was an architectural gem for the January Dinner where the speaker was Bishop Jack Nicholls, formerly Bishop of Sheffield who used anecdotes from his life to keep the guests in constant laughter. The Carol Service in St Lawrence Jewry was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed, with the Girls' Choir from Sevenoaks School in sparkling form. I have also enjoyed the generous hospitality, amusing and interesting company and listened to many distinguished speakers as the guest of other Livery Companies and by the time I stand down as Master, I will have represented the Company at approximately 80 Livery events!

In July 2014, Sandra Stocker joined us as Clerk and the Company has given her a warm welcome. I want to express my most sincere thanks to her and the other members of the team for all the support, professionalism, encouragement and company at events, which I have received during this amazing year.





Appointments

Liveryman Ann Tradigo has been elected to the Court as an Assistant and was installed on 11th March 2015.

Members

Gowned with the Livery		New Freemen	
Martine Petitin <i>Retired Head of Strategy & Planning Legal BAT</i>	19th March 2014	John Threshie <i>Insurance Broker, Lloyd's</i>	19th March 2014
Brian Ace <i>Retired Company Chairman</i>	5th June 2014	Cain Hayward-Hughes <i>Director</i>	12th January 2015
Elise Rasmussen <i>Journalist with "Tobacco Reporter"</i>	5th June 2014	Daniel Hayward-Hughes <i>Solicitor and Company Director</i>	12th January 2015
Archie Smith <i>Retired Oil Industry Services Executive</i>	5th June 2014	Beverley Spencer- Obatoyinbo <i>Head of Human Resources BAT</i>	12th January 2015
Howard Mundy <i>Company Director</i>	16th September 2014	Nicholas Wing <i>Company Director</i>	12th January 2015
Chris Davies <i>Commercial Director</i>	16th September 2014	James Camps-Harris <i>Insurance Broker, Lloyd's</i>	11th March 2015
Colin Ritchie <i>Retired Company Director</i>	12th January 2015	Marina Murphy <i>International Scientific Affairs BAT</i>	11th March 2015
Paul Taberer <i>Director</i>	11th March 2015		

Notice

Past Master Simon Orlik has indicated to the Court that he will retire as Assistant Clerk & Treasurer at the end of this financial year. If you are interested in the vacancy, please email Simon at assistantclerk@tobaccolivery.org for more information.



Lost Brethren

Past Master Walter Kahn MBE AE Master 1974-1975



Past Master Walter (Wally) Kahn died on 15th March 2015. Wally Kahn's crowning achievement was the purchase of Lasham Airfield, thereby securing future of Lasham Gliding Society, the world's biggest gliding club. Since gliding started at

Lasham in 1951, Wally campaigned, chivvied and negotiated to buy the land from an intransigent Civil Service. At first the Society acquired a long lease after a battle with bureaucracy that needed a QC and questions in Parliament to resolve. During negotiations to extend the lease in 1982 the Ministry of Defence objected, saying that the work being done in its black hangar was so secret it could not even be discussed. The Society discovered that the hangar was virtually empty and was being guarded by a resting actor who had been sent from the local Job Centre. Wally created the Lasham Trust in 1983 to raise funds, and finally in 1999 the Society was able to buy the freehold of over 500 acres. The effect of the purchase can be seen in the Society's new buildings, its winches, the smooth cross-runways and its fleet of gliders.

Wally first flew solo in a glider in 1946 after helping to set up an RAF gliding club at Oerlinghausen in Germany in the aftermath of World War Two. They rescued forty German gliders before they could be destroyed by American soldiers. He earned Silver C (number 85 on the UK register) in 1947 and Diamond Badge number 50 in 1975. He broke seven British records up to 1963 and competed in sixteen national championships up to 1973. He was awarded the BGA's Wakefield Trophy in 1953, having flown 222km from Lasham to Coningsby in a DFS Weihe. He also did 11,000 tows as a tug pilot.

Whatever you thought about Wally, you couldn't ignore him. He always had a project and he was difficult to refuse. He was a Council Member for the British Gliding Association from 1954-1990. He served on the Committee of the Royal Aero Club and was presented with its Silver Medal in 1995. In June 2011 he was awarded an MBE for services to gliding. The BGA presented him with its Gold Medal in 2014. He was a life member of Lasham Gliding Society. He published an autobiography "A Glider Pilot Bold..." More recently, along with the late Peter Redshaw, Wally was the driving force behind the creation of the Wally Kahn Library, a digital collection of UK gliding books.

He was born in Mannheim, Germany to German Jewish parents. They moved to England in 1933 and he was educated at Highgate School where he was a classmate of Gerard Hoffnung. He joined the RAF in February 1944 but the need for aircrew was diminishing so he started off as a clerk. He studied aeronautical engineering at the Northampton Institute, now City University. He joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1949 as a cadet pilot and was commissioned Pilot Officer in Dec 1950. He transferred to the Secretarial Branch (Public Relations) and served until December 1960 when he left as a flight lieutenant. He received the Air Efficiency Award.

He joined the family cigar importing business which later merged with Joseph Samuel & Son Limited and eventually became its managing director. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders 1974-1975. He married Margaret Moore, née Doran-Veevers, in 1954. She died in 1996, but he is survived by their daughter, Christine.





