

Smoke Signals



ISSUE 03 SUMMER 2016 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENDEES



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**1-4 Installation of the
New Master**





Installation of the New Master

And so a new chapter in our Livery's history begins. The Court meeting was concluded in almost record time - just under an hour. It was agreed that no one could recall just why guests and Liverymen who happened to be there in time weren't historically allowed to witness the installation of a new Master and so the doors were opened and our historic veil of secrecy lifted. The Installation Ceremony proceeded efficiently and correctly - thanks in no small part to our Clerk's correct insistence on a pre-meeting rehearsal.

Once installed I was very pleased to appoint an excellent team of Wardens - Ralph Edmondson (Senior); Roger Brookes (Renter); Andrew Golding (Third) and Adam Bennett (Fourth) - who, in the best tradition of the Livery, get on famously. With all in order, it was hot foot to the quarterdeck for some photos, and then into the receiving line to greet our guests who all arrived in plenty of time for a glass of cold fizz. At lunch the Immediate Past Master,

Chris Allen read a special Grace written by our Hon. Chaplain, the Revd. Canon David Parrott who through circumstances beyond his control wasn't able to attend. I loved it and am proud to record it here:

Praise God for food, and wine to drink,

And for our Master's naval link.

Upon this ship we come to dine;

An antique venue, mighty fine.

Our Company has nought to fear

As Charles takes on the right to steer

A steady hand upon our tiller

Lord, bless the year of Master Miller.

Amen.







The lunch was deliciously catered by Mark Grove and his team at Cook & Butler and we cracked along at a goodly pace. Our guests were admirably introduced by Liveryman Fran Morrison and our Principal Guest, Tim Wonnacott gave a generous and very humorous reply to which I responded initially by drenching poor Tim in a glass of water - he was very kind about it (sorry Tim!). I was very pleased to show off the newly found Livery Grant of Arms and Letters Patent which have been missing for many years - our Clerk tenaciously sought them out, and the new Immediate Past Master, Chris Allen, and his IPM, Mark Gower-Smith have funded a beautiful representation and they are now resplendent in frames carved with tobacco leaves (or close to); Sandra also located a huge banner not seen since 1985 and Angus Menzies, Clerk to the Master Mariners and never shy of a challenge saw to it that it was displayed on the Quarterdeck.

Whilst all this was going on, apparently biblical-style downpours were being had all over London - oblivious to all that drama we ended our lunch and trooped back to the quarterdeck where Coffee, Cigars, and Cognac awaited us (I did mention that our Livery enjoyed dining on the High C's..) and which seemed to hit the mark - Liveryman Jemma Freeman had kindly provided the torpedo cigars and had had them placed in souvenir tubes with our Crest emblazoned on it. Several of us also sported a limited edition Livery Smoking hat - originally conceived as a sort of shooting hat, it serves its purpose so well as a "team" hat, that of the twenty ordered, but one remained by the close of the day! Thank you to the Master Mariners for allowing us the use of the venue, to Tim for being a perfect Principal Guest, and for everyone attending and giving my year such a special start.

The Master





Appointments

Liverymen **Martine Petetin, Colin Ritchie and Nicholas Wing** have been elected to the Court as Assistants and were installed on 20th January 2016.

Liverymen **Deepesh Letap and Paul Taberer** have been elected to the Court as Assistants and were installed on 17th March 2016.

Assistant **Tony Scanlan** to be the Chair of the Membership Committee from 17th March 2016.

Assistant **Jacqueline Burrows** to be the Honorary Archivist from 8th June 2016.

Members

Gowned with the Livery

Arthur Peter Rawlinson <i>District Councillor and a Warden of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers</i>	20th January 2016
Beverley Spencer-Obatoyinbo <i>Head of HR, British American Tobacco</i>	20th January 2016
James Camps-Harris <i>Insurance Broker, Lloyd's</i>	17th March 2016
Daniel James Hayward-Hughes <i>Solicitor and Company Director</i>	8th June 2016
Dr Hamed Bin Mohamed Al Suwaidi <i>Director, National Bank of Abu Dhabi</i>	8th June 2016

New Freeman

Arthur Peter Rawlinson <i>District Councillor and a Warden of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers</i>	20th January 2016
Baron Stephan von Schilling <i>Consultant</i>	17th March 2016
Henry Tuck <i>Engineer/Company Director</i>	17th March 2016
Sandra Mary Stocker <i>Clerk, The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders</i>	17th March 2016
Dr Hamed Bin Mohamed Al Suwaidi <i>Director, National Bank of Abu Dhabi</i>	8th June 2016

Honorary Freeman and Liveryman

Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley <i>Principal, The Harrodian School</i>	20th January 2016
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The Membership Committee

Under the leadership of Roger Brookes, the Membership has gone from strength to strength over the past few years. He has now passed the baton over to Tony Scanlan who has recently reformed the Committee. Saying goodbye to Roger and Master Charles Miller, Tony has welcomed Elise Rasmussen and Nic Wing to the team who join Jemma Freeman, Jerry Merton, Mark Domitrak and Chris Walter.

The Committee will set itself the challenge of targeting diverse groups of people and of course individuals who would be attracted to the fellowship of the Livery. Over the coming months they will develop the tools necessary to do this and a strategy to welcome a steady stream of new members.

It will build on the success of the Smoking Club and hope to increase its appeal by visiting more novel places to enjoy a smoke and meet with Liverymen and their guests.

Assistant and Chair of the
Membership Committee, Tony Scanlan



Lost Brethren

Liveryman John Withers

Liveryman John Withers died on 22nd February 2016. John Withers took up the Freedom in 2000 and was gowned in the Livery in 2004. John was an accountant, a tobacconist and owner of John Hollingsworth & Son Ltd where he built up a chain of six Specialist Tobacconist shops. He was also Treasurer of the Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists for many years.

Past Master Roger Merton





New Treasurer & Assistant Clerk – Ian Venters

I grew up in Zimbabwe where I completed my schooling before joining the British South Africa Police in 1977. After completing my three years in the BSAP (there is a regimental song about that, but in the interests of keeping things clean I won't elaborate here) I went to the University of Cape Town from where I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and an appreciation for red wine.

On graduating I started work for Caltex oil in Cape Town in their Financial Planning department before leaving for a spell of travelling and working in the UK. On my return to Africa I completed my Chartered Institute of Management Accounts exams and worked for Sun international, a hotel and casino group in their Lesotho operations before going back to university in 1990. I completed my Masters of Business Administration degree at the Graduate School of Business in Cape Town, graduating in June 1991.

After graduating I decided to get a couple of years of international experience and so returned to London mid 1991 where I joined Merrill Lynch. Since 'Merrills' I have worked for a number of banks including 'Dresdner', 'ABN Amro' and 'RBS' before setting up on my own in 2014.

In 2012, I had a life-saving Liver transplant, something I am forever grateful to my donor for, and which words can never really express how much I appreciate this gift of life. Although I had registered as a donor I never thought that I would actually ever need one myself.



Since then I find myself morphing into a 'MAMIL' as have taken up cycling as a means of trying to stay fit, and look forward to my Saturday rides with a club in Dorset. Besides cycling I enjoy diving, travelling and follow most sports having played rugby whilst at school and university.

I have a sister living in London and a brother in Port Alfred, South Africa whilst my dad lives in Gillingham, Dorset.





Pembroke House, Walworth

In July 2012, the Benevolent Fund Trustees agreed to make a grant to Pembroke House Academy of Music. The minutes of the Trustees' meeting noted Pembroke House "is a large community based project based around a church and buildings in Walworth", a short walk south from Elephant & Castle station. "Part of the project is the teaching of music to disadvantaged children (5-18 years old) which is rarely offered in local schools. This also offers the children the chance to socialize with others from different ethnic groups." The Benevolent Fund agreed to fund the Academy of Music for two years initially at £10,000 per annum. In 2014, the Benevolent Fund Trustees, agreed to fund the project for a further 3 years at £10,000 per annum.

In April 2013, the Trustees agreed to contribute an annual grant of £10,000 to the funding of the Pembroke House Inclusive Dance project. The other major contributor would be the Merchant Taylors'

charitable trust. The Trustees have approved funding of the Inclusive Dance project until 2019.

Your Benevolent Fund has made a significant commitment to the success of Pembroke House in an underprivileged community.