Past Master John Solomon Master 1989-1990



Past Master John Solomon died on 20th October 2014. With his passing, our Company lost a very kind, gifted and good friend who did much for others in a gentle way.

John Solomon was a true tobacco man – the third generation of his family to serve in our trade. John was Chairman of W.P. Solomon, wholesale distributors of imported tobacco and cigarettes and of SOLOMON TROY, cigar importers. John served on the Council of the T.T.B.A for many years and became Chairman and he was also Chairman of our Livery Benevolent Fund. He did much for charity of the tobacco trade and was well liked and very popular throughout the country. John was also President of the Wholesale Tobacco Trade Association and a founder member of the I.T.P.A.C and upon his retirement became the Honorary Secretary.

If ever there was a true Tobacco Man it was John Solomon and I was very proud to have had him as a close friend for over 50 years. John was a very modest person and whilst we may have known that he was a pretty good croquet player, few knew just how very good he was – he held the World Singles and World Doubles Championships for TEN consecutive years and held many other records in the sport of which he became President. John also had considerable talent as an actor, musician and singer playing many parts in his local dramatic and operatic societies and as always, he kept these attributes to himself.

Past Master Derek Harris

Liveryman Jack London

Liveryman Jack London died in December 2014. Jack London took up the Freedom in 1987 and was gowned into the Livery the following year. Membership of the Livery was an important aspect of his life and there were very few January Dinners which he missed during his 27 year membership. He was one of those people who loved the style and ethos of City Livery activities but was never interested in joining the Court or himself taking office.

This quiet, charming and unassuming man had great marketing skills learned at Unilever which he brought to bear with great success in the Smoking Tobacco Division of Rothmans. He was probably the last person in the UK tobacco scene to have developed a TV commercial. He knew the UK domestic pipe smoking market very well and he conducted accurate and detailed research into all aspects of it, thereby making himself a knowledgeable and true expert. This resulted in the rejuvenation and turnaround of the aging 'Erinmore' brand. Jack saw the need to modernize and develop new and more convenient types of packaging and he was the first to bring to the UK market a sealed "metallised" pouch for pipe tobacco. He also was one of the few people in the industry who developed and launched a new product with a completely new blend and a completely new and unknown brand name (Cutters Choice). This is still on sale today.

Jack was a family man, totally devoted to Annie, his late wife, and his two daughters, Sarah and Emma. Every year for years on end he took them off to Wales for their summer holidays where he loved to sail the harbour in his dinghy. He will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends from all walks of life particularly those who worked with him who were inspired by his solid, competent and loyal team spirit. A dependable friend to many people.

Past Master The Hon Michael Richards



Maintaining a Tradition of Benevolence

From the early days when liveries and guilds cared for their own in sickness and old age to the broad range of charitable activities today, benevolence continues to be a key activity of all livery companies.

We believe that the Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders punches above its weight when it comes to benevolence. Our Benevolent Fund was formed in 2010 through the merger of the Livery Company's Benevolent Fund and the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association, first established in 1860. The assets and income of the merged entities are segregated; with the General Fund supporting a number of charitable causes and the Welfare Fund offering support to anyone who has worked in the tobacco trade in any capacity or to their dependants.

In early 2014, I was asked to step in as secretary to the Benevolent Fund. Recently retired and flattered that I had been asked, I agreed to take on the role. Getting to grips with files and understanding how the Trustees work turned out to be more time consuming than anticipated but the role has been more rewarding than I expected.

Nine Trustees under the chairmanship of Past Master George Lankaster meet four times a year to ensure good governance, monitor the performance of the funds under management and consider applications for support from many good causes.

The Welfare Committee under the chairmanship of Past Master Roger Merton meets to consider applications made to the Welfare Fund. The Welfare Committee also includes representatives from the three main UK based tobacco companies, which continue to provide financial support. The Committee approves regular grants and one-off payments to applicants, subject to strict criteria and review. The economic climate has kept the Welfare Committee busy with a constant stream of applications for support.

The Benevolent Fund exceeds £6 million and is broadly split equally between the General Fund and Welfare Fund. I have been impressed by the diligence of the Trustees in exercising their duties. The General Fund made grants in excess of £118,000, during the financial year to 31 March 2015, largely to charities helping the young and disadvantaged in and around London. The charities are selected [Link: <http://www.tobaccolivery.co.uk/our-charitable-activities/the-tobacco-pipe-makers-and-tobacco-trade-benevolent-fund.html>] when the Trustees feel that our support can make a real difference to their work. Visits and regular contact by the Trustees with the charities we support ensures our Livery maintains a tradition of benevolence it can be proud of.

Ralph Edmondson
April 2015



The Shrieval Year So Far

I was asked to write an article on what the highlights of being a Sheriff have been so far but I can't express properly in a few paragraphs just what a huge honour it is and what a varied calendar of events I enjoy....so here a just a few recollections from my first six months.

I am just the 5th woman in nearly 900 years to be elected as a Sheriff of the City of London and the first from the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Blenders to hold Civic office and I never tire of telling people about our wonderful Livery Company and how proud I am to be a Pipe Maker.

I was installed at a tremendous ceremony at Guildhall at the end of September and David and I now live in an apartment at the Old Bailey where we look after the Judges along with my fellow Sheriff, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley. We do this for 12 full and wonderful months. The Sheriffs are installed 6 weeks before the end of a Lord Mayor's term of office - this way the very experienced Lord Mayor gets to knock the new Sheriffs and their Consorts into shape ready for the new Lord Mayor (we learn if in doubt to bow and then to write a thank you letter!) At the beginning of November we had the most magical 2 days when the Lord Mayor was installed. It began on the Friday when we had the Silent Ceremony and Alderman Alan Yarrow became the 687th Lord Mayor of the City of London. I have attended the ceremony many times before but truthfully had never seen much of what went on as I was so far away from the action – but to be able to play a part in this wonderful historical event filled me with pride for the great traditions of our unique City.

The weekend that followed the installation saw the second best event in my life (the first was when I married my husband David) and it was the Lord Mayor's Show Day. It started very early in the morning with a trip on Gloriana (the boat used by Her Majesty The Queen for the Jubilee Pageant) the new Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and our Consorts were rowed down the Thames. Bobbing around us were brightly coloured Livery Company Cutters – small rowing boats with gowned Masters seated and shaded by fringed canopies; originally the Lord

Mayors Show was only on the Thames and this is where the word 'float' comes from for floats in the Lord Mayor's Show.

Tower Bridge opened to greet us, bridges across the Thames were filled with cheering supporters and the Livery Companies that had frontage on the river saluted us as we passed and I was even permitted by the Lord Mayor to row some of the way (great fun in robes and my chain of office)! After a tot of rum aboard President we were whisked away in our Shrieval vintage Rolls Royce (complete with police out riders back to Guildhall), rarely have I smiled so much, there is a great joy at being driven down the embankment the wrong way with blue flashing lights and being waved through red traffic lights and watching astonished pedestrians reach for their cameras. There were many, many highlights during the Lord Mayor's Show but waving from the balcony at Mansion House to huge numbers of colourful and beautiful floats was so memorable and then being permitted to ride in my very own horse drawn carriage with my Chaplain in the procession. The carriage was loaned to us by Her Majesty the Queen and came with a polite note not to eat or drink in it!

I mentioned earlier that one of my jobs is to look after the Bailey Judges, in fact it is described as 'looking after their comfort!' Many of you know the Figure of Justice standing commandingly above the streets of the City of London, it is an image familiar to millions, and instantly recognisable. The building she proudly crowns is almost as well-known as she is, Central Criminal Court that you all know as the Old Bailey, it is the most famous criminal court in the world and I can see her, the statue from my window and I also over look dead man's walk, which is a little scary as the doorways narrow down until you can only move in sideways and you have to duck down through the last door; the final part of the walk for a condemned prisoner, prior to being hanged.





On a lighter note, I had to smile recently as Matron (who is very important at the Bailey) told me she had a young defendant who was taken poorly and had to attend her sick bay on the 4th floor. The view of the Statue of Justice was right in his eye line and he asked if he may have her help. He was a young man and a traveller and Matron thought that he was going to ask something very serious about his case, perhaps what would happen to him if convicted but instead he asked if the statue was made of brass or copper yes a future planned misdemeanour perhaps!

In March I took part in one of the most incredible and emotional events that I have had the privilege to attend. A service of commemoration, attended by The Royal Family was held to mark the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, and to honour the contribution of all those in the UK who worked for 13 years to make the country safer and more stable. 453 lives were so sadly lost and the service at St Paul's Cathedral was for those that did not return and their loved ones that they left behind, those whose lives have been changed by their injuries and to also to pay tribute to the 150,000 UK personnel who served in the Afghanistan conflict. It was a commemoration, a reflection and a wonderful remembrance.

The Lord Mayor carried the Pearl Sword which was used according to legend, by Elizabeth I at the opening of the first Royal Exchange in 1571, the scabbard contains over two thousand five hundred pearls sewn on both sides. The sword is now used when the reigning Sovereign comes in state to the City of London, The Lord Mayor offered the sword to Her Majesty the Queen, who touched it, he then bore the sword aloft as he processed through St Paul's Cathedral in front of our Monarch.

At the end of the service when I processed out I was struck by those present, row upon row of medals gleamed in the St Paul's sunshine that streamed in; the enormous debt of gratitude that we owe to all those who served in Afghanistan was quite overwhelming and the chance that we, here in the City had, that day to salute the many acts of courage and sacrifice made by the thousands of men and women involved in the campaign is something that I will cherish forever.

After the service a parade of serving personnel from the Army, RAF, Royal Navy and the Royal Marines

took part, accompanied by military bands and pipes and drums, with Prince Charles taking the royal salute. Aircraft from the campaign, including Chinook, Apache and Sea King helicopters, as well as Hercules transport planes and Tornado attack jets, roared over the parade in their own salute. I was delighted that my sister Julia, who was watching the service on television, spotted me behind David Cameron outside St Paul's and asked "who was that man I saw you kissing" there is a certain pleasure at replying "oh only the First Sea Lord"!