Background

Pembroke House is a multi-use community space in Walworth, south east London. It has served the communities of Walworth since 1885 when the centre was set up by a group of students from Pembroke College, Cambridge. The vision for Pembroke House is of a place "bubbling with creativity and good humour, where unlikely combinations of people work together to build relationships, delight in our differences, celebrate the journeys they are on, and do their bit to transform our community".



In 2009, the centre was reopened after a £1.7 million investment allowed for a complete renovation of the space and its transformation into a modern community centre. It is an inspirational community hub that also enables people in so many different ways:

- English for Speakers of other languages
- Baby PAM – Music for babies and toddlers
- Meet your Neighbours
- Special Outreach (building relationships for people living immediately around Pembroke – Aylesbury Estate)
- Film Club
- Lunch Club
- Community Garden
- dt17 - a performing arts and social skills programme for young people aged 9-13
- IntoUniversity
- The Choir with No Name (For homeless and family or friendless)
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Prince's Drawing Club

The 2 projects that your Benevolent Fund supports are:

Pembroke Academy of Music

Pembroke Academy of Music (PAM) is an open access music project for around 50 children and young people aged 6 and above. PAM provides high-quality music tuition in a range of musical

disciplines, at subsidised rates for all pupils in order to make tuition affordable to children who would otherwise not be able to afford it. Over 77% of the parents say they would not be able to pay for music lessons elsewhere.

Professional tutors teach music theory, practice and choral singing, to encourage a love of music and help students grow in confidence and teamwork. PAM has no lower skills limit. PAM benefits children, their families and the wider community by offering a unique space for musical education, enjoyment and appreciation and by giving the children a gift they will carry through their lives.

During term time, PAM students gather at 18:45 on Wednesdays for two hours of music making and learning. The evening starts with Community Choir for all students and their parents/carers, followed by graded music theory classes, and group tuition in violin, cello, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, percussion, acoustic guitar and singing.

A solid grounding in theory allows students to develop a broad variety of skills and learn potential new instruments more readily.

Parents' comments include:

- "The teaching of reading music [at PAM] is excellent".
- "[My child] is reading music and teaching her friends at school."
- "It is good for me as a mum to be able to do an activity outside home with my daughter."
- "It's like a goldmine for the local community".



The Academy also allows students to grow in confidence and self-esteem by giving them the chance to perform in front of each other at the end of each term.

One parent commented that her child's improved self confidence had resulted in a willingness to "attempt new things", which "shows in her recent school achievements." She added that "The approach everyone has to music is fantastic and they fill the children with confidence."

In Pembroke House's survey, over 95% of respondents said that PAM had benefited their child's wider education beyond music. PAM provides a valuable meeting ground for parents and young people.

Students have the opportunity to perform in some very special places. Recent venues include St Paul's Cathedral, the chapel of Pembroke College, Cambridge, a 5 star hotel in central London and the Southbank Centre, as well as many concerts and special events at Pembroke House; there is the use of a beautiful Steinway grand piano.

Inclusive Dance

Inclusive Dance is a contemporary dance, drama and drumming programme for 12 young people with learning disabilities, aged between 16 and 25. The focus is on promoting physical and mental wellbeing, self-awareness and social skills through long term creative activity.

Practitioners work with participants on a one-to-one or in small groups over the course of a term. Projects include producing a music video or developing a particular creative skill. The latter may benefit a participant's wellbeing, for example developing pronunciation and verbal communication skills through vocal and singing exercises, or working on literacy through dance.

Participants grow in confidence and independence by learning movement and social skills. They develop skills transferable to the world of work, such as physical coordination, self-expression, punctuality, and discipline.

The progress of every participant is monitored in great detail. Individual session-by-session reports are written on each participant and their performance marked against pre-set criteria decided either with



Pembroke Academy of Music raising fundraising at Waterloo at Christmas



A performance of the children's opera "Brundibar" at the Southbank

them, their parents/guardians or the person referring them.

In the last three years with Inclusive Dance, Pembroke House has pioneered this service; thereby addressing a large gap in service provision by statutory health and social care providers. Pembroke House has built relationships with Social Services, South London and Maudsley NHS trust, support planners and providers and arts organisations such as the Tate.

Pembroke House has been a pioneer in an area, which is now gaining wider recognition. At an event earlier this year, the Chairman of the NHS Alliance and Chairman of the College of Medicine described this type of work "directly relevant to some of the most pressing concerns facing NHS clinical commissioners" and urged all forward-looking commissioners not to miss the opportunity these programmes provide for the promotion of health and wellbeing and prevention of acute problems. The Secretary of State for Health has also been a vocal advocate.



Ultimately, the parents of those who benefit best sum up the importance of Inclusive Dance:

- My son is beginning to stand up for himself, all due to you guys. It helps him to be part of a group and not feel an outsider.”
- “These classes are the only activities that she can do without needing a 1-1 support worker; this gives her some independence and is good for her confidence.”
- “At last he now realises people will listen to him when he speaks to them, which was his failing in the past – at school.



Barrow Farm Riding For the Disabled

Our congratulations to Barrow Farm RDA, which is celebrating 40 years of enabling people with special needs and disabilities to develop their abilities and enrich their lives through riding. Your Benevolent Fund has been supporting Barrow Farm since 1992.

[A link to the Barrow Farm 40th Anniversary Newsletter](#)

Senior Warden Ralph Edmondson





Inter Livery Pancake Race 2016

On Shrove Tuesday, the Master led a team of 'unseasoned pancake tossers' for the 12th Annual Inter Livery Pancake Race. Your team comprised the Master, attended by the Mistress, the Senior Warden Charles Miller, Assistants Elise Rasmussen and Andrew Golding and the Team Leader, our Clerk.

Graced by the presence of the Lady Mayoress, we were to perform in the early spring sunshine at Guildhall Yard. Our regalia was our gowns, an apron and chefs' hat, all prepared to precision by our Clerk and Beadle.

First, the Master was off in style but beaten back a little by some stiff competition. Elise and Andrew then took their turns but also just failed (please note the use here of poetic licence) to cross the finishing line first. By this stage, we were thinking the GB sprint team would have proud of some of the performances!

All our hopes therefore hung on Charles, dressed as Sherlock Holmes (as he had been entered into

the Novelty Race) and sporting a magnificent pipe! To our great cheers, Charles was ahead at the bend, turned, but then slipped and crashed to the ground. The crowd groaned (as did Charles) but in true sportsmanship, he got up, waved to the crowd and completed his race.

Although we return with no copper pan of victory, we are proud to have represented the Company at such a spirited and fun event.

Third Warden Andrew Golding





Master's Reception

The Master invited members and their guests to a most interesting and inspiring evening at The Geffrye Museum.

It was a rather chilly May evening but that did not deter a welcome cocktail (and cigar) in the gardens and there was a good attendance from some 45 members and guests.

David Dewing, Director of the museum (since 1991), and 2015 Master of The Furniture Makers' Company, welcomed us and gave a short overview of Geffrye.

The Geffrye Museum is a museum of the home located in Shoreditch, London. The Museum explores the home from 1600 to the present day. Named after Sir Robert Geffrye - Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, appointed a Sheriff of London in 1674 and elected Lord Mayor of London in 1685 - it is located on Kingsland Road in Shoreditch, London. Under his bequest 14 almshouses, mainly for widows of ironmongers, were constructed in 1715 in Shoreditch. The almshouses now house the Geffrye Museum.

The museum was extended in 1998 with an innovative yet architecturally sympathetic new wing. Surrounding the museum is a walled herb garden, created in 1993, and a series of period gardens which

show how domestic gardens have changed over the last 400 years.

Evocative displays of London, middle-class living rooms and gardens illustrate homes and home life through the centuries, reflecting changes in society, behaviour, style and taste.

In May 2015, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the Geffrye Museum a grant of £11m to support its exciting plans to develop the museum for the future. The museum is now actively fundraising the balance of £4m.

The Geffrye is a much-loved gem in the lively and creative Hoxton area - historically a centre for furniture-making and market gardening. Many of us had never heard of the museum, and we thoroughly enjoyed the journey through the homes. One could spend several hours here to properly absorb the various rooms and it is certainly a place to return to; apparently the Christmas exhibitions are well worth seeing too. The evening ended with a gathering in the cafeteria and a selection of delicious canapés.

Sincere thanks to The Master for his invitation and to David Dewing and staff for their warm welcome.

Assistant Paul Taberer





Inter Livery Clay Shoot 2016

Another wonderfully supported day with around 55 Livery Companies participating and providing some 400 shooting guns!