This was followed by a reception at Guildhall that was hosted by The City of London Corporation. This was the City we all love at its absolute best with the Chief of the Defence Staff thanking the City for all it does supporting our servicemen and women, our reservists and all our volunteers. The Great Hall was packed with the families, many mothers and wives wearing pictures of their loved ones that they had lost, listening to their stories was, I have to be honest, heartbreaking – lives lost that were so young and so vibrant.

The Civic Team were all allotted members of the Royal Family to look after and to guide them as they met those who had been at St Paul's, as they were now enjoying lunch and a glass of wine in all the different rooms of Guildhall. This is where your Past Master struck gold as I was Prince Harry's guide, what a lovely, charming and without appearing disrespectful really good looking chap. I led him down to the Crypt that was full of serving personnel and they adored him (particularly the girls) he was brilliant and knew just how to connect with each of them, he was one of them and he understood exactly what they had been through and what their lives are like serving our country. We overran horribly on time but he did not want to leave and his last conversation was with a mother to whom he had written when her son, that he had served with, died tragically aged just 21, this was her chance to say thank you to Prince Harry for the beautiful letter that he had written that had comforted her.

I am over half way through my year as Sheriff and am aware that I get to do things everyday that are often once in a lifetime opportunities and I am so grateful for this honour to serve as Sheriff. Thank you to all of you who have supported me and made this incredible dream come true.





The Lord Mayor's Show 2014

It was bright and cool with rain just around the corner but at 8:00am in Guildhall Yard the sun was shining as we filed in to have breakfast in the old Library. .

Now normally the Tobacco Pipe Makers know their place and it isn't eating breakfast in Guildhall. On a normal Lord Mayor's day we are gathering with the procession ready to parade and walk the route as part of the Modern Companies float. And so we were. Third Warden Charles Miller, Fourth Warden Ralph Edmondson, and Assistant Adam Bennett were all geared up in gowns with pipes ready for the walk. But the Master, the Senior and Renter Wardens and the Clerk were attending this year in style. Thanks to our Past Master, Fiona Adler lately installed as Sheriff, we were invited as her mother company to join the parade in a carriage with all the trimmings before and after the procession.

What a treat. After breakfast we were marshalled with great precision to our open carriage drawn by two splendid horses which slipped into the procession at coach number 122. Gowned and 'hatted' and armed with splendid 18 inch long churchwarden clays, provided by Third Warden Charles Miller, we joined the throng and paraded in great splendour. I can't say how exhilarating it is to be processing in such style. The crowds are cheering, everyone is in holiday mood and we were so close we could almost have conversations with individuals on the pavement.

Our pipes were a great hit. Sadly empty of tobacco but nevertheless waved with great gusto and appreciated by everyone. We were of course responsible to the end and warned everyone watching not to do this at home!

Once at the Royal Courts of Justice we were escorted into Court no 1, the Lord Chief Justice's Court, to witness the Lord Mayor taking the oath. This was a first for our Company and what a proud moment it was.

We were wafted back to the Mansion House by the cheers of the crowd as we drove along the embankment past Temple Gardens and up Lower Thames Street to our disembarking point at St Stephen's Walbrook.

What a tremendous feat of organisation and full marks to the Pageant Master for yet another brilliant parade. The walking members of the Company did their bit too and brandished their pipes, engaged with the crowd, waved our banner and collapsed on HQS Wellington for lunch before walking back to the Mansion House.

After lunch with the Lord Mayor, we dispersed to find the best place to watch the fireworks. Having been blessed all day by dry weather finally the rain set in but undeterred, some of us climbed over 400 steps to the Stone Gallery of St Paul's Cathedral to watch a fantastic display from on high.

A wonderful, if wet and windy end to a wonderful day!

Renter Warden Chris Allen





NEW CLERK, Sandra Stocker



It is a great privilege to have won through the selection process to become your Clerk. I joined the Company on 7 July 2014 and my first task was to get to grips with the numerous lines of development that the Clerk deals with on a daily basis as well as attempting

to learn the names of those of you in the Livery – a challenge! The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders is a friendly company and you have made me feel very welcome and for that, I thank you.

Family is very important to me and I come from a very close family with one brother and five sisters including a twin sister (and no we are not identical!)

Before joining the Tobacco Pipe Makers, I spent eighteen years working for the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (The Order of St John). The Order of St John has two foundations – St John Ambulance and the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. It is a Royal Order of Chivalry with Her Majesty the Queen as its Sovereign Head. My role was as the Head of Priory Affairs and I was responsible for running the Royal

Order of Chivalry in England.

I have been very fortunate and I have many special memories from my time in St John, during which I organised many services in St Paul's Cathedral and also services in Cathedrals and Abbeys across the majority of the English counties, in Northern Ireland and in the Crown Dependencies of Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man. I also organised Investitures in St John's Priory Church as well as in all of the Royal Palaces in London and through these, met such amazing and interesting people. I am often asked "what is the highlight of my career with St John?" It is a tough question but if I am pushed to pick one thing, it would be the moment I was introduced to and spoke with Nelson Mandela at St James's Palace. It was an absolute surreal moment in time and one that has remained with me.