Senior Warden Charles Miller and Court Assistants Adam Bennett, Colin Ritchie and Paul Taberer represented the Livery.

The annual Inter Livery Charity Clay Shoot is one of the highlights of the City of London charity events. Since its revival in 1993 it has been a hugely successful fundraiser for charities nominated by teams involved in the day.

The venue was once again the beautiful shooting grounds of Holland & Holland in Northwood, North London. An early morning registration and breakfast before battling it out over a ten stand, 80 bird Sporting layout interrupted only by the four man, 80 bird, flush from the high tower.

Charles was responsible for the design and making of the fine headgear for our team and we caught many an admirable glance and comment from the opposing teams. If there had been a prize for the best hat we would have at least won something on the day!

It was a rather damp but very pleasant and well-organized event; we enjoyed sipping on some Wild



Damson and Sloe Gin (thanks to Charles and Colin) that certainly helped alleviate some of the rain; along with a nice cigar at the mid-morning stage.

Though not in the prizes we were respectable for part time novice shooters and the rust rubbed off as the day went on! Lunch was a fine spread of several dishes in a large marquee housing all 400 guns and several more.

Fifty percent of monies raised were awarded as prizes to the winning teams' nominated charities. The remainder goes to charities chosen by members of the organising volunteers, including a contribution of a £1000 to the Lord Mayor's charity.

Assistant Paul Taberer





Livery Golf Day at Tandridge Golf Club – Monday 13th July 2016

The annual Livery golf day was once again held at the very beautiful and pretty Surrey course of Tandridge, in the rolling hills near Oxted on an overcast and at times drizzly day!

Past Master Derek Harris did a most splendid job with all that goes into organising these events and on registering that morning we were all given some very useful golfing ammunition – including a lovely score-card sleeve with The Company’s logo attached – such a lovely touch from Derek.

There was another good turn out for the event this year with 20 livery members and guests participating and with the Master and the Mistress kindly joining us for lunch and prize giving.

The Origins of Tandridge

“A good 18-hole Golf Course is much needed in this neighbourhood.”

So began a letter circularized to many residing in and around Oxted, Surrey in November 1922 by Sir Henry Gibson KCB. Sir Henry outlined a proposal to build a new course and clubhouse on a site on the Tandridge Park Estate at an estimated cost of £10,000. At that time the only other course in the vicinity was limited to 9 holes and no play was permitted on Sundays - a considerable disadvantage to the keen weekend golfer! There was sufficient backing for the scheme to permit purchase of the land within a year and the new club was founded. The distinguished golf course architect, Mr. Harry Colt, was retained to design the course. His lay-out made full use of the natural contours of the land and featured two loops of nine holes and over 300 bunkers. As “The Times” subsequently reported, “Mr. Colt’s architecture and layout has been carried out on a grand, bold scale, eminently fair, but devilishly ingenious”. Applications for membership of the Club were invited, with the annual subscription for men fixed at eight guineas, six for ladies. The course opened for general play on 1st October 1924. Sir Henry’s dream had been realized.

Compliments must go to the management and green staff for presenting a very well conditioned



golf course. Moreover, Tandridge lived up to its reputation of providing us with a superb spread of foods for lunch from its quality kitchen and most of us indulged in a spoon (or 3) of its signature ‘Tandridge’ pudding!

Very special thanks to Derek for his devoted organisation of the day.

The Master presented the prizes and the magnificent Charles Rich Cup after an enjoyable lunch and British American Tobacco (BAT) deserve special mention for their generous sponsorship of all that went into the winning hampers.

Next year’s event is scheduled to take place at the same venue on Monday 12th June 2017.

Assistant Paul Taberer

Tobacco Pipe Makers Golf Results Tandridge 2016

1st and Winner of the Charles Rich Cup <i>Court Assistant Paul Taberer</i>
2nd <i>Past Master Nigel Rich</i>
3rd <i>Liveryman David Walter</i>
Best Lady <i>Mrs Sharon Taberer (Wife of Court Assistant Paul Taberer)</i>
Second Lady <i>Mrs Cynthia Rich (Wife of Past Master Nigel Rich)</i>
Best Guest <i>Mrs Chris Brown (Guest of Freeman Tony Brown)</i>
Longest Drive <i>Nick Brown (Guest of Freeman Tony Brown)</i>
Nearest The Pin <i>Jon Jay (Guest of Liveryman Archie Smith)</i>