I joined the Tobacco Pipe Makers at a very special time in the Company's history – the Company's first Sheriff of the City of London. You might say I was 'dropped in at the deep end' but it was an incredible few months in the lead up to the Lord Mayor's Show and my thanks must go to Sheriff Fiona Adler for all of the events that as Clerk, I was involved in on behalf of the Company. The Company has already given me some special memories.

As I draw towards the end of my first year with the Tobacco Pipe Makers, I look forward to serving the Company in the future.



The Livery, the City and Virginia

I recently gave a talk in Richmond, Virginia on the connection between the City of London, the London Liveries and Virginia and I thought it might make a nice article for the Newsletter.

In 1606 the new King, James I of England (and James VI of Scotland) saw the wealth being taken out of the Americas by the Spanish and thought that putting a Colony in the Americas may benefit his depleted coffers. To this end in 1606 he had established a joint stock company to create a colony in North America to reap the benefits of colonization as the Spanish had done, create new markets, and have some degree of leverage against the Spanish.

In 1607 a settlement was established in what is now Virginia and for the next eighteen years the Crown granted a series of charters to run the Colony. It

was not a successful investment and by the end the Virginia Company had to offer settlers grants of land to attract settlers. Disease, mis-management, Indian attacks and difficulty with the London management caused the Crown to take direct control in 1624.

The original investors were 56 of the London Liveries as well as many of the great and good of the time who were “encouraged “ to invest. Our Livery was not formed in time to join the investors, which probably was for the best. There is a Society in the USA called the Jamestown Society open to Descendants of the original settlers and also open to descendants of the London Livery investors. Here was a nice example of a monarch creating a financial opportunity without needing to part with any Crown funds.

All the original managers of the Virginia Company were powerful merchants in the City led by Sir Thomas Smythe, a Skinner and a Past Sheriff, and who had made his money in the East and Russia. Funnily enough he left bequests to his, and also my, and the Master’s sons, old boarding School, Tonbridge. His father in law, Sir Andrew Judde, a Skinner, had founded the school. I believe these bequests are still being paid out in scholarships.

Various crops and products were tried in Virginia and it was not until Sir John Rolfe, later husband of Princess Pocahontas (Lady Rolfe) discovered a sweeter version of tobacco. This saved the Colony and it could be argued, helped create the USA. The Spanish had the blend and somehow Rolfe managed to obtain some seeds - death being the order of the day to any Spaniard who sold any of the seeds.

The Board that ran the Virginia Company, apart from the powerful Liverymen, included such names as Francis Bacon, Sir Oliver Cromwell, uncle of the future Lord Protector, the Third Earl of Southampton, a patron of William Shakespeare, the Lord Mayor, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Instructions on running the Colony were sent from London but in-fighting between the investors on whether it should be a long or short-term investment caused a schism. The short-term group also wanted protection for their ships that were preying on Spanish treasure Ships. The Crown was not happy about this latter occurrence especially as the Crown



did not want to alienate the more powerful Spanish. The final straw for the Crown was the Indian uprising in 1622 when a quarter of the Colonists were killed. A Royal Commission was sent to Virginia to investigate the Colony and they were so horrified by what they found that the Crown took over the administration.

Here the Crown was very clever. The Colonists had finally begun to settle on what would create enormous wealth for the Colonies and England, based on tobacco, create their own form of Government to administer the Colony effectively, and enable James I to fill his coffers by taxing tobaccos coming into England and to ultimately enable our Livery to come in to being.

Fast forward to London in 1773 and there is turmoil in the City and in the American Colonies as the Colonies, being a key part of the City trade, were feeling threatened especially where tobacco was concerned. There was great worry that their trade might be jeopardized. Colonists gathered in London daily in the Virginia and Maryland Coffee House, later to become the Baltic Exchange, discussing at length the situation.

The City took a great interest in the Colonies and most especially the three most powerful men in the City, The Lord Mayor, John Wilkes, and his two Sheriffs - Alderman William Lee, who was from Virginia, and Alderman Stephen Sayre who was from New Jersey. These three, powerful Liverymen and traders in tobacco, sought to protect Colonial American interests and to try and limit the anti American draconian laws coming out of Parliament, especially for their profitable tobacco trade.

Alderman Lee was from an old Virginia family, in fact a cousin of my wife thirteen times removed, who came to London to seek his fortune, as being a youngest son, he had no assets to speak of. Family wealth, as in England, remained with his older brother. His search for riches was no doubt benefited by his marrying a wealthy Virginian heiress with a 7,000-acre farm in Virginia, Hannah Philippa Ludwell, who was a leading light in the London scene as was her father.

Alderman Sayre was even more radical and was actually tried and imprisoned for trying to kidnap George III. He was also accused by the Intelligence Services of shipping arms to the Colonies but had both cases dropped due to his social connections.

The old Virginia families virtually commuted to London and it was common to have properties in both countries. Lee's brother studied medicine at Edinburgh, and became a barrister in the Inns of Court; Lee's other brother went to Eton and I believe another to Winchester. There were about a thousand Colonial families living in London, including the well-known Benjamin Franklin and many who stayed after the War of Independence.

In spite of their hard work, after 1776 both Sheriffs had to vacate England. Sayre went on to be a diplomat in Europe, supposedly trying to charm Catherine the Great, and a supporter of the French Revolution. Lee also went to Europe as an agent for the new American Government and helped draft a US – Dutch Treaty that became the cause of the Fourth Anglo Dutch War in 1780.

Meanwhile Wilkes kept on supporting the American causes and was always at odds with George III. While he was Lord Mayor he was also Master of the Joiners Company and had their motto changed to "Join Loyalty with Liberty". A phrase which was soon to be well known in America. In recognition of his tireless work for the Colonies, there are several locations in the USA named after him in cities, Universities, Counties and streets. His great nephew was a famous American Admiral and one of his cousins was the person who shot President Lincoln.

Past Master Julian Keevil



The History of the Tobacco Trade Lunch

June 2014 marked the fiftieth annual Tobacco Trade Lunch. It all began in 1964 when the Pipe Club of Great Britain inaugurated its “Pipe Man of the Year Award”. The first winner was actor Rupert Davis, famous at the time for his TV portrayal of Georges Simenon’s, pipe smoking Inspector Maigret. He received not only a trophy but also a pipe specially crafted by Dunhill Pipes, a tradition that continued every year with a pipe designed in a shape associated with the winner.

The raffle to raise funds for past members of the trade, who have fallen on hard times, has become part of the proceedings from the start with the receipts donated to the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association (TTBA), as it was then called. Then, as now, all the raffle prizes have been kindly donated by tobacco trade companies.

The Savoy Hotel in January was the lunch’s customary setting for thirty-nine years, although on one occasion, perhaps as a premonition of things to come, it was held at Lords. For some reason, which is now shrouded in the smoke of time, no lunch took place in 1972.

Tobacco promotion regulations put an end to what by then was called the “Pipe Smoker of the Year” award after the 2003 lunch at which Stephen Fry received the last such accolade. Then the mantle passed to the Pipe and Pipe Tobacco Trade Association (PPTTA) and the Savoy lunches continued for a further three years before they were confronted by the smoking ban.

Incensed by the threat to such a noble institution, Mike Adams, Peter Jenkinson, Roger Merton and Phillip Shervington – affectionately known as the “Gang of Four” – resolved that the lunch should continue. Their sterling efforts, fully supported by AITS, resulted in the “Last Smokers Luncheon” held at the Landmark Hotel in June 2007, days before the ban came in. It was addressed by Boris Johnson as guest speaker.



Guest speakers have been a feature of the lunches and since the venue switched to Lords in 2008, we have enjoyed contributions from George Galloway (2008), Carol Thatcher (2009), Bobby Davro (2010), Tom O'Connor (2011), Christine Hamilton (2012), Sir Geoff Hurst (2013) and in June 2014, Karren Brady CBE.

Of course the work of the “Gang of Three”, as they now are (Mike, Roger and Peter), could not succeed without the generous support of our sponsors. We would like to thank the companies that have generously supported the lunches.

However, special mention must be made of the magnificent contributions we receive from the three leading tobacco manufacturers – British American Tobacco UK, JTI and Imperial Tobacco – without which the lunches would not be possible.

The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Trade Benevolent Fund, formed in 2010 when the TTBA merged with the Livery Company’s Benevolent Fund, is the recipient of your generosity. All the proceeds are ring-fenced into the Welfare Fund for the benefit of past members of the trade.

By Past Master Roger Merton, Mike Adams
and Peter Jenkinson

Past Pipesmokers of the Year

1964 Rupert Davis	1978 Magnus Magnusson	1991 Sir John Harvey-Jones
1965 Sir Harold Wilson	1979 J.B. Priestley	1992 Tony Benn
1966 Andrew Cruikshank	1980 Edward Fox	1993 Rod Hull
1967 Warren Mitchell	1981 James Galway	1994 Sir Ranulph Fiennes
1968 Peter Cushing	1982 Dave Lee Travis	1995 Jethro
1969 Jack Hargreaves	1983 Patrick Moore	1996 Sir Colin Davis
1970 Eric Morecambe	1984 Henry Cooper	1997 Malcolm Bradbury
1971 Lord Shinwell	1985 Jimmy Greaves	1998 Willie-John McBride
1973 Frank Muir	1986 David Bryant	1999 Trevor Baylis
1974 Fred Trueman	1987 Barry Norman	2000 Joss Ackland
1975 Sir Campbell Adamson	1988 Ian Botham	2001 Russ Abbot
1976 Sir Harold Wilson (decade)	1989 Jeremy Brett	2002 Richard Dunhill
1977 Brian Barnes	1990 Laurence Marks	2003 Stephen Fry



The Smoking Club Quarterly Drinks

The Livery Company's Smoking Club is now more than four years old! It was set up with the principal aim of providing access to events that would offer members and their guests an opportunity to meet in informal settings. Initially, the Smoking Club events were annual occasions. However, they quickly settled into quarterly meetings at selected venues that permit smoking for those that wish to do so.

A great many Quarterly Drinks events have now taken place. They are informal occasions set in interesting City venues that have included Coq d'Argent, Old Bengal Bar and Davy's at Woolgate. Each venue has had something different to offer, but all share a warm welcome for the Tobacco Pipe Makers and their guests. The informality of the occasions is perfect for those that want to catch up with fellow members or to bring friends as a gentle introduction to our Livery Company.

The most special Quarterly Drinks events have been held on the roof terrace of St Lawrence Jewry by kind permission of our Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend David Parrott and his wife, Sue. We have twice

enjoyed balmy summer evenings at this historic setting overlooking Guildhall Yard and the Smoking Club looks forward to returning to St Lawrence Jewry in 2016 when it is hoped roof repairs at the church will have been completed.

In a departure from Smoking Club events taking place in the City, last December we visited the Dunhill Tobacco Emporium at 1A St James Street, London. With over forty people attending, our party enjoyed a memorable evening hosted by the venue's manager, Robert Emery, and his staff. We were made to feel most welcome and we were offered a fine smoke at one of those rare places; an indoor smoking venue! Perfect in every way for a chilly December night.

Smoking Club events are open to all members of the Livery Company and their guests. Some events are ticketed but generally access is free with nothing more than one's own bar bill to pay. The Smoking Club aims to meet on the first Thursday of each quarter month – March, June, September and December – although this can change if there are Livery Company diary clashes. Notices are always sent to members about a month ahead of an event, but details can also be found on the website.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Smoking Club



The 33rd Inter-Livery Bridge Competition

Brian Ace and I had the great pleasure to represent the Company at the Makers of Playing Cards' annual Inter-Livery bridge competition. The setting was the impressive Drapers' Hall and the Lady Mayoress gave a charming speech and presented prizes.

Brian Ace was a splendid tutor and partner for me as a novice. His experience and sang froid helped immeasurably. Whilst our performance fell well short of Ian Panto's past triumphs, we finished with a solid position of 42/60 and, if allowed, will aim to better this next year!

Assistant Andrew Golding



11th Inter-Livery Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races

The 11th Inter Livery Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races took place in the Guildhall Yard on 17th February 2015 in beautiful sunshine. Unfortunately, the Master was unable to run in the Master's Qualifying Race and Liveryman Terry Fenner-Leitao ran on the Master's behalf. Terry won his heat and was overall fastest in all of the heats. Terry then ran in the race for the Victor Ludorum Cup which was a very tight race but he was narrowly beaten by the Liveryman running for the Worshipful Company of Butchers. With Terry winning the Master's Qualifying Race, the Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders have the right to enter a full team in the races for 2016. Well done Terry!

Tobacco Pipe Makers Golf Results

Tandridge 2014

1st and Winner of the Charles Rich Cup
LIVERYMAN GLYN MEREDITH

2nd
LIVERYMAN CONRAD BLAKEY

3rd
PAST MASTER IAN PANTO

LONGEST DRIVE
TIM LINDFIELD (Guest of Past Master Simon Orlik)

NEAREST THE PIN
ROGER HOPKINS
(Guest of Liveryman John Gossage)

BEST GUEST
MARK ADDISON
(Guest of Liveryman Conrad Blakey)

The prizes were presented by the Master after an enjoyable lunch and thanks go to Past Master Derek Harris for organising a successful day and to J.T.C for their sponsorship.



The Lord Mayor's Show 2014

Having broken the security cordon surrounding St Lawrence Jewry, Third Warden Charles Miller and Assistant Adam Bennett retrieved Livery gowns, smoking hats, clay churchwarden pipes and a banner to meet our rendezvous with Fourth Warden Ralph Edmondson by the Modern Liveries section of the procession in Wood Street.

We assembled bang on time at 09.30 and it was now the waiting game. Plenty of wonderfully eccentric activities were unfolding around us – the Farmer's vintage tractor revving up, veteran vehicles being unloaded from trailers, a Chinese Dragon ambling around, divergent bands warming their valves up – it can only be the Lord Mayor's Show!

A mere two hours later we were suddenly off. Having taken advantage of the time to fill our pipes – splendid 15 inches Elizabethan Churchwardens made especially for us by the Dawn Mist Studios in Devon – they were promptly fired up and a pleasing fug disported its way around the three of us – even Adam as sign bearer managed (with a little help) to smoke his – and we were off at a fairly brisk pace. It became clear very quickly that the crowd loved them (or was it us?!) – pointing, smiling and photographing us throughout the whole route. It was interesting to see how the three of us managed – I had finished my first bowl as we approached the Lord Mayor's Stand,

determined not to let our own Sheriff Fiona Adler down, an emergency re-fill was undertaken and, in the nick of time the pipe was going a treat. As we passed the stand the bells of St. Pauls were pealing, the crowd roaring approval and our Sheriff laughing and waving at us. Adam cleverly made sure our banner was fully exposed to the stand (and cameras) and I waved my smoking hat on the stem of my pipe – thankfully Ralph was able to maintain a dignified stream of smoke, and then we were off all too soon.