Tobacco Trade Lunch

This happy and worthy occasion is co-organised annually by Past Master Roger Merton - it always draws a crowd and, despite gloomy forecasts to the contrary, nearly always shines. The lunch always starts in the Harris Garden where liberal amounts of champagne is drunk and a selection of good tobacco smoked - mostly, but not exclusively, cigars. It was therefore most appropriate that our Livery not only put in an excellent turnout (perhaps fifteen in total?), but those who remembered to bring them sported our new smoking hat - very handy with the sun as it happens! I had to borrow Senior Warden Ralph Edmondson's for part of it, thank you Ralph. It was also very good to see Assistant David Lewis looking so well again. .

Approximately 230 attended this year and, as we were being guided to dine in the Thomas Lord Suite, I was introduced to the AITS Chairman Parish Patel, and Guest of Honour and speaker, the irrepressible Brian Conley. Once seated and the formalities observed,

we enjoyed a fine lunch of braised ox cheek and then, after a short break, I presented the Livery Prize for the 'Retailer of the Year' - Chris Aston of Manchester was winner in 2010 and his fine and well organised premises had done it again - well done Chris.

My modest role aside, Brian Conley then took the floor and gave us what must have been at least 45 minutes of high-octane comedy - stand up, magic and plenty of songs - some with 'assistance', it was very amusing, the right side of slightly naughty and I suspect there was a lot more where that came from! Next we had the raffle - every table had an envelope into which each diner placed £10 and was given a sealed envelope containing a number - you may imagine my joy when a fine humidor with a selection of Davidoff cigars was picked with my number on it - I hope Ralph is as lucky next year! The whole day raised in excess of £14,000 for the charity - well done Roger and team.

The Master



The Master is Jailed and Bailed

Having been on the run for the past two weeks, I finally turned myself in to the 'authorities' at Mansion House where I faced a Kangaroo Court under the dubious jurisdiction of an Alderman and Sheriff Rigdon. Prosecuted on charges which included the attempted drowning of my Principal Guest at the Installation Lunch, smuggling brandy onto H.Q.S. Wellington and coming a cropper in the Poulterers' Company Pancake Race (which was displayed to inglorious effect as Exhibit A), I was obliged to admit all and be banged to rights.

Shackled to a ball and chain, we were escorted to a collection of modern 'Black Maria's', we arrived at the Tower to the delight of tourists and I've no doubt confused families will enjoy those images all over the world for time immemorial. I was chastened to see our own Beadle, Mark Anderson who had many choice words to say on the matter of his Master's disgrace, but was understanding in the end and, with accompanying Pike Men, we were escorted through the grounds to the mess of Royal Fusiliers where our rations awaited.





Luckily, one of our fellow miscreants was James Simpson, a Vintner, and (handily), Chairman of Pol Roger. James had managed to convert our water into magnums of the stuff and in Churchillian style, we quaffed it in lusty gulps from silver goblets - the refills were instant and we soon forgot our misery, tucking into an excellent steak and kidney pudding with new potatoes - not a bread roll in sight. After a dessert of sticky toffee and ginger pie with clotted cream, we were summoned, one by one, to be finger printed and photographed and present our bail. Thanks to our excellent Company, and despite a late revolt from the Chaplain, I was finally released back into the Community having raised a more-than-passable £1,355.00 (or a little over £1,600 with gift aid). I sat next to Mark Kimber (Coach Makers) and discovered he was also an auctioneer - with Nicholas Somers (Turner and PM Art Scholars) present, so typical that three Auctioneers would end up in clink!

The Master



Danish Tobacco

On a visit to the Danish Design Museum in Copenhagen in May, Jackie pointed out two posters advertising tobacco products in around 1950 designed by Paul Hoyrup, a famous Danish Graphic designer working for FDP, a major Danish design company whose 150th anniversary was being commemorated by the exhibition. My interest in Danish tobacco was tweaked, so I did some research and unexpectedly discovered some intriguing family connections.