At 12.30 we were at Temple where we took a much needed break aboard HQS Wellington – bless the Master Mariners, packed lunches and rivers of sparkling wine were just the ticket – especially when Adam spirited a flask of home-made sloe gin to pep the fizz up. No time for a nap, about 40 mins later we disembarked, collected the sign and... waited again. This time for about 45 minutes, before we set off up the Embankment and down Queen Victoria Street – pipes primed, smoking hats donned. If anything the pace felt even faster, but once again, the crowd responded warmly to our clay props. Coming up Queen Street, our goal was in sight – but no! Adam had made the fatal mistake of drinking 'water' at lunchtime and was now in dire need of relief, so it was with a few hundred yards to go, he surprised the staff of 'Prêt à Manger' by the Museum of London and left me holding the pipes and sign (Ralph had just left for a second lunch so the honour of the Company was in our hands). Mission accomplished, we found we did the last section in 'Imperial Isolation', albeit with the lead bus of the next section behind us: by now we didn't care – we were veterans of a tradition going back 799 years! In total I managed to smoke five bowls, Adam four and Ralph three – not sure what that tells you, but it was a few days before tobacco was lit again! For the first time in almost living memory, the day remained dry for the parade and had only spotted a little before and during lunch – very obliging we thought. Our Livery also had a carriage attending this event – but that's someone else's tale to tell.

Third Warden Charles Miller




**TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS
&
TOBACCO BLENDERS**

20

5

Gate 1

Sir Robert ALPINE

Sir Robert ALPINE



Gallery

Banquet



Singers and pianist from Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Laura Ruhi Vidal, Robin Bailey and Jamie Matthew (pianist))



Sheriff Fiona Adler, Colonel Alastair Bruce of Crionaich (Guest Speaker) and Past Master Michael Prideaux



Master and Colonel Alastair Bruce of Crionaich



View of Skinners' Hall



Master



Colonel Alastair Bruce of Crionaich



January Dinner



The Right Reverend John Nicholls



The Right Reverend John Nicholls, the Master and Mr Chris Curling, Master Merchant Venturers



Liveryman David Moss



Past Master Michael Prideaux and The Right Reverend John Nicholls (Guest Speaker)



At dinner



Derek Harris in Cuba in the 1970's



Derek Harris Interview

For the first time, and thanks to the new technology we are using for the Newsletter, we are able to include video interviews.

In this issue Nic Wing interviews Derek Harris. Derek was Master of The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers & Tobacco Blenders in 1988 and is well qualified to recount many wonderful tales from his long career in the tobacco world.

Derek started working among the tobacco leaves in 1952 having followed his father Stanley, a well known Tobacco wholesaler, into the trade. In fact he can claim to have first appeared in the trade journal at the tender age of four. He learned the trade at Singleton Cole in Bromsgrove and later, after National Service in the Royal Artillery and a period in the Territorial Army, he returned to the family firm. Then in 1961, at the age of thirty, he was approached to join Melbourne Hart as a Director.

At that time Melbourne Hart was one of a number of cigar importers. Their Cuban cigar brands included Punch and Hoyo de Monterrey, brands that the UK based company actually owned.

They also owned the Macanudo brand which at the time was made in Jamaica, with a Cuban wrapper. Macanudo was created at a time during the post war period when there were severe restrictions on the cigars which could be imported into Britain from the 'Dollar area' for example Cuba, due to a very strict currency restrictions.

In his 30's Derek was the Melbourne Hart's salesman looking after the St James's and Mayfair areas. He had many illustrious customers and some rather surprising stores which sold cigars as he reveals in this interview.

In those days a trip to Havana was a major trip with a 13 hour flight from Spain in a propeller plane and Derek was the first representative from the UK Cigar industry to go to Cuba after the revolution.

Derek Harris at No 1A St James's





In this video interview Derek tells some fascinating stories from a time when the cigar and tobacco world in London was very different.



This interview was recorded in March 2014 at No 1a St James's street, London.

Video Production & Editing: Jake Bond & Luke Bond
Cigar Interview photographs: Chris Osburn

UK Cigar Scene Magazine is a free monthly online magazine covering all elements of the UK Cigar Scene. Full details are available at:

www.ukcigarscene.com



Derek Harris with a number of stars of the day including Eric Morecombe, Dickie Davis, and Frank Bough



Nicholas Freeman, Miss Cuba and Derek Harris



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 3rd June 2015

Installation Court and Lunch at Vintners' Hall

Thursday 4th June 2015

Smoking Club Quarterly drinks (Check the website for latest details and venue)

Wednesday 10th June 2015

Tobacco Trade Lunch at Lords in aid of the Livery Welfare Fund (formerly TTBA)

Monday 15th June 2015

Livery Golf Day at Tandridge

Wednesday 24th June 2015

Common Hall Election of Sheriffs
(Liverymen only. Apply to Clerk for tickets.)

Thursday 3rd September

Smoking Club Quarterly drinks
(Check the website for latest details and venue)

Tuesday 22nd September 2015

Autumn Court and Dinner (Court only) on HQS Wellington

Tuesday 29th September 2015

Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor
(Liverymen only. Apply to Clerk for tickets.)

Thursday 22nd October 2015

Ladies Banquet at Barber Surgeons' Hall

Saturday 14th November 2015

The Lord Mayor's Show

Monday 7th December 2015

Carol Service at St Lawrence Jewry at 6.30pm

Wednesday 20th January 2016

Court Meeting and Livery Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall

Thursday 17th March 2016

Election Court and Ladies Lunch (Court only)
in Dyers' Hall