I had thought tobacco was a product of the Americas but tobacco had been cultivated in Denmark since the 16th century, the first tobacco spinner being licenced in 1665. Denmark owned the Danish Virgin Islands in the Caribbean and set up a number of trading companies there in 1671. Denmark was selling firearms and other manufactured goods to Africa, in exchange for slaves taken to the Caribbean to work their sugar and tobacco plantations. The demand for tobacco in Denmark far exceeded the output of the Virgin Islands, so in 1778 all Danish tobacco spinners were obliged to operate tobacco plantations to supplement the supply resulting in

Copenhagen becoming surrounded by plantations. The first cigar roller was licenced in Copenhagen in 1813.

Slavery was abolished in 1848 and the Danish Islands became unprofitable although the demand for tobacco continued to grow dramatically. Eventually Denmark was able to offload the Virgin Islands to the USA in 1917 for US\$25m as they wanted them to protect the entrance to the Panama Canal. In the meantime the number of Danish tobacco companies grew, peaking in 1921 at 1,518. Due to the restrictions on international trade in WWII the number of tobacco growers in Denmark reached 12,000.

After WWII the number of companies in the trade fast reduced due to the growth of a few major operators, many of which merged in turn. The Scandinavian Tobacco Company was created out of such a merger in 1961, which, after further mergers, became the Scandinavian Tobacco Group ('STG'), now I understand to be the world's largest manufacturer of cigars, pipe tobacco and rolling



tobacco. It sells some 3 billion cigars and 5,000 tons of pipe and fine-cut tobacco annually. It sold its cigarette business to BAT in 2008 and with it came an interest in the famous Tivoli Gardens!

It turns out that my family were heavily involved in the trade from its early days. My four times Great Grandfather, Moses Marcus Melchior (1735 – 1817), moved to Copenhagen from Hamburg in 1760 and established the trading house Moses & Son G Melchior in 1761. It traded in a huge range of products including sugar and tobacco, owned its own fleet of ships, and in time opened branches in St Croix in the Danish Virgin Island, Melbourne and New York. It grew into one of the most significant Danish trading houses until eventually being dissolved in 1974. Moses founded an influential dynasty of Danish Jews who participated

in all aspects of Danish life. His grandson, Moritz Melchior, who was running the business by the mid-19th century, and his wife Dorteia, were one of a small group of wealthy families who 'adopted' Hans Christian Andersen and looked after him, as he had no family of his own. He was given a room in the Melchior's home "Rolighed" in Copenhagen from 1866 where he died in 1875.

So, from a couple of posters hanging high on the wall of the Danish Design Museum and a visit to the ancient Jewish cemetery in Copenhagen, and with the benefit of the internet, I have learnt something about Danish tobacco, my family and Denmark's most famous son!

Past Master John Alexander

The City of London Freeman's Guide

The definitive concise guide to the City's many ancient customs, ceremonies, traditions, institutions, office holders and landmarks as they are to be found in modern times. Aptly described as 'The Wizard's Guide to the Land of Oz' this book throws open the gates to the wonders of the great and famous City of London!



£12.50 in hardback from Amazon, Daunt Books (Cheapside), The Guildhall Art Gallery, The Guildhall Library, St Paul's Cathedral store, The Museum of London, The City Information Centre. **£6.99 in eBook** format from Amazon and Apple.



www.cityandlivery.co.uk
@CityandLivery on Twitter



Published by The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists



Ties and Cufflinks

With new members joining, it's probably a good time to remind members about our Livery accessories.

The official Livery Company Tie – a navy blue silk tie embroidered with the Company Crest at £21.00.

Company Tie – a black silk/polyester mix tie embroidered with the Tobacco leaf plant at £21.00. (Proceeds from the sale of this tie will go to the Benevolent Fund.)

Cufflinks that depict The Company Coat of Arms at £7.00.

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing. To purchase any item, please contact the Clerk at clerk@tobaccolivery.org



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Thursday 8th September 2016

Past Master's Dinner at the 'In and Out' Club

Tuesday 20th September 2016

Autumn Court and Dinner (Court only)
on HQS Wellington

Thursday 29th September 2016

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

Monday 24th October 2016

Annual Banquet at Merchant Taylors' Hall

Tuesday 6th December 2016

Carol Service at St Lawrence Jewry at 6.30pm

Tuesday 24th January 2017

January Court and Dinner at Drapers' Hall

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Election Court and Luncheon (Court and partners only) at Tallow Chandlers' Hall

Friday 31st March 2017

United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral

